

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)347

(Question Serial No. 5683)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise whether the Department will, in response to public opinions, re-issue itinerant hawker licences in the coming year; if yes, when; if not, why.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 368)

Reply:

Itinerant hawkers usually gather at prime locations when in operation. They impede pedestrian and/or vehicular flow with their trolleys and goods and bring about environmental hygiene and general nuisance concerns. The Government has no plan to issue any itinerant hawker licence in the coming year.

Nonetheless, we keep an open mind towards proposals for developing the hawker trade or the establishment of open-air bazaars or night markets with local characteristics, so long as food safety and environmental hygiene are not compromised, public passageways are not obstructed and local community support is obtained. If suitable sites are identified and support from the relevant district councils has been obtained and provided that food safety and environmental hygiene are not compromised, we stand ready to facilitate liaison with the relevant government departments. Existing resources will continue to be deployed to carry out the said facilitation work.

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