

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)117**

**(Question Serial No. 0225)**

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:

Under Programme (3), the Department will continue to take forward the assistance scheme for hawker licensees to improve the fire safety and operating environment of fixed-pitch hawker areas in the coming year. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of fixed-pitch hawker stalls and vacant stalls in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2014 to 2016), with a breakdown by the 43 fixed-pitch hawker areas;
- (b) the number of hawkers applying for the above scheme, the number of these hawkers who applied for grants for relocation and reconstruction and for in-situ reconstruction, the number of these hawkers who opted for voluntary surrender of their hawker licences to the Government, and the amount of grants and ex-gratia payments involved, in each year since 3 June 2013;
- (c) the number of hawkers who have yet to apply for the above scheme as at February 2017; and
- (d) whether the Department will relocate the fixed-pitch hawker stalls in phases before the completion of the Hawker Assistance Scheme on 2 June 2018; and, after the completion of the scheme, whether similar scheme(s) will be launched to continue to provide assistance to the hawkers in fixed-pitch hawker areas.

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (Member Question No. 9)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The information sought is provided at Annexes 1 and 2.
- (c) As at 28 February 2017, 772 hawkers have yet to apply for financial assistance under the Hawker Assistance Scheme (the Scheme).

- (d) The Scheme seeks to provide the hawkers concerned with financial incentives to further reduce fire risks posed by on-street hawking activities in the hawker areas. We have made good progress in implementing the Scheme since it was launched in June 2013. All 499 hawkers whose stalls were located directly in front of staircase discharge points of adjacent building, or obstructing the operation of fire engines or other emergency vehicular access have vacated their pitches. As at 28 February 2017, among the 4 326 hawkers in the 43 hawker areas, 721 hawkers have applied for voluntary surrender of licence for ex-gratia payment. For the remaining hawkers, 2 833 have applied for reconstruction grant and 2 239 of them have completed reconstruction of their stalls to meet the fire-resisting specifications.

In the course of administering the Scheme, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) endeavours to identify areas which can bring about enhancement to the hawking environment in the hawker areas, which includes rationalising the overall layout of hawker stalls where circumstances permit. The Department would continue to follow up with the remaining hawker stalls and encourage hawkers to reconstruct their stall structures to meet the required specifications before the Scheme expires in June 2018. At present, the Administration has no plan to launch similar scheme again subsequently to provide assistance to the hawkers in fixed-pitch hawker areas.

- End -

**Number of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls and Vacant Pitches in Each of the 43 Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas**

District	Location of Hawker Areas	2014 (as at 31.12.2014)		2015 (as at 31.12.2015)		2016 (as at 31.12.2016)	
		No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls <sup>1</sup>	No. of Vacant Pitches <sup>2</sup>	No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls <sup>1</sup>	No. of Vacant Pitches <sup>2</sup>	No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls <sup>1</sup>	No. of Vacant Pitches <sup>2</sup>
Eastern	Chun Yeung Street	84	3	82	0	74	2
	Marble Street	97	22	90	9	76	4
	Kam Wa Street	100	7	98	2	92	4
	Tai Tak Street	20	8	18	0	22	3
	Mong Lung Street	15	5	14	0	6	0
	Sub-total	316	45	302	11	270	13
Central & Western	Pottinger Street	43	3	39	5	36	6
	Graham Street	48	6	45	9	43	11
	Gage Street	12	3	11	4	11	0
	Li Yuen Street East	58	0	58	0	58	0
	Li Yuen Street West	53	0	53	0	53	0
	Peel Street	33	7	31	9	28	11
	Wing Kut Street	33	0	32	0	32	0
	Upper Lascar Row	12	0	12	0	12	0
	Man Wa Lane	32	0	31	1	31	0
Sub-total	324	19	312	28	304	28	
Wan Chai	Gresson Street	43	5	40	9	40	8
	Cross Street	70	1	69	1	68	2
	Tai Yuen Street	76	0	75	0	76	0
	Jardine's Crescent	157	5	155	7	141	9
	Sub-total	346	11	339	17	325	19

District	Location of Hawker Areas	2014 (as at 31.12.2014)		2015 (as at 31.12.2015)		2016 (as at 31.12.2016)	
		No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls <sup>1</sup>	No. of Vacant Pitches <sup>2</sup>	No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls <sup>1</sup>	No. of Vacant Pitches <sup>2</sup>	No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls <sup>1</sup>	No. of Vacant Pitches <sup>2</sup>
Yau Tsim	Reclamation Street	191	24	186	28	179	24
	Pak Hoi Street	13	3	13	3	13	3
	Saigon Street	18	0	17	2	16	2
	Canton Road	19	14	19	15	19	16
	Bowring Street	94	3	91	5	90	7
	Temple Street	314	9	303	17	294	15
	Sub-total	649	53	629	70	611	67
Mong kok	Tung Choi Street	664	34	634	64	579	34
	Canton Road	285	17	280	22	272	29
	Fife Street	23	5	26	5	21	10
	Yin Chong Street	71	3	66	7	66	7
	Ki Lung Street	9	7	10	7	9	8
	Poplar Street	7	3	7	3	7	3
	Fa Yuen Street	219	0	215	0	216	0
	Nelson Street	56	6	52	10	51	11
	Sub-total	1 334	75	1 290	118	1 221	102
Sham Shui Po	Wing Lung Street	53	17	49	22	43	21
	Fat Tseung Street	39	4	35	8	34	8
	Cheung Fat Street	48	13	46	15	44	10
	Fuk Wa Street	162	0	156	2	156	2
	Fuk Wing Street	40	0	39	1	38	1
	Pei Ho Street	151	0	148	1	147	2
	Apliu Street	214	6	210	7	208	7
	Ki Lung Street	131	2	127	4	126	4

District	Location of Hawker Areas	2014 (as at 31.12.2014)		2015 (as at 31.12.2015)		2016 (as at 31.12.2016)	
		No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls <sup>1</sup>	No. of Vacant Pitches <sup>2</sup>	No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls <sup>1</sup>	No. of Vacant Pitches <sup>2</sup>	No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls <sup>1</sup>	No. of Vacant Pitches <sup>2</sup>
	Tai Nan Street	63	0	62	0	60	1
	Kweilin Street	58	0	59	0	59	0
	Sub-total	959	42	931	60	915	56
Kowloon City	Pau Chung Street	51	1	49	2	45	6
	Sub-total	51	1	49	2	45	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3 979</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>3 852</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>3 691</b>	<b>291</b>

Remarks:

- 1 The number of fixed-pitch hawker stalls has taken into account changes due to licences surrendered under the Hawker Assistance Scheme (the Scheme) and other reasons such as the death of licensees, relocation of hawker stalls and succession of licence.
- 2 The figure represents the number of pitches vacated as a result of voluntary surrender of hawker licences under the Scheme. The figure does not include pitches located outside building staircase discharge points / emergency vehicular access, earmarked to accommodate stalls that require relocation due to fire safety considerations, absorbed in the course of rationalisation of the overall layout of hawker areas, etc. Fixed-pitches vacated for other reasons and reserved for various purposes such as resite commitments are also excluded.

### Applications for Grants Received and Amount of Funding Involved

Year	Number of applications for ex-gratia payment	Number of applications for relocation cum reconstruction grant	Number of applications for in-situ reconstruction grant	Amount of funding involved <sup>#</sup> (\$)
2013-14 (3.6.2013-31.3.2014)	286	101	105	43,531,800
2014-15	115	228	714	49,473,000
2015-16	167	67	1 194	66,230,000
2016-17 (up to 28.2.2017)	153	17	407	30,897,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>2 420</b>	<b>190,132,200</b>

Remarks:

- # For applications for reconstruction grants where applicants have not yet provided stall reconstruction quotations, the amount of funding involved is estimated to be the maximum grant for the respective category of pitch sizes.