

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)131

(Question Serial No. 1813)

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:

Regarding the indicators for licensed hawkers, please provide information on the following:

1. the number of fixed pitch hawkers, itinerant hawkers and registered hawker assistants, as well as the estimated number of unlicensed hawkers, in the past 3 years (i.e. from 2014 to 2016), with a breakdown by district and trade category;
2. the number of hawker licences surrendered under the assistance scheme for hawker licensees since the implementation of the scheme in June 2013 and the expenditure involved; and
3. given that the 5-year assistance scheme has already been implemented for 3.5 years, the Department's assessment of the effectiveness of the scheme; and, given that when seeking funding approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, the Department promised to consider re-issuing the surrendered hawker licences for application by interested parties, whether it will conduct a mid-term review of the assistance scheme (if yes, the details, if not, the reason(s)).

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (Member Question No. 19)

Reply:

1. The information sought is provided at Annex.
2. As at 28 February 2017, we have approved 644 applications for ex-gratia payment (EGP) in return for voluntary surrender of hawker licences to the Government under the five-year Hawker Assistance Scheme (the Scheme). The EGP involved was \$77.28 million.
3. The Scheme aims to provide one-off financial assistance to the hawkers in the hawker areas for stall reconstruction and relocation in order to expedite the work to reduce fire risks in those areas. We have made good progress in implementing the scheme since its launch 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, 721 hawkers have applied for voluntary surrender of licence for EGP, while 2 833 have applied for reconstruction grant and 2 239 of them have completed reconstruction of their stalls to meet the fire-resisting specifications. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) would continue to follow up with the remaining hawker stalls (about 800 in number) and encourage eligible hawkers to reconstruct their stall structures to meet the required specifications before the Scheme expires in June 2018.

Going forward, the Department would continue to identify areas which could bring about enhancement to the hawking environment in the course of administering the Scheme. This would include rationalising the overall layout of concerned hawker areas where circumstances permit and enhancing safety of the fixed electrical installations for hawker stalls. On whether to re-issue new hawker licences to fill any vacant pitches in relevant hawker areas, the Department would carefully consider the case, taking into account the circumstances of individual hawker areas, including their fire safety and environmental hygiene situations, the business environment, comments of relevant departments, as well as the views of the relevant District Council and local residents.

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**No. of Licensed Fixed Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers, Registered Assistants and Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers
(Position as at 31.12.2014)**

		Hong Kong Island & Kowloon									New Territories & Islands									Total
		Central & Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Southern	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowloon City	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Kwai Tsing	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	North	Tai Po	Sha Tin	Sai Kung	Islands	
Fixed Pitch Hawker Licence	Barber	2	3	1	1	12	8	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
	Bootblack	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	10	3	0	2	33	25	6	7	24	20	20	10	0	4	7	26	0	1	198
	Newspaper	68	48	41	4	116	25	24	14	40	14	20	8	16	7	7	1	3	1	457
	Tradesman	87	14	16	0	53	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	176
	Wall Stall	29	15	18	14	137	58	28	2	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	321
	Other Classes	410	359	320	31	2 363	960	53	0	125	0	92	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 716
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionary	38									31									69
	Mobile Van	9									6									15
	Newspaper	2									0									2
	Other Classes	170									186									356
Registered Hawker Assistants		568	517	365	46	2 141	1 042	102	36	190	21	134	23	23	17	14	30	3	3	5 275
Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers		148	27	130	41	302	281	63	36	56	69	9	54	40	79	33	47	10	15	1 480 [#] (1 440+40)

[#]The figure includes 40 unlicensed hawkers in housing estates as provided by Housing Department.

**No. of Licensed Fixed Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers, Registered Assistants and Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers
(Position as at 31.12.2015)**

		Hong Kong Island & Kowloon									New Territories & Islands									Total
		Central & Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Southern	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowlo on City	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Kwai Tsing	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	North	Tai Po	Sha Tin	Sai Kung	Islands	
Fixed Pitch Hawker Licence	Barber	2	3	1	1	11	8	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
	Bootblack	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	10	3	0	2	32	24	6	7	24	13	18	10	0	3	7	22	0	1	182
	Newspaper	65	45	39	4	109	23	23	15	37	13	20	8	15	7	6	1	3	1	434
	Tradesman	85	14	15	0	52	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	172
	Wall Stall	29	15	17	14	134	54	28	2	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	313
	Other Classes	402	350	304	30	2 279	930	51	0	125	0	93	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 567
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionary	36									30									66
	Mobile Van	9									6									15
	Newspaper	2									0									2
	Other Classes	165									182									347
Registered Hawker Assistants		548	492	368	50	2 064	1 050	101	31	199	22	119	25	19	14	12	24	1	3	5 142
Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers		143	26	55	49	281	411	64	35	100	68	7	51	26	72	35	42	8	15	1 594 [#] (1 488+106)

[#]The figure includes 106 unlicensed hawkers in housing estates as provided by Housing Department.

**No. of Licensed Fixed Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers, Registered Assistants and Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers
(Position as at 31.12.2016)**

		Hong Kong Island & Kowloon									New Territories & Islands									Total
		Central & Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Southern	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowlo on City	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Kwai Tsing	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	North	Tai Po	Sha Tin	Sai Kung	Islands	
Fixed Pitch Hawker Licence	Barber	2	4	0	1	11	8	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
	Bootblack	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	10	3	0	2	31	22	6	9	23	13	9	7	0	0	4	21	0	1	161
	Newspaper	64	48	32	4	106	23	21	15	37	11	18	8	14	6	6	1	2	1	417
	Tradesman	81	15	13	0	52	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	166
	Wall Stall	29	20	11	14	133	52	28	2	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	309
	Other Classes	395	334	273	30	2 194	914	47	0	124	0	93	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 407
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionary	34									30									64
	Mobile Van	9									6									15
	Newspaper	2									0									2
	Other Classes	156									178									334
Registered Hawker Assistants		552	572	381	57	2 121	1 139	112	33	215	22	146	26	19	14	9	22	1	3	5 444
Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers		143	16	48	42	295	388	64	49	79	63	6	51	22	72	29	31	16	16	1 454# (1 430+24)

#The figure includes 24 unlicensed hawkers in housing estates as provided by Housing Department.