

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)275**

**(Question Serial No. 6746)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

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:

With regard to the enforcement actions against hawkers, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the number of complaints received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) from the general public against hawkers suspected of non-compliance in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and District Environmental Hygiene Office;
- (b) the number of verbal and written warnings issued against, as well as summonses served on, non-compliant licensed hawkers by the Department, together with the number of licensed hawkers summonsed and the average amount of fines of each summons, in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and District Environmental Hygiene Office;
- (c) the number of summonses served on unlicensed hawkers, the number of unlicensed hawkers summonsed and the average amount of fines of each summons in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by District Environmental Hygiene Office; and
- (d) in 2017-18, whether the Department will coordinate and communicate with hawker associations, District Councils and residents' organisations in the community in an attempt to strike a balance between the spaces for hawkers to operate and the legitimate interests of pedestrians and residents (if yes, details of the work plan, if not, the reason(s)).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 241)

Reply:

- (a) The number of complaints against hawking received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the past 3 years broken down by year and district is provided at Annex I.

- (b) The number of summonses taken out against licensed hawkers in the past 3 years broken down by year and district is provided at Annex II. The average amount of fines in 2014, 2015 and 2016 were about \$510, \$550 and \$600 respectively. The Department does not keep separate statistics on the number of warnings issued, or the number of licensed hawkers issued with summonses.
- (c) The number of summonses taken out against unlicensed hawkers in the past 3 years broken down by year and district is provided at Annex III. The average amount of fines in 2014, 2015 and 2016 were about \$480, \$510 and \$580 respectively. The Department does not keep separate statistics on the number of unlicensed hawkers issued with summonses.
- (d) The Subcommittee on Hawker Policy (the Subcommittee) set up under the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene was briefed in March 2015 on the principles underpinning the Government's current policy on the management of hawkers. In gist, the Government seeks to formulate a hawker policy which can strike an optimal balance between allowing licensed hawking business to thrive on the one hand, and meeting other legitimate concerns to ensure food safety, environmental hygiene, and public security on the other. The Government adopts a positive attitude towards specific proposals put up by individuals / organisations in the community for organising bazaars. When suitable sites have been identified by the organisations concerned and support from local communities and respective District Councils have been obtained, provided that the bazaar proposals will not compromise public order and safety, food safety and environmental hygiene, and will not obstruct public passageways, the Government will facilitate liaison with the relevant bureau and departments. Depending on the specific details of bazaar proposals, the bureaux concerned will, according to the roles they play, give comments on matters related to their policy areas respectively. The departments concerned will process bazaar proposals according to their procedures and criteria.

- End -

**Number of complaints against hawking**

| <b>Calendar year</b><br><b>District</b> | <b>Number of complaints</b> |               |               |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|   | <b>2014</b>                 | <b>2015</b>   | <b>2016</b>   |
| Central & Western                       | 384                         | 358           | 381           |
| Wan Chai                                | 858                         | 608           | 846           |
| Eastern                                 | 2 812                       | 1 648         | 841           |
| Southern                                | 105                         | 82            | 127           |
| Islands                                 | 121                         | 134           | 103           |
| Yau Tsim                                | 423                         | 468           | 273           |
| Mong Kok                                | 3 607                       | 2 553         | 1 155         |
| Sham Shui Po                            | 1 455                       | 2 172         | 3 045         |
| Kowloon City                            | 1 024                       | 262           | 157           |
| Wong Tai Sin                            | 304                         | 312           | 259           |
| Kwun Tong                               | 950                         | 1 289         | 922           |
| Kwai Tsing                              | 515                         | 447           | 157           |
| Tsuen Wan                               | 352                         | 229           | 171           |
| Tuen Mun                                | 191                         | 445           | 393           |
| Yuen Long                               | 460                         | 771           | 506           |
| North                                   | 2 158                       | 757           | 532           |
| Tai Po                                  | 131                         | 136           | 123           |
| Shatin                                  | 292                         | 320           | 230           |
| Sai Kung                                | 98                          | 176           | 115           |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>16 249</b>               | <b>13 167</b> | <b>10 336</b> |

**Number of summonses taken out against licensed hawkers**

| <b>Calendar year</b><br><b>District</b> | <b>Number of summonses</b> |              |              |
|---|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | <b>2014</b>                | <b>2015</b>  | <b>2016</b>  |
| Central & Western                       | 488                        | 381          | 272          |
| Wan Chai                                | 1 292                      | 1 224        | 1 038        |
| Eastern                                 | 471                        | 381          | 267          |
| Southern                                | 11                         | 3            | 0            |
| Islands                                 | 0                          | 0            | 0            |
| Yau Tsim                                | 115                        | 53           | 120          |
| Mong Kok                                | 957                        | 837          | 728          |
| Sham Shui Po                            | 778                        | 645          | 522          |
| Kowloon City                            | 21                         | 11           | 6            |
| Wong Tai Sin                            | 8                          | 22           | 12           |
| Kwun Tong                               | 51                         | 54           | 46           |
| Kwai Tsing                              | 3                          | 5            | 4            |
| Tsuen Wan                               | 97                         | 118          | 88           |
| Tuen Mun                                | 41                         | 38           | 25           |
| Yuen Long                               | 180                        | 206          | 211          |
| North                                   | 228                        | 159          | 200          |
| Tai Po                                  | 17                         | 14           | 20           |
| Shatin                                  | 80                         | 70           | 90           |
| Sai Kung                                | 2                          | 1            | 0            |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>4 840</b>               | <b>4 222</b> | <b>3 649</b> |

A further breakdown to show the number of licensed hawkers summoned and the average amount of fines of each summons is not available.

**Number of summonses taken out against unlicensed hawkers**

| <b>Calendar year</b><br><b>District</b> | <b>Number of summonses</b> |             |             |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2014</b>                | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> |
| Central & Western                       | 802                        | 806         | 551         |
| Wan Chai                                | 1 757                      | 1 700       | 903         |
| Eastern                                 | 2 965                      | 1 590       | 513         |
| Southern                                | 527                        | 472         | 371         |
| Islands                                 | 55                         | 25          | 10          |
| Yau Tsim                                | 100                        | 129         | 227         |
| Mong Kok                                | 2 986                      | 3 227       | 2 106       |
| Sham Shui Po                            | 1 734                      | 1 074       | 632         |
| Kowloon City                            | 1 251                      | 764         | 444         |
| Wong Tai Sin                            | 575                        | 760         | 554         |
| Kwun Tong                               | 0                          | 1           | 2           |
| Kwai Tsing                              | 1                          | 0           | 21          |
| Tsuen Wan                               | 0                          | 13          | 96          |
| Tuen Mun                                | 732                        | 155         | 243         |
| Yuen Long                               | 777                        | 1 283       | 1 211       |
| North                                   | 151                        | 245         | 162         |
| Tai Po                                  | 1 048                      | 542         | 120         |
| Shatin                                  | 5                          | 11          | 4           |
| Sai Kung                                | 135                        | 47          | 6           |
| Total                                   | 15 601                     | 12 844      | 8 176       |

A further breakdown to show the number of unlicensed hawkers summoned and the average amount of fines of each summons is not available.