

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)277**

**(Question Serial No. 6782)**

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 hawker permitted areas, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of stalls, the number of vacant stalls and vacancy rate in each of the hawker permitted areas;
- (b) the number of hawker licences surrendered to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and hawker permitted area; whether the licences surrendered have been re-allocated to new stall operators (if not, the number of stalls which are not re-allocated and the reason(s));
- (c) the number of applications received by the Department for allocation of pitches in hawker permitted areas, as well as the number of applicants who were registered hawker assistants, in each of the past 3 years; and
- (d) with regard to the hawker permitted areas of a high vacancy rate or low patronage, whether the Department will consider reviewing the demand for these hawker permitted areas and arranging the stall tenants concerned to relocate or apply for compensation (if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s)).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 243)

Reply:

- (a) Information on the number of licensed on-street hawker pitches, vacant hawker pitches and vacancy rates of hawker permitted places is provided at Annex I.
- (b) Information on the number of hawker licences surrendered to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) under the 5-year Hawker Assistance Scheme (the Scheme) in the past 3 years is provided at Annex II.

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 of reducing 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, among the 4 326 hawkers in the 43 hawker areas, 721 have applied for voluntary surrender of licence for ex-gratia payment, 2 833 have applied for reconstruction grant, and 772 have yet to apply for financial assistance under the Scheme. 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. On whether to re-issue new hawker licences to fill any vacant pitches in some 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.

- (c) The Department does not keep separate statistics on the number of applications for allocation of pitches in hawker permitted areas or the number of applicants who were registered hawker assistants.
- (d) The Department has no plan to close any of the hawker permitted places. In the course of administering the Scheme, the Department has identified areas which can bring about enhancement to the hawking environment. These include rationalising the overall layout of hawker stalls where circumstances permit, enhancing safety of the fixed electrical installations for hawker stalls, etc., which may contribute to the vibrancy of the fixed-pitch hawker areas.

- End -

**Hawker fixed pitches  
in hawker permitted places  
(as at December 2016)**

District	Serial No.	Hawker Permitted Place	Year of Commencement	Number of fixed pitches		Vacancy rate  (b) / ((a)+(b))
				Licensed <sup>#</sup> (a)	Vacant* (b)	
Eastern	1	Kam Wa Street / Aldrich Street	1981	66	3	4.3%
	2	Mong Lung Street	1981	3	0	0%
	3	Tai Tak Street	1981	0	1	100%
<b>Sub-total</b>				69	4	5.5%
Wanchai	4	Gresson Street	1980	4	0	0%
	5	Tai Yuen Street	1980	71	0	0%
	6	Cross Street / Sam Pan Street	1991	10	1	9.1%
<b>Sub-total</b>				85	1	1.2%
Central and Western	7	Findlay Road	1999	6	0	0%
	8	Chiu Lung Street (East)	1999	9	0	0%
	9	Gilman's Bazaar	1985	4	0	0%
	10	Graham Street	1980	15	6	28.6%
	11	MacDonnell Road	1980	1	0	0%
	12	Peel Street	1980	2	5	71.4%
	13	Staunton Street	1980	0	0	0%
	14	Wing Kut Street	1980	2	0	0%
15	Wing On Street	1980	3	0	0%	
<b>Sub-total</b>				42	11	20.8%
Southern	16	Waterfall Bay Park	1980	11	0	0%
<b>Sub-total</b>				11	0	0%
Yau Tsim	17	Reclamation Street	1981	31	5	13.9%
	18	Pak Hoi Street	1981	6	3	33.3%
	19	Temple Street	1981	259	14	5.1%
	20	Canton Road	1993	2	2	50.0%
	21	Pitt Street	1994	0	0	0%
<b>Sub-total</b>				298	24	7.5%

District	Serial No.	Hawker Permitted Place	Year of Commencement	Number of fixed pitches		Vacancy rate (b) / ((a)+(b))
				Licensed <sup>#</sup> (a)	Vacant* (b)	
Sham Shui Po	22	Wing Lung Street	1975	39	20	33.9%
	23	Fat Tseung Street	1975	14	4	22.2%
	24	Cheung Fat Street	1975	9	1	10.0%
	25	Apliu Street	1978	42	0	0%
	26	Fuk Wing Street	1993	38	1	2.6%
	27	Kweilin Street	1993	58	0	0%
	28	Ki Lung Street	1993	90	2	2.2%
	29	Pei Ho Street	1993	29	0	0%
	30	Tai Nan Street	1993	59	0	0%
<b>Sub-total</b>				378	28	6.9%
Mong Kok	31	Tung Choi Street	1979	584	34	5.5%
	32	Cheung Wong Road	1979	2	0	0%
	33	Nelson Street	1979	51	11	17.7%
	34	Nam Tau Street	1979	1	0	0%
<b>Sub-total</b>				638	45	6.6%
<b>Total</b>				<b>1521</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>6.9%</b>

Note : <sup>#</sup> All licensed fixed pitches along the subject streets are counted.

\* The figure represents the number of pitches vacated as a result of voluntary surrender of hawker licences under the Hawker Assistance 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, and 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.

**Hawker fixed pitches in hawker permitted places**

District	Serial No.	Hawker Permitted Place	Number of fixed pitches (as at 31.12.2014)		Number of fixed pitches (as at 31.12.2015)		Number of fixed pitches (as at 31.12.2016)	
			Licence surrendered <sup>1</sup>	Vacant <sup>2</sup>	Licence surrendered <sup>1</sup>	Vacant <sup>2</sup>	Licence surrendered <sup>1</sup>	Vacant <sup>2</sup>
Eastern	1	Kam Wa Street / Aldrich Street	10	8	12	2	16	3
	2	Mong Lung Street	5	5	6	0	7	0
	3	Tai Tak Street	1	1	1	0	2	1
<b>Sub-total</b>			16	14	19	2	25	4
Wanchai	4	Gresson Street	1	1	1	1	1	0
	5	Tai Yuen Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
	6	Cross Street / Sam Pan Street	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Sub-total</b>			2	2	2	2	2	1
Central and Western	7	Findlay Road	0	0	0	0	0	0
	8	Chiu Lung Street (East)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	9	Gilman's Bazaar	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10	Graham Street	3	3	3	3	6	6
	11	MacDonnell Road	0	0	0	0	0	0
	12	Peel Street	3	3	4	4	5	5
	13	Staunton Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
	14	Wing Kut Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Wing On Street	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Sub-total</b>			6	6	7	7	11	11
Southern	16	Waterfall Bay Park	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub-total</b>			0	0	0	0	0	0

District	Serial No.	Hawker Permitted Place	Number of fixed pitches (as at 31.12.2014)		Number of fixed pitches (as at 31.12.2015)		Number of fixed pitches (as at 31.12.2016)	
			Licence surrendered <sup>1</sup>	Vacant <sup>2</sup>	Licence surrendered <sup>1</sup>	Vacant <sup>2</sup>	Licence surrendered <sup>1</sup>	Vacant <sup>2</sup>
Yau Tsim	17	Reclamation Street	10	8	11	8	13	5
	18	Pak Hoi Street	3	3	3	3	3	3
	19	Temple Street	8	8	17	16	28	14
	20	Canton Road	2	2	2	2	2	2
	21	Pitt Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub-total</b>			23	21	33	29	46	24
Sham Shui Po	22	Wing Lung Street	17	17	22	22	27	20
	23	Fat Tseung Street	4	3	6	5	6	4
	24	Cheung Fat Street	2	1	2	1	2	1
	25	Apliu Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
	26	Fuk Wing Street	0	0	1	1	1	1
	27	Kweilin Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
	28	Ki Lung Street	3	2	4	2	4	2
	29	Pei Ho Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Tai Nan Street	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Sub-total</b>			26	23	35	31	40	28
Mong Kok	31	Tung Choi Street	34	34	64	64	109	34
	32	Cheung Wong Road	0	0	0	0	0	0
	33	Nelson Street	7	7	11	10	12	11
	34	Nam Tau Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub-total</b>			41	41	75	74	121	45
<b>Total</b>			<b>114</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>113</b>

Note:

<sup>1</sup> The figure represents the cumulative number of hawker licences surrendered under the Hawker Assistance Scheme (the Scheme).

<sup>2</sup> 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, and 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.