

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-FHB(FE)05**

**(Question Serial No. S0064)**

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:

With regard to "Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)142", please provide further information on the following:

1. whether the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will, upon the surrendering of a hawker licence by its holder under the existing assistance scheme, consider giving priority to the registered hawker assistant for succession to the licence originally held by the holder, so that effective use of resources can be achieved by preventing the stall concerned from being left vacant (if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s)); and
2. whether the Department will identify appropriate locations in new towns or new development areas (e.g. Sha Tin District, Tai Po District and Islands District where the number of hawkers is limited) to set up on-street fixed hawker pitches for application by licensed hawkers and for issue of new hawker licences.

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai

Reply:

1. On the question of whether to re-issue new hawker licences to fill any vacant pitches in relevant hawker areas upon surrender of hawker licences under the Hawker Assistance Scheme, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (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. Should there be a case for re-issuing new hawker licences, we would consider how best to draw up the eligibility criteria.
2. The Government is committed to implementing 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 such as avoiding unreasonable nuisance to the

local community in addition to ensuring food safety, environmental hygiene and public security on the other hand. We keep an open mind towards proposals for developing the hawker trade or the establishment of bazaars 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, support from the relevant District Councils has been obtained and food safety and environmental hygiene are not compromised, the Department stands ready to facilitate liaison with relevant government departments.

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