

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)201

(Question Serial No. 0979)

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:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will conduct a comprehensive review on public markets in 2018-19. Please provide the details and timetable of the review, and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 21)

Reply:

In her maiden Policy Address in October 2017, the Chief Executive pledges that, apart from building new public markets, the Government will conduct a comprehensive review of existing public markets and formulate specific improvement measures for both the facilities and their management in a systematic manner. As far as the hardware is concerned, the Government will allocate resources to improve the environment of existing public markets. One of the measures is to expedite the installation of air-conditioners.

In his Budget Speech delivered in February 2018, the Financial Secretary announced that \$2 billion would be earmarked for implementing a Market Modernisation Programme (MMP) over the next 10 years. This will entail a comprehensive review of public markets managed by the Food and Environmental Health Department (the Department) as a pledge to improve their operating environment.

A dedicated team, headed by a D2 officer and comprising 21 staff, has been set up in the Department to take forward the MMP and other reviews. The estimated staff costs in 2018-19 are \$17.9 million. Specifically, the Department would conduct a comprehensive review of public markets and formulate concrete and effective measures to improve the facilities, management and operating environment of public markets, and to consider adopting new approaches to their construction, design and modus operandi when resuming the building of new public markets. The review will cover, for example, the positioning of public markets, management mode and structure, market operation resources, hardware improvement, ways to handle markets with relatively low patronage, etc. The Department

would maintain close contact with stakeholders, collate and consolidate different views in formulating implementation proposals and action plans.

- End -