

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)203

(Question Serial No. 0981)

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:

During 2018-19, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will take action to close public markets which are under-utilised. Please advise on the locations of the public markets which are intended to be closed, the schedule involved and the resiting arrangements for the tenants.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 23)

Reply:

As a result of demographic changes, new development/redevelopment projects and competition from other fresh provision outlets, the appeal of some public markets has been diminishing over time, with some having very low patronage and high vacancy rates. Closure of such markets may release precious land resources for more gainful use in terms of better serving the community. When considering whether an under-utilised market is to be closed, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will take into account a host of factors, including vacancy rate, prospects for improvement, availability of alternative sources of fresh provision outlets in the vicinity, and the likely cost-effectiveness of upgrading works and the views of the relevant District Councils, etc. The Department will consult the relevant District Council(s) and the market tenants to be affected on any market closure plans.

Before a public market is closed, the Department will draw up exit arrangements for tenants concerned having regard to established policy and past practice. The exit arrangements may include the opportunity to bid for renting a vacant stall in another public market under a restricted auction and the provision of a relocation grant if the affected tenants choose to continue their business. Details of the exit arrangements and the amount of expenditure involved would depend on the circumstances of individual cases.

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