

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)205

(Question Serial No. 0983)

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 conclude the five-year assistance scheme launched in 2013 to improve the fire safety and design of hawker stalls in 43 fixed-pitch hawker areas. What are the progress and effectiveness of the scheme, the amount of grants involved and the average amount of grants for each stall?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 25)

Reply:

The Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas (the Scheme), which commenced on 3 June 2013, aims to provide one-off financial assistance to about 4 300 hawkers in 43 hawker areas for stall reconstruction and relocation in order to improve fire safety. Besides, an ex-gratia payment (EGP) is offered under the Scheme for voluntary surrender of hawker licences to the Government.

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has made good progress in implementing the Scheme. All 508 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 2018, among the 4 329 hawkers in the 43 hawker areas, 826 hawkers have applied for voluntary surrender of licence for EGP. For the remaining 3 503 hawkers, 3 391 have applied for reconstruction grant and 2 796 of them have completed reconstruction of their stalls to meet the fire-resisting specifications.

In the course of administering the Scheme, the Department endeavours to identify areas which can bring about enhancement to the hawking environment in the hawker areas, which includes rationalising the overall layout of hawker stalls where circumstances permit, and enhancing electrical safety at hawker permitted places. The Department will continue to follow up with the remaining hawker stalls and encourage hawkers to apply for financial assistance for reconstructing their stall structures to meet the required specifications before the Scheme expires in June 2018.

The amount of grants involved and the average amount of grants for each stall for stall reconstruction are provided at Annexes 1 and 2.

**Application for In-situ Reconstruction Grant
under the Assistance Scheme for Hawkers
(as at 28.2.2018)**

Type	Stall Size	Maximum Grant (\$)	Number of Applications	Amount of Grant Involved[#] (\$)	Average Amount of Grant per Stall (\$)
"Cabinet-type" Hawker Stalls	Not exceeding 1.1 m ²	40,000	1 668	66,606,100	39,932
	Exceeding 1.1 m ² but not exceeding 1.7 m ²	47,000	92	4,312,500	46,875
	Exceeding 1.7 m ² but not exceeding 2.2 m ²	54,000	25	1,348,000	53,920
Hawker Permitted Places Hawker Stalls	Not exceeding 1.1 m ²	20,000	572	11,343,550	19,831
	Exceeding 1.1 m ² but not exceeding 1.7 m ²	23,500	-	-	-
	Exceeding 1.7 m ² but not exceeding 2.2 m ²	27,000	612	16,502,608	26,965
Total			2 969	100,112,758	

Remarks:

For applications for reconstruction grant where applicants have not yet provided stall reconstruction quotations, the amount of grant involved is estimated to be the maximum grant for the respective category of pitch sizes.

**Application for Relocation cum Reconstruction Grant
under the Assistance Scheme for Hawkers
(as at 28.2.2018)**

Type	Stall Size	Maximum Grant (\$)	Number of Applications	Amount of Grant Involved# (\$)	Average Amount of Grant per Stall (\$)
"Cabinet-type" Hawker Stalls	Not exceeding 1.1 m ²	50,000	317	15,831,300	49,941
	Exceeding 1.1 m ² but not exceeding 1.7 m ²	57,000	12	683,900	56,992
	Exceeding 1.7 m ² but not exceeding 2.2 m ²	64,000	8	511,600	63,950
Hawker Permitted Places Hawker Stalls	Not exceeding 1.1 m ²	30,000	82	2,450,000	29,878
	Exceeding 1.1 m ² but not exceeding 1.7 m ²	33,500	-	-	-
	Exceeding 1.7 m ² but not exceeding 2.2 m ²	37,000	3	111,000	37,000
Total			422	19,587,800	

Remarks:

For applications for reconstruction grant where applicants have not yet provided stall reconstruction quotations, the amount of grant involved is estimated to be the maximum grant for the respective category of pitch sizes.

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