

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)213

(Question Serial No. 1033)

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:

It is mentioned that the Department will take action to close public markets which are under-utilised. Please list the name of the markets to be closed in 2018-19, the number of market stalls to be closed and their respective utilisation rates.

Asked by: Hon WAN Siu-kin, Andrew (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2)

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.

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