

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)377

(Question Serial No. 5457)

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 the Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas, please advise:

1. whether the Department will extend the assistance scheme; and
2. whether the Department will increase the number of fixed-pitch hawker areas to protect the livelihood of hawkers.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 113)

Reply:

The Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas (the Scheme) seeks to provide financial incentives to 4 329 hawkers in 43 hawker areas identified for further reducing fire risks posed by on-street hawking activities. We have made good progress in implementing the Scheme since it was launched in June 2013. 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 ex-gratia payment. 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.

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department would continue to follow up with the remaining hawker stalls and encourage hawkers to reconstruct their stall structures to meet the required specifications before the Scheme expires in June 2018. At present, the Government has no plan to extend the Scheme or increase the number of fixed-pitch hawker areas.

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