

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)197

(Question Serial No. 2888)

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:

Regarding the progress of the Hawker Assistance Scheme, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) The five-year assistance scheme just ended last year. What are the total expenditure and balance (if any) of the scheme to date?
- (b) What is the expenditure or estimated expenditure involved for the review on re-issuing hawker licences?
- (c) Will the Department provide additional funding to further improve the fire safety and operating environment of fixed-pitch hawker areas?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (LegCo internal reference no.: 57)

Reply:

- (a) The five-year Hawker Assistance Scheme (HAS) started in June 2013 with an approved commitment of \$230 million. As at 28 February 2019, the total expenditure incurred is \$222.3 million and another \$651,000 is committed for payment to applicants upon completion of stall reconstruction. There will be a remaining balance of about \$7 million upon the conclusion of HAS.
- (b) The re-allocation of vacant hawker pitches to eligible persons is undertaken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) with a team of 12 staff at an estimated annual expenditure of about \$6.7 million.
- (c) The HAS has accomplished its objective to reduce the fire risks posed by on-street hawking activities. Taken together, 4 278 out of 4 329 (i.e. 98.8%) licensed hawkers in the 43 hawker areas had joined HAS. The small number of licensed hawkers who did not join HAS have made or are making arrangements to comply with the

prescribed fire safety requirements for their stalls out of their own funds. There is no need for the Department to set aside additional resources for this cause.

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