

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)198**

**(Question Serial No. 2889)**

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 work of “managing licensed hawker pitches, hawker permitted places and hawker bazaars”, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) Given that the Department plans to re-allocate vacant fixed hawker pitches to members of the general public by way of licensing, what is the validity period of the hawker licences to be re-issued? Will the Department formulate criteria for the renewal of hawker licences or require all licensees to surrender their hawker licences upon expiry of the validity period?
- (b) Please set out the quota for application for vacant fixed hawker pitches. Will the Department allocate the remaining quota for any category of applicants to other categories of which the number of applicants exceeds the quota (e.g. the categories of members of the general public or registered assistants)?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (LegCo internal reference no.: 59)

Reply:

- (a) To promote healthy turnover of hawker licences and allow admission of new traders, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is considering the merits of specifying an operation validity period for new hawker licences for the registered assistant and general public categories, say for 5 years, when the vacant fixed pitches are re-allocated to them. The Department will continue to listen to views on this operation validity period.
- (b) The Department proposes to apportion the vacant pitches equally among 4 categories of applicants, namely (i) licensed newspaper hawkers; (ii) licensed itinerant hawkers; (iii) registered assistants with 5 years or more experience at the same pitch; and (iv) members of the general public satisfying certain basic criteria. If the vacant pitches set aside for a particular category are not all taken up, the Department will re-assign

the unused pitches to other categories in a fair and transparent manner. We are now working on the detailed arrangements.

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