

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)387

(Question Serial No. 5240)

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:

In 2014, the Food and Health Bureau commissioned a consultancy study on ways to improve the operating environment of public markets. In this connection, please advise on:

1. the progress of implementation of the recommendations concerned;
2. the implementation of improvement measures in the 6 selected markets in the past 3 years; and
3. the occupancy rate and vacancy rate of the 6 selected markets in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 302)

Reply:

1&2. The consultant commissioned by the Food and Health Bureau (the Consultant) selected 6 representative markets for detailed study and put forward specific improvement recommendations. These 6 markets are Lockhart Road Market, Sheung Fung Street Market, Yau Ma Tei Market, Wing Fong Street Market, Tsuen Wan Market and Ngau Chi Wan Market. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has completed the consultations with the Market Management Consultative Committees (MMCCs) of these markets. The MMCCs expressed support for some of the proposals that do not require temporary closure of stalls or suspension of business. Having considered MMCCs' views and the results of the feasibility studies, improvement works of different scales have been taken forward in Lockhart Road Market, Sheung Fung Street Market, Yau Ma Tei Market and Wing Fong Street Market. The works in Wing Fong Street Market has been completed while those in the other 3 markets will be completed progressively in 2019-20. With the introduction of the Market Modernisation Programme (MMP), the potential improvement works in the remaining 2 markets, namely Tsuen Wan Market and Ngau

Chi Wan Market, will be considered under the context of the MMP taking into account the views expressed by the relevant MMCCs.

The Consultant also suggested implementing some non-physical improvement measures relating to the management, hygiene, as well as marketing and promotion of public markets. On the management of public markets, the Department is conducting a comprehensive review of its existing public markets and will formulate specific improvement measures for both their facilities and management in a systematic manner. On marketing and promotion, promotional activities are conducted to enhance the patronage of public markets. These include festive celebration and thematic activities, display of multi-language recipes as well as publication of booklets which provide updated market information.

3. The information sought is provided at Annex.

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Serial No.	Name of Market	No. of stalls			Occupancy Rate as at 31 December ^(a)			Vacancy Rate ^(b) as at 31 December		
		2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
1	Lockhart Road Market	166	166	166	80%	77%	74%	20%	23%	26%
2	Sheung Fung Street Market	71	71	71	100%	99%	99%	0%	1%	1%
3	Yau Ma Tei Market	144	144	144	96%	94%	90%	4%	6%	10%
4	Wing Fong Street Market	112	112	114	92%	98%	85%	8%	2%	15%
5	Tsuen Wan Market	381	381	381	93%	90%	89%	7%	10%	11%
6	Ngau Chi Wan Market	402	402	402	93%	90%	87%	7%	10%	13%

- (a) Occupancy rate is the percentage of let-out stalls versus the total number of stalls in a market. Degree of activity of let-out stalls varies.
- (b) Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.