Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2019-20   Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. S096)

Head:	(49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title):	(000) Operational expenses
Programme:	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
Controlling Officer:	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau:	Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

This is a follow-up question on FHB(FE)101:

1) Regarding the Government's implementation of a series of measures to improve the employment terms and conditions as well as labour benefits of non-skilled workers employed by government service contractors, what is the commencement date of the service contracts to which such measures are applicable? Will the improvement measures be applied on renewal of the contracts?

2) For the service contracts signed between 10 October 2018 and 31 March 2019, will the Department be responsible for the payment of statutory holiday pay and contractual gratuities after the introduction of the new measures? Will the Department make payment to the non-skilled workers directly or ask the contractors to handle payment matters?   What is the timetable for the payment?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will adopt the new enhancement measures for service tenders issued on or after 1 April 2019 to protect outsourced non-skilled workers employed by its service contractors.   The new enhancement measures will be applied upon renewal of the contracts.

To benefit non-skilled workers engaged in the service contracts during the transitional period between the announcement of the new policy in October 2018 and the effective date of 1 April 2019, the Department has negotiated with the service contractors concerned to incorporate relevant new enhancement measures into the service contracts by making top-up payments on a reimbursement basis for the additional costs incurred.

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