

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)254

(Question Serial No. 4225)

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:

1. Will the Department re-issue hawker licences in 2020-21? If yes, what are the details and expenditure involved?
2. Will the Department designate new hawker areas at suitable locations in the territory in 2020-21? If yes, what are the details and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 191)

Reply:

1. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department launched the scheme of Re-allocation of Fixed Hawker Pitches and Issue of New Licences at the end of September 2019. Under the scheme, 435 vacant fixed hawker pitches located at 7 districts will be open for application by persons who are interested in the hawking business and able to meet the required conditions. Successful applicants will operate at the pitches after a licence is granted. After launching the scheme, the Department received a total of 14 126 applications, of which 12 788 applicants were initially eligible. The Department conducted an open computer random sequencing cum manual ballot exercise to determine the priority order of applicants for pitch selection at the end of November 2019. Applicants have been invited for the selection of vacant pitches starting from early December. As at 29 February 2020, 349 applicants were invited for pitch selection. Among them, 236 have selected the pitches (77 of them have been granted with the fixed pitch hawker licence), 109 have given up pitch selection, and 4 were considered not eligible for the scheme. The pitch selection exercise is scheduled for completion in late April 2020. The work is mainly performed by 12 departmental staff at an estimated expenditure of \$8.04 million in 2020-21.

The list of eligible applicants who have not been allocated a hawker pitch will be kept for 3 years for use in the allocation of vacant pitches that could be made available within the 3-year period.

2. The Department's priority task is to re-allocate vacant pitches in existing fixed-pitch hawker areas to respond to the stakeholders' aspirations. We have no plan to set up new hawker areas at the moment.

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