

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)275**

**(Question Serial No. 5371)**

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:

Please advise this Committee on (1) the number of convicted cases in the past 5 years in relation to the prosecutions instituted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department against environmental hygiene related offences, with a breakdown by type of hawkers (licensed hawkers, unlicensed hawkers, market stalls, ...); (2) the number of inspections conducted by the Department in relation to hawkers, pitches and market stalls, the number of prosecutions instituted, the number of convicted cases, as well as the manpower and administrative charges involved, in each of the past 5 years (please set out the information in tabular form); and (3) the estimated number of unlicensed hawkers in each of the past 5 years, with a breakdown by district.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1647)

Reply:

- (1) The number of convictions of licensed hawkers, unlicensed hawkers and market stalls in public markets in the past 5 years (from 2015 to 2019) is provided at Annex I.
- (2) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not keep separate statistics on the number of inspections of hawker stalls and public market stalls. The number of prosecutions against and convictions of licensed hawkers or public market tenants, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved in hawker control and management of public markets in the past 5 years (from 2015 to 2019) are provided at Annex II.

Taking enforcement actions is part of the duties of the Department's hawker control and market management staff. Further breakdown of the manpower for and expenditure on prosecution is not available.

- (3) The estimated number of unlicensed hawkers in 18 districts over the past 5 years (from 2015 to 2019) is provided at Annex III.

**Number of convictions of licensed hawkers,  
unlicensed hawkers and market stalls in public markets  
(2015 - 2019)**

| Year | No. of convictions |                    |               |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
|      | Licensed hawkers   | Unlicensed hawkers | Market stalls |
| 2015 | 5 622              | 23 473             | 1 523         |
| 2016 | 3 431              | 14 372             | 1 911         |
| 2017 | 3 201              | 6 270              | 1 916         |
| 2018 | 2 838              | 4 859              | 1 637         |
| 2019 | 3 194              | 3 609              | 1 767         |

**Enforcement actions  
against licensed hawkers and public market tenants**

| Year | Licensed hawkers       |                       | Public market tenants  |                       |
|------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
|      | Number of prosecutions | Number of convictions | Number of prosecutions | Number of convictions |
| 2015 | 4 493                  | 5 622                 | 1 658                  | 1 523                 |
| 2016 | 3 787                  | 3 431                 | 2 065                  | 1 911                 |
| 2017 | 3 765                  | 3 201                 | 1 893                  | 1 916                 |
| 2018 | 3 733                  | 2 838                 | 1 697                  | 1 637                 |
| 2019 | 3 637                  | 3 194                 | 1 790                  | 1 767                 |

Note: Prosecution instituted in a year may be convicted in the following year.

**Manpower and expenditure involved in  
hawker control and management of public markets**

| Financial year | Licensed hawkers |                               | Public market tenants |                             |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
|                | Number of staff  | Expenditure (\$ million)      | Number of staff       | Expenditure (\$ million)    |
| 2015-16        | 2 210            | 1,025.2                       | 376                   | 720.4                       |
| 2016-17        | 2 243            | 1,108.8                       | 390                   | 840.0                       |
| 2017-18        | 2 264            | 1,074.2                       | 386                   | 807.1                       |
| 2018-19        | 2 264            | 1,134.2                       | 416                   | 838.8                       |
| 2019-20        | 2 253            | 1,159.6<br>(revised estimate) | 434                   | 865.7<br>(revised estimate) |

## Estimated number of unlicensed hawkers

| District                       | 2015         | 2016         | 2017         | 2018         | 2019         |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Central and Western            | 143          | 143          | 141          | 142          | 142          |
| Wan Chai                       | 26           | 16           | 39           | 41           | 56           |
| Eastern                        | 55           | 48           | 48           | 59           | 83           |
| Southern                       | 49           | 42           | 33           | 30           | 29           |
| Islands                        | 15           | 16           | 18           | 16           | 16           |
| Yau Tsim Mong                  | 281          | 295          | 301          | 273          | 247          |
| Sham Shui Po                   | 411          | 388          | 460          | 523          | 192          |
| Kowloon City                   | 64           | 64           | 61           | 61           | 62           |
| Wong Tai Sin                   | 35           | 49           | 16           | 15           | 34           |
| Kwun Tong                      | 100          | 79           | 63           | 63           | 59           |
| Kwai Tsing                     | 68           | 63           | 63           | 61           | 62           |
| Tsuen Wan                      | 7            | 6            | 2            | 3            | 3            |
| Tuen Mun                       | 51           | 51           | 45           | 44           | 46           |
| Yuen Long                      | 26           | 22           | 28           | 36           | 40           |
| North                          | 72           | 72           | 62           | 57           | 48           |
| Tai Po                         | 35           | 29           | 23           | 22           | 24           |
| Sha Tin                        | 42           | 31           | 52           | 46           | 43           |
| Sai Kung                       | 8            | 16           | 10           | 17           | 12           |
| Inside public housing estates* | 106          | 24           | 9            | 2            | 3            |
| Total                          | <b>1 594</b> | <b>1 454</b> | <b>1 474</b> | <b>1 511</b> | <b>1 201</b> |

Remark: \* Figures provided by the Housing Department. No further breakdown by district is available.

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