

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)359

(Question Serial No. 6842)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

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:

The Government has set up the Anti-epidemic Fund to provide cash subsidies for the food trade. Has the Government estimated the numbers of food trade that will and will not be able to benefit from the Fund? What is the total number and the average number of employees in the above sector?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has set up the Food Licence Holders Subsidy Scheme and the Licensed Hawkers Subsidy Scheme under the Anti-epidemic Fund to provide financial support for food licence holders and licensed hawkers hard hit by the COVID-19 outbreak. Subsidies will be provided for eligible licence holders of eight categories of food premises in operation (including general restaurants, marine restaurants, factory canteens, light refreshment restaurants, fresh provision shops, food factories, bakeries and siu mei and lo mei shops). About 28 000 food licence holders are expected to benefit from the subsidies. The Department does not have information on the total and average numbers of employees in the food trade. The financial impacts of the related measures will be absorbed by the Anti-epidemic Fund, which does not form part of the Appropriation Bill or the estimates of the General Revenue Account.

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