

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)073**

**(Question Serial No. 1407)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Diane WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22, it is mentioned that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will “take action to close public markets which are under-utilised”. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- 1) the public markets planned to be closed, their current stall vacancy rates and the anticipated dates of closure;
- 2) the public markets closed in each of the past 3 financial years as a result of under-utilisation, their stall vacancy rates before closure and the development/use of land after closure; and
- 3) whether additional manpower and expenditure are required for the relevant work.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

1. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department plans to close Choi Hung Road Market in 2021-22. As at 31 December 2020, there were 69 stalls let out in the market and the vacancy rate was about 41%. The market is expected to be closed in March 2022. The Department will continue to review the usage and development potential of other markets, and tentatively plans to take forward the preparatory and consultation work for closure of another 4 markets. Views from other government departments have been sought in accordance with established procedures to formulate proposals for putting the premises concerned to gainful long-term uses.
2. In the 3 financial years from 2018-19 to 2020-21, the Department closed 3 markets with consistently high vacancy rates and the vacated buildings have been handled according to established procedures. Based on the circumstances, the Department has requested the relevant government departments including the Government Property Agency, Planning Department or Lands Department, to seek views from

other government departments to formulate proposals for putting the premises to gainful long-term uses. The relevant information is provided as follows:

<b>Name of market</b>	<b>Date of closure</b>	<b>Vacancy rate before closure</b>	<b>Land development/use after closure</b>
Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	February 2019	70%	Long-term planning is under study.
Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	June 2019	61%	The market has been demolished and the site will be returned to the Lands Department.
Tui Min Hoi Market	January 2021	56%	The relevant department is exploring the feasibility of provision of welfare facilities.

3. The Department has set up a dedicated team to develop new markets and take forward the Market Modernisation Programme and other reviews, including the review of the usage of existing markets. In 2021-22, there are 49 posts in the team and the estimated expenditure is about \$44 million.

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