

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)163

(Question Serial No. 3261)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (-) 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:

By the middle of next year, all government forms and licence applications can be submitted electronically unless there are legal or operational constraints. Besides, e-payment options (including the Faster Payment System) will be available for making payments in respect of most government bills and licences starting from the middle of next year. The Government has earlier granted market tenants a one-off subsidy of \$5,000 to encourage them to install at least one contactless electronic payment system. In this connection, what are the number of installation and the total installation cost so far?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department launched a subsidy scheme for the promotion of contactless payment in public markets under the third round of the Anti-epidemic Fund. Under the scheme, a one-off subsidy is provided for tenants of public markets at a flat rate of \$5,000 per stall to meet the initial set-up costs, service charges and other fees in relation to the provision of at least one contactless payment means for market patrons.

The Department received a total of 3 555 applications during the application period. So far, 3 542 applications (99.6%) have been approved in principle and \$13.62 million of subsidies have been disbursed for 2 724 applications. The remaining applications were not processed as the applicants failed to submit the relevant information and complete the installation. The Department does not keep information on the total installation cost.

The financial implication 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.

- End -