

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-FHB(FE)003

(Question Serial No. S014)

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 (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Follow-up question to Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)128:

The first round of the subsidy scheme for the promotion of contactless payment in public markets ended on 21 December 2020, and the second round will soon be launched. If resources are still available, will hawker bazaars and hawker stalls be included in the scheme to promote electronic payment and allow hawkers to benefit from the use of consumption vouchers in future as well as offer more choices to customers?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

To reduce the risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 or other diseases by operators and patrons in public markets through physical touch of cash, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and Hong Kong Housing Authority plan to launch a second-round subsidy scheme for the promotion of contactless payment in public markets under the Anti-epidemic Fund on 30 April 2021 and, at the same time, expand the target beneficiaries to include holders of a valid hawker licence issued by FEHD. The financial implications 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 -