

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)028**

**(Question Serial No. 0765)**

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:

Regarding “managing licensed hawker pitches, hawker permitted places and hawker bazaars” under this Programme, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What were the number of hawker licences repossessed by the Department, the number of hawker licences available for re-application and the number of applicants in each of the past 5 years;
2. What were the business situation in hawker bazaars, including the number of stall tenants, occupancy rate, number of visits and business turnover of stall operators, in the past 5 years? Has the Department conducted any investigation and studies in this regard? If no, what is/are the reason(s)? Will relevant statistics be compiled?
3. As pointed out to me by a stall operator from Yue Man Hawker Bazaar, his business was hard hit by the social situation and the epidemic in the past 3 years. Has the Department provided support and subvention for itinerant hawkers, fixed pitch hawkers and stall operators of hawker bazaars, and implemented measures to help them attract patronage? If yes, what are the details of the measures and the expenditure involved in the coming year?
4. As the people's livelihood is hit by the epidemic, will the Department consider issuing additional hawker licences, organising promotional activities in hawker bazaars and holding flea markets as means of making a living for members of the public? If yes, what are the details and the number of licences/activities involved? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

1. The number of hawker licences repossessed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department(FEHD) in each of the past 5 years is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of hawker licences repossessed</b>
2017	112
2018	116
2019	6
2020	14
2021	0

FEHD will no longer issue new hawker licences under normal circumstances. Yet, to promote normal turnover of fixed-pitch hawker licences and allow admission of new traders, FEHD opened the application for 435 vacant fixed hawker pitches by eligible persons in 2019. A total of 14 126 applications were received and 431 new hawker licences were finally granted. The list of eligible applicants who have not been invited for pitch selection will be kept for 3 years (i.e. until 25 November 2022) for use in the re-allocation of vacant pitches that were made available within the 3-year period.

2. Information on the number of stall tenants in each of the hawker bazaars as at 31 December 2021 is provided at Annex I. FEHD does not keep information on the business turnover of stall operators in each of the hawker bazaars. As for the statistics on visitor flow, FEHD only maintains relevant information on Yue Man Hawker Bazaar, which was completed in 2021. The details are set out at Annex II.
3. To alleviate the impact of the social situation and COVID-19 epidemic on the business of licensed hawkers, the Government implemented the following support measures in the past 3 years:
  - (a) A one-off financial subsidy of \$5,000 was offered to licensed hawkers under the first round of the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF), benefitting nearly 5 300 licensed hawkers. The total grant exceeded \$26 million;
  - (b) A one-off subsidy of \$5,000 was provided for licensed hawkers to promote contactless payment under the third round of the AEF. A total of 1 586 applications were approved, with a total grant of about \$8 million; and
  - (c) Fees for first issue or renewal of a fixed pitch hawker licence and an itinerant hawker licence and fees for the allocation and use of fixed pitches were waived on a number of occasions during the 36-month period from October 2019 to 30 September 2022. The total amount involved was about \$85 million. The Financial Secretary announced in the 2022-23 Budget Speech that the above waivers would be further extended for 12 months starting from October 2022, involving an additional amount of about \$28 million.

Regarding Yue Man Hawker Bazaar, the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) has engaged a marketing and event-planning company since June 2021 to promote the bazaar to the public and attract patronage through various activities, including organising workshops and games as well as inviting performers to stage music and magic performances in the piazza outside the bazaar on festive occasions. Besides, a 3D painting is displayed in the piazza to attract the visiting public to take pictures. Artists are invited to take part

in the filming of game shows in the bazaar for publicity purpose. In addition, talks and workshops are arranged to teach hawkers therein to promote and market their businesses through social media or online auction platforms. The URA and FEHD are discussing and studying the installation of an electronic display panel in the bazaar, whereby shopping guides will be made available for customers to easily locate the stalls they intend to visit. The relevant works are expected to be completed in the first half of 2022.

4. As mentioned above, FEHD will no longer issue new hawker licences under normal circumstances but will open suitable reprovisioned stalls for application. Promotional activities will also be held at individual hawker bazaars.

As for organising flea markets in the form of bazaar, the Government adopts an open mind towards the proposals of local residents/organisations. FEHD is happy to consider any proposal in conjunction with the relevant bureaux and departments if suitable sites are identified by organisations and support from venue owners and local communities is obtained, provided that the proposal will not compromise public order and safety, food safety and environmental hygiene, and will not obstruct public passageways.

**Number of fixed hawker pitches in  
hawker bazaars  
(as at 31 December 2021)**

District	Hawker bazaar (Note 1)	Number of fixed pitches			Usage Rate (a) / (b)
		Licensed (a)	Vacant	Total (b)	
Southern	Stanley Market Open Space Hawker Bazaar	20	8	28	71.4%
Yau Tsim	Haiphong Road Temporary Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar	9	3	12	75.0%
	Reclamation Street Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar (Note 2)	4	7	11	36.4%
	Woosung Street Temporary Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar	12	6	18	66.7%
	Yau Ma Tei Temporary Jade Hawker Bazaar	329	20	349	94.3%
Kwun Tong	Lai Yip Street Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar	3	7	10	30.0%
	Yue Man Hawker Bazaar (Note 3)	114	21	135	84.4%
Tsuen Wan	Hau Tei Square Hawker Bazaar	127	42	169	75.1%
Kwai Tsing	Kwai Wing Road Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar	4	16	20	20.0%
Tuen Mun	Lam Tei Market cum Hawker Bazaar	2	2	4	50.0%
Total		624	132	756	82.5%

Note:

- (1) Excluding Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar which is scheduled to be closed.
- (2) Reclamation Street Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar is scheduled to be closed in the fourth quarter of 2022.
- (3) To make way for the Kwun Tong Town Centre Redevelopment Project, Yue Man Hawker Bazaar commissioned in April 2021 to relocate the licensed hawkers in Kwun Tong Tung Yan Street Interim Hawker Bazaar and other areas of the district.

**Statistics on visitor flow in Yue Man Hawker Bazaar  
(since June 2021)**

Year	Daily visitor flow (Note)	
	Weekdays	Weekends or holidays
2021		
June	2 500 - 3 000	4 000 - 4 500
July	2 200 - 2 800	3 400 - 4 500
August	2 200 - 2 900	3 200 - 3 700
September	2 200 - 3 350	3 200 - 5 300
October	2 390 - 3 600	3 560 - 5 200
November	1 800 - 2 300	2 650 - 3 050
December	1 380 - 2 280	1 850 - 2 880
2022		
January	1 010 - 1 600	1 670 - 1 920
February	550 - 750 (Note)	260 - 770 (Note)

Note: Reckoned to be affected by the epidemic.

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