

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)087

(Question Serial No. 0811)

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 Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding hawker blackspots, the actual numbers in 2021 and 2022 as well as the estimated number in 2023 are all 45. Please advise this Committee of how the Department defines "hawker blackspots". What were the expenditures involved and the effectiveness of each raid in each of the past 3 years? Will the Department consider reviewing the strategy to combat hawker blackspots? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department conducts surveys quarterly in various districts. The number of unlicensed hawkers trading at a certain location at any one time of the day is counted to identify hawker blackspots where unlicensed hawkers congregate. The Department will adopt mobile patrol and raiding as strategies to deter illegal hawking activities and prevent unlicensed hawkers from taking root at these locations. To enhance deterrence, unlicensed hawkers will be arrested and their goods and equipment will be seized during raiding operations. Moreover, district offices of the Department maintain close communication with the local police and arrange for joint operations where necessary. The above-mentioned enforcement actions have borne fruit.

Combating unlicensed hawkers is part of the duties of the Hawkers Section of the Department, the staff of which are also responsible for the licensing and daily management of licensed hawkers, combating shop front extensions, managing hawker permitted places, taking law enforcement actions against those who have committed cleanliness offences, etc. The Department does not keep a separate breakdown of the relevant expenditure for the work of combating unlicensed hawkers.

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