

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)138

(Question Serial No. 1530)

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:

On “managing licensed hawker pitches, hawker permitted places and hawker bazaars”, please provide information on 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 the past year?
2. What were the number of stall tenants, occupancy rate and attendance of hawker bazaars in the past year? Has the Department conducted any investigation and studies on the business situation of stall tenants? If yes, what are the results? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?
3. Does the Department have any plan to implement new measures in 2023-24 to support itinerant hawkers, fixed pitch hawkers and stall operators of hawker bazaars and help them attract patronage, so as to increase their income after the COVID-19 epidemic and mitigate the impact of the epidemic on their business? If yes, what are the details and estimated expenditure involved? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) did not take the initiative to repossess hawker licences in the past year. However, some licences have been surrendered to FEHD for various reasons. New hawker licences will no longer be issued 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 and kept the list of eligible applicants who have not been invited for pitch selection at that time. Subsequently in mid-2022, FEHD released 105 vacant fixed hawker pitches and invited the eligible applicants on the list for selection. During the period, a total of 418 eligible applicants

were invited for pitch selection. As at 31 December 2022, FEHD has issued 84 new hawker licences to applicants who have successfully selected their pitches.

2. Information on the number of stall tenants in each of the hawker bazaars as at 31 December 2022 is provided at Annex. FEHD does not keep information on the attendance and the stall operators' business situation of each hawker bazaar. FEHD strives to maintain the order and hygiene of hawker bazaars. If stall tenants have any suggestion on the management of hawker bazaars because of their business situations, FEHD will carefully listen to and consider them.
3. To alleviate the impact of the social situation and COVID-19 epidemic on the business of licensed hawkers, the Financial Secretary announced in the 2022-23 Budget Speech that the fee waivers for the first issue or renewal of fixed pitch hawker licence and itinerant hawker licence, as well as the fee waivers for the allocation and use of fixed pitches would be further extended for 12 months starting from October 2022, involving an additional waiver amount of about \$28 million. In addition, promotional activities would be held at individual hawker bazaars. Take Yue Man Hawker Bazaar in Kwun Tong District as an example, the Urban Renewal Authority has engaged a marketing and event-planning company since June 2021 to promote the bazaar and attract patronage by holding various activities, including organising workshops and games as well as inviting performers to stage music and magic performances at the piazza outside the bazaar on festive occasions. A 3D painting was displayed at the piazza to attract the visiting public to take pictures and artists were invited to take part in the filming of game shows at the bazaar for publicity purpose. Talks and workshops were also arranged to teach hawkers therein to promote and market their businesses through social media or online auction platforms. Meanwhile, FEHD has installed an electronic display panel at the bazaar to provide shopping guides for customers so that they can easily locate the stalls they are looking for.

**Number of fixed hawker pitches in hawker bazaars
(as at 31 December 2022)**

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	12	0	12	100%
	Woosung Street Temporary Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar	11	7	18	61.1%
	Yau Ma Tei Temporary Jade Hawker Bazaar	316	33	349	90.5%
Kwun Tong	Lai Yip Street Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar	2	8	10	20.0%
	Yue Man Hawker Bazaar ^{Note (2)}	112	23	135	83.0%
Tsuen Wan	Hau Tei Square Hawker Bazaar	146	23	169	86.4%
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		625	120	745	83.9%

Note:

- (1) Excluding Reclamation Street Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar and Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar which were closed in the third quarter of 2022 and the first quarter of 2023 respectively.
- (2) 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.

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