

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)088**

**(Question Serial No. 0117)**

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 hawkers,

- (1) please set out the numbers of licensed fixed pitch hawkers, itinerant hawkers and registered assistants, as well as the estimated number of unlicensed hawkers in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by district and trade category.
- (2) please set out the numbers of hawker licences surrendered to and issued by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in each of the past 3 years.
- (3) please provide information on the vacant hawker pitches currently available for re-allocation, including location, hawker street/hawker bazaar and the number of vacant hawker pitches available for allocation.
- (4) please set out the staff establishment, expenditure on salaries and total expenditure for handling the surrender and issue of hawker licences in each of the past 3 years.
- (5) it is noted that in the past few years, the Department did not take the initiative to repossess hawker licences but issued a number of new hawker licences to promote the normal turnover of hawker licences. Does the Department plan to continue with such practice?

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- (1) The information on the number of licensed fixed pitch hawkers, itinerant hawkers and registered assistants, as well as the estimated number of unlicensed hawkers in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by district and trade category, is provided at Annex 1.
- (2) The numbers of hawker licences surrendered and issued in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by hawker type, are provided at Annex 2.
- (3) The number of vacant hawker pitches available for re-allocation in the territory as at 31 December 2023, with a breakdown by location, is provided at Annex 3.
- (4) Handling the surrender and issue of hawker licences is one of the duties of the Hawker Control Officer (HCO) grade. The officers are required to perform other duties at the

same time. Therefore, no breakdown of the manpower for individual duties is available. Information on the staff establishment of the HCO grade and the overall expenditure on hawker licensing and management in the past 3 years is provided at Annex 4.

- (5) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has no plan to repossess hawker licences on a proactive basis for the time being. It will consider opening suitable vacant fixed pitches for application by eligible persons in a timely manner.

**Number of licensed fixed pitch hawkers, itinerant hawkers, registered assistants  
and estimated number of unlicensed hawkers  
(as at 31 December 2021)**

		Hong Kong Island and Kowloon									New Territories and Islands								
		Central and Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Southern	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowloon City	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Kwai Tsing	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	North	Tai Po	Sha Tin	Sai Kung	Islands
Fixed Pitch Hawker Licence	Barber	2	4	0	0	11	8	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bootblack	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	9	2	0	2	25	18	0	4	12	6	9	4	0	0	0	5	0	1
	Newspaper	53	41	32	4	91	19	16	9	27	8	14	6	11	6	5	1	2	1
	Tradesman	65	15	10	0	46	2	3	0	9	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Wall Stall	23	18	8	14	113	46	25	2	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Classes	376	384	273	28	2 068	944	58	0	113	0	128	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionary	32									29								
	Mobile Van	9									6								
	Newspaper	1									0								
	Other Classes	112									141								
Registered Hawker Assistants		475	569	353	45	1 917	1 104	89	13	171	12	114	11	13	10	5	6	1	2
Estimated Number of Unlicensed Hawkers		150	75	68	32	189	268	62	11	69	42	2	46	53	52	17	37	5	21

**Number of licensed fixed pitch hawkers, itinerant hawkers, registered assistants  
and estimated number of unlicensed hawkers  
(as at 31 December 2022)**

		Hong Kong Island and Kowloon									New Territories and Islands								
		Central and Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Southern	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowloon City	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Kwai Tsing	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	North	Tai Po	Sha Tin	Sai Kung	Islands
Fixed Pitch Hawker Licence	Barber	2	4	0	0	11	8	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bootblack	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	9	2	0	2	23	16	0	3	11	6	9	4	0	0	0	5	0	1
	Newspaper	49	39	30	4	89	19	16	8	25	7	13	5	10	5	5	0	2	1
	Tradesman	63	15	10	0	45	2	2	0	9	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Wall Stall	21	18	8	13	110	45	23	2	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Classes	374	382	266	28	2 052	929	55	0	112	0	146	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionary	31									29								
	Mobile Van	8									6								
	Newspaper	1									0								
	Other Classes	100									129								
Registered Hawker Assistants		491	588	356	47	1 945	1 146	88	14	182	10	123	11	13	10	5	4	1	2
Estimated Number of Unlicensed Hawkers		149	9	60	29	144	70	55	6	53	44	6	50	59	11	2	43	5	9

**Number of licensed fixed pitch hawkers, itinerant hawkers, registered assistants  
and estimated number of unlicensed hawkers  
(as at 31 December 2023)**

		Hong Kong Island and Kowloon									New Territories and Islands								
		Central and Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Southern	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowloon City	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Kwai Tsing	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	North	Tai Po	Sha Tin	Sai Kung	Islands
Fixed Pitch Hawker Licence	Barber	2	4	0	0	10	7	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bootblack	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	9	2	0	2	25	12	0	2	6	2	9	4	0	0	0	5	0	1
	Newspaper	47	38	28	3	85	19	14	7	26	7	13	5	8	5	4	0	2	1
	Tradesman	61	14	10	0	42	2	2	0	9	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Wall Stall	20	17	8	13	105	41	23	2	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Classes	360	374	265	26	1 994	916	54	0	112	0	142	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionary	24									28								
	Mobile Van	8									6								
	Newspaper	1									0								
	Other Classes	89									114								
Registered Hawker Assistants		478	585	361	48	1 898	1 130	86	13	178	8	123	12	10	10	3	5	1	2
Estimated Number of Unlicensed Hawkers		159	9	51	35	142	35	50	6	92	42	3	43	68	14	11	28	6	10

## Number of hawker licences surrendered and issued

		Number of hawker licences surrendered <sup>Note 1</sup>			Number of hawker licences issued <sup>Note 2</sup>		
		2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Fixed Pitch Hawker Licence	Barber	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Bootblack	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	4	5	10	10	4	4
	Newspaper	3	13	10	0	0	0
	Tradesman	3	5	4	2	2	1
	Wall Stall	5	2	6	0	0	0
	Other Classes	44	42	50	140	84	8
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>13</b>
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mobile Van	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Newspaper	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Classes	0	0	1	0	0	0
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>13</b>

Note 1: Including licences temporarily or permanently surrendered for reconstruction works and licences surrendered due to other reasons, but excluding licences surrendered due to death of licensees or transfer and licences expired or cancelled.

Note 2: Including licences issued in the cases of succession and transfer, newly issued tradesman licences, as well as new licences collected under the Re-allocation of Vacant Fixed Hawker Pitches and Issue of New Licences Scheme launched at the end of September 2019.

**Vacant hawker pitches available for re-allocation  
(as at 31 December 2023)**

<b>District</b>		<b>Hawker Street/ Hawker Bazaar</b>	<b>Number of vacant hawker pitches available for allocation #</b>
Eastern		Chun Yeung Street	2
		Kam Wa Street	1
		Marble Road	2
		Sub-total	5
Central and Western		Findlay Road	1
		Elgin Street	2
		Peel Street	1
		Zetland Street	1
		Sub-total	5
Wan Chai		Gresson Street	1
		Tai Yuen Street	1
		Wun Sha Street	4
		Sub-total	6
Yau Tsim Mong	Yau Tsim	Canton Road	2
		Bowring Street	2
		Temple Street	45
		Sub-total	49
	Mong Kok	Tung Choi Street	39
		Yin Chong Street	2
		Canton Road	1
		Sub-total	42
Sham Shui Po		Wing Lung Street	1
		Sub-total	1
Kowloon City		Pau Chung Street	2
		Sub-total	2
Tsuen Wan		Hau Tei Square Hawker Bazaar	13
		Sub-total	13
Tuen Mun		Lam Tei Market cum Hawker Bazaar	1
		The open space underneath the ramp of the footbridge adjoining San Hui Market	2
		Tak Ching Court	1
		Sub-total	4
		<b>Total</b>	127

- # The figures represent the numbers of fixed hawker pitches suitable for re-allocation. They do not include pitches with a higher risk which are unsuitable for setting up stalls (such as those located within a radial distance of 6 metres in front of building staircase discharge points and within 1.5 metres of fire hydrants/located at emergency vehicular access), pitches earmarked to accommodate stalls that require relocation due to fire safety considerations, pitches absorbed in the course of rationalisation of the overall layout of hawker areas, and pitches reserved for resite commitments due to other needs.



**Staff establishment of HCO grade and  
overall expenditure on hawker licensing and management**

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Staff establishment</b>	<b>Expenditure on salaries (\$ million)</b>	<b>Overall expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2021-22	2 289	1,024.4	1,202.7
2022-23	2 291	1,038.6	1,223.2
2023-24 (Revised estimate)	2 291	1,071.8	1,280.5

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