

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)120

(Question Serial No. 2045)

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:

Last year, the Government proposed overhauling old municipal markets under the Market Modernisation Programme (MMP). At present, there are some market stall tenants holding a hawker licence. On managing licensed hawker pitches, hawker permitted places and hawker bazaars, please advise this Committee of:

- (a) the current number of market stall tenants holding a hawker licence in the territory, with a breakdown by the 18 districts;
- (b) the current number of licensed on-street fixed hawker pitches, the number of vacant pitches and the relevant vacancy rate in the territory, with a breakdown by the 18 districts; and
- (c) the estimated expenditure and staff establishment of the MMP.

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

- (a) No stall tenant of public markets managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department holds a hawker licence at the same time. Under the existing policy, a tenant must declare that he/she does not hold any valid hawker licence before entering into a market stall tenancy agreement with the Department. If the proposed public market stall tenant is a hawker licence holder, his/her tenancy agreement will not come into effect until he/she takes the initiative to cancel his/her hawker licence and return it to the Department.
- (b) The number of licensed on-street fixed hawker pitches, the number of vacant hawker pitches and the relevant vacancy rate in the territory are provided at Annex 1.
- (c) The Department is taking forward the Market Modernisation Programme (MMP), including overhaul or redevelopment projects, the pilot scheme on stall enhancement, as well as minor refurbishment or improvement works.

Regarding overhaul or redevelopment projects, the Department is carrying out the preparatory and consultation work, including technical feasibility studies upon

confirmation of the scope of works, for the proposed projects in Ngau Tau Kok Market, Kowloon City Market, Yeung Uk Road Market and North Kwai Chung Market. The works timetables and project costs could only be confirmed upon completion of the technical feasibility studies and assessments as well as the detailed designs. As for the preliminary suggestion of carrying out overhaul for Causeway Bay Market, the Department is maintaining close communication with the relevant stakeholders to gauge their views to formulate a suitable proposal.

The Department is implementing a pilot scheme to enhance market stalls and carry out relevant renovation works. This would involve works such as widening of passageways, beautification of walls and ceilings, as well as replacement or repair of simple equipment according to actual circumstances and needs. The first venue being included in the pilot scheme is Queen Street Cooked Food Market, with an estimated cost of about \$9.5 million. The works commenced in February 2024 and are expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2024. The Department will confirm the other venues to be included in the pilot scheme as soon as possible.

As for minor refurbishment or improvement works, the Department has carried out the relevant works in 16 markets. Among which, the works in 14 markets (including Ngau Tau Kok Market, Yeung Uk Road Market, Fa Yuen Street Market, Quarry Bay Market, Shui Wo Street Market, Tsuen Wan Market, Mong Kok Cooked Food Market, Ngau Chi Wan Market, Shek Tong Tsui Market, Yan Oi Market, Sai Kung Market, Po On Road Market, Wong Nai Chung Market and Smithfield Market) have been completed. The works of the other 2 markets (Luen Wo Hui Market and Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market) are underway, with completion expected in 2024. The project estimates for taking forward the 16 afore-mentioned minor refurbishment or improvement projects are about \$87.64 million in total.

The Market Development Division of the Department is responsible for duties relating to public market development, including new public market development projects, MMP, enhancements to market management and market consolidation/closure. As at 1 April 2024, the Market Development Division had 36 staff members. In 2024-25, the estimated staffing expenditure is about \$34.8 million. The Department does not keep a separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved in MMP.

On-street fixed hawker pitches
(as at 31 December 2023)

District	Number of on-street fixed pitches		Vacancy rate (b) / [(a)+(b)]
	Licensed (a)	Vacant # (b)	
Central and Western	504	5	1.0%
Wan Chai	449	6	1.3%
Eastern	311	5	1.6%
Southern	25	0	0%
Islands	2	0	0%
Yau Tsim Mong	1 927	91	4.5%
Sham Shui Po	990	1	0.1%
Kowloon City	93	2	2.1%
Wong Tai Sin	9	0	0%
Kwun Tong	50	0	0%
Kwai Tsing	7	0	0%
Tsuen Wan	13	0	0%
Tuen Mun	9	3	25.0%
Yuen Long	8	0	0%
North	6	0	0%
Tai Po	4	0	0%
Sha Tin	0	0	0%
Sai Kung	2	0	0%
Total	4 409	113	2.5%

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.

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