

香港特別行政區政府
政務司司長辦公室



CHIEF SECRETARY
FOR ADMINISTRATION'S OFFICE
Government of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region

Our Ref: CSO 8/2/5 (7/07)
Your Ref: CB2/PL/MP+FE

20 July 2011

The Hon Lee Cheuk-yan
Chairman
Panel on Manpower

The Hon Tommy Cheung Yu-yan
Chairman
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Lee and Mr Cheung,

**Panel on Manpower and
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

Creation of employment opportunities under the hawker policy

Thank you for your letter of 8 July 2011 to the Chief Secretary for Administration. I am authorised to reply on his behalf.

While street hawking, including open-air bazaars, may provide employment opportunities as well as a cheaper source of goods for the public, we are mindful of the nuisance that such activities may cause to nearby residents and pedestrians. This is borne out by the persistently large number of public complaints against both licensed and unlicensed hawking. The Administration's current hawker policy is to strike a balance between allowing legal hawking activities on the one hand and maintaining environmental hygiene and protecting the public from nuisance on the other. The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) has explained the position in the discussion paper provided to the meeting of the Joint Panels held on 28 June 2011.

In pursuance of this policy, we will consider re-issuing licences for some specific hawking trades for which no licences have been issued for some time, provided that food safety and environmental hygiene are not compromised, public passageways are not obstructed, and support of the relevant District Council (DC) has been obtained. At the Joint Panel meeting on 28 June 2011, we have outlined the various measures taken under this policy, including the issue of new licences in respect of 217 fixed pitches and issue of another 55 new Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licences.

The Administration keeps an open mind on the idea of establishing open-air bazaars at suitable sites in various districts. As many people are concerned about the potential environmental hygiene problems and other nuisances caused by street hawking, we consider that it would be best if proposals for open bazaars were to originate from the local communities, with general support from the people living or working in the locality and the endorsement of the relevant DC. DCs as well as local community leaders and organisations know the needs of their communities and the sentiments of the residents best. The relevant policy bureaux and departments, including FHB, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and Home Affairs Department, stand ready to provide assistance to proponents of open-air bazaars if they have identified suitable sites with local support and have satisfied the requirements on food safety and environmental hygiene.

Yours sincerely,



(Bruno Luk)
Administrative Assistant to
the Chief Secretary for Administration

c.c.
Secretary for Food and Health
Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Director of Home Affairs