



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局  
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat  
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

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31 July 2014

Clerk to Subcommittee on Hawker Policy under  
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn.: Ms Shirley TAM)  
[Fax: 3151 7052]

Dear Ms Tam,

**Subcommittee on Hawker Policy**

**Follow-up to Meetings on 15 April and 16 June 2014**

At the meetings of the Subcommittee held on 15 April and 16 June 2014, Members requested the Administration to provide some information. Having consulted the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau ("CEDB") and Labour and Welfare Bureau, we provide below the information requested.

*Responses from CEDB on the roles and functions of hawking activities in respect of Hong Kong's economic development, and their relationship with the Bureau's policy responsibility*

Hawking does not come under the policy responsibility of CEDB. CEDB believes that in developing the hawking trade, it is inevitable that we have to strike a balance between regulation (e.g. how to tackle issues like obstruction, hazards relating to hygiene and fire risks and environmental nuisance) and development (e.g. whether more licences should be issued for fixed-pitch hawkers or itinerant hawkers).

*Relevant statistics and studies on the social functions of hawkers conducted since the early 1970s, including the number of job opportunities created and the number of families raised through hawking*

The population in Hong Kong grew rapidly after the Second World War, mainly due to migration of people from the Mainland to settle here. Hawking activities proliferated in response to the rapid growth in the demand for daily supplies by the public as well as the demand for means to make a living. Over the years, the changing shopping habits of the population and growing competition from a variety of other retail outlets have led to a gradual reduction in the number of licensed hawkers. As at the end of 2013, the total number of licensed hawkers was about 6 000, compared with about 20 000 in the late 1980s.

The Administration has not conducted any specific studies on the social functions of hawkers.

*Relevant statistics since post-war era about small business activities (i.e. hawking), including their contributions to the economic growth, starting new businesses and reducing the unemployment rate of Hong Kong, in particular during economic downturns*

The Census and Statistics Department does not compile statistics on hawking activities in Hong Kong. The Government therefore has no relevant data to assess the impact that the hawking activities have had on the economy, the starting of new business and the labour market.

*A timetable for working out a proposal on hawker policy from the long-term, forward-looking and continuous development perspectives*

Subsequent to the meeting on 16 June 2014, the Administration has met with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Subcommittee to discuss the roles of various bureaux in formulating the hawker policy. At that meeting, the Administration suggested that it might be helpful if Members could share with us in a more concrete and specific manner how they envisage the hawker policy should further evolve. Further discussion for this purpose will be held in the near future. We believe that such discussion would help the Administration to develop the hawker policy in future.

Meanwhile, we are compiling information pertaining to other jurisdictions. That will be provided separately.

Yours sincerely,



(Vinci CHAN)

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.:

Secretary for Labour and Welfare  
(Attn.: Mr Jeremy POON) [Fax: 2523 1973]

Commissioner for Tourism  
(Attn.: Mr Bill KONG) [Fax: 2121 1468]

Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene  
(Attn.: Mr LAM Wing-hong  
Ms Vivian CHAN) [Fax: 2530 1368]