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Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2017-18

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

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FHB(FE)249	3900	WU Chi-wai	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
FHB(FE)250	3901	WU Chi-wai	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
FHB(FE)251	5351	YIU Chung-yim	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
FHB(FE)252	5352	YIU Chung-yim	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

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FHB(FE)254	5858	YIU Chung-yim	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
FHB(FE)255	5691	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	48	(1) Statutory Testing
FHB(FE)256	5700	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	48	-
FHB(FE)257	3335	LEUNG Yiu-chung	48	(1) Statutory Testing (2) Advisory and Investigative Services
FHB(FE)258	3354	LEUNG Yiu-chung	48	-
FHB(FE)259	5401	YIU Chung-yim	48	(1) Statutory Testing
FHB(FE)260	5403	YIU Chung-yim	48	(1) Statutory Testing (2) Advisory and Investigative Services
FHB(FE)261	4144	CHAN Chi-chuen	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)262	4196	CHAN Chi-chuen	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)263	4197	CHAN Chi-chuen	49	-
FHB(FE)264	4114	CHAN Han-pan	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)265	3629	CHAN Tanya	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)266	3702	CHAN Tanya	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)267	3760	CHAN Tanya	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)268	4210	CHAN Tanya	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)269	4224	CHAN Tanya	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)270	4254	CHAN Tanya	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)271	4280	CHAN Tanya	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)272	6736	CHAN Tanya	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)273	6738	CHAN Tanya	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control

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FHB(FE)274	6740	CHAN Tanya	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)275	6746	CHAN Tanya	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)276	6779	CHAN Tanya	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)277	6782	CHAN Tanya	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)278	6850	CHAN Tanya	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)279	5505	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)280	5506	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)281	5507	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)282	5508	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)283	5510	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)284	5511	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)285	5512	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)286	5513	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)287	5536	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)288	5561	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)289	5667	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control

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<u>FHB(FE)290</u>	5668	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<u>FHB(FE)291</u>	5669	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<u>FHB(FE)292</u>	5670	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<u>FHB(FE)293</u>	5975	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<u>FHB(FE)294</u>	5979	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<u>FHB(FE)295</u>	6308	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<u>FHB(FE)296</u>	6310	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<u>FHB(FE)297</u>	6311	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<u>FHB(FE)298</u>	6312	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<u>FHB(FE)299</u>	6314	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<u>FHB(FE)300</u>	6318	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<u>FHB(FE)301</u>	6320	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<u>FHB(FE)302</u>	6321	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<u>FHB(FE)303</u>	6322	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<u>FHB(FE)304</u>	6325	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control

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FHB(FE)305	6326	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)306	6327	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)307	6328	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)308	6585	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)309	6600	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)310	6605	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)311	7076	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)312	7077	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)313	4257	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)314	4258	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)315	4259	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)316	4261	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)317	4263	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)318	4265	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)319	4266	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)320	4267	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)321	4268	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)322	4269	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)323	4270	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

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FHB(FE)324	4271	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)325	4272	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)326	4273	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)327	4554	KWOK Ka-ki	49	-
FHB(FE)328	4638	KWOK Ka-ki	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)329	4649	KWOK Ka-ki	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)330	4650	KWOK Ka-ki	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)331	4651	KWOK Ka-ki	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)332	4652	KWOK Ka-ki	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)333	4653	KWOK Ka-ki	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)334	4654	KWOK Ka-ki	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)335	4655	KWOK Ka-ki	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)336	4656	KWOK Ka-ki	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)337	4657	KWOK Ka-ki	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)338	4658	KWOK Ka-ki	49	(4) Public Education and Community Involvement
FHB(FE)339	4711	KWOK Ka-ki	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)340	4713	KWOK Ka-ki	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)341	4788	KWOK Ka-ki	49	-
FHB(FE)342	4504	LAU Siu-lai	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)343	4530	LAU Siu-lai	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)344	4831	LAU Siu-lai	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)345	4832	LAU Siu-lai	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)346	3472	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)347	3473	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health

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FHB(FE)348	3474	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)349	3475	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)350	5014	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)351	5025	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)352	5027	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)353	5028	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	-
FHB(FE)354	5029	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	-
FHB(FE)355	5030	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)356	5031	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	-
FHB(FE)357	5037	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)358	6966	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)359	3336	LEUNG Yiu-chung	49	-
FHB(FE)360	3355	LEUNG Yiu-chung	49	-
FHB(FE)361	4859	MA Fung-kwok	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)362	6299	MO Claudia	49	-
FHB(FE)363	4354	SHIU Ka-chun	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)364	4355	SHIU Ka-chun	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)365	4356	SHIU Ka-chun	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)366	4357	SHIU Ka-chun	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)367	4358	SHIU Ka-chun	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)368	4359	SHIU Ka-chun	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)369	4360	SHIU Ka-chun	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)370	4361	SHIU Ka-chun	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)371	4362	SHIU Ka-chun	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control

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<u>FHB(FE)372</u>	4363	SHIU Ka-chun	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<u>FHB(FE)373</u>	4364	SHIU Ka-chun	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<u>FHB(FE)374</u>	4459	SHIU Ka-chun	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<u>FHB(FE)375</u>	3927	WU Chi-wai	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<u>FHB(FE)376</u>	3928	WU Chi-wai	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<u>FHB(FE)377</u>	3929	WU Chi-wai	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<u>FHB(FE)378</u>	5854	YIU Chung-yim	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<u>FHB(FE)379</u>	5855	YIU Chung-yim	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<u>FHB(FE)380</u>	7182	YUNG Hoi-yan	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<u>FHB(FE)381</u>	4165	CHAN Chi-chuen	31	(5) Trade Controls

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)001

(Question Serial No. 2869)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Government put forward a new agriculture policy last year to promote local agriculture and planned to resume private land for establishing an Agricultural Park with an area of about 75 to 80 hectares. What is the current progress? What are the provisions earmarked for the resumption of private land this year? Have any support and promotional efforts been made this year to assist the hydroponic farming industry to be carried out in industrial buildings?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

The engineering feasibility study of the Agricultural Park (Agri-Park) has been completed. The consultancy study to undertake the investigation work of the potential site and detailed design of the Agri-Park has recently been commissioned. The scope of land resumption will be subject to the outcome of the consultancy study.

The Government encourages the adoption of modern farming practices as well as the development of new agricultural technology and related knowledge transfer. Hydroponics is one such example. The Government is reviewing the operational requirements of hydroponics and other farming practices using new technologies, with a view to providing clear guidelines for the application of such technologies in industrial buildings/zones.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)002

(Question Serial No. 0333)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the compensation and ex-gratia payment granted by the Government in response to food safety incidents, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. For the food safety incidents occurred in the past 5 years, what were the reasons for granting compensation or ex-gratia payment by the Government to the affected parties (such as food retailers and suppliers) and the amount granted in each of the cases?
2. Did the Government apply any formula in determining the amount of compensation or ex-gratia payment? If yes, what were the details? If no, what were the considerations?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pierre (Member Question No. 43)

Reply:

A one-off ex-gratia payment of about \$300,000 was granted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to retailers affected by an incident of live pigs tainted with prohibited veterinary drug which occurred in early August 2016. The amount was intended to cover the financial loss to the retailers concerned in relation to the pork and offal disposed of in the incident, and was calculated based on the retail price of pork published by the Census and Statistics Department. No compensation or ex-gratia payment was granted in relation to any other food safety incidents in the past 5 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)003

(Question Serial No. 0005)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

As regards studying the feasibility of reprovisioning and expanding the Food Safety Laboratory of the Government Laboratory to increase its testing capability and enhance its operational efficiency in 2017-18, please provide details, including the specific plan, the testing capability that can be strengthened, the time that can be shortened, and the testing capacity that can be increased. Please also provide details on the timetable, manpower required and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 19)

Reply:

The Government Laboratory (GL) is currently in shortage of laboratory area. To enhance GL's testing capability and operational efficiency for tests relating to food safety, we are exploring the option of reprovision or expansion. Expansion of the facility in the Victoria Road and redevelopment at another site are among the options being explored. Details such as implementation timelines and budget estimates can only be ascertained when the site search and other related technical considerations are complete. The manpower and expenditure required by the Food and Health Bureau and GL for pursuing this exercise are absorbed from within existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)004

(Question Serial No. 0223)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the grant of outsourced service contracts, please provide the following information:

(a) What were the number and contract periods of outsourced service contracts granted by the Bureau in each of the past three years (i.e. 2014-2016)?

(b) What were the total payments to outsourced service providers made by the Bureau in each of the past three years (i.e. 2014-2016)?

(c) What were the number of outsourced workers engaged by the Bureau, with a breakdown by post and salary level, in each of the past three years (i.e. 2014-2016)?

(d) What were the number of complaints received, in each of the past three years (i.e. 2014-2016), by the Bureau from outsourced workers about alleged defaults on payment of wages or deduction of wages by outsourced service providers, or about poor working environment and, among them, the number and details of those cases in which the outsourced service providers concerned were penalised because the complaints against them had been found substantiated?

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

The Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) did not award any outsourcing contract for delivering the services of the Food Branch in the past three years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2412)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Government has pledged to “implement the new agriculture policy to proactively support the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture, including preparing for the establishment of the Agricultural Park and the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund”. Please advise on the details of the work, manpower and expenditure involved in the last 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick, Eddie (Member Question No. 63)

Reply:

Announced in the 2016 Policy Address, we are making good progress in implementing the New Agriculture Policy (NAP). Details are set out below:

- We have set up a \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) to provide financial support for the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture and have started accepting applications since late 2016. As at 1 March 2017, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has received 2 applications under SADF to fund projects that may benefit the local agricultural community as a whole, which are being processed. In addition, a total of 54 applications seeking financial assistance for individual farms to acquire farming equipment and/or materials from the Farm Improvement Scheme under SADF have been received. 6 applications have so far been approved, involving a total funding of \$180,000;
- We intend to establish an Agricultural Park (Agri-Park) to help nurture agro-technology and agro-business management. The engineering feasibility study of the Agri-Park has been completed. The consultancy study to undertake the investigation work of the potential site and detailed design of the Agri-Park has recently been commissioned;
- We will commission a study later this year on Agricultural Priority Areas to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land and formulate policies and measures to

promote the rehabilitation of fallow agricultural land and improve the rural environment.

- We are reviewing the operational requirements of hydroponics and other farming practices using new technologies, with a view to providing clear guidelines for the application of such technologies in industrial buildings/zones.

In 2016-17, additional manpower of 16 staffs have been allocated to FHB and AFCD to implement the NAP, with an estimated total expenditure of about \$7 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)006

(Question Serial No. 1406)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the appeals against the ex-gratia allowance for the trawl ban, please advise on the following:

- (a) What are the respective expenditure and manpower involved in handling the appeals against the trawl ban in the past 3 years (from 2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What are the respective numbers of hearings handled by the relevant department(s) in the past 3 years (from 2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (c) What is the expected time for the Fishermen Claims Appeal Board ("FCAB") to complete the processing of all of the aforesaid appeal cases; what measures are in place to improve FCAB's arrangement for and progress in processing the appeals, so as to avoid fishermen waiting for an indefinite period of time;
- (d) Whether consideration will be made to improve the existing way of displaying information on FCAB's website, including giving a breakdown of (i) the Decisions made in respect of such cases and (ii) the number of such cases by type of fishing vessels;
- (e) What are the employment or operating conditions in the past three years (from 2014-15 to 2016-17) of the fishermen who have been affected by the trawling ban, including the respective numbers of those who have switched to work in (i) other capture fishery industries, (ii) marine fish culture industry, (iii) fisheries industries other than (i) and (ii), and (iv) fisheries-related industries?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 15)

Reply:

(a)

The manpower of the Fishermen Claims Appeal Board (Trawl Ban) (“FCAB”) Secretariat and expenditure involved in handling the appeals received by FCAB from 2014-15 to 2016-17 are as follows:

Financial Year	Manpower of FCAB Secretariat (Number of Staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)
2014-15	5	1.8
2015-16	5	2.4
2016-17 (revised estimate)	5	5.0

The expenditure above includes both the staff and general operating costs of the Secretariat, as well as the fees for hiring outside legal advisers and other supporting services such as translation. The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) oversees the operation of FCAB.

(b) & (c)

A total of 858 appeal applications have been received, of which 91 cases were subsequently withdrawn by the appellants as at mid-March 2017. From 2014-15 to 2016-17 (up to mid-March 2017), a total of 170 hearings were held. As at mid-March 2017, FCAB has issued decisions on 68 appeal cases, of which 6 were allowed. The hearings for another 86 cases have been completed, pending drafting of judgements by legal advisers.

To ensure that all appeal cases are handled in a fair and just manner, FCAB would carefully examine and consider the information of each case, including statements submitted and arguments put forth by both parties. The workload involved in processing the appeals is exceptionally heavy, and it may require more than one hearing in order to conclude a complicated case. It is difficult to predict the time needed to conclude all cases. FCAB has been stepping up its efforts to process the remaining 613 cases, including through increasing the number of its members and frequency of hearings.

(d)

For the sake of transparency, decisions of the appeal cases are already published on FHB’s website by types of vessels.

(e)

The owners of the 269 inshore trawlers operating in Hong Kong waters were most affected by the trawl ban. According to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department’s records of various schemes and its survey on the trade, about half of the inshore trawler owners have switched to operate in the Mainland waters after receiving ex-gratia allowance (“EGA”), while some 40 inshore trawler owners have switched to other forms of capture fishery or fish culture industry. The remaining trawler owners after receiving EGA have either withdrawn from the industry or yet to decide whether to stay in the fishing industry.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)007****(Question Serial No. 1420)**

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the appeals against the ex-gratia allowance for the trawl ban, please advise on the following:

(a) What are the respective expenditure and manpower involved in handling the appeals against the trawl ban in the past 3 years (from 2014-15 to 2016-17)?

(b) What are the respective numbers of hearings handled by the relevant department(s) in the past 3 years (from 2014-15 to 2016-17)?

(c) How much time is expected for the Appeal Board to handle all the hearings in relation to the ex-gratia allowance for the trawl ban?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 54)

Reply:

(a)

The manpower of the Fishermen Claims Appeal Board (Trawl Ban) ("FCAB") Secretariat and expenditure involved in handling the appeals received by FCAB from 2014-15 to 2016-17 are as follows:

Financial Year	Manpower of FCAB Secretariat (Number of Staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)
2014-15	5	1.8
2015-16	5	2.4
2016-17 (revised estimate)	5	5.0

The expenditure above includes both the staff and general operating costs of the Secretariat, as well as the fees for hiring outside legal advisers and other supporting services such as translation. The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) oversees the operation of FCAB.

(b) & (c)

A total of 858 appeal applications have been received, of which 91 cases were subsequently withdrawn by the appellants as at mid-March 2017. From 2014-15 to 2016-17 (up to mid-March 2017), a total of 170 hearings were held. As at mid-March 2017, FCAB has issued decisions on 68 appeal cases, of which 6 were allowed. The hearings for another 86 cases have been completed, pending drafting of judgements by legal advisers.

To ensure that all appeal cases are handled in a fair and just manner, FCAB would carefully examine and consider the information of each case, including statements submitted and arguments put forth by both parties. The workload involved in processing the appeals is exceptionally heavy, and it may require more than one hearing in order to conclude a complicated case. It is difficult to predict the time needed to conclude all cases. FCAB has been stepping up its efforts to process the remaining 613 cases, including through increasing the number of its members and frequency of hearings.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)008

(Question Serial No. 1038)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated that the Government will “follow up on the proposals to introduce a pre-market safety assessment scheme for genetically modified food”. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

1. the details of the work and the estimated expenditure to be involved;
2. whether the Government has conducted tests on food products for sale on the market for genetically modified (GM) materials in the past 3 years (i.e. 2014-2016); if yes, the test results; if not, the reason(s);
3. whether the Government will consider conducting tests on GM materials in food for sale on the market and publishing the test results for public information on a regular basis; if yes, the details and the estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s); and
4. whether the Government will consider implementing a mandatory GM food labelling system; if yes, the details and the estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

According to the World Health Organisation, genetically modified (GM) food currently available on the international market has passed the safety assessments of the respective food safety regulatory authorities and is not likely to be harmful to human health.

GM food is treated like any other food and is covered in the regular Food Surveillance Programme (FSP) of the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). The CFS takes food samples at the import, wholesale and retail (including online retailers) levels and adopts a risk-based principle in determining the types of samples to be collected, the frequency and number of samples

taken for testing, and types of laboratory analysis to be conducted. The CFS releases the test results to the public through various channels.

The CFS has issued the “Guidelines on Voluntary Labelling of Genetically Modified Food” which sets out the principles underlying recommended labelling approaches for GM food, and provides reference for the trade to make truthful and informative labels in a consumer-friendly manner. The CFS will continue to promote the voluntary labelling regime to traders, provide the public with information on GM food and address food safety issues related to GM food, while keeping in view international development in GM technology and GM food labelling standards.

The Government has been considering introducing a mandatory pre-market safety assessment scheme, with a view to providing additional safeguard to consumers on GM food being sold in Hong Kong. In this regard, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and the CFS/FEHD have been keeping in view international developments on the regulation of GM foods and the local circumstances with a view to coming up with a proposal for public consultation. We need more time to formulate the proposal, and are not ready to come up with an estimated timetable for the public consultation exercise at this stage. The aforementioned preparatory work has been and will continue to be undertaken by the existing manpower and resources in FHB and CFS/FEHD.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)009

(Question Serial No. 2738)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the actual expenditure on salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Secretary in 2016-17, as well as the estimate for salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Secretary in 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 20)

Reply:

The expenditure on salaries for the Secretary for Food and Health in 2016-17 is \$3.58 million and the same provision has been reserved in 2017-18 Draft Estimate. We have not incurred any expenditure on regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowances for the above official in 2016-17 and no provisions for such have been reserved in 2017-18 Draft Estimate.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)010

(Question Serial No. 2742)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the actual expenditure on salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Under Secretary in 2016-17, as well as the estimate for salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Under Secretary in 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 21)

Reply:

The expenditure on salaries for the Under Secretary for Food and Health in 2016-17 is \$2.33 million and the same provision has been reserved in 2017-18 Draft Estimate. We have not incurred any expenditure on regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowances for the above official in 2016-17 and no provisions for such have been reserved in 2017-18 Draft Estimate.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)011

(Question Serial No. 2753)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the actual expenditure on salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Political Assistant in 2016-17, as well as the estimate for salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Political Assistant in 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 22)

Reply:

The expenditure on salaries for the Political Assistant to Secretary for Food and Health in 2016-17 is \$1.25 million and the same provision has been reserved in 2017-18 Draft Estimate. We have not incurred any expenditure on regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowances for the above official in 2016-17 and no provisions for such have been reserved in 2017-18 Draft Estimate.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)012

(Question Serial No. 0934)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Not Specified

Question:

What were the Government's manpower, expenditure and advertising expenses on social media Facebook and Youtube in the past 3 years? What is the Key Performance Index adopted by the Government to measure the effectiveness of promoting government policies and activities via social media? Please provide i) the top-ranked and ii) the bottom-ranked Facebook posts of departments as well as iii) their average interaction rates in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (Member Question No. 48)

Reply:

The Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) has not deployed manpower resources and has not incurred expenditure and advertising expenses on social media Facebook and Youtube in the past 3 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)013

(Question Serial No. 0469)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under Programme (3), the financial provision for 2015-16 is \$21.7 million, the revised estimate for 2016-17 is \$52.8 million, while the estimated provision for 2017-18 is \$66.4 million. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) The revised estimate for 2016-17 is about 240% of the provision for 2015-16, representing a substantial increase. Why?
- (2) Under this programme, how much of the estimated provision for 2017-18 will be set aside for anti-mosquito work?
- (3) Under this programme, what are the 3 posts to be created in 2017-18? What are the details on their areas of work?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

- (1) The increase of \$31.1 million (143%) in the 2016-17 revised estimate of Programme (3): Environmental Hygiene as compared with the 2015-16 actual expenditure is mainly due to the increase in provisions for enhancing environment hygiene including stepping up pest control service due to Zika virus infection and dengue fever, enhancing publicity efforts on keeping Hong Kong clean, and providing enhanced street washing services in all districts.
- (2) The 2017-18 estimate of Programme (3): Environmental Hygiene is for various initiatives related to environmental hygiene services, which include initiatives for minimizing the risks and threats caused to public health by pest. There is no separate breakdown for mosquito control.
- (3) The three additional posts comprise 1 Chief Executive Officer and 1 Executive Officer II posts for providing secretariat support to the Private Columbaria Appeal

Board to be established, subject to the enactment of the Private Columbaria Ordinance, and 1 Analyst/Programmer II post for providing IT support.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)014

(Question Serial No. 3036)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

As regards studying the feasibility of reprovisioning and expanding the Food Safety Laboratory of the Government Laboratory, would the Government please advise this Committee of the following: (a) Currently, what is the number of food safety tests conducted by the Government Laboratory each year? By how much will the number increase after the reprovisioning and expansion of the Laboratory? (b) Will it involve the introduction of rapid test equipment to enhance the efficiency of some of the current test items, so that the tested food can be released to the market as soon as possible? If so, please list out in detail the equipment involved.

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (Member Question No. 12)

Reply:

The Government Laboratory (GL) is currently in shortage of laboratory area. To enhance GL's testing capability and operational efficiency for tests relating to food safety, we are exploring the option of reprovision or expansion. Expansion of the facility in the Victoria Road and redevelopment at another site are among the options being explored. Details such as implementation timelines and budget estimates can only be ascertained when the site search and other related technical considerations are complete.

GL provides food safety testing service according to the need of the Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. In 2016, GL conducted about 209 200 tests on food samples for the purpose of checking whether the food complies with the requirements of the legislation.

GL reviews the methods and techniques for food safety testing from time to time, and will procure testing equipment and/or adopt new testing methods and techniques when necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)015

(Question Serial No. 3046)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Not Specified

Question:

In view of the incessant outbreaks of avian influenza in the neighbouring countries and regions of Hong Kong, and to prevent the disease from invading Hong Kong, would the Government inform this Committee of the following: (a) What precautionary measures are adopted at local farms, wholesale markets and retail outlets? (b) What measures are adopted at boundary control points to prevent the smuggling of poultry meat without a health certificate into Hong Kong? (c) How to prevent avian influenza viruses carried by migratory birds from spreading into the community? (d) What notification mechanisms on avian influenza have been established between Hong Kong and her neighbouring countries and regions? (e) What are the manpower and expenditure deployed by the Government each year to carry out the work mentioned in (a), (b), (c) and (d) above?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (Member Question No. 28)

Reply:

- (a) The Government implements a range of preventive and control measures against the risk of avian influenza (AI). For local live chickens, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) ensures local farms comply with the requirements related to biosecurity, farm hygiene and vaccination of chickens against AI virus through regular inspections at the farms, and education on farm management and disease prevention to local farmers and their workers. For imported live poultry, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) conducts surveillance on AI virus in imported live poultry at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station, and regularly inspects registered farms on the Mainland that export poultry to Hong Kong. At the wholesale poultry market and retail outlets, samples are collected for testing to closely monitor if AI virus is present in the environment, and cleansing is strictly implemented to ensure observance of the hygiene requirement.
- (b) FEHD has been collaborating with the Customs and Excise Department in combating against illegal import of poultry meat at boundary control points through inspecting travellers and their baggage, including with the assistance of detector

dogs. Information about the legal requirements on importation of poultry meat is disseminated to travellers through various channels, including distributing leaflets, displaying the message on posters, display screens and banners at borders.

- (c) To closely monitor the risk of AI virus in migratory birds, AFCD collects bird faecal samples at Mai Po Nature Reserve and Hong Kong Wetland Park for testing, and conducts frequent testing of dead birds in the community. If AI virus is detected in the samples, and depending on the circumstances, measures including stepped up cleansing, posting warning signage or temporary closing concerned areas will be taken.
- (d) The Government has been maintaining close liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities on the AI development on the Mainland. In addition, we also notify H5 and H7 AI incidents to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for sharing the information with other OIE members.
- (e) The Food and Health Bureau is, among other duties, responsible for overseeing the policy work on implementing a multi-pronged strategy to prevent AI outbreak. The work in combating AI is carried out by AFCD and FEHD within their resources for the monitoring, prevention and control of AI. The estimated manpower and expenditure in 2017-18 for AFCD are 46 staff and \$50.8 million, while those for FEHD are 53 staff and \$17.1 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)016

(Question Serial No. 0520)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the follow-up on the proposals to introduce a pre-market safety assessment scheme for genetically modified food, what was the progress of work in 2016? What are the specific work plan and timetable for 2017, and the estimated manpower and resources required?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

According to the World Health Organisation, genetically modified (GM) food currently available on the international market has passed the safety assessments of the respective food safety regulatory authorities and is not likely to be harmful to human health.

GM food is treated like any other food and is covered in the regular Food Surveillance Programme (FSP) of the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). The CFS takes food samples at the import, wholesale and retail (including online retailers) levels and adopts a risk-based principle in determining the types of samples to be collected, the frequency and number of samples taken for testing, and types of laboratory analysis to be conducted. The CFS releases the test results to the public through various channels.

The CFS has issued the "Guidelines on Voluntary Labelling of Genetically Modified Food" which sets out the principles underlying recommended labelling approaches for GM food, and provides reference for the trade to make truthful and informative labels in a consumer-friendly manner. The CFS will continue to promote the voluntary labelling regime to traders, provide the public with information on GM food and address food safety issues related to GM food, while keeping in view international development in GM technology and GM food labelling standards.

The Government has been considering introducing a mandatory pre-market safety

assessment scheme, with a view to providing additional safeguard to consumers on GM food being sold in Hong Kong. In this regard, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and the CFS/FEHD have been keeping in view international developments on the regulation of GM foods and the local circumstances with a view to coming up with a proposal for public consultation. We need more time to formulate the proposal, and are not ready to come up with an estimated timetable for the public consultation exercise at this stage. The aforementioned preparatory work has been and will continue to be undertaken by the existing manpower and resources in FHB and CFS/FEHD.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)017****(Question Serial No. 1914)**

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Currently, there are different ordinances regulating the cremation services of pets. What are the details of non-compliance cases (to be provided in the following table) in the past 5 years?

Date	District where Non-Compliant Crematorium is Found	Act of Non-Compliance	Ordinance Violated	Penalty	Follow-up Action (e.g. ban the crematorium, improve facilities)

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 47)

Reply:

The relevant Government departments may, according to their respective mandate, conduct inspections of premises for the purpose of checking whether the premises are used in ways that comply with the relevant legislation and requirements, including provisions in the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132), the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311), the Fire Services Ordinance (Cap. 95), the Dangerous Goods Ordinance (Cap. 295), the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) and the land lease, etc. Details of non-compliance found on premises that offer pet cremation service during such inspections are set out below –

	Date	District where Non-Compliant Crematorium is Found	Act of Non-Compliance	Ordinance Violated	Penalty	Follow-up Action
1	2 May 2012	Kwai Chung	Irregularities on fire resisting construction affecting the fire safety of the building.	Regulation 90 of the Building (Construction) Regulations, Cap. 123B	Order issued	Irregularities have been rectified. No further action by the BD.
	1 June 2012 and 12 December 2016		Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning letter issued*	The warning letters were registered in the Land Registry on 24 September 2012 and 23 February 2017.
	31 December 2012		Emitted excessive dark smoke	Air Pollution Control (Smoke) Regulations, Cap. 311C	Convicted and fined \$5000	Recent inspections by EPD did not reveal emission of dark smoke from the concerned chimney.
	10 January 2013		Emitted excessive dark smoke	Air Pollution Control (Smoke) Regulations, Cap. 311C	Convicted and fined \$5000	Recent inspections by EPD did not reveal emission of dark smoke from the concerned chimney.
	5 February 2013		The unit entrance door was replaced by glass door without fire resistance rating	Section 3 of the Fire Services (Fire Hazard Abatement) Regulation, Cap. 95F	Fire Hazard Abatement Notice was issued	The Fire Hazard Abatement Notice was found complied with.

2	29 February 2012 and 12 December 2016	Kwai Chung	Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning letter issued*	The warning letters were registered in the Land Registry on 16 April 2012 and 23 February 2017.
	12 September 2012		Installed furnace and chimney without prior approval from the Environmental Protection Department (EPD)	Air Pollution Control (Furnaces, Ovens and Chimneys) (Installation and Alteration) Regulations, Cap. 311A	Convicted and fined \$5000	The concerned pet cremator had been removed. The operator installed suitably designed furnace and chimney.
	15 February 2013		The unit entrance door was replaced by glass door without fire resistance rating	Section 3 of the Fire Services (Fire Hazard Abatement) Regulation, Cap. 95F	Fire Hazard Abatement Notice was issued	The Fire Hazard Abatement Notice was found complied with.
3	23 July 2012	Cheung Sha Wan	Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning letter issued*	The warning letter was registered in the Land Registry on 29 November 2012.
4	18 October 2012	Tai Kok Tsui	Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning letter issued*	Follow-up inspection revealed that the premises were vacant. The Lands Department (Lands D) will keep in view the case.
5	27 November 2012 and 20 February 2014	Kowloon Bay	Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning letter issued*	The warning letter was registered in the Land Registry on 3 January 2013. Follow-up inspection revealed that the premises were vacant. Lands D will keep in view the case.

6	19 December 2012	Kwun Tong	Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning letter issued*	The warning letter was registered in the Land Registry on 22 March 2013.
	16 July 2016		Removal of 1 no. of fire extinguisher	Section 2 of the Fire Services Ordinance, Cap. 95	Warning letter was issued	Warning letter was found complied with
	16 July 2016		2 nos. of fire extinguishers lack of annual maintenance	Regulation 8(b) of the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations, Cap. 95B	Warning letter was issued	Warning letter was found complied with
7	30 January 2013	Tuen Mun	Irregularities on fire resisting construction affecting the fire safety of the building.	Regulation 90 of the Building (Construction) Regulations, Cap. 123B	Order issued	Irregularities have been rectified. No further action by the BD.
	20 June 2014		Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning letter issued*	Follow-up inspection revealed that the breach had been rectified. Lands D will keep in view the case.
8	21 February 2013, 28 March 2013 and 20 February 2014	Kowloon Bay	Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning letter issued*	The warning letters were registered in the Land Registry on 13 May 2013. Follow-up inspection revealed that the premises were vacant. Lands D will keep in view the case.
9	14 March 2013 and 13 March 2015	Yau Ma Tei	Irregularities on fire resisting construction affecting the fire safety of the building	Regulation 90 of the Building (Construction) Regulations, Cap. 123B	Order issued	Irregularities have been rectified. No further action by the BD.

10	14 June 2013	Mongkok	Irregularities on fire resisting construction affecting the fire safety of the building.	Regulation 90 of the Building (Construction) Regulations, Cap. 123B	Order issued	Irregularities have been rectified. No further action by the BD.
11	30 September 2014	Tsing Yi	Installed furnace and chimney without prior approval from EPD	Air Pollution Control (Furnaces, Ovens and Chimneys) (Installation and Alternation) Regulations, Cap. 311A	Convicted and fined \$8000	Follow-up inspections by EPD revealed that the operator had ceased operation.
12	22 July 2015	Tai Kok Tsui	Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning letter issued*	The warning letter was registered in the Land Registry on 4 January 2016.

* A land lease is a contract. A breach of lease conditions may result in lease enforcement action taken by the Lands Department in its capacity as the landlord. It does not involve prosecution.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)018

(Question Serial No. 2499)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Government will build sizable public markets in new development areas (NDAs) and has initially identified suitable sites in the Tung Chung New Town Extension Area and Hung Shui Kiu NDA. The Government will continue to identify suitable sites in other NDAs. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

a Why is it that the relevant work is not mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18 under Programme (3): Environmental Hygiene?

b Has the Government set aside a provision in 2017-18 for the estimated expenditure arising from the study on building public markets as mentioned in the Policy Address? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure involved?

c Will the Government carry out a preliminary design and engineering study in 2017-18 for the building of public markets in Tung Chung New Town Extension Area and Hung Shui Kiu NDA? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (Member Question No. 5)

Reply:

As announced in the Policy Address in January 2017, the Government will build sizable public markets in new development areas (NDAs) and has initially identified suitable sites in the Tung Chung New Town Extension Area and Hung Shui Kiu NDA. The projects are currently at a preliminary stage. We will continue to take forward the projects, in tandem with the development of the two NDAs.

The Government will continue to identify suitable sites in other NDAs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)019

(Question Serial No. 0752)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

During 2017-18, the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) will study the latest development on regulation of nutrition claims and health claims for formula products and prepackaged food for infants and young children under the age of 36 months. In this regard, would the Government inform us of:

1. the related policy objectives, work schedule and specific study areas, including the regions to be studied, the reasons for selecting these regions, the findings, etc.; and
2. what manpower and expenditure will be involved?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

Having conducted a public consultation exercise on the proposal for establishing a regulatory framework on nutrition and health claims on formula products and prepackaged food for infants and young children under the age of 36 months some time earlier, we are currently working on the legislative proposals taking into account views expressed during the public consultation exercise, the latest international development, as well as the World Trade Organisation's requirements. We are considering the most appropriate means to collect information on international development in this aspect, including whether we should commission a consultancy study or carry out in-house desk-top research. The resource requirements could be ascertained only when the above parameters of the research have been finalized.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)020

(Question Serial No. 0754)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

During 2017-18, the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) will conduct public consultation on the recommendations of the consultancy study on the future of the live poultry trade. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. details of the recommendations of the consultancy study and the Government's response and assessment;
2. arrangements for the proposed consultation and the relevant timetable; and
3. the expenditure involved in the consultancy study.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

The Government has commissioned a consultancy study on the future development of the live poultry trade in Hong Kong, including whether the sale of live poultry should continue. The Consultant is finalising their recommendations, with a view to completing the study by April 2017. We will consult the public on the Consultant's recommendations in the second quarter of 2017. Views will also be invited from stakeholders, including the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene, representatives from the trade and relevant advisory bodies. Taking into account the Consultant's recommendations, views of the public and stakeholders collected during the public consultation, the Government will formulate the policy direction on the way forward of the live poultry trade.

The consultancy fee is \$3.412 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)021

(Question Serial No. 0756)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

During 2017-18, the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) will study the feasibility of reprovisioning and expanding the Food Safety Laboratory of the Government Laboratory to increase its testing capability and enhance its operational efficiency for tests relating to food safety. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. the department currently responsible for tests relating to food safety and an assessment of its work effectiveness;
2. the reasons for the need to study the reprovisioning and expansion of the Food Safety Laboratory; and
3. the estimated manpower and expenditure involved for reprovisioning and expanding the Food Safety Laboratory.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

(1) The Government Laboratory (GL) provides food safety testing service according to the need of the Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. In 2016, GL conducted about 209 200 tests on food samples for the purpose of checking whether the food complies with the requirements of the legislation. All of its work on food safety testing meets the performance targets.

(2) & (3) GL is currently in shortage of laboratory area. To enhance GL's testing capability and operational efficiency for tests relating to food safety, we are studying the options to reprovision and expand its Food Safety Laboratory, and their feasibility. Upon completion of the relevant work, we shall work out further details, such as implementation timelines and budget estimates. The manpower and expenditure required by the Food and Health Bureau and GL for pursuing this exercise are absorbed from within existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)022

(Question Serial No. 0758)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under this programme, the provision for 2017-18 is \$13.0 million (18.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2016-17. According to the Government, this is mainly due to the full-year provision for a new supernumerary directorate post and provision for dealing with any contingency measures arising from avian influenza incidents. Please provide information on the following:

1. a breakdown of the estimated expenditure of the work involved; and
2. regarding dealing with any contingency measures arising from avian influenza incidents, what are the measures to be adopted, and how did the Government estimate the provision required for such measures?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

It mainly consists of the full-year provision of \$2.1 million for the creation of a supernumerary directorate post in 2017-18 to strengthen policy support on food safety in Food Branch and a reserve of \$10 million to deal with contingency measures arising from avian influenza (AI) incidents such as culling of live poultry in the event of an AI outbreak.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)023

(Question Serial No. 0851)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under this programme, it is mentioned that the provision for 2017-18 is \$13.6 million (25.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2016-17. According to the Administration, this is partly due to the increased provision for meeting environmental hygiene exigencies such as health threats related to dengue fever. Would the Administration please provide details of the relevant work and a breakdown of the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

The provision for 2017-18 is \$13.6 million (25.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2016-17. This is mainly due to the creation of new posts in relation to the proposed regulation of private columbaria and the increased provision for meeting environmental hygiene exigencies such as health threats related to Zika virus infection and dengue fever.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)024****(Question Serial No. 1978)**

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding animal welfare, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The respective numbers of suspected animal abuse cases reported, as well as prosecutions instituted, in each of the 18 districts over the past 3 years.
- (b) The measures taken to prevent and combat cruelty to animals, as well as the expenditure involved, over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (Member Question No. 55)

Reply:

- (a) Both the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) are responsible for the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (the Ordinance). The number of suspected animal cruelty complaints received and the number of successful prosecutions under the Ordinance initiated by AFCD and the Police over the past 3 years are as follows. There is no breakdown by district.

Calendar Year	Number of suspected animal cruelty complaint cases	Number of Convicted Defendants
2014	237	24
2015	236	10
2016	262	8*

*Figure up to 30 September 2016.

- (b) The Government has been preventing and combating animal cruelty through:
 - i. inspecting the relevant premises and facilities including pet shops, animal boarding premises, riding schools, animal exhibition venues, etc. to ensure compliance with the relevant animal welfare standards;

- ii. gathering intelligence on suspected animal cruelty or abusive activities;
- iii. implementing the “Animal Watch Scheme” to strengthen co-operation among the relevant Government departments and organisations in the joint combat against animal cruelty;
- iv. improving the handling of reports or complaints on animal cruelty through the inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong); and
- v. conducting investigation of animal cruelty reports / complaints and taking prosecution actions as appropriate.

The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) is, among other duties, responsible for overseeing the policy work on promoting animal welfare, including monitoring the progress of measures preventing and combating animal cruelty implemented by AFCD. There is no breakdown for the expenditure for FHB for this part of the work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)025

(Question Serial No. 2457)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Government indicated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18 that it will continue to review and update the existing standards on food safety having regard to international practices and local needs. Please provide details of the standards on food safety to be updated in 2017-18, as well as the names of legislations where amendments will be involved.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 32)

Reply:

Ensuring that our food safety regime is backed up by the requisite food safety legislation and the provisions in the food safety legislation are adequate and effective is one of the functions of the Food and Health Bureau (FHB). In this regard, FHB works closely with the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to review the food safety legislation from time to time.

In general, we make reference to the international food safety standards set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, relevant standards by different jurisdictions, and local food consumption patterns, etc, in reviewing, updating and setting our food safety standards and their categories.

To better protect public health, facilitate effective regulation and promote harmonisation between local and international standards, FHB and CFS have embarked on the preparatory work to review and update the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V) (the Regulations). CFS is working out details of the proposed legislative amendments. We plan to conduct a public consultation exercise on the proposed amendments to the Regulations in 2017.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)026

(Question Serial No. 2464)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

1. Regarding the provision for dealing with contingency measures arising from avian influenza incidents and other environmental hygiene issues, what is the total amount earmarked?
2. What are to be included in these contingency measures?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 35)

Reply:

Under Programme (2) : Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety, a reserve of \$10 million has been ear-marked for dealing with contingency measures arising from avian influenza (AI) incidents such as culling of live poultry in the event of an AI outbreak.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)027****(Question Serial No. 0662)**

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What are the import and export volumes of powdered formula products in the recent 3 years? Among them, what are the estimated volumes exported out of Hong Kong in the form of parallel goods and how are these figures compared to the past? When will the Government review the supply level of these products?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

The volume of import, re-export and retained import of powdered formula in the past 3 years is set out below –

Year	Import (kg)	Re-export (kg)	Retained Import (kg)
2014	56 000 000	9 000 000	47 000 000
2015	54 000 000	12 000 000	42 000 000
2016	59 000 000	17 000 000	42 000 000

The Government does not have information on the volume of powdered formula exported out of Hong Kong in the form of parallel goods.

The policy objective of the Import and Export (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2013 (the Amendment Regulation) is to safeguard stable and adequate supply of powdered formula to local infants. The Amendment Regulation has, to a certain extent, struck a balance between addressing the needs of local infants and young children and safeguarding free trade and commerce.

We have put in place an established mechanism to monitor the demand and supply of local powdered formula. We have been conducting surveys, through consultancy firms, on the supply and price levels of powdered formula at the retail level since the Amendment Regulation has come into effect in 2013. We have set up the Committee on Supply Chain

of Powdered Formula to keep track of the operation and effectiveness of the export control on powdered formula.

The results of the aforementioned surveys indicated that the operation of the supply chain of powdered formulae had continued to improve. Products of individual brands, nevertheless, still have varying degrees of shortage in certain districts. We will continue to conduct the surveys. Also, we will continue to keep in view and improve the supply chain of powdered formulae with the trade and the relevant stakeholders to ensure its effective operation, having regard to the market circumstances.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)028

(Question Serial No. 0765)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) will come into effect this year. What are the expected manpower and expenditure involved? Has the Government set the target processing time for each application?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

The Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) (Amendment) Regulation 2016, has come into effect on 20 March 2017. A total of 30 staff and \$16.4 million has been earmarked for the implementation of the new regulatory regime in 2017-18.

For an application for an Animal Trader Licence, a Dog Breeder Licence or a permit for a licensed dog owner to sell his/her dog, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department aims to issue the licence / permit in 3 working days upon receipt of all the required supporting documents and information from the applicant and, where necessary, inspection of the premises concerned to ensure the facilities therein are in compliance with the required standards.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)029****(Question Serial No. 0766)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

The Government's current subvention for animal welfare organisations is \$500,000. Please provide in tabular form the number of successful applications for subvention, projects under application and amounts of subvention sought by animal welfare organisations, and the amounts of subvention that they have granted over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 2)Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been collaborating with animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to enhance animal welfare and promote better animal management. Recognising that most AWOs are non-profit making with limited resources, the Government has since 2011 been providing subvention to these AWOs in supporting their work as long as resources permit. From 2013-14 to 2015-16, a total of 23 applications have been received from 10 AWOs. The subventions sought by these AWOs have been partially funded. The details of projects under application as well as amounts of subvention applied for and given to different AWOs over the past 3 financial years are listed in the tables below:

(a) Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2013-14 and released in 2014-15)¹

	AWOs	Projects under Application	Amount Sought (\$)	Amount Released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To operate an animal adoption centre, and conduct animal rescue, education and publicity projects	190,000	84,339
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To conduct an adult dog rehome scheme	224,000	150,000

3	Lifelong Animal Protection (LAP)	To operate the LAP Centre, organise workshops and revamp the Centre's website	1,184,000	120,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce annual reports, purchase dietary supplement for rabbits and conduct publicity programmes	150,000	44,835
5	Hong Kong Rescue Puppies	To produce educational materials and purchase necessary medications and feeds for rescued animals	185,232	0*
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To operate the Sai Kung Animal Management Centre and carry out animal rehoming activities	223,000	35,000
7	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA)	To continue their 2-year education programme on village dog management	Application for the 2-year programme was made in 2012-13	13,200 ² (SPCA)
	Total		2,156,232	447,374

¹ AWOs may submit their application for subvention to AFCD during the period from 1 October to 30 November each year. After consideration by AFCD, approved funds will be issued in the next financial year on a reimbursement basis after acceptance of reports and presentation of proofs of expenditures incurred.

² AFCD approved a joint application from SPCA and SAA for a 2-year education programme on village dog management in 2012-13. Part of the funding amount was released in 2013-14. Upon receipt of claims from SPCA, AFCD released the remaining funding to them in 2014-15.

*No claims for reimbursement from the AWO concerned have been received.

(b) Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2014-15 and released in 2015-16)

	AWOs	Projects under Application	Amount Sought (\$)	Amount Released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To operate an adoption centre and conduct animal welfare projects	160,000	76,679
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To conduct an adult dog rehome scheme	224,000	150,000
3	LAP	To purchase medications and feeds for rehoming animals and conduct publicity and education programmes	1,808,000	120,000

4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To conduct education programmes and provide medical treatment for rabbits	135,000	48,181
5	Hong Kong Rescue Puppies	To produce a publicity booklet entitled “Responsible Pet Ownership” and conduct a rehome scheme	185,232	0*
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To conduct various animal management programmes	227,000	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To conduct education, publicity, rescue and adoption programmes	80,000	30,000
	Total		2,819,232	469,860

* No claims for reimbursement from the AWO concerned have been received.

(c) Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2015-16 and released in 2016-17)

	AWOs	Projects under Application	Amount Sought (\$)	Amount Released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To conduct adoption promotion programmes, produce educational materials and further improve the Foundation’s website	180,000	73,934
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To operate an adult dog rehome scheme	204,000	125,000
3	LAP	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming animals	1,571,000	100,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick or injured rabbits	129,000	41,620
5	Hong Kong Cats	To conduct adoption promotion programmes, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation’s website	54,000	16,365
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	235,000	45,000

7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000
8	SAA	To conduct various education programmes	388,155	38,591
9	SPCA	To conduct an Animal Caring Ambassador Programme	200,000	44,854
	Total		3,041,155	513,364

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)030

(Question Serial No. 0767)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the installation of cattle grids on a trial basis in Sai Kung as discussed in the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council, the Government responded in May 2015 that its feasibility was under assessment. What is the result of the assessment and its progress (including the location of the trial site, construction cost and implementation timetable)?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

After conducting several site visits and discussing with local animal welfare organisations, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been exploring the feasibility of installing a cattle grid on a trial basis at the junction of Sai Wan Road and Man Yee Road in Sai Kung, with a view to confining the stray cattle to a certain area. AFCD has been liaising with the relevant departments such as the Highways Department and the Transport Department on the technical feasibility and implications to pedestrians and road users involved in installing a cattle grid at the subject location.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)031

(Question Serial No. 0768)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide in tabular form the following information about the 4 animal management centres over the past 3 years:

- (a) the animal accommodation capacities;
- (b) the numbers of animals kept each year;
- (c) the numbers of animals desexed;
- (d) the numbers of animals rehomed;
- (e) the numbers of animals euthanised;
- (f) manpower and the turnover rates;
- (g) the numbers of inspections;
- (h) the numbers of enforcement actions taken;
- (i) the numbers of prosecutions; and
- (j) the operating expenses.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department currently operates 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) in the New Territories North (NTN), New Territories South (NTS), Kowloon (K) and Hong Kong Island (HK) respectively. The requested information is provided below:

(a) Maximum capacity of animal accommodation¹

AMC	Maximum Capacity (Numbers)			
	Dog kennel	Cat kennel	Bird cage	Enclosure for other animals
AMC/HK	50	30	-	-
AMC/K	90	30	-	-
AMC/NTS	80	30	-	-
AMC/NTN	130	80	25	16
Total	350	170	25	16

¹ The holding capacity of the kennels depends on a number of factors, including if the animals are from the same litter or pack, the health status and behaviour of each animal. Despite the fact that the utilisation rate of the animal keeping facilities is constantly at a high level, one animal will be housed in each kennel as far as possible for the sake of better disease control and animal welfare.

(b) Number of animals kept over the past 3 years²

	2014			2015			2016		
	Dog	Cat	Others ³	Dog	Cat	Others ³	Dog	Cat	Others ³
AMC/HK	637	306	76	524	263	35	412	201	109
AMC/K	1 326	583	206	842	507	53	688	322	85
AMC/NTS	949	358	30	689	233	87	614	187	25
AMC/NTN	3 037	799	1 662	2 019	558	4 854	1 551	343	1 891

² The duration of stay of the animals kept may range from 1 day to several months depending on individual case.

³ Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs, poultry/birds, etc.

(c) Number of rehomed animals desexed over the past 3 years⁴

Calendar Year	Number of Rehomed Animals Desexed		
	Dog	Cat	Rabbit
2014	408	44	2
2015	419	85	6
2016 (Jan to Nov)	257	26	2

⁴ AFCD has been engaging veterinary clinics through contract in providing desexing services for rehomed animals.

(d) Number of animals rehomed over the past 3 years

Calendar Year	Number of Animals Rehomed		
	Dog	Cat	Others ⁵
2014	679	212	75
2015	651	168	83
2016	513	136	92

⁵ Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), cattle, reptiles and birds etc.

(e) Number of animals euthanised over the past 3 years

Calendar Year	Number of Animals Euthanised		
	Dog	Cat	Others ⁶
2014	3 868	1 039	1 594
2015	2 421	696	3 469
2016	1 814	449	748

⁶ Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

(f) Staff establishment and turnover rate over the past 3 years

Financial Year	Total Number of Posts in the 4 AMCs ⁷		Turnover Rate	
	Veterinary Officer	Technical / Frontline Staff	Veterinary Officer	Technical / Frontline Staff
2014-15	4	171	0%	2.9%
2015-16	4	175	0%	4.0%
2016-17	4	183	0%	4.9%

⁷ The 4 AMCs are overseen by 1 Senior Veterinary Officer

(g) – (i) Number of inspections conducted on licensed animal trading, boarding, riding and temporary exhibition establishments, and number of successful prosecutions against owners/operators of these premises over the past 3 years

Calendar Year	Number of Inspections	Number of Successful Prosecutions	Highest Fine (\$)	Lowest Fine (\$)
2014	5 576	1	800	800
2015	5 749	10	500	450
2016	6 203	2	500	500

(j) Expenditure on the operation of the 4 AMCs over the past 3 years

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)			
	AMC/NTN	AMC/NTS	AMC/K	AMC/HK
2014-15	21.3	15.6	18.8	13.9
2015-16	22.1	15.8	19.8	14.2
2016-17 (revised estimate)	23.4	16.7	20.8	15.0

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)032****(Question Serial No. 0769)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

How many reported cases of animal cruelty were received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 3 years? What were the numbers of investigations conducted, prosecutions instituted and convictions obtained under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance? What were the penalties imposed on the convicted persons? How many applications for review of cases under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance were lodged by the Department of Justice over the past 3 years on the grounds that the penalties imposed were too lenient? What were the results of these appeals?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 5)Reply:

The numbers of suspected animal cruelty related complaint cases received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) over the past 3 years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of suspected animal cruelty complaint cases
2014	237
2015	236
2016 ¹	262

¹ The number covers the period January - September 2016 for those cases under the Police.

Most of them were found to be related to nuisance with no elements of cruelty. The total numbers of successful prosecutions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) initiated by AFCD and the Police, and the relevant penalties over 3 years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of Convicted Defendants	Penalties	
		Range of Fine (\$)	Range of Imprisonment
2014	24	2,000 to 20,000	6 days to 1 year and 4 months
2015	10	2,000	14 days to 2 months
2016 (January – September)	8	5,000	28 days to 2 months

Over the past 3 years, no applications have been lodged for review of cases on the grounds that the penalties imposed were too lenient.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)033

(Question Serial No. 0770)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In 2016, the Government caught 4 289 stray animals. Please provide in tabular form the types of animals caught, the ways of receiving and handling the stray animals, and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

Stray animals caught will be put in the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for observation. For animals with a microchip implanted, the AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in the AMCs temporarily for about 10 to 20 days. For those without a microchip, the AMCs will keep them for at least 4 days in case they are indeed owned, allowing time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary surgeon as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will arrange for their transfer to animal welfare organisations for adoption by members of the public. Only animals that remain unclaimed or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

The number and species of stray animals caught, given up by owners, received through other channels by AFCD and the number of animals reclaimed by the owners, re-homed and euthanised in 2016 are tabled at the Annex.

In 2016-17, the revised estimates involved in the management of stray animals (including catching operations) and the handling of animals caught are \$29.4 million and \$3.5 million respectively.

Annex

Calendar Year	Stray Animals Caught			Animals Given Up by Owners			Animals Received through Other Channels			Animals Reclaimed			Animals Re-homed			Animals Euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2016	1 919	876	1 494	1 003	107	56	343	70	674	637	400	1	513	136	92	1 814	449	748

* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)034****(Question Serial No. 0771)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

At present, what is the number of spot checks conducted by the Government on pet food available in the market? What is the existing regulation regarding the sale of pet food? How many complaints have been received? What are the actions taken by the Government?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 7)Reply:

Currently there is no legislation specifically regulating the sale of pet food in Hong Kong. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not collect pet food samples from the market for testing.

Over the past 3 years, AFCD has received 9 complaints concerning pet food as indicated in the table below:

Calendar Year	Number of complaints concerning pet food
2014	1
2015	5
2016	3

Upon receipt of a complaint, AFCD would contact the complainant, the manufacturer / importer / distributor of the pet food concerned to help gather more information of the case, and may, depending on the nature of the case, advise the complainant on follow-up action.

Although there have been no major incidents concerning the safety of pet food in Hong Kong in recent years, in order to assess whether the safety of pet food is a concern and consider whether the present measures on pet food products need to be enhanced, AFCD will commission a study this year to survey and test pet food products available in the Hong Kong market.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)035

(Question Serial No. 0772)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under Section 22 of the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) (the Ordinance), a keeper of any animal who abandons that animal without reasonable excuse is liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months. Over the past 3 years, how many enforcement actions had been taken under the Ordinance by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and what were the penalties imposed?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

Under Section 22 of the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) (the Ordinance), a keeper of any animal who abandons that animal without reasonable excuse is liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months. In adducing evidence to substantiate a case under Section 22 of the Ordinance, it is difficult for the prosecution to prove beyond reasonable doubt that a person abandons an animal without reasonable excuse, particularly in those cases where there is no witness. To tackle cases involving dogs, the prosecution may press charges against the dog owners concerned for failing to take proper control of their dogs in public places pursuant to Section 23 of the Ordinance. The maximum penalty for contravening this provision is a fine of \$10,000.

Over the past 3 years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has conducted an average of 13 000 inspections each year in relation to cases involving improper control of dogs and biting dog cases. Information on the number of relevant convictions under the Ordinance over the past 3 years and the penalty imposed is given below:

Calendar Year	Prosecution against improper control of dogs	
	Number of convicted cases	Heaviest penalty imposed
2014	331	A fine of \$1,200
2015	246	A fine of \$2,000
2016	174	A fine of \$4,000

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)036****(Question Serial No. 0773)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

What were the numbers of rabies vaccines procured annually and the number of vaccines provided for dogs by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 9)Reply:

The quantity of anti-rabies vaccine procured over the past 3 years by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is as follows:

Calendar Year	Quantity of anti-rabies vaccine procured (shots)
2014	80 000
2015	60 000
2016	80 000

The number of dogs vaccinated against rabies over the past 3 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of dogs vaccinated against rabies*
2014	62 195
2015	65 537
2016	61 418

* Under the Rabies Ordinance (Cap 421), a dog aged over 5 months is required to be licensed and vaccinated against rabies every 3 years. This number is based on the number of dog licences issued by AFCD in that particular year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)037****(Question Serial No. 0774)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

What is the number of dogs with valid dog licences in Hong Kong currently? What were the numbers of dog licences issued and renewed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in each of the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 10)Reply:

As at 2 March 2017, there were 180 616 dog licences issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

Information on the number of new dog licences issued and dog licences renewed over the past 3 years is given below:

Calendar Year	Number of new dog licences issued	Number of dog licences renewed
2014	19 633	42 562
2015	19 600	45 937
2016	19 632	41 786

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)038

(Question Serial No. 0775)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of dogs handed to other government disciplined services for training by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) each year and the current number of working dogs in total. How does AFCD arrange for the retirement of the working dogs?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

Over the past 3 years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has transferred a total of 3 dogs to disciplined services departments for training as working dogs.

AFCD currently has a total of 13 Quarantine Detector Dogs (QDDs) in the Quarantine Detector Dog Unit (QDDU). They help perform screening duties at various boundary entry points to assist in deterring smuggling of animals in order to protect Hong Kong from exotic animal diseases, to safeguard the public health and to protect endangered species.

Since the establishment of QDDU, only 1 QDD has retired, which has been adopted.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)039

(Question Serial No. 2680)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

This Committee endorsed the amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (the Ordinance) in 2006 and increased the maximum penalties for cruelty to animals to a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment of 3 years. However, as the definition of cruelty to animals in the Ordinance is obsolete, coupled with the difficulty in investigation and giving evidence in general, the deterrent effect of the Ordinance is greatly reduced. The cases of animal cruelty are still not uncommon. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the reported cases involving animal cruelty, the numbers of prosecutions instituted, the numbers of convictions and the penalties for the persons convicted in each of the past 5 years? Please also set out the breakdown of cases which were imposed fines or immediate imprisonment by the amount of fine and term of imprisonment.
- (b) Since the implementation of the Ordinance, how many applications for review of cases have been lodged by the Department of Justice on the grounds that the penalties imposed were too lenient? Has the Government assessed whether the penalties imposed by the Court have sufficient deterrent effect? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Will the Government make reference to relevant legislation of overseas countries and make major amendments to the Ordinance or enact new legislation in order to safeguard the animal rights?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pierre (Member Question No. 45)

Reply:

- (a) Both the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) are responsible for the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169). The number of suspected animal cruelty complaints received by AFCD and the Police over the past 5 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of suspected animal cruelty complaints cases
2012	112
2013	242
2014	237
2015	236
2016	262

Details of successful prosecutions under the Ordinance initiated by AFCD and the Police over the past 5 years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of Persons Convicted	Penalties Imposed	
		Range of Fine (\$)	Range of Imprisonment
2012	18	1,000 to 5,000	6 weeks to 4 months
2013	15	500 to 2,000	14 days to 8 months
2014	24	2,000 to 20,000	6 days to 1 year and 4 months
2015	10	2,000	14 days to 2 months
2016 (January to September)	8	5,000	28 days to 2 months

- (b) & (c) Since the amendment of the penalty level under the Ordinance, no applications have been lodged for review of cases on the grounds that the penalties imposed were too lenient. We have compared the penalty level under the Ordinance with the relevant provisions of legislation of other countries / places. Having regard to the findings of the legislative provisions in other jurisdictions, the maximum penalty under the Ordinance is in fact heavier than most of them. We believe that the current penalty level is effective in deterring against acts of animal cruelty.

Nevertheless, AFCD regularly reviews the relevant legislation as and when necessary. For instance, to further enhance animal health and welfare, the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) was amended in 2016. With the amendment, a new licensing regime regulating animal trading and breeding of dogs for sale recently came into effect on 20 March 2017.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)040****(Question Serial No. 0228)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under Programme (3), the Government will implement the new regulatory regime on the strengthened regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities for enhancing animal welfare. Please advise on:

- (a) the numbers of Animal Trader Licence (ATL) issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the numbers of inspections and surprise checks conducted, the numbers of cases of animal traders contravening licensing requirements and any conditions attached to ATL found during the inspections and surprise checks, and the details of the penalties imposed, in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2014 to 2016);
- (b) the numbers and details of complaints against animal traders received by AFCD, and the numbers and details of those cases in which the animal traders concerned were penalised because the complaints against them had been found substantiated, in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2014 to 2016); and
- (c) the manpower and expenditure involved in supervising the relevant work in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

The number of Animal Trader Licence (ATLs) issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years is set out below:

Calendar Year	Number of ATLs issued
2014	443
2015	424
2016	418

The complaints against animal trading received by AFCD are mainly related to breaches of licensing conditions and suspected animal trading without a valid licence. The information on the number of complaints received, inspections conducted, warning letters issued, and successful prosecutions initiated against breaches of licensing conditions and trading animals without a valid licence, as well as the relevant penalties over the past 3 years are set out below.

Calendar Year	Number of complaints	Number of Routine Inspections and Surprise Checks	Number of warning letters issued	Successful prosecutions against breach of licensing conditions		Successful prosecutions against trading animals without a valid licence	
				Number	Range of Fine (\$)	Number	Range of Fine(\$)
2014	77	4 810	1	1	800	5	600 to 2 000
2015	149	4 999	5	10	450 to 500	7	1 000 to 2 000
2016	126	5 265	4	2	500	3	1 000 to 2 000

In 2017-18, AFCD will deploy 30 staff for the regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities. A provision of \$16.4 million has been earmarked for this area of work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)041

(Question Serial No. 2284)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on:

- (1) (a) with regard to catching community stray animals, (a-i) the number of the vehicles used and the relevant expenditure; (a-ii) the name(s) of weapon(s) used and the relevant expenditure; (a-iii) the staff costs involved; (a-iv) the numbers of prosecutions and the relevant expenditure, over the past 5 years; (b) with regard to temporarily keeping community stray animals, (b-i) the rental expenditure and (b-ii) the management staff costs involved over the past 5 years; and (c) with regard to euthanising community stray animals, (c-i) the staff costs and (c-ii) the name(s) of medication used and the relevant expenditure, over the past 5 years; and
- (2) the staff establishment and expenditure involved in facilitating the implementation of the trap-neuter-return trial programme for stray dogs over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. 28)

Reply:

- (1) (a-i) The Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) have a total of 23 vehicles for the management of stray animals, including catching operations. Since the vehicles used by the AMCs are for multi-purposes, AFCD does not have separate account of the number of and expenditure on vehicles used for catching of stray animals.
- (a-ii) The expenditure involved in the procurement and maintenance of equipment used to catch stray animals over the past 5 years is minimal and absorbed within the existing resources of AFCD. There is no breakdown of the expenditure. Equipment procured for this purpose includes nets, dog catching poles, cages and snares.

(a-iii) The staff expenditure on catching of stray animals over the past 5 years is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	17.3
2013-14	18.9
2014-15	20.7
2015-16	21.5
2016-17 (revised estimate)	22.7

(a-iv) Under the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) and the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A), it is an offence if a person fails to keep his dog under control in public places, or to get his dog over 5 months old to get licensed / vaccinated / microchipped respectively. The number of successful prosecutions against the above offences over the past 5 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of successful prosecutions
2012	1 002
2013	807
2014	880
2015	712
2016	480

AFCD does not have breakdown of the number or expenditure of prosecutions with regard only to stray animals.

(b) Stray animals caught by AFCD will be temporarily kept at the AMCs. No rental expenditure is involved. The staff expenditure involved in handling stray animals at the AMCs (excluding staff expenditure for euthanasia of animals) over the past 5 years is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	1.4
2013-14	1.4
2014-15	1.5
2015-16	1.5
2016-17 (revised estimate)	1.5

- (c-i) The staff expenditure involved in euthanasia of animals over the past 5 years is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	1.0
2013-14	1.1
2014-15	1.0
2015-16	1.0
2016-17 (revised estimate)	0.7

- (c-ii) The drugs used for euthanising animals are Ketamine, Xylazine and Pentobarbital Sodium. The average expenditure on the procurement of these drugs over the past 5 years is around \$0.13 million per year.

- (2) The 3-year trap-neuter-return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs commenced in early 2015. The expenditure and manpower involved in the TNR trial programme in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 are as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of AFCD Staff)
2015-16	1.3	2
2016-17 (revised estimate)	1.5	2
2017-18 (estimate)	1.5	2

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)042****(Question Serial No. 1395)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the trawl ban in Hong Kong waters, please advise on the following:

- (a) What was the progress of enforcement against “illegal trawling” and its effectiveness over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What were the expenditure and manpower involved in enforcement against “illegal trawling” over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (c) What were the number of patrol launches, patrol areas and number of patrols conducted against “illegal trawling” over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 4)Reply:

- (a) Since the implementation of the trawl ban in Hong Kong waters with effect from 31 December 2012, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been combating illegal fishing activities (including trawling) through regular and targeted patrols in the waters of Hong Kong, collection of intelligence from various sources, and joint operations with the Hong Kong Police Force from time to time. The numbers of successful prosecution against illegal trawling in 2014, 2015 and 2016 are 11, 3 and 2 respectively.
- (b) The expenditure and manpower involved in the enforcement against illegal fishing activities (including trawling) over the past 3 years are:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2014-15	12.6	18
2015-16	12.9	18
2016-17 (revised estimate)	13.7	18

- (c) From 2014 to 2016, AFCD deployed 3 vessels to patrol the waters of Hong Kong against illegal fishing activities (including trawling), focusing on areas in which intelligence suggested the occurrence of such illegal activities from time to time. The numbers of patrol conducted by AFCD in 2014, 2015 and 2016 are about 1 400, 1 440, and 1 540 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)043****(Question Serial No. 1396)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the wholesaling of fish, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the annual total and daily average wholesale quantities, as well as the highest and lowest figures thereof for different kinds of marine fish (including Golden thread, Horse-heads, Yellow croakers, Big-eyes, Scads, Breams, Hair-tails, Mackerels, Croakers, Filefish, etc.) and freshwater fish (including Grass carp, Big head, Mud carp, etc.) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What were the monthly average, the highest and lowest prices for different kinds of marine fish (including Golden thread, Horse-heads, Yellow croakers, Big-eyes, Scads, Breams, Hair-tails, Mackerels, Croakers, Filefish, etc.) and freshwater fish (including Grass carp, Big head, Mud carp, etc.) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 5)Reply:

- (a) Information on the quantity of freshwater fish traded through the government wholesale food markets over the past 3 years is shown below. We do not have breakdown on the figures for different kinds of freshwater fish.

Calendar Year	Total quantity (tonnes)	Daily average quantity (tonnes)	Highest daily quantity (tonnes)	Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)
2014	53 406	146	209	60
2015	55 473	152	215	12
2016	47 362	129	221	33

Information on the wholesale quantity of marine fish traded over the past 3 years (2014 to 2016) is shown in Annex A.

- (b) Information on the monthly value of freshwater fish traded through the government wholesale food markets over the past 3 years is shown below. We do not have breakdown on the figures for different kinds of freshwater fish.

Calendar Year	Monthly average wholesale value (\$/tonne)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	24,414^	24,947	25,155	26,175	26,307	26,735	26,740	26,988	26,713	27,064*	26,355	26,464
2015	26,065	25,621^	26,310	26,484	26,645	26,638	27,039	27,363	27,811	28,243*	27,674	27,433
2016	26,740	27,070	26,651	26,615^	26,768	26,835	27,389	27,133	27,364	27,601*	27,238	27,146

*Highest monthly average value in the respective calendar year

^ Lowest monthly average value in the respective calendar year

Information on the monthly average wholesale price of marine fish over the past 3 years (2014 to 2016) is shown in Annex B.

- End -

Wholesale quantity of marine fish over the past 3 years (2014 to 2016)

Calendar Year	Fish	Total quantity (tonnes)	Daily average quantity (tonnes)	Highest daily quantity (tonnes)	Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)
2014	Golden thread (紅衫)	3 003.8	8.2	11.8	5.5
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	2 663.7	7.3	9.8	5.4
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	1 922.6	5.3	5.8	4.0
	Big-eyes (木棉)	2 975.6	8.2	9.8	5.3
	Scads (池魚)	1 457.4	4.0	6.0	2.4
	Breams (立魚)	1 998.8	5.5	6.3	3.6
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	1 585.2	4.3	5.7	3.3
	Mackerels (鯪魚)	1 454.3	4.0	5.5	3.1
	Croakers (或魚)	741.0	2.0	2.5	1.4
2015	Golden thread (紅衫)	2 836.5	7.8	8.9	5.4
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	2 506.2	6.9	7.9	5.1
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	2 126.0	5.8	6.4	3.9
	Big-eyes (木棉)	2 647.9	7.3	8.4	5.0
	Scads (池魚)	1 442.1	4.0	5.5	1.9
	Breams (立魚)	2 223.7	6.1	6.6	4.6
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	1 508.6	4.1	5.1	2.4
	Mackerels (鯪魚)	1 457.3	4.0	5.2	2.5
	Croakers (或魚)	750.9	2.1	2.8	0.8
2016	Golden thread (紅衫)	3 127.3	8.5	10.8	6.2
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	2 874.0	7.9	10.3	4.8
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	1 708.4	4.7	5.5	3.9
	Big-eyes (木棉)	2 680.8	7.3	9.0	4.6
	Scads (池魚)	1 578.1	4.3	5.7	2.4
	Breams (立魚)	1 855.9	5.1	5.7	3.4
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	1 567.0	4.3	5.1	2.4
	Mackerels (鯪魚)	1 566.5	4.3	4.7	2.5
	Croakers (或魚)	820.6	2.2	3.1	1.4

- Data on Filefish (沙魷) are not readily available.

Monthly average wholesale price of marine fish over the past 3 years (2014 to 2016)

Calendar Year	Fish	Monthly average wholesale price (\$/kg)											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	Golden thread (紅衫)	57.47	59.96	54.47	48.97^	49.83	54.39	56.29	52.56	49.76	51.01	54.46	63.26*
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	47.26	48.80*	41.32	39.43	38.72^	41.24	42.78	42.44	42.09	41.47	43.34	48.64
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	77.71	76.30	83.84*	80.79	75.87	71.13	71.38	70.15	63.21^	66.80	78.03	78.40
	Big-eyes (木棉)	56.45	57.90	56.26	54.14	57.21	58.15	59.25	52.56	47.26^	53.74	58.89	60.50*
	Scads (池魚)	17.87	20.23	17.80	17.94	17.83	20.92*	20.36	16.81	14.09^	14.74	16.31	18.96
	Breams (立魚)	63.28	73.25	73.80	74.43	77.22*	75.99	75.67	65.32	59.78^	69.81	69.87	72.22
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	35.43^	41.77	38.76	38.67	38.91	44.71	45.95*	42.98	39.77	38.49	37.53	36.57
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	59.46	65.81*	60.47	61.04	59.20	59.66	61.18	55.02	51.09^	57.20	58.71	61.72
	Croakers (或魚)	22.13	24.57*	20.12	19.61^	22.64	23.28	23.31	23.46	22.99	21.83	22.86	22.77
2015	Golden thread (紅衫)	68.91*	55.67	61.01	52.82	49.42^	61.11	62.70	59.96	55.48	59.72	66.52	63.77
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	50.41	45.68	50.73*	44.97	41.88^	45.09	45.14	43.19	45.15	43.39	46.55	50.02
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	81.43	89.04	75.68	80.27	92.50*	77.71	76.69	71.35^	79.00	79.56	89.14	86.95
	Big-eyes (木棉)	69.01	64.53	71.15*	62.16	60.05	63.96	66.45	64.62	58.52^	59.93	64.65	65.67
	Scads (池魚)	18.56	19.11	19.72	17.17	16.83	22.32	23.50*	17.28	15.53^	17.44	16.93	18.88
	Breams (立魚)	73.87	68.59	72.20	67.97	69.46	76.23	78.65*	69.70	64.46^	72.15	74.51	72.91
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	36.87	37.10	38.55	36.80	36.62^	45.21	47.21*	42.96	40.19	41.76	40.70	41.19
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	62.73	63.10	65.44	61.69	58.30^	66.12	70.13*	63.95	59.54	64.92	65.27	63.03
	Croakers (或魚)	22.44	22.59	24.35*	20.77	21.55	24.02	23.25	22.26	21.04	20.03^	20.43	22.07
2016	Golden thread (紅衫)	67.67	67.73	66.43	64.59	72.24	81.22*	79.09	72.71	57.45	54.83^	63.29	63.21
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	54.23	52.97	54.14	54.49*	52.57	52.78	50.60	48.50	41.78^	46.85	45.15	44.64
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	84.95	74.44^	104.37*	89.73	86.64	81.07	79.93	81.73	85.83	81.32	89.08	98.36
	Big-eyes (木棉)	69.72^	70.55	71.59	74.23	78.19	85.83	85.96*	80.88	73.92	74.05	75.21	79.87
	Scads (池魚)	20.07	20.52	19.89	19.04	20.77	23.54	25.05*	20.28	18.27^	19.06	18.48	20.12
	Breams (立魚)	76.80	78.85	79.87	78.89	82.31	91.64	93.54*	80.42	66.77^	69.96	74.59	81.35
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	41.64^	43.47	42.77	42.76	44.97	50.92	53.45*	48.78	45.94	47.02	43.94	45.17
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	65.21^	67.56	67.34	68.56	72.55	75.84	76.08*	73.26	73.66	66.10	70.86	69.48
	Croakers (或魚)	23.84	24.57	23.60	22.53^	24.58	29.09	29.10	29.73*	25.69	23.12	23.13	24.02

- Data on Filefish (沙鯪) are not readily available.
- * Highest monthly average wholesale price in the respective calendar year.
- ^ Lowest monthly average wholesale price in the respective calendar year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)044****(Question Serial No. 1397)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the wholesaling of vegetables, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the annual total and daily average wholesale quantities, as well as the highest and lowest figures thereof for different kinds of vegetables (including flowering cabbage, water cress, white cabbage, broccoli, Chinese lettuce, green cabbage, chrysanthemum garland, tomato, Chinese kale, pea shoot, European celery, potato and spinach, etc.) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What were the monthly average, the highest and lowest value for different kinds of vegetables (including flowering cabbage, water cress, white cabbage, broccoli, Chinese lettuce, green cabbage, chrysanthemum garland, tomato, Chinese kale, pea shoot, European celery, potato and spinach, etc.) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 6)Reply:

- (a) In respect of vegetables transacted through the government wholesale markets, the information sought is given below. We do not have the breakdown on the figures for different kinds of vegetables.

Calendar year	Total quantity (tonnes)	Daily average quantity (tonnes)	Highest daily quantity (tonnes)	Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)
2014	256 171	702	871	76
2015	246 710	676	927	106
2016	238 163	651	808	103

- (b) The monthly average value, the highest and the lowest monthly average value for vegetables transacted through the government wholesale food markets over the past 3 years are shown below. We do not have the breakdown on the figures for different kinds of vegetables.

Calendar year	Monthly average wholesale value (\$/tonne)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	11,200	11,882	11,818	12,699*	11,292	12,109	11,567	9,462^	9,617	9,812	10,072	9,623
2015	9,999	9,858	10,111*	9,281	8,989	9,567	8,955^	9,319	9,538	9,604	9,004	9,322
2016	7,560^	10,985*	9,967	10,057	8,791	8,259	8,209	8,555	8,713	7,985	8,840	8,025

* Highest monthly value

^ Lowest monthly value

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)045****(Question Serial No. 1398)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the wholesaling of eggs, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the annual total and daily average wholesale quantities, as well as the highest and lowest figures thereof for different kinds of eggs (including Brown-shelled egg (medium) from the Mainland, Grade II brown-shelled egg from Germany (360/box), Brown-shelled egg (medium) from the USA, etc.) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What were the monthly average, the highest and lowest prices for different kinds of eggs (including Brown-shelled egg (medium) from the Mainland, Grade II brown-shelled egg from Germany (360/box), Brown-shelled egg (medium) from the USA, etc.) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 7)Reply:

- (a) The volume of hen eggs transacted through the government wholesale food markets over the past 3 years is tabulated below. We do not have the breakdown in terms of the types of eggs and the places of origin.

Calendar year	Total quantity (tonnes)	Daily average quantity (tonnes)	Highest daily quantity (tonnes)	Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)
2014	63 758	175	368	10
2015	63 501	174	359	8
2016	65 842	180	392	6

- (b) The monthly average price, the highest and the lowest monthly average price for brown-shelled medium eggs from Mainland and USA transacted through the government wholesale food markets over the past 3 years are tabulated below. We do not have similar figures for brown-shelled medium eggs or other types of hen eggs from other places of origin.

Calendar year	Monthly average wholesale price (\$/tonne) for Brown-shelled Medium Egg (Mainland)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	16,852	16,621	16,471^	16,640	17,426	16,807	17,323	18,123	18,280*	17,987	17,860	17,826
2015	17,845*	17,214	16,484	16,207	15,665	15,773	15,471	16,994	17,473	16,787	14,093	13,981^
2016	14,097	15,738*	15,052	15,320	14,658	13,520	12,794	12,316^	14,267	13,252	13,707	13,877

Calendar year	Monthly average wholesale price (\$/tonne) for Brown-shelled Medium Egg (USA)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	15,981	15,743^	16,019	16,140	16,561	16,080	16,471	16,684	16,887	17,200*	17,000	16,961
2015	16,232	15,929^	16,548	16,540	16,613	16,767	16,265	16,458	17,553*	16,323	16,967	17,013
2016	16,742	17,400	17,419*	17,047	15,561	14,433	13,400	13,077	13,960	12,755^	13,053	13,439

* Highest monthly average wholesale price

^ Lowest monthly average wholesale price

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)046****(Question Serial No. 1407)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding aquaculture environment, please advise on the following:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower of the Government for monitoring water quality and red tides respectively over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17).
- (b) Please set out in tabular form the numbers of red tides occurred in Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17), with a breakdown by district.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 16)Reply:

- (a) Information on the expenditure and manpower of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department involved in monitoring water quality and red tides over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2014-15	8.1	10
2015-16	8.5	10
2016-17 (revised estimate)	8.4	10

- (b) The numbers of red tide observed in different districts over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

District	Number of red tides observed		
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
North	4	3	4
Tai Po	8	3	4
Sha Tin	1	0	0
Sai Kung	9	6	6
Southern	5	1	4
Islands	6	3	2
Tuen Mun	3	1	1
Kwun Tong	0	0	1

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)047

(Question Serial No. 1408)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme and the Special Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme of the Vegetable Marketing Organization, please provide the following information over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17):

- (a) What was the administrative and technical support provided for the schemes?
- (b) What were the details of the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (c) What were the expenditure and manpower involved in handling applications for the schemes?
- (d) What were the respective numbers of applications and the area of land involved (hectare)?
- (e) What were the respective numbers of successful and unsuccessful cases? What was the area of farmland (hectare) successfully rented?
- (f) How long did the processing of an application take on average (from receipt of an application to notification of the result)?
- (g) What were the numbers of landowners participating in the said schemes?
- (h) How much was the annual rental for the successful cases?
- (i) What were the accumulative numbers of applicants and the area of land involved (hectare) on the waiting list?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (ALRS) through bringing owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out a rental agreement for leasing out the farmland. The manpower and expenditure involved in operating ALRS and the relevant statistics on the cases handled over the past 3 calendar years are tabulated below:

	2014	2015	2016
Number of staff	1	1	1
Expenditure (\$ million)	0.9	0.9	0.9
Number of landowners participating in ALRS	13	23	28
Number of new applications / land area involved (hectare)	44 / 8.9	45 / 8.0	65 / 8.3
Number of successful cases	12	41	29
- Total land area involved (hectare)	2.6	5.4	4.0
- Range of annual rental (per dau chung ^)	\$300 to \$7,000	\$800 to \$10,400	\$1,400 to \$32,100
- Average waiting time (year)	5	5	4
Number of withdrawn applications	12	19	45
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end / land area involved (hectare)	278 / 72.6	287 / 70.6	300 / 67.6

^ 1 dau chung is equivalent to 7 260 square feet.

The Special Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (SALRS) is a separate scheme proposed by the Government in relation to a number of land development projects. Under SALRS, the Government would proactively identify suitable government land and liaise with private landowners who are willing to lease or sell their land suitable for agricultural re-site / rehabilitation, with a view to matching the land / landowners with farmers affected by relevant development projects. Details of SALRS will be announced by the Government in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)048

(Question Serial No. 1409)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the wholesale of live chickens, please advise on:

- (a) the monthly total quantities and daily average quantities of imported and local live chickens, as well as the largest and the smallest daily wholesale quantities over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (b) the monthly average prices, as well as the highest and the lowest monthly prices of imported and local live chickens over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (c) the monthly total quantities and daily average quantities of imported minor poultry, as well as the largest and the smallest daily wholesale quantities over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (d) the monthly average prices, as well as the highest and the lowest monthly prices of imported minor poultry over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (e) the monthly total quantities and daily average quantities of imported day-old chicks, as well as the largest and the smallest daily wholesale quantities over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (f) the percentage of live chickens, minor poultry and day-old chicks imported from various places over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (g) the total expenditure on handling matters on import of live chickens, day-old chicks and minor poultry (e.g. quarantine management, wholesale markets, etc.), the average expenditure on each chicken, as well as the manpower involved in 2016-17 and the estimated expenditure in 2017-18;
- (h) the import flow of live chickens, day-old chicks and minor poultry.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 18)

Reply:

- (a) The quantity of imported and local live chickens traded through the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market (CSWTWPM) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Live Chicken	Quantity	Daily Average Quantity	Highest Daily Quantity	Lowest Daily Quantity
2014	Imported	912 300 [@]	2 499	10 200	1 500
	Local	4 000 899	10 961	36 675 [~]	4 100
2015	Imported	61 300 [#]	168	2 900	1 400
	Local	4 055 016	11 110	47 912 [*]	1 500 [*]
2016	Imported	32 000 ^{&}	87	2 000	2 000
	Local	4 041 960	11 043	48 475 [*]	300 [^]

[@] There was no import of live chickens from 28 January to 5 September 2014.

[~] Winter Solstice (21 December 2014)

[#] Import of live chickens from the Mainland was suspended as from 31 December 2014 due to the temporary closure of the CSWTWPM after the detection of a H7 avian influenza positive consignment of imported live poultry. Trading of live poultry at CSWTWPM resumed on 22 January 2015. There was no import of live poultry until 10 February 2015 and the import quantity has since been significantly reduced compared to the average in the past.

^{*} Chinese New Year Eve (18 February 2015 & 7 February 2016)

^{*} First Day of Chinese New Year (19 February 2015)

[&] There was no import of live chickens from the Mainland since 17 February 2016.

[^] Third Day of Chinese New Year (10 February 2016)

The monthly quantity of imported and local live chickens over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Live Chicken	Monthly Quantity											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	Imported	170 500	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	183 300	190 000	162 700 [^]	205 800 [*]
	Local	274 892	213 319 [^]	492 596 [*]	278 630	314 759	333 630	334 861	347 416	359 864	310 931	351 590	388 411
2015	Imported	0 [#]	9 100	3 800	1 600 [^]	4 600	4 500	4 500	4 600	2 000	14 000 [*]	0 [#]	12 600
	Local	213 588 [^]	477 914 [*]	300 499	258 176	311 638	302 603	333 812	355 418	399 170	343 366	363 073	395 759
2016	Imported	20 000 [*]	12 000 [^]	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]
	Local	344 191	406 393 [*]	348 978	342 916	369 978	311 710	312 465	311 558	327 883	284 585 [^]	311 900	369 403

^{*} Highest monthly quantity

[^] Lowest monthly quantity

[#] There was no import of live chickens

- (b) The wholesale price of imported and local live chickens recorded in CSWTWPM over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Live Chicken	Monthly Average Wholesale Price (\$/kg)											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	Imported	23.83 [^]	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	38.04	33.31	32.32	41.40 [*]
	Local	24.01 [^]	33.65	38.31	63.16	66.02 [*]	51.69	42.06	51.10	46.07	35.06	33.90	44.46
2015	Imported	#	79.58	74.42	74.30	74.16	81.97 [*]	81.40	72.34	66.00	62.37 [^]	#	75.73
	Local	48.07	57.60	72.76 [*]	68.41	71.12	70.45	63.13	51.46	47.19	41.98	40.20 [^]	69.58
2016	Imported	68.97 [^]	82.67 [*]	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
	Local	68.33	77.23 [*]	69.93	55.10	44.71	42.87 [^]	44.38	57.17	71.65	74.38	67.81	57.41

* Highest monthly average price in the respective calendar year

[^] Lowest monthly average price in the respective calendar year

There was no import of live chickens.

- (c) The quantity of imported minor poultry over the past 3 years is shown below:

Calendar Year	Quantity	Daily Average Quantity	Highest Daily Quantity	Lowest Daily Quantity
2014	327 056	896	5 755	510
2015	465 305	1 275	3 930	840
2016	590 598	1 614	5 600	750

The monthly quantity of imported minor poultry over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Monthly Quantity											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	69 160	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	0 [#]	35 365 [^]	73 533	77 823 [*]	71 175
2015	0 [#]	19 650 [^]	39 020	43 650	47 675	44 065	38 125	44 185	44 540	45 425	47 830	51 140 [*]
2016	51 150	36 979	45 130	48 910	58 172	8 790 [^]	42 160	53 230	53 630	61 942	73 765 [*]	56 740

* Highest monthly quantity

[^] Lowest monthly quantity

There was no import of live minor poultry.

- (d) The average price of imported minor poultry over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Monthly Average Wholesale Price (\$/kg)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	70.3	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	68.2 [^]	77.6	78.6 [*]	77.4

2015	#	70.5	70.9	70.6	70.4	70.3 [^]	71.3	70.6	70.8	71.3	71.4 [*]	71.2
2016	71.5	70.9 [^]	72.6	72.3	76.4	77.9	77.8	74.5	76.0	77.6	79.2 [*]	76.1

* Highest monthly average price in the respective calendar year

[^] Lowest monthly average price in the respective calendar year

There was no import of minor poultry.

(e) The quantity of day-old chicks imported over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Quantity	Daily Average Quantity	Highest Daily Quantity	Lowest Daily Quantity
2014	1 598 380	4 379	29 500	2 000
2015	1 600 330	4 384	40 960	3 500
2016	1 763 710	4 819	39 600	1 250

The monthly quantity of imported day-old chicks over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Monthly Quantity											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	72 500 [^]	92 800	118 820	149 020	145 420	141 600	138 100	148 040	145 040	148 000	151 020 [*]	148 020
2015	26 960 [^]	39 960	42 460	71 440	123 960	204 400 [*]	172 720	179 040	176 840	179 060	188 940	194 550
2016	178 430	185 720	225 460 [*]	184 460	182 520	30 700 [^]	0 [#]	44 540	155 760	217 560	172 400	186 160

* Highest monthly quantity

[^] Lowest monthly quantity

There was no import of day-old chicks.

(f) The percentage of supply of live chickens, minor poultry and day-old chicks imported from various places over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Percentage of chickens imported from			Percentage of minor poultry imported from		Percentage of day-old chicks imported from	
	Guangdong	Shenzhen	Hainan	Guangdong	Zhuhai	Guangdong	Zhuhai
2014	92	5	3	58	42	83	17
2015	0	0	100	30	70	55	45
2016	0	0	100	42	58	70	30

(g) The revised estimate for the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) incurred on CSWTWPM in 2016-17 in this area of work is \$16.9 million and the manpower involved is 18 staff. The resources earmarked for 2017-18 are at a similar level as for 2016-17.

A total of 22 AFCD staff are deployed at the boundary control point for inspection of imported animals, including day-old chicks. The expenditure involved in the inspection of day-old chicks is absorbed within AFCD's surveillance on avian

influenza (AI).

The manpower of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) involved in inspection of imported live food animals is 42 staff. FEHD's revised estimate in 2016-17 and the provision earmarked for 2017-18 for surveillance of AI are \$8.5 million and \$9.0 million respectively.

- (h) All live food poultry, including chickens and minor poultry, and day-old chicks from the Mainland must be supplied by registered poultry farms or day-old chicks producing farms. Imported live food poultry are quarantined and tested for AI before exporting to Hong Kong. Each consignment of live food poultry must be accompanied by an official health certificate and is subject to inspection and AI testing at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station upon arrival. The transportation truck would be sealed before going to CSWTWPM, where the poultry consignment awaits the laboratory results. Only the consignments with satisfactory inspection and test results will be released for sale. Regarding day-old chicks, each consignment must also be accompanied by an official health certificate and is subject to inspection at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station upon arrival. The transportation truck would then be sealed before delivery to local chicken farms.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)049

(Question Serial No. 1418)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the New Agriculture Policy, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the total expenditure and manpower involved in the establishment of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund, the Agricultural Park and the Agricultural Priority Areas over the past 2 years (2015-16 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What is the total number of applications for the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and the Farm Improvement Scheme thereof received so far?
- (c) What is the progress of the work on the Agricultural Park and the Agricultural Priority Areas?
- (d) What were the details, expenditure and manpower involved in promoting the sustainable development of agriculture (e.g. the development of eco-tourism, leisure agricultural industries, agricultural industries employing innovative technology and other sustainable agriculture, etc.) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (e) What are the details, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in planning and promoting the sustainable development of agriculture in 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 52)

Reply:

- (a), (d) & (e) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) promotes the sustainable development of local agriculture through measures such as (i) developing new farming techniques to raise productivity; (ii) introducing new and improved crop varieties for local cultivation; (iii) promoting leisure

farming and organic farming; (iv) assisting in setting up farmers' markets to help farmers reaching out to customers and organising the annual FarmFest to showcase local agricultural and fishery production; (v) administering three funds to provide loans to farmers as development and/or working capital; (vi) implementing the supportive measures under the New Agriculture Policy (NAP), including administering the \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF), preparing for the establishment of the Agricultural Park (Agri-Park) and commissioning a consultancy study to explore the feasibility of designating Agricultural Priority Areas (APA). The breakdown of manpower and expenditure in promoting sustainable development is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Manpower (Number of AFCD staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)
2014-15	74	31.5
2015-16	74	33.4
2016-17 (revised estimate)	89	43.3

In 2017-18, AFCD will continue with its current work in promoting the sustainable development of local agriculture. 96 staff and \$48.7 million have been earmarked for this area of work.

- (b) As at 1 March 2017, AFCD has received 2 applications under SADF to fund projects that may benefit the local agricultural community as a whole. The applications are being processed. In addition, a total of 54 applications seeking financial assistance for individual farms to acquire farming equipment and/or materials from the Farm Improvement Scheme under SADF have been received. 6 applications have been approved, involving a total funding of \$180,000.
- (c) For the establishment of the Agri-Park, the engineering feasibility study of the Agri-Park has been completed. The consultancy study to undertake the investigation work of the potential site and detailed design of the Agri-Park has recently been commissioned.

The Government will commission a consultancy study later this year to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as APAs, and explore how to formulate suitable policies and measures to provide incentives to encourage owners to put fallow agricultural land into long-term agricultural use.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)050

(Question Serial No. 1419)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding hydroponic farming, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the expenditure and manpower involved in the “Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre” (C.E.H.R&D Centre) established at the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Vegetable Market over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What are the production area, crop varieties, production quantity, production value, and the number of sales outlets of the C.E.H.R&D Centre?
- (c) What are the Government’s current policies for facilitating the development of the local hydroponic farming industry? What are the expenditure and manpower involved in facilitating the development of the hydroponic farming industry?
- (d) What are the production value, production quantity, and the numbers of hydroponic farms and retail outlets of the local hydroponic farming industry?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 53)

Reply:

- (a) The “Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre” (C.E.H.R&D Centre) was established in 2013 and is fully funded by the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) for demonstrating the technology and equipment for hydroponic production. The expenditure and manpower involved over the past 3 years, according to VMO, are tabulated below:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of VMO staff)
2014-15	2.1	5
2015-16	1.7	5
2016-17 (revised estimate)	1.5	5

- (b) The C.E.H.R&D Centre has a total area of about 500 square metres, half of which is used for production with the rest for research and development. There are 5 varieties of baby salad green being produced, i.e. Mizuna, Oak Leaf Lettuce, Red Asian Mustard, Chinese Flat Cabbage and Rocket. About 12 kg of vegetables are produced daily at a wholesale value of about \$200 per kg and sold through 10 retail outlets.
- (c) The Government encourages the adoption of modern farming practices as well as the development of new agricultural technology and related knowledge transfer. Hydroponics is one such example. The Government is reviewing the operational requirements of hydroponics and other farming practices using new technologies, with a view to providing clear guidelines for the application of such technologies in industrial buildings/zones. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to provide technical advice and support to investors who are interested in setting up hydroponic systems as an alternative option for agricultural production. The manpower and expenditure involved are an integral part of AFCD's overall programme to support local agriculture and there is no separate breakdown.
- (d) Currently, there are 24 hydroponic farms producing annually over 810 tonnes of vegetables with an estimated value of \$70 million. We do not have information on the number of retail outlets involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)051****(Question Serial No. 1436)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the Mainland Fishermen Deckhands Scheme (the Scheme) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the expenditure and manpower involved in processing the applications under the Scheme over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What were the numbers of applications for and deckhands involved in different types of fishing vessels (including pair trawlers, stern trawlers, shrimp trawlers, hang trawlers, purse seiners with light, purse seiners, liners and gillnetters, fish carriers, and other fishing vessels) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (c) What were the numbers of cases of contravening the relevant legislation and codes of the Scheme, and the heaviest penalties imposed, over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 70)Reply:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower involved in processing the applications under the Mainland Fishermen Deckhands Scheme (the Scheme) over the past 3 years are as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of Staff)
2014-15	1.4	3
2015-16	1.1	3
2016-17 (revised estimate)	1.2	3

- (b) The information on the numbers of applications and deckhands involved by types of fishing vessels over the past 3 years is as follows:

		Pair trawler	Stern trawler	Shrimp trawler	Hang trawler	Purse seiner with light and purse seiner	Liner and Gill netter	Fish carrier	Other fishing vessel	Total
2014-15	Number of applications	88	49	70	18	42	68	299	47	681
	Number of deckhands involved	442	198	308	102	292	406	1 973	277	3 998

2015-16	Number of applications	54	56	63	24	46	79	307	53	682
	Number of deckhands involved	285	227	286	136	329	511	1 964	308	4 046

2016-17	Number of applications	59	45	50	18	54	71	228	37	562
	Number of deckhands involved	310	180	228	101	385	431	1 468	209	3 312

- (c) The numbers of contravening cases in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are 15, 20 and 17 respectively. The heaviest penalties imposed include cancellation of quota approved for all deckhands for the subject vessel, and prohibition of the concerned applicant from applying under the Scheme for 2 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)052

(Question Serial No. 1441)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the surveys on fisheries resources, please advise on:

- (a) the staff deployed and the expenditure involved over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17) and the time frame for the surveys;
- (b) the manpower and the expenditure involved in employing external local trawlers to conduct the surveys over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17) and the time frame of the work;
- (c) the area of the waters involved in, the numbers of and the mechanism put in place for the surveys (please show with a map);
- (d) the ways that the Department used to inform the fishing vessels operating in relevant waters;
- (e) any mechanism for monitoring the performance of external staff;
- (f) the effectiveness of the measures as proposed by the Department before to avoid bumping against the other fishing gear installed in the sea while carrying out the surveys and any complaints received upon the implementation of the measures.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 75)

Reply:

- (a) To monitor the fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been conducting surveys since 2010. The expenditure and manpower involved in conducting the surveys over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of AFCD Staff)
2014-15	7.8	3
2015-16	6.8	3
2016-17 (revised estimate)	6.7	3

Most of the surveys have been completed in 2016-17. The surveys on fish fry and eggs are expected to be completed in 2017-18. Further details are set out in Part (c) below.

- (b) Part of the surveys mentioned in (a) above are conducted with chartered trawlers. The expenditure and manpower involved in these surveys over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

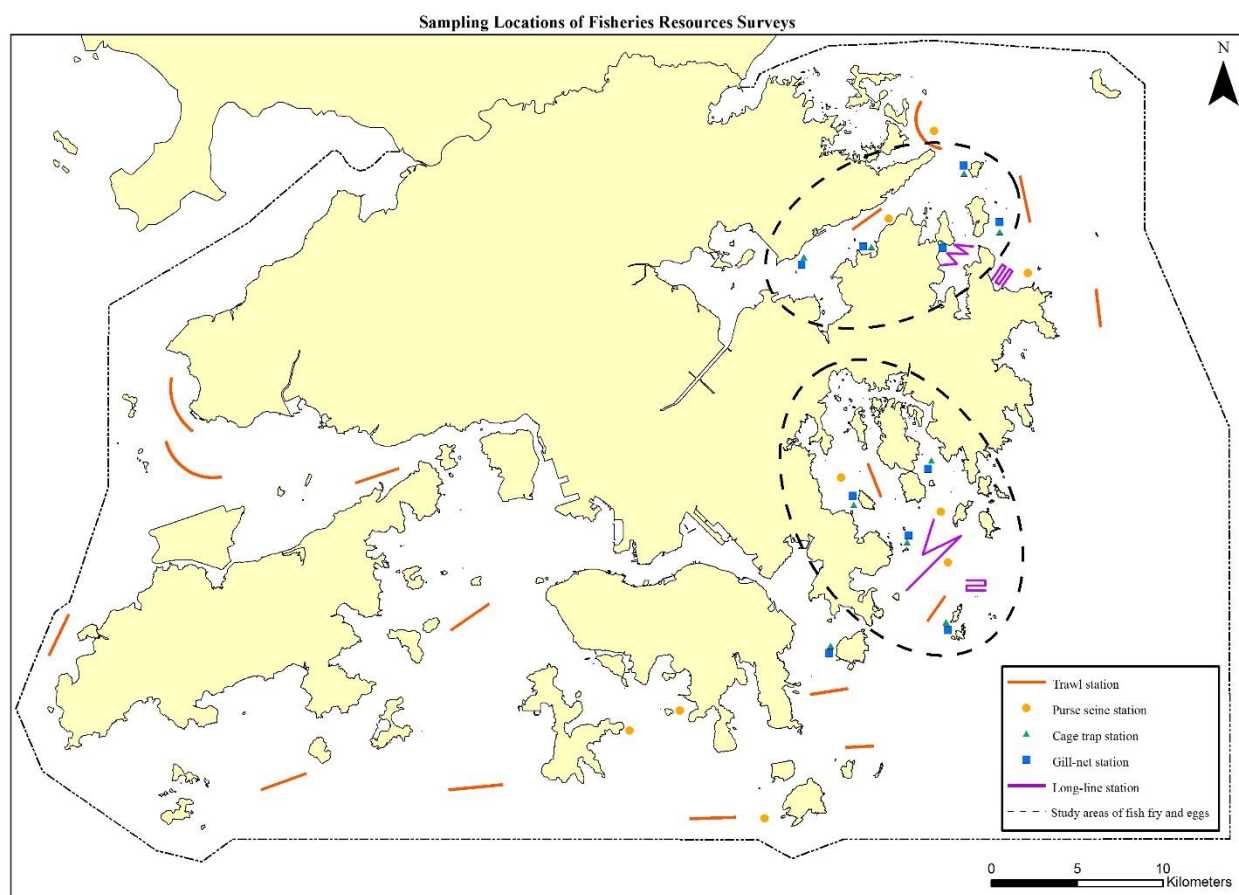
Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of AFCD Staff)
2014-15	2.1	1
2015-16	2.0	1
2016-17 (revised estimate)	1.8	1

- (c) The surveys mentioned in Part (a) above include:
- (i) the territory-wide trawling surveys collected samples at 16 stations in the waters of Hong Kong by local trawlers chartered by AFCD to monitor fisheries resources at the sea bottom on a monthly basis;
 - (ii) the purse-seine surveys collected samples at 9 stations to monitor fisheries resources at the middle to upper layer of the water column in eastern waters every 3 months;
 - (iii) the surveys by other fishing methods such as cage-trapping, long-lining and gill-netting were conducted to analyse the diversity of fisheries resources at specific fisheries habitats every two months; and
 - (iv) the surveys on fish fry and eggs are conducted in wet, dry and peak seasons. The sampling stations are scattered around the Tolo Channel, Long Harbour and Port Shelter which are the spawning and nursery grounds.

A map indicating the sampling stations is at the Annex.

- (d) AFCD informs relevant fishermen associations of the sampling locations and frequency of the surveys by letters each year. Furthermore, AFCD informs the fishermen associations in the respective districts of a planned survey by telephone about 2 to 3 days before the survey.
- (e) Apart from the work of collecting scientific information on the fisheries samples, staff of AFCD monitors the performance of the contractor by going on board during surveys to ensure that the terms of contract are complied with.

- (f) In addition to notifications to the relevant fishermen associations mentioned in (d) above, AFCD has hired a pilot boat to assist in the trawling surveys. The pilot boat would navigate the trawler along the survey path to avoid any fishing gear already deployed in the waters by fishermen. So far the measures employed by AFCD have been effective, and AFCD has not received any complaint about the surveys.



- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)053

(Question Serial No. 3205)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

On the regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry, please inform:

- (a) the details, respective expenditure and manpower involved in the Government's regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (b) the details, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the Government's regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry in 2017-18;
- (c) the total amount and quantities of local and imported flowers over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (d) the measures that the Government currently takes to promote the local flower cultivation industry, as well as the expenditure and manpower so involved;
- (e) the measures that the Government takes to mitigate the insufficiency of wholesale space. Given the insufficiency of wholesale space, the industry has repeatedly requested the Government to consider setting up a wholesale local flower market near the Flower Market or at other locations so as to provide sufficient space for wholesale flower activities and create new feature attractions.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

- (a), (b) and (d) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides support services to all crop farmers including florists. The services provided include technical support in respect of cultivation techniques, control of plant pests and diseases and soil analysis, as well as the lending

of farm machinery and provision of loans. The resources deployed for these services over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of AFCD staff)
2014-15	5.9	13
2015-16	6.0	13
2016-17 (revised estimate)	8.0	13

The manpower and expenditure involved in providing support services to the flower cultivation industry and promotion of the industry is an integral part of the above provision and there is no separate breakdown.

In 2017-18, AFCD will continue to provide the above-mentioned services to crop farmers including florists with a similar level of resources as in 2016-17.

- (c) The total amount of local production and net import of flowers over the past 3 years is tabulated below. We do not have the data in quantities for local production and import.

Calendar Year	Value of Local Production (\$ million)	Value of Net Import (\$ million)
2014	140	349
2015	147	379
2016	154	244

- (e) Flower wholesaling activities are commercial in nature. We do not normally seek to intervene in commercial activities. That said, if the flower trade would like to pursue projects that could benefit the trade as a whole in enhancing marketing of flowers, they may consider seeking funding support from the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)054

(Question Serial No. 1440)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the local fishing operation, please advise on the following:

- (a) What are the existing waters available for fishing with the use of fishing vessels in Hong Kong? Please indicate them on a map.
- (b) Please indicate on a map the waters where the following projects locate in:
 - (i) the marine parks and the core areas;
 - (ii) the prohibited fishing areas;
 - (iii) the marine fairways; and
 - (iv) the reclamation projects proposed or under construction.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 74)

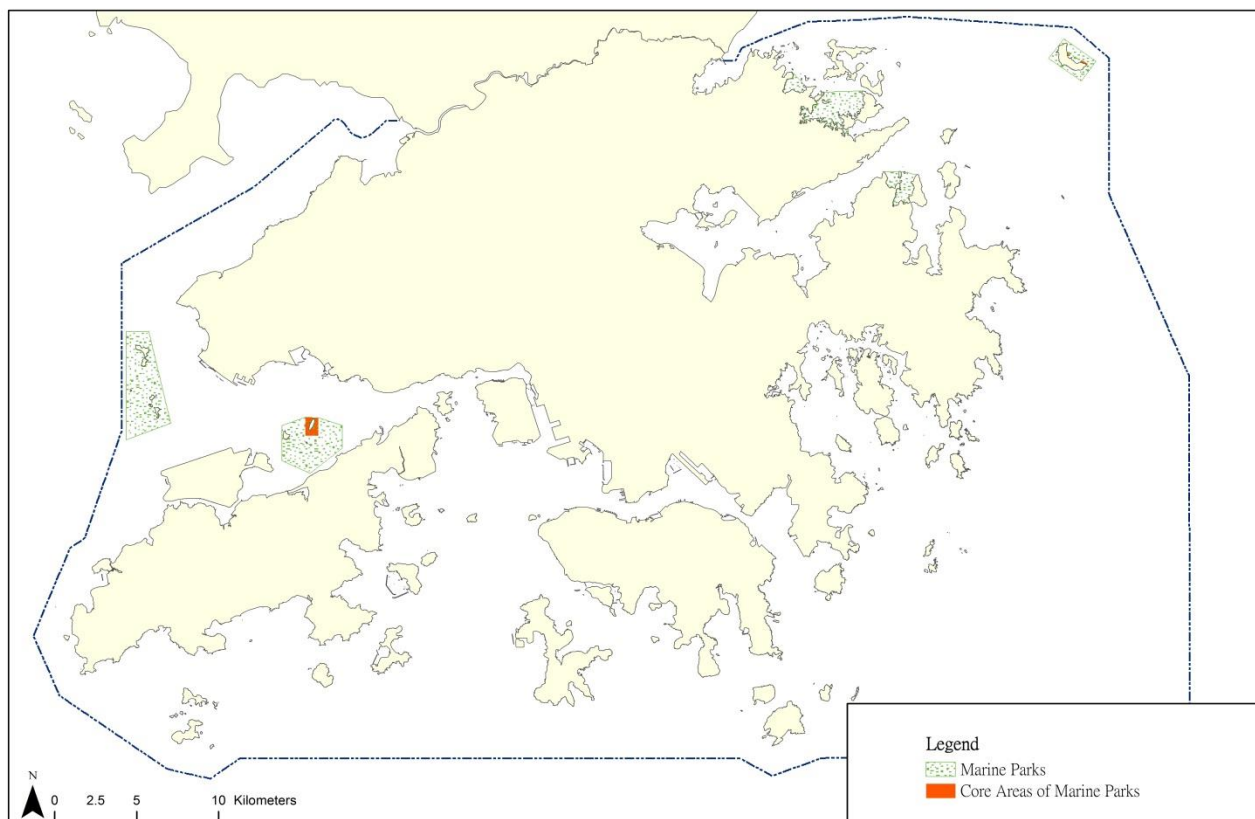
Reply:

- (a) Hong Kong waters are generally available for fishing with the use of fishing vessels, except in certain areas such as the core areas of marine parks, marine reserve, fish culture zones, principal fairways, public bathing beaches and reclamation projects. These areas are under the purview of a number of different departments such as the Marine Department for principal fairways, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for public bathing beaches, various works departments for reclamation projects, and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for marine parks, marine reserve and fish culture zones. AFCD does not have comprehensive and precise technical information on areas under the administration of different departments.

- (b) Marine parks and the core areas of marine parks are shown on the map at the Annex. There is no definition on “prohibited fishing areas”. AFCD does not have comprehensive information on the boundary of the marine fairways and reclamation projects proposed or under construction which are respectively under the purview of the Marine Department and concerned works departments.

- End -

A map of Hong Kong waters showing the marine parks and the core areas of marine parks



CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)055****(Question Serial No. 1432)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the fish rafts in Hong Kong, please advise on:

- (a) the respective numbers of fish rafts in various homeports of Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (b) the manpower and the expenditure involved in conducting inspections at each homeport over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17) and the time frame for the inspections.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 66)Reply:

- (a) The numbers of licensed fish rafts in various fish culture zones over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Fish culture zone	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (up to end-February 2017)
Ap Chau	4	4	4
Cheung Sha Wan	62	62	62
Kai Lung Wan	43	42	41
Kat O	34	34	34
Kau Lau Wan	20	20	20
Kau Sai	73	73	66
Leung Shuen Wan	70	70	70
Lo Fu Wat	33	33	33
Lo Tik Wan	72	72	70
Ma Nam Wat	44	42	41

Ma Wan	96	96	96
O Pui Tong	40	45	9
Po Toi	6	6	6
Po Toi O	45	45	38
Sai Lau Kong	4	4	2
Sha Tau Kok	109	109	108
Sham Wan	173	172	173
Sok Kwu Wan	145	145	145
Tai Tau Chau	108	105	105
Tap Mun	106	104	81
Tiu Cham Wan	5	5	5
Tung Lung Chau	58	58	58
Wong Wan	11	17	15
Yim Tin Tsai	267	261	257
Yim Tin Tsai East	191	189	194
Yung Shue Au	270	272	276
Total	2 089	2 085	2 009

- (b) To ensure the operation of fish rafts are in compliance of the Marine Fish Culture Ordinance (Cap. 353), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department conducts regular patrol and inspection of the 26 fish culture zones. The total expenditure and manpower involved in the inspection work over the past 3 years are tabulated below. There is no breakdown by individual fish culture zone.

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2014-15	7.0	17
2015-16	8.0	17
2016-17 (revised estimate)	7.9	18

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)056

(Question Serial No. 3257)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding epidemic prevention for the livestock keeping industry, please advise on the following:

- (a) The latest progress of the epidemic prevention work, and the work plan, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in 2017-18.
- (b) The types of pig and bird vaccines introduced into the local industry and the expenditure involved respectively over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17).
- (c) The total expenditure involved respectively in vaccinating pigs and birds over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17). What were the respective average costs? What were the respective numbers of pigs and birds vaccinated?
- (d) Regarding the outbreaks of epidemic diseases in livestock at different levels of the local supply chain, what were the numbers, locations (e.g. markets, wholesale markets or farms), and virus(es) concerned respectively over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (e) It is noted that the Government is exploring the feasibility of introducing an additional vaccination in local chicken farms against the emergence of new challenge posed by H7N9 AI virus. What are the relevant details?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 27)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) makes continued efforts to prevent and control the outbreak of animal and zoonotic diseases in local chicken and pig farms through (i) conducting regular inspections of local farms to

ensure that the farmers comply with the biosecurity, farm hygiene and other related requirements, including proper vaccination of poultry against avian influenza (AI), and taking enforcement action against non-compliant cases; (ii) providing technical advice and assistance to farmers on proper farm management, prevention and control of animal diseases; and (iii) organising education seminars on farm management and disease prevention for local farmers and their workers. The estimated expenditure and manpower earmarked for this area of work in 2017-18 are \$30 million and 46 staff respectively.

- (b) In 2016, the bivalent Re-6+Re-8 H5 AI vaccine was introduced into Hong Kong for use in local chicken farms. AFCD provided technical assistance in the process. There is no breakdown in expenditure for AFCD's technical assistance provided.
- (c) Apart from the mandatory AI vaccination programme for chickens in local farms, pig or chicken farmers may decide whether any other vaccines should be used for better protection of their farm animals against any particular disease. Commonly used vaccines include those against porcine circovirus, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome, etc. in pigs, and those against New Castle Disease, Infectious Tracheitis and Gumboro Disease, etc. in poultry. All the vaccines used in local farms are purchased by farmers at their own cost. AFCD does not have information on the total expenditure and the average costs involved in vaccinating pigs and poultry.
- (d) Over the past 3 years, there were 3 cases of detection of H7N9 AI virus, including 2 in samples collected from imported live poultry from the Mainland in January and December 2014, and 1 in an environmental sample collected from a live poultry market stall in June 2016.

During the same period, there were 2 FMD cases in local pig farms in April and September 2015 respectively.

- (e) AFCD is closely monitoring the developments of H7 AI virus, including the prevailing AI risk in the region, and exploring the feasibility of introducing vaccination in local chicken farms against the risk posed by H7N9 AI virus.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)057

(Question Serial No. 1947)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the provision of technical advice on organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production to assist farmers to capture high-value market niches,

- (a) what is the number of existing farmers engaging in organic cultivation or intensive greenhouse production in Hong Kong? Please set out the numbers with a breakdown by the types of crops that they produce.
- (b) among the organic crops currently sold in Hong Kong, what are the respective percentages of locally produced crops and imported crops? What are the 10 countries importing the largest amounts of organic crops to Hong Kong? Please set out the figures in percentage terms.
- (c) how would the Government assist local farmers to capture high-value market niches? What are the related details? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (Member Question No. 5)

Reply:

- (a) As at February 2017, 299 farms in Hong Kong with a total area of 108 hectares have joined the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's (AFCD) Organic Farming Support Service (OFSS). At the same time, there are 26 farms with an area of around 3.2 hectares practicing intensive greenhouse production. AFCD does not have separate breakdown on the farm number by crop type.
- (b) The production of local organic vegetables under OFSS is about 6 tonnes per day, which is around 0.3% of total vegetable consumption in Hong Kong. AFCD does not have the import data of organic vegetables from different countries.

- (c) The Government has all along been supporting the development of local agriculture. AFCD will continue to provide support services to assist local farmers to develop high-value market niches, such as (i) providing technical assistance in enhancing the safety and quality of local produce; (ii) developing new farming techniques to raise productivity; (iii) introducing new and improved crop varieties for local cultivation; (iv) supporting the organic certification of local farms; (v) collaborating with the Vegetable Marketing Organization and the Federation of Vegetable Marketing Cooperative Societies on exploring new marketing channels and building the brand of local produce; and (vi) assisting in setting up farmers' markets to help farmers to reach out to customers and organising large-scale carnivals, such as the annual FarmFest, to showcase local agricultural production. Also, a \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund has been set up under the New Agriculture Policy, to support projects that may benefit the local agricultural community as a whole, including projects that would help farmers move up the value chain. A provision of \$24.7 million has been earmarked for the above work in 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)058

(Question Serial No. 2917)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In recent years, the fisheries industry has faced many challenges (e.g. fishing moratoriums, prohibition of fish capture activities, reclamation, establishment of marine parks and other relevant measures), which have affected the livelihood of fishermen and reduced the space for fisheries development. Although the current-term Government has allocated \$500 million to set up the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund that benefits the fishermen, other problems such as young people's reluctance to join the industry, etc. have not yet been solved. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Will the Government allocate resources for promoting the local fisheries industry to the general public in order to enhance their understanding of the industry? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) In view of the succession problem of the local fisheries industry, what specific measures does the Government have in place to encourage young people to join the industry? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) The Mainland authority announced in early 2017 that the fishing moratorium in the South China Sea will be extended by 1 month (i.e. from the current duration of 2.5 months to 3.5 months). This measure will have great impact on the local fishermen. Will the Government offer additional assistance (e.g. subsidy for fishing moratoriums) to the fishermen? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (Member Question No. 29)

Reply:

- (a) To promote the local fisheries industry to the general public, the Government helps support the marketing of local fisheries products through the running of 7 fish wholesale markets and the weekly fishermen bazaar in Sai Kung under the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO), and organising the annual FarmFest event which showcases a wide variety of local fisheries products to over 200,000 visitors. In addition, the Fisheries Education Centre and the Fisheries Hall of the Lions Nature Education Centre aims to enable the general public to understand the local fisheries industry through exhibits and educational materials on Hong Kong's marine resources and the fisheries industry.

Moreover, the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) has provided funding support to 2 fisheries-related ecotourism projects and an organic aquaculture and accreditation project which will help promote to the general public the traditional fisheries culture and local organic aquaculture.

- (b) AFCD has been providing free training courses and seminars to fishermen and those interested in joining the industry. These courses and seminars aim to enhance their technical skills and promote the sustainable development of the fisheries industry. Moreover, those who wish to join the marine fisheries or marine fish marketing industry in Hong Kong, or study relevant subjects, may apply for financial assistance under FMO's Marine Fish Scholarship Fund (Tertiary Education Award).
- (c) To help fishermen affected by the fishing moratorium in the South China Sea, a special low-interest loan has been provided under the FMO Loan Fund for them to tide over the period and resume operations after the fishing moratorium. During the moratorium period, AFCD will also continue to provide fishermen with vocational training courses to equip them with the knowledge on the recent development of the fisheries-related industry, and to help upgrade their qualifications and skills in operation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)059****(Question Serial No. 1613)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the inspections of premises and establishments where animals are kept for exhibition or trading purposes, please set out the actual and estimated number of inspections carried out in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively and the staff establishment involved.

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Member Question No. 9)Reply:

The number of inspections of animal trading premises and animal exhibition establishments carried out by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the manpower involved in the regulation of animal trading and exhibition (including inspection of such premises/establishments) in 2015 and 2016 are as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of Inspections	Manpower (Number of Staff)
2015	5 488	22
2016	5 694	30

In 2017, it is estimated that the number of inspections of animal trading (including breeding dogs for sale) premises and animal exhibition establishments will be increased to 6 100. It is mainly due to increase in inspections arising from the launching of a new licensing regime to tighten the regulation of dog trading and breeding activities after the commencement of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) (Amendment) Regulation 2016 with effect from 20 March 2017. Under the new regime, AFCD will inspect dog trading/breeding premises during the processing of licence applications and after the issue of licence to ensure compliance of licence conditions and code of practice. With the provision of additional resources for the implementation of the new regime, a total

of 33 staff will be deployed for the regulation of animal trading (including breeding dogs for sale) and exhibition in 2017.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)060

(Question Serial No. 1615)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) With regard to implementing the new regulatory regime on the strengthened regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities, what is the estimated number of inspections to be conducted in 2017 at premises of Dog Breeder Licence (Category A) holders? What is the manpower involved?
- (b) Regarding the Trap-Neuter-Return programme, what are the actual, revised and estimated expenditures involved in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18? What is the staff establishment involved?

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

- (a) For Dog Breeder Licence (Category A), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will conduct at least 1 inspection a year to the premises of each licence holder. Depending on the conditions of the premises, number of dogs kept at the premises, and the track records of the licensees' compliance with the relevant licensing conditions and code of practice, AFCD may conduct additional inspections. In 2017-18, AFCD will deploy 30 staff for the regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities.
- (b) The expenditure and manpower involved in the Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 are as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of AFCD Staff)
2015-16	1.3	2
2016-17 (revised estimate)	1.5	2
2017-18 (estimate)	1.4	2

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)061

(Question Serial No. 1639)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the issue of pet food, did the Government conduct any testing on pet food over the past 3 years? If yes, what were the numbers of tests conducted, the numbers of samples which were found to be unsatisfactory, and the testing items? If not, what were the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Member Question No. 35)

Reply:

Currently there is no legislation specifically regulating the sale of pet food in Hong Kong. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not collect pet food samples from the market for testing. Although there have been no major incidents concerning the safety of pet food in Hong Kong in recent years, in order to assess whether the safety of pet food is a concern and consider whether the present measures on pet food products need to be enhanced, AFCD will commission a study this year to survey and test pet food products available in the Hong Kong market.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)062****(Question Serial No. 1641)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the registration of co-operative societies, please provide the number of co-operative societies in each year, the numbers of applications for registration, the numbers of successful registrations, the average processing time of successful registrations, and the average number of the members of co-operative societies over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Member Question No. 37)Reply:

The requested information over the past 3 years is as follows:

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Number of Co-operative Societies (as at the end of the period)	186	181	176
Average number of members of a co-operative society (as at the end of the period)	59	60	61
Number of new application for registration	0	0	1
Number of successful application	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	The application is being processed.
Average time (days) for registration	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)063****(Question Serial No. 1253)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the enforcement of regulations pertaining to animal welfare, please advise on the following:

- (a) Please list the numbers of cats, dogs and other animals received by the Animal Management Centre (AMC) by sources of animals over the past 3 years in the table below:

Year	Caught	Handed to AMC by the owner	Seized during inspection/enforcement action	Other sources

- (b) What were the numbers of prosecutions regarding abandoned animals over the past 3 years?
- (c) According to the reply of the question (FHB(FE)061) in the 2016-17 Budget, why were the numbers of prosecutions regarding abandoned animals close to zero over the past years?
- (d) What are the manpower and expenditure involved in handling stray cattle in 2017-18?
- (e) What is the progress of sterilising cattle with the use of a contraceptive drug?
- (f) Will the Government implement any new programme or measure regarding handling of stray cattle in 2017-18?
- (g) What is the progress of the “trap-neuter-return” trial programme for stray dogs implemented in Yuen Long and the Island District?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

- (a) Information on the numbers of animals that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) received over the past 3 years, broken down by source, is provided in the table below:

Cats

Calendar Year	Stray cats caught	Cats given up by owners	Cats seized during inspection/enforcement action	Cats received through other channels
2014	1 836	132	4	74
2015	1 359	129	2	71
2016	876	107	3	67

Dogs

Calendar Year	Stray dogs caught	Dogs given up by owners	Dogs seized during inspection/enforcement action	Dogs received through other channels
2014	3 676	1 464	114	695
2015	2 412	1 284	27	351
2016	1 919	1 003	17	326

Other animals*

Calendar Year	Stray animals caught	Animals given up by owners	Animals seized during inspection/enforcement action
2014	1 374	28	656
2015	1 418	109	3 590
2016	1 494	56	674

* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc. No such animal is received through other channels.

- (b)-(c) Under Section 22 of the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) (the Ordinance), a keeper of any animal who abandons that animal without reasonable excuse is liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months. In cases where the prosecution finds it difficult to prove beyond reasonable doubt that a person abandons an animal without reasonable excuse, particularly in those cases where there is no witness, AFCD would seek to identify ways to tackle the issue. For instance, in respect of cases involving dogs, the prosecution may press charges against the dog owners concerned for failing to take proper control of their dogs in public places pursuant to Section 23 of the Ordinance. The maximum penalty for contravening this provision is a fine of \$10,000.

Information on the number of relevant convictions under the Ordinance over the past 3 years and the penalty imposed is given below:

Calendar Year	Prosecution against improper control of dogs	
	Number of convicted cases	Heaviest penalty imposed
2014	331	A fine of \$1,200
2015	246	A fine of \$2,000
2016	174	A fine of \$4,000

- (d) In 2017-18, AFCD has earmarked 6 staff and \$2.8 million for the management of stray cattle.
- (e) AFCD has been studying the feasibility of sterilising cattle chemically with the use of a contraceptive drug called Gonacon. The study has been conducted in 2 phases. The first phase, involving testing of the drug in captive cattle, was completed in 2014. It was found that the drug yielded a success rate of approximately 70% in sterilising cattle. A second phase of testing the drug in free-roaming cattle and buffalo has been completed in 2016. Assessment on the results is being conducted.
- (f) Under the multi-pronged approach adopted for managing stray cattle, continuous efforts are being made by AFCD to explore new and enhanced measures that will help minimising the nuisance caused by stray cattle while safeguarding animal welfare. Apart from implementing the “Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation” Programme for stray cattle, AFCD will review the results of the second phase test mentioned in Part (e) above and consider if chemical sterilisation should be applied more extensively in cattle and buffalo across the territory.

In addition, after conducting several site visits and discussing with animal welfare organisations, AFCD has been exploring the feasibility of installing a cattle grid on a trial basis at the junction of Sai Wan Road and Man Yee Road in Sai Kung, with a view to confining the stray cattle to a certain area. AFCD has been liaising with the relevant departments on the technical feasibility and implications to pedestrians and road users involved in installing a cattle grid at the subject location.

- (g) The 3-year Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs, which is being conducted at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 animal welfare organisations since early 2015, is still in progress. AFCD is closely monitoring the progress, and will consider the way forward upon completion of the trial programme in 2018.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)064****(Question Serial No. 3003)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the 8 directorate civil servants at the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department this year, please advise on their respective ranks, pay scale, and expenses on remunerations and fringe benefits.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 26)Reply:

The information sought regarding the 8 directorate posts in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is tabulated below:

Rank	Directorate pay scale (Pay point)	Number of posts	Annual Provision (\$ million)
Director	D6	1	3.0
Deputy Director	D3	1	2.4
Assistant Director	D2	5	10.3
Principal Veterinary Officer	D1	1	1.7
Total		8	17.4

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)065****(Question Serial No. 1445)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the stray animals caught, what are the reasons for the drop in the number from 5 189 in 2015 to 4 289 in 2016? Please tabulate the numbers of stray animals caught according to their species and the locations/establishments where they were caught over the past 5 years (that is from 2012 to 2016).

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (Member Question No. 41)Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been actively promoting the serious responsibility and commitment that go with pet keeping, through public education and publicity programmes to disseminate messages on caring for animals and responsible pet ownership. The work is bearing fruit, as more and more people have come to recognise the responsibility and commitment as a pet owner. The number of stray animals caught by AFCD has been decreasing over the past few years.

Information on the stray animals caught by the 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of AFCD over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

AMC^	2012			
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Total
AMC/HK	571	475	61	1 107
AMC/K	744	827	65	1 636
AMC/NTS	1 045	634	57	1 736
AMC/NTN	2 362	1 091	77	3 530

AMC [^]	2013			
	Dogs	Cats	Others [*]	Total
AMC/HK	612	481	19	1 112
AMC/K	979	690	140	1 809
AMC/NTS	903	507	71	1 481
AMC/NTN	2 132	1 188	214	3 534
	2014			
	Dogs	Cats	Others [*]	Total
AMC/HK	394	254	72	720
AMC/K	937	549	199	1 685
AMC/NTS	675	338	16	1 029
AMC/NTN	1 670	695	1 087	3 452
	2015			
	Dogs	Cats	Others [*]	Total
AMC/HK	286	218	24	528
AMC/K	581	435	47	1 063
AMC/NTS	507	221	12	740
AMC/NTN	1 038	485	1 335	2 858
	2016			
	Dogs	Cats	Others [*]	Total
AMC/HK	224	164	58	446
AMC/K	435	259	81	775
AMC/NTS	458	169	21	648
AMC/NTN	802	284	1 334	2 420

[^] The 4 AMCs are namely AMC/Hong Kong (AMC/HK), AMC/Kowloon (AMC/K), AMC/New Territories South (AMC/NTS) and AMC/New Territories North (AMC/NTN). They are responsible for animal management work in the regions as named.

^{*} Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/ cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)066

(Question Serial No. 1838)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) What were the details of the work and the overall expenditures of the Department on the euthanasia of animals over the past 5 years? Please provide an exhaustive breakdown of all the expenditures under the grand total, including those expenses on catching operations, manpower, medicines for euthanasia of animals, as well as other expenditures involved.
- (b) Please set out the details of the work and expenditure involved in the "trap-neuter-vaccinate-return" scheme (the scheme) over the past 5 years. Will the Department consider identifying additional sites for the scheme? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) What are the Department's respective estimated expenditures involved in the euthanasia of animals and the scheme in the financial year 2017-18? Will the Department consider allocating all the expenditure involved in the euthanasia of animals to the scheme? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?
- (d) Apart from the euthanasia of animals and the scheme, what is the other expenditure involved in the management of community animals?
- (e) What are the staff establishment (including civil servants and outsourced staff) and the overall expenditures on salaries in the 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)? What are the details of the work and the overall expenditures on salaries for the veterinary officers, field officers and frontline staff at the AMCs respectively?
- (f) Please set out the numbers of the various types of animals caught by the Department (with a breakdown by the channels through which they were received) and the numbers of the various types of animals reclaimed by the owners, rehomed and

euthanised over the past 5 years. Please also set out, by district, the numbers of dogs caught and returned under the scheme over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 29)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides animal management services to the public through 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs). Stray animals caught will be put in the AMCs for observation. For animals with a microchip implanted, the AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in the AMCs temporarily for about 10 to 20 days. For those without a microchip, the AMCs will keep them for at least 4 days to allow time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary surgeon as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will arrange for their transfer to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) for adoption by members of the public. Only animals that remain unclaimed or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

The expenditure involved in the catching operations and the handling of stray animals caught (including euthanasia cost) over the past 5 years is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure on catching operations (\$ million)	Expenditure on handling of stray animals caught (including euthanasia cost) (\$ million)	Total Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	25.6	3.6	29.2
2013-14	27.1	3.9	31.0
2014-15	28.9	3.6	32.5
2015-16	29.0	3.6	32.6
2016-17 (revised estimate)	29.4	3.5	32.9

AFCD does not have further breakdown of the above expenditure items.

- (b) In 2012, the original proposal of implementing the trap-neuter-return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs at 3 potential sites located at Yuen Long, Sai Kung and Lamma Island encountered objections from the respective District Councils and local communities. AFCD, in collaboration with 2 AWOs, subsequently identified 3 alternative potential sites, 1 in Yuen Long and 2 on Cheung Chau, and consulted the local communities and the respective District Councils on the proposed trial programme. While there was no negative feedback on the Yuen Long trial site, we received objection from the local community near 1 of the trial sites on Cheung Chau. To address the concerns raised by the residents of that community, the AWO concerned decided to take that site out from the trial scheme.

To facilitate the implementation of the TNR trial programme on Cheung Chau and in Yuen Long by the 2 AWOs mentioned above, the Dangerous Dogs Regulation (Exemption) (Amendment) Notice 2014 and the Rabies (TNR Programme) (Exemption) Notice 2014 were enacted and they commenced operation in January 2015. The implementation cost of the TNR trial programme is fully borne by the 2 AWOs concerned. AFCD has separately commissioned a consultant to conduct a baseline survey on the number of dogs at the 2 trial sites, monitor the implementation of the trial programme, and assess the effectiveness of the TNR approach in reducing the stray dog population and its associated nuisance at the trial sites.

The average annual expenditure by AFCD over the past 5 years (between 2012-13 and 2016-17) in connection with the TNR trial programme is around \$1.2 million.

The 3-year TNR trial programme is still in progress. AFCD will closely monitor the progress of the trial programme, and will consider the way forward upon completion of the trial programme in 2018.

- (c) In 2017-18, provisions of \$1 million and \$1.4 million have been earmarked for the euthanasia of animals and the TNR trial programme respectively, which are essential to our work on the management of stray animals. We have no plan to re-allocate the expenditure involved in the euthanasia of animals for other purposes.
- (d) The expenditure on the management of stray animals is provided in part (a) above.
- (e) Information on the existing staff establishment of the 4 AMCs under AFCD, including civil servants and outsourced staff, is given below:

	New Territories North AMC	New Territories South AMC	Kowloon AMC	Hong Kong AMC
Veterinary Officer	1	1	1	1
Field Officers	15	11	16	12
Frontline staff	43	28	31	27
Outsourced cleansing staff	4	4	3	5
Total	63	44	51	45

Note: The 4 AMCs are overseen by 1 Senior Veterinary Officer.

The duties of the Veterinary Officers, Field Officers and frontline staff at the AMCs are given below:

Rank	Area of work
Veterinary Officer	To supervise the daily operation of the AMC and oversee enforcement of animal-related legislation
Field Officer	To supervise the carrying out of investigation, inspection and enforcement actions taken under animal-related legislation

Frontline staff	To carry out investigation, inspection and enforcement actions under animal-related legislation, including catching operations and licensing matters
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The estimated expenditure on the salaries of the above staff in 2016-17 is \$60.0 million.

- (f) The number and species of stray animals caught and the number and species of animals given up by owners, received through other channels by AFCD, reclaimed by the owners, rehomed and euthanised over the past 5 years are in the Annex.

There are 2 trial sites (i.e. the Cheung Chau trial site and Tai Tong trial site) under the TNR trial programme. The number of dogs trapped, neutered and returned to the Cheung Chau trial site and the Tai Tong trial site are 64 and 37 respectively.

Annex

Calendar Year	Stray Animals Caught			Animals Given Up by Owners			Animals Received through Other Channels			Animals Reclaimed			Animals Rehomed			Animals Euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2012	4 722	3 027	260	2 009	248	85	1 131	98	1 276	1 292	707	348	666	145	89	5 675	1 950	1 160
2013	4 626	2 866	444	1 871	222	105	1 271	136	1 001	1 379	779	315	770	206	116	5 353	1 861	1 015
2014	3 676	1 836	1 374	1 464	132	28	809	78	656	1 235	576	253	679	212	75	3 868	1 039	1 594
2015	2 412	1 359	1 418	1 284	129	109	378	73	3 590	774	626	11	651	168	83	2 421	696	3 469
2016	1 919	876	1 494	1 003	107	56	343	70	674	637	400	1	513	136	92	1 814	449	748

* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)067

(Question Serial No. 1840)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What were the expenditures and the details of the work of the inter-departmental special working group (working group) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Hong Kong Police Force, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) over the past 5 years? What is the estimated expenditure of the working group in 2017-18? Would the Government consider dedicating the estimated expenditure for the establishment of animal police?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 30)

Reply:

In 2011, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), in conjunction with the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), set up an inter-departmental special working group for forging close cooperation and mutual support in handling animal cruelty cases. The working group meets regularly to discuss the handling of individual cases, formulate guidelines for improving efficiency in the detection and prevention of animal cruelty cases, and review the guidelines from time to time. In addition, the working group has also been organising training courses for relevant government officers to facilitate continuous enhancement of their understanding of animal welfare issues and skills for handling animal cruelty cases. It keeps in view the level of penalty handed down by the court for the purpose of considering whether a review of the relevant regulations is necessary.

The relevant departments/parties in the working group have made use of their existing resources to carry out the work in combating cruelty to animals.

Furthermore, AFCD has been actively involved in the "Animal Watch Scheme" (the Scheme)

launched by the Police since 2011 to strengthen co-operation among the Police, AFCD, SPCA and other stakeholders in the investigation of cases involving cruelty to animals. Specifically, AFCD provides expert veterinary advice necessary for the investigation of animal cruelty cases and carries out post-mortem examination to find out the cause of death including whether the animals have been cruelly treated.

On the enforcement front, reports of animal cruelty cases received by the Police will be taken up by the crime investigation teams in various districts which have sufficient experience and professional investigation skills to follow up cases of cruelty to animals. Depending on the manpower of the police district, the nature and the prevailing trend of cases, the Police may consider assigning cases to dedicated teams in the interest of ensuring comprehensive and focused investigation. This arrangement allows the Police to flexibly deploy its limited resources, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of its efforts in combating acts of cruelty to animals. The Government considers that the existing mechanism has proved to be effective and therefore has no plan to establish an animal police team.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)068

(Question Serial No. 1842)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The amount of subventions for “animal welfare organisations” under the Operating Account is estimated to be \$500,000. Please set out the names of the organisations that have submitted applications to the Department, the projects and amounts of subventions applied for, the application results (applications fully approved, partially approved or rejected) and the amounts of subventions granted, etc. since the inception of the scheme. What are the criteria for approving the applications? Has the Department conducted any review on the effectiveness of such subventions? If yes, what are the details? If not, would the Department consider conducting relevant reviews?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 31)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been collaborating with animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to enhance animal welfare and promote better animal management. Recognising that most AWOs are non-profit making with limited resources, the Government has been providing subvention to these AWOs in supporting their work as long as resources permit.

Since the inception of the subvention scheme in 2011, a total of 43 applications have been received by AFCD from 12 AWOs. Interested AWOs may submit their applications together with details of their animal welfare initiatives, estimated budget, and the associated performance indicators under the proposed programme to AFCD for consideration. Details of the applications are listed in the Annex.

AFCD has been monitoring the implementation of the subvention scheme. Document review and audit inspections are conducted to monitor the implementation and assess the outcome of individual subvented programmes. Thus far, the results of all subvented programmes are found to be satisfactory.

Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2011-12 and released in 2012-13)¹

	AWOs	Programmes	Amount Sought (\$)	Amount Approved (\$)	Amount Released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To set up facilities and purchase equipment for a new adoption centre	288,000	78,000	57,868
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide de-sexing service for owned dogs at Ap Lei Chau boatyard	300,000	60,000	0*
3	Lifelong Animal Protection (LAP)	To set up an adoption and education resource centre	810,000	173,000	173,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA)	To operate a de-sexing programme for warehouse dogs	1,261,277	229,000	202,974
	Total		2,659,277	540,000	433,842

¹ AWOs may submit their application for subvention to AFCD during the period from 1 October to 30 November each year. After consideration by AFCD, approved funds will be issued in the next financial year on a reimbursement basis after acceptance of reports and presentation of proofs of expenditures incurred.

* No claims for reimbursement from the AWO concerned have been received.

Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2012-2013 and released in 2013-14)

	AWOs	Programmes	Amount Sought (\$)	Amount Approved (\$)	Amount Released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To operate an animal adoption centre	288,000	78,000	65,600
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To build dog houses for the Tai Po Rehoming Centre	201,600 ²	201,600	201,600
3	LAP	To set up an adoption and education resource centre	810,000	100,000	99,779
4	SAA	To conduct an animal shelter renovation project	470,000	260,000	260,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce annual reports and conduct various education programmes	550,000	51,000	45,872
6	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and SAA	To conduct a 2-year education programme on village dog management	300,000	300,000	12,000 (SPCA) 2,400 (SAA)
	Total		2,619,600	990,600	687,251

² The original amount applied for by the AWO concerned was \$199,480. The final cost of the dog houses purchased (\$201,600) exceeded the amount of subvention previously approved by AFCD due to inflation. AFCD approved the additional amount of \$2,120 when the AWO concerned sought reimbursement.

Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2013-14 and released in 2014-15)

	AWOs	Programmes	Amount Sought (\$)	Amount Approved (\$)	Amount Released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To operate an animal adoption centre, and conduct animal rescue, education and publicity projects	190,000	90,000	84,339
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To conduct an adult dog rehome scheme	224,000	150,000	150,000
3	LAP	To operate the LAP Centre, organise workshops and revamp the LAP Centre's website	1,184,000	120,000	120,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce annual reports, purchase dietary supplement for rabbits and conduct publicity programmes	150,000	52,000	44,835
5	Hong Kong Rescue Puppies	To produce educational materials and purchase necessary medications and feeds for rescued animals	185,232	40,000	0*
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To operate the Sai Kung Animal Management Centre and carry out animal rehoming activities	223,000	35,000	35,000
7	SPCA and SAA	To continue their 2-year education programme on village dog management	Applied for in 2012-13	Approved in 2012-13	13,200 ³ (SPCA)
	Total		2,156,232	487,000	447,374

³ AFCD approved a joint application from SPCA and SAA for a 2-year education programme on village dog management in 2012-13. Upon receipt of claims from SPCA, AFCD released the remaining funding to them in 2014-15.

* No claims for reimbursement from the AWO concerned have been received.

Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2014-15 and released in 2015-16)

	AWOs	Programmes	Amount Sought (\$)	Amount Approved (\$)	Amount Released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To operate an adoption centre and conduct animal welfare projects	160,000	90,000	76,679
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To conduct an adult dog rehome scheme	224,000	150,000	150,000
3	LAP	To purchase medications and feeds for rehoming animals and conduct publicity and education programmes	1,808,000	120,000	120,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To conduct education programmes and provide medical treatment for rabbits	135,000	49,000	48,181
5	Hong Kong Rescue Puppies	To produce a publicity booklet entitled “Responsible Pet Ownership” and conduct a rehome scheme	185,232	40,000	0*
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To conduct various animal management programmes	227,000	45,000	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To conduct education, publicity, rescue and adoption programmes	80,000	30,000	30,000
	Total		2,819,232	524,000	469,860

* No claims for reimbursement from the AWO concerned have been received.

Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2015-16 and released in 2016-17)

	AWOs	Programmes	Amount Sought (\$)	Amount Approved (\$)	Amount Released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To conduct adoption promotion programmes, produce educational materials and further improve the Foundation's website	180,000	80,000	73,934
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To operate an adult dog rehome scheme	204,000	125,000	125,000
3	LAP	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming animals	1,571,000	100,000	100,000
4	SAA	To conduct various education programmes	388,155	40,000	38,591
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick or injured rabbits	129,000	45,000	41,620
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	235,000	45,000	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To conduct adoption promotion programmes, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation's website	54,000	24,000	16,365
9	SPCA	To conduct an Animal Caring Ambassador Programme	200,000	45,000	44,854
	Total		3,041,155	532,000	513,364

Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for and approved in 2016-17)⁴

	AWOs	Programmes	Amount Sought (\$)	Amount Approved (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programmes	120,000	85,000
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide vaccination and food for rehoming animals	218,400	130,000
3	LAP	To provide preventive medical treatment for rehoming animals	1,962,000	100,000
4	SAA	To produce educational materials for promoting animal welfare and responsible pet ownership	53,040	42,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	62,000	48,000
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	320,000	46,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To promote adoption, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation website	40,500	21,000
9	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	To catch stray dogs for neutering, vaccination and treatment	120,000	0
10	Conservation of Earth and Animal Association	To purchase mobile surgery for veterinary treatment and human counselling service and purchase surgical equipment	3,200,000	0
	Total		6,175,940	500,000

⁴ The amount of subvention will be released in the financial year 2017-2018. The figures on the amount to be released for these programmes are not available yet.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)069

(Question Serial No. 1844)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What were the details and expenditure on the work related to the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance over the past 5 years (including the types of animals involved in the cases, number of persons arrested, number of prosecutions instituted and details of the penalties, etc.)? Would the Government consider increasing the penalties under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance to enhance the deterrent effect? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 32)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is one of the departments involved in the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (the Ordinance). The on-going work carried out by AFCD in this respect includes (a) inspection of the relevant premises and facilities including pet shops, animal boarding premises, riding schools, animal exhibition venues, etc. to ensure compliance with the relevant animal welfare standards; (b) gathering intelligence on suspected animal cruelty or abuse activities and sharing the information on cases that require follow up with the relevant enforcement authorities; and (c) conducting investigation of animal cruelty reports/complaints and taking prosecution actions if there is sufficient evidence.

In 2011, AFCD, in conjunction with the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), set up an inter-departmental special working group for forging closer cooperation and mutual support in handling animal cruelty cases. The working group meets regularly to discuss the handling of individual cases, formulate guidelines for improving efficiency in the detection and prevention of animal cruelty cases, and review the guidelines from time to time. In addition, the working group has also been organising training courses for relevant government officers to facilitate continuous enhancement of their understanding of animal welfare issues and skills for handling animal cruelty cases.

Furthermore, AFCD has been actively involved in the “Animal Watch Scheme” launched by the Police since 2011 to strengthen co-operation among the Police, AFCD, SPCA and other stakeholders in the investigation of cases involving cruelty to animals. Specifically, AFCD provides expert veterinary advice necessary for the investigation and carries out post-mortem examination to find out the cause of death including whether the animals have been cruelly treated.

The expenditure of AFCD on the prevention of animal cruelty and enforcement of the Ordinance over the past 5 years is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	2.1
2013-14	1.7
2014-15	2.0
2015-16	2.6
2016-17 (revised)	3.1

Details of successful prosecutions under the Ordinance initiated by AFCD and the Police over the past 5 years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of Persons Convicted	Penalties Imposed	
		Range of Fine (\$)	Range of Imprisonment
2012	18	1,000 to 5,000	6 weeks to 4 months
2013	15	500 to 2,000	14 days to 8 months
2014	24	2,000 to 20,000	6 days to 1 year and 4 months
2015	10	2,000	14 days to 2 months
2016 (January to September)	8	5,000	28 days to 2 months

The penalty level under the Ordinance was last revised in 2006 and raised, by a significant margin, from a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for 6 months, to a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for 3 years. We have compared the penalty level under the Ordinance with the relevant provisions of legislation of other places. Having regard to the findings of the legislative provisions in other jurisdictions, the maximum penalty under the Ordinance is in fact heavier than most of them. We believe that the current penalty level is effective in deterring against acts of animal cruelty. Through concerted efforts of concerned Government departments and animal welfare organisations, we would continue to vigorously combat animal cruelty and enforce the Ordinance.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)070

(Question Serial No. 1901)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Please set out the details of the work and the total expenditure, with an exhaustive breakdown, of the Cattle Management Team (the Team) over the past 5 years. What is the estimated expenditure on the Team in the financial year 2017-18?
- (b) In November 2013, the Department launched the "Capture-Sterilise-Relocate" trial programme (the trial programme) for cattle in the community. What were the expenditure involved and the effectiveness of the trial programme since its implementation? What is the estimated expenditure on the trial programme in the financial year 2017-18?
- (c) Apart from the Team and the trial programme, has the Department undertaken any other work to manage cattle in the community? If yes, what are the details of such work and its effectiveness? Please also provide the expenditure involved in such work over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in the financial year 2017-18.
- (d) What are the criteria for relocation under the trial programme? Are there any internal guidelines or codes for the Team and the relevant decision makers to refer to? If yes, please provide the details of the criteria; if no, will the Department consider establishing such criteria?
- (e) Has the Department conducted any assessment on the safety and capacity of new habitats before relocating cattle, and any follow-up assessment on the health condition of the relocated cattle after relocation? If yes, please provide the relevant report(s); if no, what are the reasons? Will the Department consider conducting such assessment before relocation?

- (f) Please set out by district the numbers of cattle in the community, traffic accidents and casualties with cattle in the community involved, and cattle trapped and relocated, over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 41)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has adopted a multi-pronged approach for managing stray cattle. One of the key measures is the “Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation” (CSR) programme launched in late 2011, under which AFCD captures and sterilises stray cattle mainly in Sai Kung and Lantau Island, and then relocates them to more remote locations. In addition, AFCD has been studying the feasibility of sterilising cattle chemically with the use of a contraceptive drug named Gonacon, and is currently assessing the efficacy.

Moreover, AFCD has been exploring the feasibility of installing a cattle grid on a trial basis in Sai Kung, with a view to confining the stray cattle to a certain area. AFCD has been liaising with the relevant departments on the technical feasibility and implications to pedestrians and road users involved in installing a cattle grid at the subject location.

The expenditure involved in stray cattle management over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure for such work in 2017-18 are tabulated below:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	3.9
2013-14	4.2
2014-15	6.7
2015-16	3.0
2016-17 (revised estimate)	2.8
2017-18 (estimate)	2.8

- (b) In addition to the ongoing CSR programme mentioned in Part (a) above for managing stray cattle, a “Capture, Sterilisation and Translocation” (CST) pilot scheme was conducted in 2013-2014 to assess whether cross-district translocation of stray cattle would be an effective measure to reduce the likelihood of cattle causing nuisance and traffic obstruction in the district. Results of the pilot scheme revealed that the majority of the subject cattle translocated from Sai Kung and Lantau stayed in the recipient areas were in good health. The number of complaints related to nuisance received in the two areas had decreased. The expenditure involved was \$0.6 million.
- (c) Since implementation of the CSR programme, 382 heads of the cattle captured mainly from Sai Kung and Lantau Island have been surgically sterilised. As cattle are long-living animals, the CSR programme requires a relatively long period of time to

show the desired effect of controlling cattle population. AFCD will continue to implement the CSR programme and review its effectiveness when sufficient information on changes in the cattle population over time is available. The expenditure for conducting the CSR programme over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure for 2017-18 are tabulated below:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	2.4
2013-14	3.4
2014-15	4.7
2015-16	2.3
2016-17 (revised estimate)	2.1
2017-18 (estimate)	2.1

- (d) Under the CST pilot scheme, 29 heads of cattle were translocated from Sai Kung to Shek Pik Reservoir on Lantau Island, and 21 heads from South Lantau to High Island Reservoir in Sai Kung. The major consideration in selecting cattle for this pilot scheme was the herd structure of the cattle. Cattle within the same family or herd would be translocated together. In addition, cattle selected had to be in good health condition and temperament.
- (e) For implementing the CST pilot scheme and the CSR programme, AFCD has carefully assessed the recipient sites in rural areas or country parks to ensure that there are adequate food and water to sustain the relocated herd. Cattle of the same family group are relocated together as far as possible to maintain the herd structure. After relocating the cattle to the recipient sites, regular site visits and inspections are carried out by AFCD to closely monitor the health condition of the cattle and provide veterinary care to the sick or injured ones when necessary.
- (f) According to a territory-wide population survey on stray cattle conducted in 2013, there were around 1 200 stray cattle in the rural areas of Hong Kong. The estimated number of stray cattle and their distribution based on the survey are tabulated below:

District	Estimated number of brown cattle	Estimated number of buffaloes
Sai Kung/ Ma On Shan	450	0
Lantau Island	225	75
Northeast New Territories	235	0
Central New Territories	200	45
Total	1 110	120

The total number of brown cattle and buffaloes managed over the past 5 years is set out as follows:

	Number of cattle and buffaloes
Captured*	744
Sterilised	379
Relocated*	483

* The number includes repeated captures and relocation of cattle and buffaloes

AFCD does not have data on the number of cattle injured or killed in traffic accidents.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)071

(Question Serial No. 1906)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Please provide the details of the expenditures of the Department on the control of imports of animal skin and fur products over the past 5 years and in the financial year 2017-18. What are the details of the inspections and quarantine operations conducted by the Department at various boundary control points and the Hong Kong International Airport? What are the frequencies of conducting such inspections and operations?
- (b) Please set out the details, including types, places of origin, composition/species of animals involved, reasons for contravening the ordinance(s), quantities imported of the products, the penalties, etc., of the prosecutions taken against the import of animal skin and fur products in contravention of the Rabies Regulation (the Regulation), the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (the Ordinance) or other ordinances over the past 5 years.
- (c) Has the Department taken any measures to step up the monitoring on trading in respect of animal skin and fur products? If yes, what are the details? Will the Department consider introducing a certification scheme for identifying places of origin of skin and fur products, requiring that all skin and fur products imported and for trading in the market must bear labels indicating whether the skin and fur used are genuine (and the types of animals) or counterfeit?
- (d) Will the Department consider imposing heavier penalties on the Regulation, the Ordinance and other relevant ordinances with a view to further enhancing the deterrent effect on the illegal import of animal skin and fur products into Hong Kong and trading in the market?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 44)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s measures on the control of the import of live animals and animal products under the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A) (the Regulation) and the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) (the Ordinance) are overseen by the Food and Health Bureau and the Environment Bureau respectively. The relevant expenditure incurred by AFCD over the past 5 years and the 2017-18 estimate for this area of work are as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	12.6
2013-14	14.4
2014-15	16.3
2015-16	17.9
2016-17 (revised estimate)	19.3
2017-18 (estimate)	19.3

The number of inspections/operations with regard to animal skin/fur products under the Regulation and the Ordinance by AFCD at various boundary control points and the Hong Kong International Airport over the past 5 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of inspections/operations
2012	100 887
2013	101 922
2014	84 557
2015	68 845
2016	62 445

- (b) There was no prosecution case under the Regulation over the past 5 years involving illegal imports of animal skin and fur products. The statistics on conviction cases involving illegal imports of animal skins and furs of scheduled species under the Ordinance over the past 5 years are set out below:

Calendar Year	Confiscated item	Quantity involved	Species	Last exporting place	Sentence
2013	Crocodile watchstrap	2 pieces	Crocodylia species	Switzerland	A fine of \$3,500
2014	Cheetah skin [*]	1 piece	Acinonyx jubatus	Namibia	A fine of \$60,000
2016	Elephant belts [^]	4 pieces	Elephantidae species	Zimbabwe	6 weeks imprisonment and a fine of \$50,000

Calendar Year	Confiscated item	Quantity involved	Species	Last exporting place	Sentence
	Crocodile belts	4 pieces	Crocodylia species	Mozambique	A fine of \$6,000
	Crocodile belts and wallet [#]	6 pieces	Crocodylia species	Mozambique	A fine of \$12,000

Note: No case was recorded for 2012 and 2015.

* The confiscated items of the case also included 1.767 kg of worked ivory and 2 pieces of rhino horn.

[^] The confiscated items of the case also included 17.82 kg of ivory.

[#] The confiscated items of the case also included 0.77 kg of pangolin scales.

- (c) & (d) Imports of animal skin and fur products are mainly regulated for the prevention and control of rabies and protection of scheduled species through enforcing the Regulation and the Ordinance. At present, offenders found guilty of breaching the Regulation are liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and to imprisonment for 1 year. Offenders found guilty of breaching the Ordinance are liable to a maximum fine of \$5,000,000 and to imprisonment for 2 years. AFCD has been carrying out inspection and quarantine operations at various boundary control points as well as the Hong Kong International Airport to deter illegal imports of animal products controlled under the Regulation and the Ordinance. In order to provide a sufficiently strong deterrent against illicit wildlife trade, and to send a clear signal to the international and local communities that the Government is committed to the protection of endangered species and combat against smuggling of endangered species, the Government has proposed to increase the penalties under the Ordinance. Currently, AFCD has no plan to introduce a trade certification/labelling scheme for animal skin and fur products.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)072****(Question Serial No. 1912)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

- (a) What were the Department's expenditures on animal traps over the past 5 years and what is the expenditure on the same in the financial year 2017-18? Please set out the types and numbers of animals caught by the Department over the past 5 years, with a breakdown by the channels through which they were caught.
- (b) What are the types and number of animal traps currently kept by the Department?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 45)Reply:

- (a) The types and number of animals caught with animal traps by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 5 years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Types of animals caught with animal traps				
	Dogs (by cage/snare)	Cats (by cage)	Pigeons (by cage)	Monkeys (by cage/snare)	Wild pigs (by trap)
2012	147/587	2 439	69	1 059/14	0
2013	157/630	2 264	139	769/15	0
2014	101/404	1 406	238	533/25	0
2015	159/142	1 009	473	454/14	0
2016	76/118	564	218	521/31	2

The expenditure of AFCD involved in purchasing and maintaining animal traps over the past 5 years and in 2017-18 is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	0.38
2013-14	0.12
2014-15	0.32
2015-16	0.08
2016-17 (revised estimate)	0.10
2017-18 (estimate)	0.18

- (b) At present, AFCD has a total of 241 cage traps for catching dogs and cats, 56 snares for catching dogs, 40 cage traps for catching feral pigeons, 12 snares and 54 cage traps for catching monkeys, and 4 cage traps and 1 corral trap for catching wild pigs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)073

(Question Serial No. 2206)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Apart from strengthening regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities, will the Government take other measures to enhance animal welfare? If yes, what are the specific measures as well as the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (Member Question No. 30)

Reply:

In 2017-18, apart from introducing the new licensing regime to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to strengthen the promotion of animal welfare. The measures include:

- (i) implementing an enhanced public education and publicity programme and enhancing AFCD's website to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets, and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as the benefits of neutering;
- (ii) assisting the animal welfare organisations (AWOs) concerned in implementing the trap-neuter-return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs which is expected to be completed in early 2018;
- (iii) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
- (iv) taking enforcement action against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation;

- (v) improving the handling of reports or complaints on cruelty to animals through the inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong);
- (vi) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, AWOs in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
- (vii) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities.

A provision of 204 staff and \$54.9 million has been earmarked for the above work in 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)074

(Question Serial No. 2234)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18, the Government mentioned that it would focus its work on “strengthening measures for stray animals management”. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How will the Government expand the trial zone of the trap-neuter-return trial programme for stray dogs? Please provide the relevant details and the time frame for the initiative.
- (b) Apart from the above programme, what specific measures will the Government take to manage stray animals?
- (c) Will the Government collaborate with voluntary civil groups to strengthen stray animals management?
- (d) What are the manpower and expenditure involved in the above work?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

- (a) The 3-year trap-neuter-return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs, which is being conducted at the two trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 animal welfare organisations (AWOs) since early 2015, is still in progress. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is closely monitoring the progress, and will consider the way forward upon completion of the trial programme in 2018.
- (b) AFCD adopts a catch and removal approach aimed at reducing the nuisance at source and controlling the population of stray animals. AFCD will act on complaints against stray animals and try to locate and catch them. Animals caught will be put in the

Animal Management Centres (AMCs) for observation. For animals with a microchip implanted, the AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in the AMCs temporarily for about 10 to 20 days. For those without a microchip, the AMCs will keep them for at least 4 days to allow time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary surgeon as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will arrange for their transfer to AWOs for adoption by members of the public. Only animals that remain unclaimed or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

AFCD has also been actively promoting the serious responsibility and commitment that go with pet keeping, and educating the public how to be a responsible pet owner. AFCD has been implementing public education and publicity programmes to disseminate messages on caring for animals and responsible pet ownership. The work is bearing fruit, as more and more people have come to recognise the responsibility and commitments as a pet owner. The number of stray animals caught by AFCD has been decreasing over the past few years.

- (c) Apart from collaborating with 2 AWOs on conducting the TNR trial programme as mentioned in part (a) above, AFCD is currently in partnership with 15 AWOs on the rehoming of stray animals. Furthermore, recognising that most AWOs are non-profit making with limited resources, the Government has been providing subvention to AWOs in supporting their work on promotion of animal welfare and re-homing of stray animals as long as resources permit. AWOs are welcome to join hands with AFCD on the work on stray animal management.
- (d) The manpower and estimated expenditure involved in stray animal management in 2016-17 are 187 staff and \$32.9 million respectively, of which 2 AFCD staff and \$1.5 million are allocated for the TNR trial for stray dogs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)075

(Question Serial No. 2235)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Government stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18 that it would strengthen the promotion of animal welfare. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What specific measures will the Government take for strengthening the promotion of animal welfare and how would they be delivered? Please provide the details and the plan.
- (b) Will the above measures include the legislation or amendment of existing legislation?
- (c) What are the manpower and the expenditure involved in strengthening the promotion of animal welfare? Is there any indicator to evaluate the effectiveness?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

- (a) In 2017-18, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to strengthen the promotion of animal welfare. The measures include
 - (i) implementing an enhanced public education and publicity programme and enhancing AFCD's website to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets, and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as the benefits of neutering;

- (ii) assisting the animal welfare organisations (AWOs) concerned in implementing the trap-neuter-return trial programme for stray dogs which is expected to be completed in early 2018;
 - (iii) introducing the new licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale;
 - (iv) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
 - (v) taking enforcement action against pet owners and traders in contravention of the relevant legislation;
 - (vi) improving the handling of reports or complaints on cruelty to animals through the inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong);
 - (vii) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, AWOs in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
 - (viii) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities.
- (b) AFCD regularly reviews the relevant legislations as and when necessary. For instance, to further enhance animal health and welfare, the Regulations referred to in Part (a) (iii) above were amended in 2016 and came into effect on 20 March 2017 to introduce a new licensing regime regulating animal trading and breeding of dogs for sale.
- (c) A provision of 204 staff and \$54.9 million has been earmarked for the above work in 2017-18. Over the past 5 years, the number of animals surrendered by owners and the number of stray animals caught have decreased by 50% and 46% respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)076****(Question Serial No. 2236)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (609) Minor irrigation works in the New Territories (block vote)Programme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Under Subhead 609 Minor irrigation works in the New Territories (block vote), the Government's estimate for 2017-18 is lower than that for 2016-17. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Please tabulate, by administrative district, the number of minor irrigation works in the New Territories commenced or completed in 2016-17.
- (b) Please tabulate, by administrative district, the minor irrigation works projects expected to commence in 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (Member Question No. 4)Reply:

- (a) The minor irrigation works projects in the New Territories (NT) under the purview of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) commenced or completed in 2016-17 are tabulated below:

District	Project
Various locations in the NT and Lantau Island	Provision of temporary water pumping services for irrigation; and repair and maintenance of the existing irrigation facilities
Lantau Island	Repair of the aged irrigation pipeline at Pak Ngan Heung
	Repair of the aged irrigation pipeline at Sham Wat

- (b) The minor irrigation works projects in the NT under the purview of AFCD planned to commence in 2017-18 are tabulated below:

District	Project
Various locations in the NT and Lantau Island	Provision of temporary water pumping services for irrigation; and repair and maintenance of the existing irrigation facilities
North	(a) Repair of a weir and construction of a retaining wall to protect the embankment at Shue Ling Tsuen, Ta Kwu Ling; and (b) Repair of concrete channel and pavement works at Tsiu Keng, Sheung Shui
Sha Tin	Construction of an irrigation pipe to connect from end catchpit to existing rain water collection system at Nam Shan Village
Yuen Long	(a) Re-construction of damaged concrete channels at Yeung Ka Tsuen and Tsing Tam Tsuen; and (b) Replacement of an old and damaged irrigation pipeline at Wong Nai Tun Tsuen

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)077****(Question Serial No. 2432)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

What were the respective numbers of stray animals caught by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years? Please set out in detail the types of animals caught, the geographical distribution of the locations where the stray animals were caught, the ways of handling them, and the manpower and expenditure involved. How many adopters or organisations have made a request to AFCD for adoption of stray animals? Please set out in detail the ways of handling the relevant cases.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. 31)Reply:

The number and type of stray animals caught by the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years are as follows:

	2014			
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Total
AMC/HK	394	254	72	720
AMC/K	937	549	199	1 685
AMC/NTS	675	338	16	1 029
AMC/NTN	1 670	695	1 087	3 452
	2015			
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Total
AMC/HK	286	218	24	528
AMC/K	581	435	47	1 063
AMC/NTS	507	221	12	740
AMC/NTN	1 038	485	1 335	2 858

	2016			
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Total
AMC/HK	224	164	58	446
AMC/K	435	259	81	775
AMC/NTS	458	169	21	648
AMC/NTN	802	284	1 334	2 420

^ The 4 AMCs are namely AMC/Hong Kong (AMC/HK), AMC/Kowloon (AMC/K), AMC/New Territories South (AMC/NTS) and AMC/New Territories North (AMC/NTN). They are responsible for animal management work in the regions as named.

* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

Stray animals caught will be put in the AMCs for observation. For animals with a microchip implanted, the AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in the AMCs temporarily for about 10 to 20 days. For those without a microchip, the AMCs will keep them for at least 4 days to allow time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary surgeon as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will arrange for their transfer to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) for adoption by members of the public. Only animals that remain unclaimed or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

The number of animals received by AFCD which were reclaimed and re-homed over the past 3 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Animals Reclaimed#			Animals Re-homed#		
	Dogs	Cats	Others**	Dogs	Cats	Others**
2014	1 235	576	253	679	212	75
2015	774	626	11	651	168	83
2016	637	400	1	513	136	92

Sources of animals received by AFCD include stray animals caught, animals given up by owners and animals received through other channels.

** Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), cattle, reptiles, birds, etc.

The number of stray animals caught which were euthanised over the past 3 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Dogs	Cats	Other Animals^
2014	2 406	939	895
2015	1 424	605	828
2016	1 039	380	677

^ Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

The manpower involved in the management of stray animals over the past 3 years is as follows:

Financial Year	Manpower (Number of Staff)
2014-15	175
2015-16	179
2016-17	187

The expenditure involved in the management of stray animals (including catching operations and the handling of animals caught (including euthanasia cost)) over the past 3 years is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure on Catching Operations (\$ million)	Expenditure on Handling of Stray Animals Caught (including euthanasia cost) (\$ million)	Total Expenditure (\$ million)
2014-15	28.9	3.6	32.5
2015-16	29.0	3.6	32.6
2016-17 (revised estimate)	29.4	3.5	32.9

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)078

(Question Serial No. 2442)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please elaborate on the future work and the time frame in respect of “strengthening measures for stray animals management, including facilitating the implementation of the trap-neuter-return trial programme for stray dogs” and “strengthening promotion of animal welfare”.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. 41)

Reply:

In 2017-18, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to strengthen the promotion of animal welfare. The measures include:

- (i) implementing an enhanced public education and publicity programme and enhancing AFCD's website to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets, and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as the benefits of neutering;
- (ii) assisting the animal welfare organisations (AWOs) concerned in implementing the trap-neuter-return trial programme for stray dogs which is expected to be completed in early 2018;
- (iii) introducing the new licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale ;
- (iv) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;

- (v) taking enforcement action against pet owners and traders in contravention of the relevant legislation;
- (vi) improving the handling of reports or complaints on cruelty to animals through the inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong);
- (vii) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, AWOs in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
- (viii) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)079****(Question Serial No. 2443)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Not SpecifiedDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Over the past 2 years, the actual numbers of stray animals caught by the Department were 5 189 and 4 289. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The numbers of stray animals with a breakdown by type; and
- (b) The ways that the stray animals were handled. Please illustrate the various cases in tabular form, with a breakdown by type.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. 42)Reply:

The number and the type of stray animals caught by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 2 years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Dogs	Cats	Other animals*	Total
2015	2 412	1 359	1 418	5 189
2016	1 919	876	1 494	4 289

* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

Stray animals caught will be put in the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of AFCD for observation. For animals with a microchip implanted, the AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in the AMCs temporarily for about 10 to 20 days. For those without a microchip, the AMCs will keep them for at least 4 days to allow time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary surgeon as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will arrange for

their transfer to animal welfare organisations for adoption by members of the public. Only animals that remain unclaimed or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

The number of animals received by AFCD which were reclaimed and re-homed over the past 2 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Animals Reclaimed [#]			Animals Re-homed [#]		
	Dogs	Cats	Others [*]	Dogs	Cats	Others [*]
2015	774	626	11	651	168	83
2016	637	400	1	513	136	92

[#] Sources of animals received by AFCD include stray animals caught, animals given up by owners and animals received through other channels.

^{*} Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, cattle, birds, etc.

The number of stray animals caught by AFCD which were euthanised over the past 2 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Dogs	Cats	Other animals [*]
2015	1 424	605	828
2016	1 039	380	677

^{*} Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)080

(Question Serial No. 2550)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the inspection of farms where food animals are kept and marine fish culture farms, please advise on the actual and estimated numbers of inspections conducted, and the manpower involved, in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

At present, there are 72 licensed livestock farms including 43 pig farms and 29 chicken farms. The numbers of inspections carried out on these farms in 2015 and 2016 were 4 173 and 4 106 respectively. A total of 30 staff were involved in the inspection of these farms. In 2017, it is expected that about 4 200 inspections will be conducted with a similar level of manpower.

At present, there are 949 licensed marine fish culture farms. The numbers of inspections carried out on these farms in 2015 and 2016 were 6 659 and 7 550 respectively. A total of 17 staff were involved in the inspection of these farms. In 2017, it is expected that about 7 000 inspections will be conducted with a similar level of manpower.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)081****(Question Serial No. 2781)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please set out the titles, duties and remunerations of the additional 12 posts.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 5)Reply:

Details of the additional 12 posts under Programme (3) are tabulated below:

Area of Work	Rank	Number of posts	Annual Provision (\$ million)
To carry out enforcement work at boundary control points	Field Officer I	2	1.8
	Field Officer II	2	
	Field Assistant	1	
To enhance animal welfare and animal management services	Field Officer II	4	1.7
	Field Assistant	2	
	Motor Driver	1	
Total:		12	3.5

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)082

(Question Serial No. 2555)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Subhead 700 General non-recurrent, why is the estimated expenditure in 2017-18 increased by over \$100 million when comparing with the revised expenditure in 2016-17?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

The estimate under this Subhead for 2017-18 is increased by over \$100 million over the revised estimate for 2016-17 mainly due to the provision of \$100 million for the newly established Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)083****(Question Serial No. 0631)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the requirement for additional 12 posts mentioned in Programme (3), what are the staffing establishment and the nature of work of the said posts? What is the expenditure involved? How much is the increased expenditure relating to the antimicrobial resistance surveillance and testing on food animals in local farms? How does the increase in the related surveillance and testing compare with that in the past?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 42)Reply:

Details of the additional 12 posts under Programme (3) are tabulated below:

Area of work	Rank	Number of posts	Annual Provision (\$ million)
To carry out enforcement work at boundary control points	Field Officer I	2	1.8
	Field Officer II	2	
	Field Assistant	1	
To enhance animal welfare and animal management services	Field Officer II	4	1.7
	Field Assistant	2	
	Motor Driver	1	
Total:		12	3.5

In 2017-18, an additional provision of \$4.5 million is earmarked under Programme (3) for work relating to antimicrobial resistance surveillance and testing on food animals in local farms. This is a new initiative of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, with no expenditure incurred thus far.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)084

(Question Serial No. 0958)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The impact of the nuisance and hygiene problem caused by pigeons is extensive. What effective measures does the Government put in place to deal with the said problem? What are the related work arrangement and estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (Member Question No. 47)

Reply:

To address the environmental hygiene problems caused by congregation of wild pigeons, the Government has put in place various measures through the concerted efforts of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). The two departments appeal to the public not to feed wild pigeons and other wild birds through public education, publicity programmes and erecting warning signs in public places. AFCD also advises building management to install mesh or spikes to reduce perching places for wild birds. In addition, FEHD upkeeps environmental hygiene and street cleanliness by taking enforcement actions against persons found to have dirtied public areas while feeding birds, and arranging street washing and disinfection at places where wild birds congregate. Since pigeon control is part of the Government's overall avian influenza surveillance, monitoring and control, as well as environmental hygiene measure in Hong Kong, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)085****(Question Serial No. 1045)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

- (a) What is the total number of applications submitted since the establishment of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund? What is the number of successful applications?
- (b) Please tabulate the details of the successful applications and the amount involved respectively. What is the total amount approved?

Projects	Amount involved
Total	

- (c) Among the above applications, how many cases are related to the development of recreational fisheries? What is the number of successful applications? For those unsuccessful projects, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 1)Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has received 28 applications since the inception of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (the Fund) in July 2014. So far, a total of 7 applications have been approved.
- (b) Details of the 7 approved applications under the Fund are tabulated below:

Projects	Amount involved
<p>(i) “Mariculture Using Enclosure Net Cages” The project involves using large enclosure net cages extending from the water surface down to the seabed for culturing white flower croaker (mainly for its swim bladder to produce fish maw) together with two other species, namely giant grouper and pompano. Both the culture system and the culture of white flower croaker are new to Hong Kong.</p>	\$6.4 million
<p>(ii) “Fisheries-related Eco-tour Guide Training Programme for Fishermen (North-eastern Waters)” The project seeks to help fishermen develop or switch to fisheries-related ecotourism business by equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills as well as practical experience in operating eco-tours.</p>	\$2.3 million
<p>(iii) “Depurated Oyster Project Proposal” The project makes use of a depuration process and a monitoring programme to enhance the safety and quality of local oysters. It seeks to build its own brand, extend the sales network and, in the long run, maintain a stable supply of a variety of oyster products that are safe and fresh for the local market.</p>	\$3.0 million
<p>(iv) “Fishery & Eco, Conservation Program (Cheung Chau Waters)” The project helps fishermen switch to recreational fisheries by equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills as well as practical experience in operating eco-tours. It also involves planning and design of new eco-tour routes and related facilities which will be conducive to the development of new recreational fisheries in the waters of Cheung Chau.</p>	\$2.3 million
<p>(v) “Promotion and Support Scheme on Organic Certification for the Organic Aquaculture in Hong Kong” The project provides assistance to fish farmers in obtaining organic accreditation and organises activities to enhance public understanding of organic aquaculture and to promote the development of a high end market for organic aquaculture products.</p>	\$10.5 million
<p>(vi) “Establishment and Demonstration of Recirculation Aquaculture System for Fry Culture on Rafts “ The project aims to develop grouper fry culture technique with the use of seawater recirculating system on fish rafts and to promote such culture technique to local fish farmers.</p>	\$3.8 million
<p>(vii) “Safe and Quality Fish Production: Development of High Grade Pellets Using Food Wastes for Three Popular Marine Fish Species” The project makes use of local food waste to produce pellet feed for the local mariculture industry, which will facilitate the sustainable development of the industry and benefit the environment.</p>	\$8.4 million
Total:	\$36.7 million

- (c) AFCD has received 5 applications related to the development of recreational fisheries and 2 of them have been approved. Details are provided in (b)(ii) and (iv) above. 1 application has been withdrawn by the applicant. The remaining applications are being processed.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)086****(Question Serial No. 1046)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

- (a) Please provide in tabular form the existing farms with leisure and tourism attractions, and the number of visitors of the said leisure farms in each of the past 3 years.

Name of leisure farm	Number of visitors		
	2014	2015	2016

- (b) What are the measures to be implemented and the expenditure to be involved in supporting the development of leisure farming in 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 2)Reply:

- (a) It is estimated that there are 139 leisure farms in Hong Kong. Details of these farms are published by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) in "A Guide to Hong Kong Leisure Farms", available on VMO's website. The leisure farms are private commercial entities, and AFCD does not have the figures of visitors.
- (b) AFCD, together with VMO, will continue to promote the development of leisure farming as an ancillary activity to commercial crop production through the provision of training, experience sharing seminars, technical support on crop production as well as publicity work. For 2017-18, the estimated expenditure involved is \$1.5 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)087

(Question Serial No. 1047)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) has been open for application since December 2016. Please advise on the following:

- (a) What are the respective numbers of applications received and approved under SADF?
- (b) What are the amount involved in the approved projects, and the respective amounts involved in individual projects? Which of the applications are related to the development of leisure farms?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

As at 1 March 2017, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has received 2 applications under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) to fund projects that may benefit the local agricultural community as a whole. The applications are being processed. So far, no application received is related to leisure farming.

In addition, as at 1 March 2017, a total of 54 applications seeking financial assistance for individual farms to acquire farming equipment and/or materials from the Farm Improvement Scheme under SADF have been received. 6 applications have been approved, involving a total funding of \$180,000.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)088

(Question Serial No. 0022)

Head: (48) Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr SIN Wai-mei)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide the following information:

1. the expenditure of the Food Safety Laboratory in each of the past 2 years (i.e. 2015 and 2016), the current staff establishment and the estimated expenditure and manpower for 2017;
2. the number of food samples tested for regulatory compliance in each of the past 2 years (i.e. 2015 and 2016) and the estimated number for 2017; and
3. with respect to the outsourcing of some of the routine food testing work to the private sector, the scope of food testing and the number of samples outsourced, the respective ratio of outsourcing, the expenditure incurred for the outsourcing of food testing, and the manpower and expenditure involved for supervising and spot-checking the outsourcing work in the past 2 years (i.e. 2015 and 2016) and the estimated data for 2017.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 22)

Reply:

1. The expenditure of the Food Safety Laboratory (FSL) under the Government Laboratory was \$33 million in 2015-16. The revised estimate for 2016-17 is \$34 million. The current staff establishment of FSL consists of 33 professional and technical officers. The estimated expenditure for 2017-18 is \$31 million with no change in staff establishment.
2. The number of food tests (with the corresponding numbers of food samples in bracket) for regulatory compliance purposes conducted by the Government Laboratory in 2015 and 2016, and the estimated number for 2017 are as follows:

2015 (actual)	2016 (actual)	2017 (estimated)
196 655 tests (29 919 samples)	196 763 tests (30 031 samples)	184 000 tests (30 000 samples)

Note: The number of food tests already conducted comprises both tests carried out on a day-to-day basis according to a risk management approach and tests conducted pursuant to ad hoc issues such as local and international incidents relating to food safety. The estimated number of food tests to be conducted in the future reflects only the former category, as the latter category is by nature unforeseeable.

3. The scope and numbers of samples outsourced in 2015-16 and the estimated numbers for 2016-17 and 2017-18 as well as the respective ratios of outsourcing are provided in the table below:

Financial year	Number of food tests (number of samples involved)	Outsourced food tests / Government Laboratory's routine food testing work	Scope of outsourcing
2015-16	123 000 (15 100 samples)	70%	preservatives, sulphur dioxide, boric acid, propionic acid, nitrate and nitrite, colouring matter, trace metals, pesticide residues, veterinary drug residues and other food contaminants
2016-17 (estimated)	123 000 (14 900 samples)	70%	- ditto -
2017-18 (estimated)	123 000 (14 700 samples)	70%	- ditto -

The expenditure on outsourcing of food testing incurred in 2015-16 was \$12.5 million. The estimated expenditure for 2016-17 and 2017-18 are both \$12.5 million.

The Outsourcing Management Section was established in 2009-10 to perform outsourcing related activities including contract management and monitoring the performance of the contract laboratories. The Section consists of 7 professional and technical staff with annual expenditure of \$5.2 million for 2015-16 and estimated expenditures of \$5.4 million and \$5.6 million for 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)089

(Question Serial No. 2459)

Head: (48) Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr SIN Wai-mei)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The targets of the key performance measures set for 2017 show a downward trend as compared with that for 2015 and 2016. Among these targets, there is a considerable drop in the estimated percentages of testing “food complaint cases” and “other food samples” within reporting time (i.e. 25 days and 19 days respectively). This Committee had discussions on matters related to the lack of space in the existing laboratories and the need for constructing a new laboratory complex in the past. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Is the above anticipated percentage drop, which also involves a decrease in the number of samples to be tested, due to lack of laboratory space?
2. The feasibility of expanding the laboratory at Victoria Road was explored a few years ago, but no progress has been made so far. Does the Government have any plan to combine it with the new complex at Tseung Kwan O? What is the latest development of the project?
3. Upon commissioning of the new complex at Tseung Kwan O, will there be a rise in the estimated percentages of testing “food complaint cases” and “other food samples” within reporting time (i.e. 25 days and 19 days respectively)?
4. Will the details and findings of the Government’s food testing be uploaded onto the Internet for public inspection? If yes, what are the actual, revised and estimated expenditures involved in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 33)

Reply:

1-3. There is indeed a shortage of laboratory area in the Government Laboratory (GL). To enhance GL's testing capability and operational efficiency for tests relating to food safety, we are exploring the option of reprovision or expansion. Expansion of the facility in the Victoria Road and redevelopment at another site are among the options being explored. Details such as implementation timelines and budget estimates can only be ascertained when the site search and other related technical considerations are complete. We will ensure that the shortage of laboratory area does not adversely affect GL in discharging its duties and services.

The GL sets performance targets for its testing work every year. The target percentage of having "food complaint cases" tested within 25 working days has been raised from 83% in 2015 to 84% in 2016, and will remain the same in 2017. The target percentage of having "other food samples" tested within reporting time averaging 19 working days will remain to be 95% in 2017, i.e. no different from 2015 and 2016. The actual performance exceeded the aforementioned targets in both 2015 and 2016.

4. Upon completion of the testing on food samples at the request of the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, GL will provide the test results to the CFS. The CFS will make available the test results of the food samples in relation to food safety incidents of public concern through press releases and on its website. Information covered includes, for instance, the chemical analyses conducted, the test results, the follow-up actions taken by the CFS and advice to the public.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)090****(Question Serial No. 2872)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to public niches, please provide information on the following:

1. the number of deaths (Hong Kong residents) and the means of disposal of the dead by burial and cremation in the past 3 years;
2. the number of applications for public niches in Hong Kong, the number of niches allocated, the total number of applications on the waiting list for public niches and the average waiting time for a public niche in the past 3 years; and
3. details of the Department's efforts to promote the scattering of cremains at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance this year, as well as the number of cases involving scattering of cremains at sea and in Gardens of Remembrance handled by the Department in the past 3 years; whether the Department has formulated indicators for the said promotional efforts (if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s)).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 30)Reply:

1. The information sought is provided as follows -

Year	No. of Deaths	No. of Burials	No. of Cremations
2014	45 710	3 477	41 244
2015	46 757	3 355	42 737
2016	46 662	3 253	43 556

2. New niches are allocated by computer balloting. Waiting list applies only to the allocation of niches returned to the Department.

The information sought on allocation of new niches is as follows -

Year	New niches	
	No. of applications	No. of niches allocated
2014	16 321	12 053
2015	11 627	14 573
2016	178	5 239

Note: The year in which new niches are allocated may not be the same as that in which the applications are made.

In the past 3 years, on average about 270 niches per annum are returned to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department). These niches are re-allocated according to the priority in the waiting list of the respective columbarium. The information sought is provided as follows -

Year	Re-allocated niches			
	No. of applications	No. of niches re-allocated	No. of applications on the waiting list	Average waiting time (months)
2014	5 554	193	23 235	54
2015	7 164	394	21 048	45
2016	6 923	271	24 280	42

Note: The average waiting time is dependent on the number of niches that are returned to the Department for re-allocation.

3. In 2017-18, the Department will continue with its efforts in promoting green burial. Plans are in hand to sustain publicity and public education through different channels, including Announcement in the Public Interest on television and radio, promotional videos, posters and banners, a mobile app, collaboration with non-governmental organisations and promotional activities at Senior Exhibition, etc.

The number of cases handled by the Government where cremated human ashes were scattered at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance in the past 3 years is as follows -

<div> <div>Number of cases</div> <div>Year</div> </div>	Scattering of ashes		
	At sea	In Gardens of Remembrance	Total
2014	856	2 697	3 553
2015	877	3 196	4 073
2016	900	4 004	4 904

While the total number of cases where ashes are scattered at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance has increased by 38% from 2014 to 2016, it takes time for the community at large to accept green burial as a sustainable form of handling cremated human ashes. We will continue to improve the green burial facilities and services while stepping up our promotion efforts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)091

(Question Serial No. 0799)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the estimated number of niches to be provided by the Government in the coming 10 years as well as their locations. Please also advise on the current average waiting time for a public niche, as well as the number of cases where the applicants have waited for more than 1 year, 2 years, 3 years and 4 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 35)

Reply:

Under the district-based columbarium development scheme, a total of 24 potential sites have been identified in the 18 districts for columbarium development. Between the second quarter of 2011 and the end of 2016, the Government has consulted the relevant District Councils (DCs) on the projects at 14 sites, and all DCs indicated support or no-objection to the projects. These 14 projects would provide around 589 000 new niches in total, accounting for about two thirds of the total number of new niches available in all the 24 projects. The projects at 2 sites, i.e. Diamond Hill (Wong Tai Sin) and Cheung Chau (Islands), have been completed. The projects at the other 12 sites are being taken forward. They are located in Tsang Tsui (Tuen Mun), Tsing Tsuen Road (Kwai Tsing), Wo Hop Shek (Phase 1) (North), Sandy Ridge (North), Chai Wan (Eastern), Wong Nai Chung Road (Wan Chai), Shek Mun (Sha Tin), Kwai Chung (two sites) (Kwai Tsing), Lai Chi Yuen Cemetery (Islands) and Siu Ho Wan (two sites) (Tsuen Wan).

New niches are allocated by computer balloting. Waiting list applies only to the allocation of niches returned to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department). The Department will invite applications from members of the public when new niches in public columbarium are available for allocation.

For niches which are returned to the Department after use, there is a waiting list for re-allocation for each columbarium. As at December 2016, the average waiting time for

the re-allocated niches in the 8 public columbaria was 42 months. Information on the applicants' waiting time for the re-allocated niches is given below -

Waiting time for re-allocated niches	Number of applications
Less than 1 year	8 500
Over 1 year to 2 years	5 417
Over 2 years to 3 years	2 824
Over 3 years to 4 years	1 832
Over 4 years	5 707

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)092****(Question Serial No. 0989)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

The actual letting percentage of stalls in public markets was 91% in both 2015 and 2016, as compared with 2017's planned letting percentage dropping to 87%. Please advise on the letting percentage of stalls in each of the public markets in the past year and the reason(s) for not raising the planned letting percentage this year. Please also advise on the expenditure on public markets and its purposes over the past 3 years, and whether additional resources and measures will be provided to attract patronage and promote the letting of market stalls.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (Member Question No. 38)Reply:

The letting percentage (i.e. occupancy rate) of stalls in each of the public markets in the past year is provided at Annex.

The 87% letting percentage for 2017 is a planned target. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has adjusted the planned target progressively from 84% in 2011, 85% in 2012 and to the current figure of 87% as from 2015. The Department will continue to make suitable adjustment to such figure having regard to the actual performance in past years and the trend of market stall letting.

The expenditure on market management mainly includes the provision of security, cleansing and pest control services as well as repair and maintenance of market facilities. Expenditure for the past 3 financial years is given below -

Financial Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Expenditure on market management (\$ million)	741.0	720.4	843.0 (revised estimate)

To attract patronage and promote the letting of market stalls, as an on-going initiative, the Department conducts promotional activities. These include festive celebrations, thematic activities, display of multi-language recipes, publication of booklets to provide updated market information as well as other promotional activities that could help attract members of the public to visit the public markets. The estimated amount of provision earmarked for market promotional activities in 2017-18 is about \$7 million, to be increased by \$3 million when compared to the revised estimate of 2016-17.

- End -

Serial No.	Name of Market	As at 31 December 2016	
		No. of stalls	Letting percentage/ Occupancy Rate*
1	Aberdeen Market	335	99%
2	Aldrich Bay Market	71	86%
3	Apleichau Market	63	100%
4	Bowrington Road Market	296	97%
5	Causeway Bay Market	51	98%
6	Centre Street Market	46	78%
7	Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market	32	94%
8	Chai Wan Market	173	95%
9	Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market	17	100%
10	Cheung Chau Market	240	98%
11	Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	28	43%
12	Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market	12	100%
13	Choi Hung Road Market	116	69%
14	Electric Road Market	99	97%
15	Fa Yuen Street Market	180	100%
16	Fo Tan (East) Cooked Food Market	24	100%
17	Fo Tan (West) Cooked Food Market	15	100%
18	Haiphong Road Temporary Market	88	66%
19	Heung Che Street Market	223	96%
20	Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market	11	91%
21	Hung Hom Market	224	100%
22	Hung Shui Kiu Market	174	75%
23	Java Road Market	194	95%
24	Ka Ting Cooked Food Market	16	62%

Serial No.	Name of Market	As at 31 December 2016	
		No. of stalls	Letting percentage/ Occupancy Rate*
25	Kam Tin Market	41	98%
26	Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market	14	100%
27	Kin Wing Cooked Food Market	17	100%
28	Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market	14	100%
29	Kowloon City Market	581	100%
30	Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	11	100%
31	Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market	12	83%
32	Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre	98	100%
33	Kwun Chung Market	218	98%
34	Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market	29	100%
35	Lai Wan Market	42	98%
36	Lam Tei Market	7	100%
37	Lau Fau Shan Market	25	88%
38	Lei Yue Mun Market	20	100%
39	Lockhart Road Market	166	80%
40	Luen Wo Hui Market	338	99%
41	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	14	100%
42	Mui Wo Cooked Food Market	20	100%
43	Mui Wo Market	35	97%
44	Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market	28	86%
45	Ngau Chi Wan Market	402	93%
46	Ngau Tau Kok Market	466	87%
47	North Kwai Chung Market	222	100%
48	North Point Market	42	100%
49	On Ching Road Flower Market	13	92%
50	Pei Ho Street Market	227	98%
51	Peng Chau Market	18	100%

Serial No.	Name of Market	As at 31 December 2016	
		No. of stalls	Letting percentage/ Occupancy Rate*
52	Plover Cove Road Market	244	96%
53	Po On Road Market	449	93%
54	Quarry Bay Market	113	82%
55	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	11	100%
56	Sai Kung Market	209	99%
57	Sai Wan Ho Market	274	97%
58	Sai Ying Pun Market	102	89%
59	San Hui Market	324	99%
60	Sha Tau Kok Market	66	98%
61	Sha Tin Market	172	98%
62	Sham Tseng Temporary Market	29	90%
63	Shaukeiwan Market	82	56%
64	Shek Tong Tsui Market	151	98%
65	Shek Wu Hui Market	392	100%
66	Sheung Fung Street Market	71	100%
67	Sheung Wan Market	222	100%
68	Shui Wo Street Market	302	100%
69	Smithfield Market	216	100%
70	Stanley Waterfront Mart	20	95%
71	Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market	17	100%
72	Tai Kiu Market	379	99%
73	Tai Kok Tsui Market	135	100%
74	Tai O Market	26	100%
75	Tai Po Hui Market	313	99%
76	Tai Shing Street Market	442	95%
77	Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market	18	100%
78	Tai Wai Market	195	88%
79	Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	20	55%
80	Tang Lung Chau Market	34	94%
81	Tin Wan Market	180	100%

Serial No.	Name of Market	As at 31 December 2016	
		No. of stalls	Letting percentage/ Occupancy Rate*
82	Tokwawan Market	267	98%
83	Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market	18	100%
84	Tsing Yi Market	76	100%
85	Tsuen King Circuit Market	241	20%
86	Tsuen Wan Market	381	93%
87	Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market	56	100%
88	Tui Min Hoi Market	34	85%
89	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	359	41%
90	Tung Yick Market	446	41%
91	Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	8	100%
92	Wanchai Market	50	96%
93	Wing Fong Street Market	112	92%
94	Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market	18	100%
95	Wong Nai Chung Market	69	99%
96	Yan Oi Market	108	97%
97	Yau Ma Tei Market	144	96%
98	Yee On Street Market	65	98%
99	Yeung Uk Road Market	318	97%
100	Yue Kwong Road Market	197	98%
101	Yue Wan Market	374	94%

* Letting percentage is the percentage of let-out stalls versus the total number of stalls in a market. Degree of activity of let-out stalls varies.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)093

(Question Serial No. 1313)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will continue to take stringent enforcement actions against unlicensed food premises and food premises which pose immediate health hazards or with illegal extension of food business area. How does the Department review and improve its enforcement standards and approaches in daily operations so that it will not be out of tune with public sentiments and affect residents' lives and shop operators' normal business?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (Member Question No. 14)

Reply:

One of the core duties of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is the control and inspection of licensed and unlicensed food premises. To protect public health, the Department will take stringent enforcement action against the illegal operation of food business without a licence. For recalcitrant operators, the Department will step up enforcement efforts which include enhancing frequency of inspection; taking arrest and seizure action; applying to Court for closure orders to close the unlicensed food premises; and publicising the information of the unlicensed food premises through the media and Department's website once the closure orders are executed.

To enhance prospective applicant's understanding of restaurant licence application procedures, the licensing requirements and the role of relevant government departments, the Department regularly organises bi-monthly Seminar on Restaurant Licensing in different venues across the territory with free admission. All potential applicants are encouraged to attend the seminars.

For food premises which pose immediate health hazards or involve in food poisoning outbreak or food related incident, the Department will take prompt follow-up investigation to the suspected food premises involved in the incident to assess the overall hygiene condition of the food preparation area, identify irregularities, if any, in food and personal

hygiene that may lead to the food incident, and trace the source of the incriminated food with a view to preventing further outbreak.

We will take enforcement action against the licensee/operator of the food premises for any violation of the relevant Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X), and may require them to temporarily close the food premises for thorough cleansing and disinfection before resumption of business. Proper health advice on food safety and personal hygiene will be given to food handlers to prevent recurrence of food incidents.

Extension of food business outside the boundary of licensed premises, in particular in densely populated districts where space is limited, often leads to obstruction of streets and causes environmental hygiene and noise problems to nearby residents. The Department, as the licensing authority, has been tackling illegal extension of business area by food premises through the licensing system and enforcement under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132), and the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228). In addition to prosecution, the Department may impose administrative sanctions on licensees of the food premises under the Demerit Points System for convicted offences under Cap. 132 and its subsidiary legislation, and under the Warning Letter System for breaches of licensing requirements or conditions.

If a licensee of a restaurant wishes to set up an outside seating accommodation (OSA) beyond the boundary of the premises for alfresco dining, he may seek prior approval from the Department. The Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit has formed a Working Group comprising representatives of concerned government departments to review OSA applications. The Working Group has completed the review and put forward 10 recommendations for improvement at various stages to speed up the OSA application process. The recommendations have been fully implemented by the Department by June 2015.

The Department will devise enforcement strategy and measures against unlicensed or improper operation of food business and illegal extension of food business in the light of the situation on the ground, feedback from the District Councils and members of the public and review the effectiveness of the measure from time to time.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)094

(Question Serial No. 1315)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The downward trend of the number of fixed pitch hawkers and itinerant hawkers in recent years has limited people's shopping choices and the development of the community. Apart from the assistance scheme for hawker licensees, what other measures are in place to support hawkers?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (Member Question No. 16)

Reply:

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved in March 2013 a financial commitment of \$230 million for launching a five-year Hawker Assistance Scheme for some 4 300 licensed fixed-pitch hawkers operating in 43 hawker areas (the Scheme). The Scheme, which commenced on 3 June 2013, aims to provide one-off financial assistance to hawkers in the hawker areas for stall reconstruction and relocation in order to expedite the work of reducing fire risks in those areas. Besides, an ex-gratia payment is offered under the Scheme for voluntary surrender of hawker licences. This would help expedite the release of vacant pitches and facilitate the relocation of stalls which pose higher fire risks. In the course of administering the Scheme, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) would also endeavour to identify areas which could bring about enhancement to the hawking environment in the hawker areas. This includes rationalising the overall layout of hawker stalls where circumstances permit, and enhancing electrical safety.

We note that most merchandise sold in hawker areas is imported or made in bulk and are available also in other retail outlets. Nevertheless, we accept that hawker areas may add to the character of a community and shall therefore consider re-issuing new hawker licences to fill any vacant pitches in some hawker areas. In doing so, we must draw a balance between developing hawker areas and other no less important concerns related to the circumstances of individual hawker areas, including their fire safety and environmental

hygiene situations, the business environment, comments of relevant departments, as well as the views of the relevant District Council and local residents.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)095

(Question Serial No. 0011)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of Mainland processing plants supplying chilled pork to Hong Kong, the total import and average import price of Mainland chilled pork, as well as the number of inspections to the Mainland chilled pork processing plants, in each of the past three years (i.e. 2014, 2015 and 2016).

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 9)

Reply:

In 2014, 2015 and 2016, the number of Mainland processing plants approved for supplying chilled pork to Hong Kong was 4, 5 and 6 respectively. According to the record of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the quantity of Mainland chilled pork imported into Hong Kong was about 10 200 tonnes, 9 020 tonnes and 8 100 tonnes respectively.

According to the figures released by the Census and Statistics Department, the average import price of Mainland chilled pork in 2014, 2015 and 2016 was \$10.7, \$16.7 and \$18.2 per catty respectively.

The number of inspections to Mainland chilled pork processing plants in 2014, 2015 and 2016 was 3, 5 and 5 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)096

(Question Serial No. 0012)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of Mainland processing plants supplying chilled beef to Hong Kong, the total import and average import price of Mainland chilled beef, as well as the number of inspections to the Mainland chilled beef processing plants, in each of the past three years (i.e. 2014, 2015 and 2016).

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 10)

Reply:

The number of Mainland processing plants approved for supplying chilled beef to Hong Kong was 7 in each of the past 3 years.

According to the record of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the quantity of Mainland chilled beef imported into Hong Kong was about 100 tonnes in 2014. There was no importation of Mainland chilled beef into Hong Kong in 2015 and 2016.

According to the figures released by the Census and Statistics Department, the average import price of Mainland chilled beef in 2014 was \$12.5 per catty.

The number of inspections to Mainland chilled beef processing plants was 1 in each of the past 3 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)097****(Question Serial No. 0014)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please list the number of Mainland production farms exporting food (such as vegetables, fruits, live pigs, live cattle, live chickens, freshwater fish, etc.) to Hong Kong and the number of inspections to these production farms in each of the years from 2014 to 2016. Please also advise on the estimated number of inspections to be conducted in 2017, as well as the expenditure and manpower required for 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 13)Reply:

Information on the types and number of registered Mainland farms eligible for exporting foods to Hong Kong in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively is set out below –

Calendar year	Vegetable Farms	Orchards	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms	Total
2014	459	3 622	36	216	34	1	181	4 549
2015	450	2 463	34	217	34	1	174	3 373
2016	442	2 978	34	213	36	1	191	3 895

Information on the types and number of Mainland farms inspected by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively is set out below –

Calendar Year	Vegetable Farms	Orchards	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms	Total
2014	17	3	29	8	5	0	7	69
2015	13	3	22	14	6	0	9	67
2016	9	3	25	19	3	1	5	65

In 2017, CFS plans to inspect around 70 farms in the Mainland and overseas, including 50 food animal and fish farms as well as 20 vegetable farms and orchards. The exact number of those types of Mainland farms to be inspected in 2017 will depend on actual needs.

An inspection unit in CFS comprising 3 veterinary officers, 8 field officers and 1 fisheries officer is responsible for the inspection of food animal and fish farms outside Hong Kong, including those types of farms in the Mainland and overseas. The revised estimate of expenditure for conducting inspections of those types of farms outside Hong Kong in 2016-17 was \$10.4 million, and the estimated expenditure in 2017-18 is about \$11.0 million. CFS does not have separate breakdown categorically on the resources used for conducting inspection of those types of farms in the Mainland.

The inspection of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong, including the Mainland and overseas, is carried out by another team in CFS led by an agricultural officer. The officers in the team are also tasked with other duties. CFS does not have separate breakdown categorically on the resources used for conducting inspection of those types of farms in the Mainland.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)098

(Question Serial No. 0016)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

How many non-local food production farms and food processing plants (apart from those on the Mainland) were inspected by the Department in each of the years from 2014 to 2016? Please advise on the staff establishment required and expenditure involved in each of the above three years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 15)

Reply:

In 2014, a total of 6 food production farms and 14 food processing plants in the United States, Ireland, France, India, Japan and the Netherlands were inspected.

In 2015, a total of 4 food production farms and 6 food processing plants in the United Kingdom, Australia and Korea were inspected.

In 2016, a total of 8 food production farms and 11 food processing plants in Namibia, Thailand, Greece and Malaysia were inspected.

The inspection of food animal and fish farms outside Hong Kong is carried out by an inspection unit in the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. That unit comprises 3 veterinary officers, 8 field officers and 1 fisheries officer, and the actual expenditure was \$8.5 million in 2014-15 and \$9.4 million in 2015-2016. The revised estimate of expenditure in 2016-17 is \$10.4 million.

The inspection of vegetable farms, orchards and food processing plants outside Hong Kong is carried out by another unit in CFS which is tasked with other duties as well. That unit comprises an agricultural officer and 5 health inspectors. CFS does not have breakdown on the resources used specifically for conducting inspection of vegetable farms, orchards and food processing plants outside Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)099****(Question Serial No. 0018)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the quantities of fresh, chilled and frozen chickens imported from the Mainland into Hong Kong, their respective share and average import price in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2014 to 2016).

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 17)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

	Fresh Chicken			Chilled Chicken			Frozen Chicken		
	Quantity (kg)*	%	Average Import Price (\$/kg)*#	Quantity (kg)@	%	Average Import Price (\$/kg)#	Quantity (kg)@	%	Average Import Price (\$/kg)#
2014	1 767 000&	1.66	15.4	39 641 000	37.15	16.4	65 295 000	61.19	16.3
2015	115 000^	0.11	12.5	48 456 000	44.99	17.6	59 125 000	54.90	16.7
2016	55 000~	0.05	11.3	57 418 000	52.16	19.7	52 606 000	47.79	17.3

* The information is provided by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. The import data on fresh chickens as given in the trade declarations is on a per chicken basis. To facilitate comparison, the quantity and the price are presented in terms of kg by a conversion factor of 1.96 kg per chicken in 2014, 1.88 kg per chicken in 2015 and 1.72 kg per chicken in 2016.

@ This is based on information from the Hong Kong Merchandise Trade Statistics.

The information is provided by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), based on trader's import declarations to the Customs and Excise Department.

& There was no import of live chickens from the Mainland from 28 January to 5 September 2014.

- ^ Import of live chickens from the Mainland was last suspended as from 31 December 2014 due to the temporary closure of the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market (CSWTWPM) after the detection of a H7 avian influenza positive consignment of imported live poultry. Trading of live poultry at CSWTWPM resumed on 22 January 2015. However, there was no import of live poultry until 10 February 2015 and the import quantity has since been significantly reduced compared to the average in the past.
- ~ There was no import of live chickens from the Mainland since 17 February 2016.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)100****(Question Serial No. 0019)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the average, highest and lowest daily number of live pigs and live cattle imported from the Mainland into Hong Kong in each of the past three years (i.e. 2014, 2015 and 2016). Please also advise on the average, highest and lowest auction prices per picul for each of these years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 18)Reply:

Information on the number of live pigs and live cattle imported from the Mainland in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows -

Year	Daily number of live pigs and live cattle imported from the Mainland					
	Pigs			Cattle		
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest
2014	4 452	6 298	2 597	51	110	9
2015	4 338	6 993	2 094	49	97	8
2016	3 933	6 642	1 934	48	97	9

Information on the auction or wholesale prices of live pigs and live cattle imported from the Mainland in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows -

Year	Auction/wholesale prices per picul of live pigs and live cattle imported from the Mainland								
	Auction Price of Pigs (HK\$)			Wholesale Price of Cattle* (HK\$)					
				Marbled Meat Cattle			Beef Cattle		
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest
2014	1,253	1,431	1,122	4,690	4,690	4,690	4,070	4,070	4,070
2015	1,361	1,545	1,252	4,690	4,690	4,690	4,070	4,070	4,070
2016	1,567	1,777	1,463	4,690	4,690	4,690	4,070	4,070	4,070

* The wholesale price of live cattle is determined by the wholesale agent. The wholesale prices of marbled meat cattle and beef cattle were last adjusted to HK\$4,690 / picul and HK\$4,070 / picul respectively on 6 May 2013.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)101

(Question Serial No. 0020)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

As regards re-engineering of workflow and overhaul of information technology systems for more effective data management in the Centre for Food Safety in 2017-18, please provide details including the specific aspects of the scheme, the timetable of work, and the manpower and expenditure required.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 20)

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) needs to revamp its information technology (IT) systems which are out-dated and have considerable limitations in interface, data structure and automation. The overhaul of the IT systems will involve rationalization and streamlining of CFS' workflows for IT-enabled transformation to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness and strengthen data management and analysis for enhanced food safety control.

A dedicated team will be set up in the CFS to carry out the aforementioned work. The team will be headed by a supernumerary Senior Principal Executive Officer post, who will be underpinned by a multi-disciplinary team comprising about 30 non-directorate officers and contract staff (through internal redeployment of manpower resources and the creation of 5 time-limited posts in the CFS) mainly in the Analyst / Programmer, Executive Officer and Health Inspector grades. The total notional annual salary cost at mid-point for the supernumerary / time-limited posts to be created for the purpose is \$5,655,420.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)102****(Question Serial No. 0001)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of liquor licence applications received and appeals lodged, the average time taken for processing an application and listing an appeal for hearing, the success rate of appeals, as well as the number of liquor licences revoked (with a breakdown by reasons for revocation), in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 1)Reply:

The statistics sought are given below -

	2014	2015	2016	
Total number of liquor licence applications received (with the number of applications for new licence given in brackets)	8 630 (1 116)	8 936 (1 236)	6 520 (1 032)	
Average time taken for processing an application for liquor licence	37 days	37 days	1-year liquor licence	2-year liquor licence ²
			43 days ¹	37 days
Number of appeals lodged with Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB)	32	28	22	
Average time taken for listing an appeal for hearing ³	74 days	97 days	74 days	
Success rate of appeals (i.e. appeals allowed by MSAB) ⁴	58%	63%	76%	

¹ Majority of the 1-year liquor licence in 2016 were contested cases and hence

required a longer processing time.

2 The maximum validity period of a liquor licence was extended from one year to two years with effect from August 2015 via the Dutiable Commodities (Liquor) (Amendment) Regulation 2015.

3 This is counted from the date of MSAB receiving the appeal application to the date of the case being heard.

4 Only appeal cases with MSAB's decision issued before the end of a year are taken into account for calculating the success rate of appeals in that year.

The number of liquor licences revoked in 2014, 2015 and 2016 with breakdown by reasons is provided in the table below.

Reasons for revocation of liquor licence	Number of liquor licence revoked		
	2014	2015	2016
Cessation of business	12	15	7
Breach of licensing condition	1	0	0
Contravention of legislation	2	1	0
Total	15	16	7

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)103

(Question Serial No. 0002)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the average time for processing a restaurant licence application and a provisional restaurant licence application in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

In 2014, 2015 and 2016, the average processing time for issuing a full restaurant licence was 168, 170 and 172 working days respectively, while that for issuing a provisional restaurant licence was 61, 63 and 49 working days respectively.

The processing time for an application is contingent upon the time spent by the applicant in complying with the relevant licensing requirements, settling objections raised by the public or other departments concerned and addressing relevant land issues, if any. It varies from case to case.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)104****(Question Serial No. 0003)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please set out in tabular form the number of applications by restaurant licensees for outside seating accommodation and the average time for processing an application in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. Please also list the number of applications rejected (with a breakdown by reasons for rejection), appeals lodged and applications withdrawn in each of the above three years. Besides, please advise on the manpower and expenditure involved for each of these years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 3)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

	2014	2015	2016
Number of applications for outside seating accommodation	121	88	98
Average time taken for processing an application ^{Note}	13 months	15 months	15 months
Number of applications approved	25	27	18
Number of applications rejected	34	12	4
Number of applications withdrawn/abandoned	43	34	58
Number of appeals lodged	0	0	0

Note: The processing time for an application is contingent upon the time spent by the applicant in complying with the relevant licensing requirements; settling objections raised by the public or other departments concerned; and addressing relevant land issues, if any. It varies from case to case.

Information about the number of applications rejected in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (with a breakdown by reasons for rejection) is provided as follows –

Reason of Rejection	2014	2015	2016
Objection(s) raised by the concerned department(s)	32	9	4
Objection(s) raised by the public	1	3	0
Objection(s) raised by the concerned department(s) and the public	1	0	0

Under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, 115 staff in 3 licensing offices are responsible for handling applications for food business and other trade licences as well as applications for outside seating accommodation, etc. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved in the handling of applications for outside seating accommodation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)105

(Question Serial No. 0006)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of applications for revision of layout plans submitted by restaurant licensees and the number of applications approved in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

In 2014, 2015 and 2016, there were 629, 569 and 466 applications respectively for alteration to the approved layout of licensed restaurants. The corresponding number of approvals was 455, 399 and 363 respectively. Processing of some applications received in a year may not be completed in the same year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)106****(Question Serial No. 0007)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of applications for transfer of restaurant licences, the average time for processing an application, as well as the number of applications withdrawn, in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 5)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

	2014	2015	2016
No. of applications for transfer of restaurant licences	738	864	808
No. of applications withdrawn	3	2	5
Average time for processing the applications	39 working days	42 working days	42 working days

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)107

(Question Serial No. 0010)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

How many appeal cases against food business licence suspension were there in 2016? How many cases were allowed? As regards the appeal cases against licence suspension, please advise on the average, longest and shortest length of suspension.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

In 2016, there were 13 appeals against the suspension of food business licence. 4 of them were subsequently withdrawn and another 1 has yet to be determined by the Licensing Appeals Board (LIAB). Of the 8 cases heard, LIAB upheld the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's suspension decision in 4 cases and shortened the suspension period in the other 4 cases. The average suspension period, as determined by LIAB, was 6 days, with the longest period being 10 days and the shortest, 4.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)108

(Question Serial No. 0013)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of fresh provision shops with permission for selling live poultry and for selling fresh poultry carcass in 2016.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan Tommy (Member Question No. 12)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

Fresh provision shops	Number as at 31.12.2016
(1) With permission for selling live poultry (including fresh poultry carcass)	45
(2) With permission for selling fresh poultry carcass (other than (1) above)	34

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)109

(Question Serial No. 0015)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the usage rate of the on-line Licence Application Tracking Facility (ATF) in respect of food business licences, as well as the usage rate of the on-line licence application service for liquor licences, food business licences and other relevant endorsements, in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2014 to 2016). Please provide details on the publicity work, the manpower arrangement and the expenditure required in promoting the service.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 14)

Reply:

In 2014, 2015 and 2016, 48%, 50% and 57% respectively of the applicants for food business licences or their authorised persons made use of the on-line Licence Application Tracking Facility (ATF) system to monitor the progress of their applications. In 2014, 2015 and 2016, 41%, 43% and 74% respectively of the applicants for liquor licence (including club liquor licence) or their authorized persons made use of the Liquor Licence Processing System.

Starting from 1 January 2013, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) accepts online submission of applications for food business licences and permits. In 2014, 2015 and 2016, 8% of the applicants (i.e. 557 out of 6 666), 12% (816 out of 7 018) and 13% (910 out of 7 247) made use of the service respectively. To encourage wider use of the on-line service, the Department has issued promotional flyers to the applicants; displayed promotional posters in the SME One Centre of the Hong Kong Productivity Council, the 19 district environmental hygiene offices and the three licensing offices of the Department; and conducted briefings for the trade at meetings organised by the Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit and the bi-monthly seminars on restaurant licensing. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved in the promotion work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)110

(Question Serial No. 0021)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out the number of applications received for permits for online sale of restricted foods, and the average time for processing an application, since 22 February 2016. Please also list the number of applications rejected (with a breakdown by reasons for rejection), appeals lodged and applications withdrawn. Besides, please advise on the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 21)

Reply:

Since the launch of the permit regime for online sale of restricted foods on 22 February 2016 and up to 31 December 2016, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department received a total of 284 applications for those permits. 151 permits were issued. 58 applications were then being processed. 75 applications required no further processing due to withdrawal by the applicants or other factors (such as the business under application did not involve the sale of restricted foods, or the premises concerned were covered by a relevant licence). None of the applications was rejected. The average time for processing the applications was 55 days. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved in processing the applications for permits for online sale of restricted food.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)111

(Question Serial No. 0004)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out in tabular form the number of live poultry stalls in operation in each of the public markets under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in 2016.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No.11)

Reply:

The information sought is provided at Annex.

- End -

Serial No.	Name of Market	Number of live poultry stalls as at end 2016
1.	Aberdeen Market	1
2.	Bowrington Road Market	1
3.	Causeway Bay Market	2
4.	Chai Wan Market	2
5.	Fa Yuen Street Market	1
6.	Heung Che Street Market	1
7.	Hung Hom Market	2
8.	Java Road Market	3
9.	Kowloon City Market	2
10.	Kwun Chung Market	2
11.	Lai Wan Market	1
12.	Lockhart Road Market	3
13.	Luen Wo Hui Market	2
14.	Ngau Chi Wan Market	1
15.	Ngau Tau Kok Market	3
16.	North Kwai Chung Market	1
17.	Pei Ho Street Market	5
18.	Po On Road Market	2
19.	Quarry Bay Market	1
20.	San Hui Market	2
21.	Sha Tin Market	2
22.	Shek Wu Hui Market	2
23.	Sheung Fung Street Market	1
24.	Sheung Wan Market	7
25.	Shui Wo Street Market	1
26.	Tai Kiu Market	2
27.	Tai Kok Tsui Market	1
28.	Tai Po Hui Market	5
29.	Tai Shing Street Market	2
30.	Tai Wai Market	2
31.	Tang Lung Chau Market	1
32.	To Kwa Wan Market	1
33.	Tsuen Wan Market	3
34.	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	4
35.	Tung Yick Market	3
36.	Wing Fong Street Market	1
37.	Yan Oi Market	2
38.	Yau Ma Tei Market	2
39.	Yeung Uk Road Market	5
	Total:	85

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)112

(Question Serial No. 0008)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out in tabular form the number of fixed pitch hawkers and vacant pitches, as well as the vacancy rate of fixed pitches, in each of the 18 districts in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

The information sought is provided at Annex.

- End -

**Vacancy Rate of On-street Hawker Fixed Pitches
(other than Cooked Food Hawkers)**

Annex

District	2014 (as at 31.12.2014)			2015 (as at 31.12.2015)			2016 (as at 31.12.2016)		
	No. of Fixed Pitches (a)	No. of Vacant Pitches* (b)	Vacancy Rate ((b)/(a)+(b))	No. of Fixed Pitches (a)	No. of Vacant Pitches* (b)	Vacancy Rate ((b)/(a)+(b))	No. of Fixed Pitches (a)	No. of Vacant Pitches* (b)	Vacancy Rate ((b)/(a)+(b))
Central & Western	602	19	3.1%	589	28	4.5%	578	28	4.6%
Eastern	396	45	10.2%	376	11	2.8%	329	13	3.8%
Southern	30	0	0%	30	0	0%	30	0	0%
Wan Chai	439	11	2.4%	427	17	3.8%	421	19	4.3%
Islands	1	0	0%	1	0	0%	1	0	0%
Yau Tsim Mong	2 326	128	5.2%	2 235	188	7.8%	2 147	169	7.3%
Sham Shui Po	1 032	42	3.9%	997	60	5.7%	991	56	5.3%
Kowloon City	107	1	0.9%	104	2	1.9%	98	6	5.8%
Wong Tai Sin	16	0	0%	17	0	0%	17	0	0%
Kwun Tong	65	0	0%	61	0	0%	60	0	0%
Kwai Tsing	14	0	0%	13	0	0%	11	0	0%
Tsuen Wan	20	0	0%	20	0	0%	18	0	0%
Tuen Mun	8	0	0%	8	0	0%	8	0	0%
Yuen Long	17	0	0%	16	0	0%	14	0	0%
North	7	0	0%	7	0	0%	6	0	0%
Tai Po	7	0	0%	6	0	0%	6	0	0%
Sha Tin	1	0	0%	1	0	0%	1	0	0%
Sai Kung	3	0	0%	3	0	0%	2	0	0%
Total	5 091	246	4.6%	4 911	306	5.9%	4 738	291	5.8%

Remarks: * The figure represents the number of pitches vacated as a result of voluntary surrender of hawker licences under the Hawker Assistance Scheme. The figure does not include pitches located outside building staircase discharge points / emergency vehicular access, earmarked to accommodate stalls that require relocation due to fire safety considerations, absorbed in the course of rationalisation of the overall layout of hawker areas, etc. Fixed-pitches vacated for other reasons and reserved for various purposes such as resite commitments are also excluded.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)113

(Question Serial No. 0009)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out in tabular form the number of stalls and vacant stalls, as well as the vacancy rate of stalls, in each of the public cooked food markets across the territory in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No.7)

Reply:

The information sought is set out at Annex.

- End -

Serial No.	Name of Cooked Food Market	No. of stalls			No. of vacant stalls (of which frozen#) as at 31 December			Vacancy rate* as at 31 December		
		2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
1	Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market	32	32	32	0	2(2)	2(2)	0%	6%	6%
2	Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market	17	17	17	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
3	Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	28	28	28	16(16)	16(16)	16(16)	57%	57%	57%
4	Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market	12	12	12	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
5	Fo Tan (East) Cooked Food Market	24	24	24	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
6	Fo Tan (West) Cooked Food Market	15	15	15	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
7	Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market	11	11	11	0	0	1(0)	0%	0%	9%
8	Ka Ting Cooked Food Market	16	16	16	3(0)	5(0)	6(0)	19%	31%	38%
9	Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market	14	14	14	0	1(0)	0	0%	7%	0%
10	Kin Wing Cooked Food Market	20	17	17	3(3)	0	0	15%	0%	0%
11	Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market	14	14	14	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
12	Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	11	11	11	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
13	Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market	12	12	12	1(0)	1(0)	2(0)	8%	8%	17%
14	Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market	29	29	29	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
15	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	14	14	14	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
16	Mui Wo Cooked Food Market	20	20	20	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
17	Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market	28	28	28	3(3)	3(3)	4(3)	11%	11%	14%
18	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	11	11	11	1(0)	0	0	9%	0%	0%
19	Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market	17	17	17	2(0)	2(0)	0	12%	12%	0%
20	Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market	18	18	18	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
21	Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	20	20	20	0	4(0)	9(3)	0%	20%	45%
22	Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market	18	18	18	1(0)	0	0	6%	0%	0%
23	Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market	56	56	56	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
24	Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	8	8	8	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%

Serial No.	Name of Cooked Food Market	No. of stalls			No. of vacant stalls (of which frozen#) as at 31 December			Vacancy rate* as at 31 December		
		2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
25	Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market	18	18	18	1(0)	1(0)	0	6%	6%	0%

Including the number of vacant stalls that are frozen for reasons such as forthcoming improvement works.

* Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)114****(Question Serial No. 0017)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the stalls in public markets (excluding cooked food markets) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, please provide data on the following as at 31 December 2015 and 31 December 2016 respectively:

1. number of stalls let out;
2. number of vacant stalls;
3. total number of stalls;
4. vacancy rate;
5. highest stall rental;
6. lowest stall rental;
7. average stall rental;
8. median rent.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 16)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

		As at 31.12.2015	As at 31.12.2016
1.	Number of stalls let out	12 704	12 647
2.	Number of vacant stalls	1 255 (1 008 of which were frozen#)	1 270 (971 of which were frozen#)
3.	Total number of stalls	13 959	13 917
4.	Vacancy rate	9.0%	9.1%
5.	Highest monthly stall rental	\$126,588	\$126,588

6.	Lowest monthly stall rental	\$10.34	\$10.34
7.	Average monthly stall rental	\$2,867.07	\$2,919.48
8.	Median monthly rent	\$1,830	\$1,855

These stalls are frozen for reasons such as forthcoming improvement works.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)115****(Question Serial No. 0224)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

The Department is planning to reduce by phases the number of litter containers on streets and switched to using litter containers commonly known as “small mouth” bins last year to facilitate the implementation of a waste charging scheme in the future. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- the number of litter containers in the territory and the reduction rate of litter containers in the past three years (i.e. 2014-2016);
- whether the effectiveness of the litter containers with small openings in waste reduction has been assessed; and
- the measures for preventing the abusive use of litter containers placed on streets and for reducing the volume of waste.

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (Member Question No. 7)Reply:

Design and management of litter containers contribute to waste management under the policy purview of the Environment Bureau.

The number of litter containers (LCs) placed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) and the reduction rate of such LCs in the past 3 years are provided in the following table:

Year	Number of LCs	Reduction Rate	
		Compared with last year	Aggregate
2014	21 257	Not applicable	Not applicable

2015	18 017	15%	15%
2016	16 215	10%	24%

The purpose of placing LCs in public places is to facilitate pedestrians to deposit street litter. In June 2016, the Department replaced some 800 old LCs in public places (representing about 5% of the total number of LCs placed by the Department) with LCs carrying a smaller opening and affixed with eye-catching notices for trial use. These new LCs are intended to educate the public on the proper use of LCs and remind them not to dispose of household and trade waste in the LCs, with a view to inducing change to their waste disposal behavior. We do not expect that this will have any significant impact on waste reduction. Generally speaking, the street cleanliness has been maintained after the replacement.

The Department will continue to enhance publicity and education on the proper use of LCs to prevent abusive use of LCs placed on streets, and take stringent enforcement actions against offenders for illegal disposal of waste.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)116****(Question Serial No. 0227)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the green burial services, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of cases of using the service of scattering cremains in the Gardens of Remembrance and the utilisation rate in the past three years (i.e. 2014 to 2016), with a breakdown by the cemeteries managed by the Department;
- (b) the number of cases of using the service of scattering cremains at sea provided by the Department and the utilisation rate in the past three years (i.e. 2014 to 2016); and
- (c) the manpower and expenditure involved in implementing the Department's work plan for promoting the green burial services in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (Member Question No. 11)Reply:

- (a) The number of applications for scattering of cremated ashes in the Gardens of Remembrance managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the past 3 calendar years is as follows -

Name of Garden of Remembrance	No. of Applications		
	2014	2015	2016
Cape Collinson	440	511	623
Diamond Hill	1 508	1 880	2 252
Kwai Chung	340	326	464
Fu Shan	128	127	172
Wo Hop Shek Phase V	195	285	453

Wo Hop Shek Phase III	83	66	38
Cheung Chau	2	1	1
Peng Chau	1	0	1
Lamma	0	0	0
Total	2 697	3 196	4 004

As there is no fixed maximum capacity for scattering of cremated ashes at the Gardens of Remembrance managed by the Department, no utilisation rates can be provided in the above table.

- (b) Information on the number of applications received and the utilisation rate of the free ferry service provided by the Department for scattering of cremated ashes at sea in the past 3 calendar years is given below -

Year	Number of applications received	Utilisation rate
2014	790	88%
2015	817	86%
2016	850	72%

Note: The utilisation rate is calculated by the number of applications received in that year divided by the total service capacity provided in the same year. As the total service capacity has been increased in the past few years to offer greater flexibility to the public, hence despite the increase in number of applications received, the utilisation rate has decreased.

- (c) In 2017-18, the work of promoting green burial will continue to be absorbed by the Department's existing staff in various sections including the Cemeteries and Crematoria Section, the Public Information and Education Division and Senior Administrative Officer (Administration and Development)'s office. In addition, 1 Health Inspector post will be created in this year to enhance support for implementation of the Department's work plan on green burial. The estimated amount of provision earmarked for promoting green burial in 2017-18 is about \$8 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)117

(Question Serial No. 0225)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under Programme (3), the Department will continue to take forward the assistance scheme for hawker licensees to improve the fire safety and operating environment of fixed-pitch hawker areas in the coming year. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of fixed-pitch hawker stalls and vacant stalls in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2014 to 2016), with a breakdown by the 43 fixed-pitch hawker areas;
- (b) the number of hawkers applying for the above scheme, the number of these hawkers who applied for grants for relocation and reconstruction and for in-situ reconstruction, the number of these hawkers who opted for voluntary surrender of their hawker licences to the Government, and the amount of grants and ex-gratia payments involved, in each year since 3 June 2013;
- (c) the number of hawkers who have yet to apply for the above scheme as at February 2017; and
- (d) whether the Department will relocate the fixed-pitch hawker stalls in phases before the completion of the Hawker Assistance Scheme on 2 June 2018; and, after the completion of the scheme, whether similar scheme(s) will be launched to continue to provide assistance to the hawkers in fixed-pitch hawker areas.

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (Member Question No. 9)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The information sought is provided at Annexes 1 and 2.
- (c) As at 28 February 2017, 772 hawkers have yet to apply for financial assistance under the Hawker Assistance Scheme (the Scheme).

- (d) The Scheme seeks to provide the hawkers concerned with financial incentives to further reduce fire risks posed by on-street hawking activities in the hawker areas. We have made good progress in implementing the Scheme since it was launched in June 2013. All 499 hawkers whose stalls were located directly in front of staircase discharge points of adjacent building, or obstructing the operation of fire engines or other emergency vehicular access have vacated their pitches. As at 28 February 2017, among the 4 326 hawkers in the 43 hawker areas, 721 hawkers have applied for voluntary surrender of licence for ex-gratia payment. For the remaining hawkers, 2 833 have applied for reconstruction grant and 2 239 of them have completed reconstruction of their stalls to meet the fire-resisting specifications.

In the course of administering the Scheme, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) endeavours to identify areas which can bring about enhancement to the hawking environment in the hawker areas, which includes rationalising the overall layout of hawker stalls where circumstances permit. The Department would continue to follow up with the remaining hawker stalls and encourage hawkers to reconstruct their stall structures to meet the required specifications before the Scheme expires in June 2018. At present, the Administration has no plan to launch similar scheme again subsequently to provide assistance to the hawkers in fixed-pitch hawker areas.

- End -

Number of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls and Vacant Pitches in Each of the 43 Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas

District	Location of Hawker Areas	2014 (as at 31.12.2014)		2015 (as at 31.12.2015)		2016 (as at 31.12.2016)	
		No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls ¹	No. of Vacant Pitches ²	No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls ¹	No. of Vacant Pitches ²	No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls ¹	No. of Vacant Pitches ²
Eastern	Chun Yeung Street	84	3	82	0	74	2
	Marble Street	97	22	90	9	76	4
	Kam Wa Street	100	7	98	2	92	4
	Tai Tak Street	20	8	18	0	22	3
	Mong Lung Street	15	5	14	0	6	0
	Sub-total	316	45	302	11	270	13
Central & Western	Pottinger Street	43	3	39	5	36	6
	Graham Street	48	6	45	9	43	11
	Gage Street	12	3	11	4	11	0
	Li Yuen Street East	58	0	58	0	58	0
	Li Yuen Street West	53	0	53	0	53	0
	Peel Street	33	7	31	9	28	11
	Wing Kut Street	33	0	32	0	32	0
	Upper Lascar Row	12	0	12	0	12	0
	Man Wa Lane	32	0	31	1	31	0
	Sub-total	324	19	312	28	304	28
Wan Chai	Gresson Street	43	5	40	9	40	8
	Cross Street	70	1	69	1	68	2
	Tai Yuen Street	76	0	75	0	76	0
	Jardine's Crescent	157	5	155	7	141	9
	Sub-total	346	11	339	17	325	19

District	Location of Hawker Areas	2014 (as at 31.12.2014)		2015 (as at 31.12.2015)		2016 (as at 31.12.2016)	
		No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls ¹	No. of Vacant Pitches ²	No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls ¹	No. of Vacant Pitches ²	No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls ¹	No. of Vacant Pitches ²
Yau Tsim	Reclamation Street	191	24	186	28	179	24
	Pak Hoi Street	13	3	13	3	13	3
	Saigon Street	18	0	17	2	16	2
	Canton Road	19	14	19	15	19	16
	Bowring Street	94	3	91	5	90	7
	Temple Street	314	9	303	17	294	15
	Sub-total	649	53	629	70	611	67
Mong kok	Tung Choi Street	664	34	634	64	579	34
	Canton Road	285	17	280	22	272	29
	Fife Street	23	5	26	5	21	10
	Yin Chong Street	71	3	66	7	66	7
	Ki Lung Street	9	7	10	7	9	8
	Poplar Street	7	3	7	3	7	3
	Fa Yuen Street	219	0	215	0	216	0
	Nelson Street	56	6	52	10	51	11
	Sub-total	1 334	75	1 290	118	1 221	102
Sham Shui Po	Wing Lung Street	53	17	49	22	43	21
	Fat Tseung Street	39	4	35	8	34	8
	Cheung Fat Street	48	13	46	15	44	10
	Fuk Wa Street	162	0	156	2	156	2
	Fuk Wing Street	40	0	39	1	38	1
	Pei Ho Street	151	0	148	1	147	2
	Apliu Street	214	6	210	7	208	7
	Ki Lung Street	131	2	127	4	126	4

District	Location of Hawker Areas	2014 (as at 31.12.2014)		2015 (as at 31.12.2015)		2016 (as at 31.12.2016)	
		No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls ¹	No. of Vacant Pitches ²	No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls ¹	No. of Vacant Pitches ²	No. of Fixed-pitch Hawker Stalls ¹	No. of Vacant Pitches ²
	Tai Nan Street	63	0	62	0	60	1
	Kweilin Street	58	0	59	0	59	0
	Sub-total	959	42	931	60	915	56
Kowloon City	Pau Chung Street	51	1	49	2	45	6
	Sub-total	51	1	49	2	45	6
	Total	3 979	246	3 852	306	3 691	291

Remarks:

- 1 The number of fixed-pitch hawker stalls has taken into account changes due to licences surrendered under the Hawker Assistance Scheme (the Scheme) and other reasons such as the death of licensees, relocation of hawker stalls and succession of licence.
- 2 The figure represents the number of pitches vacated as a result of voluntary surrender of hawker licences under the Scheme. The figure does not include pitches located outside building staircase discharge points / emergency vehicular access, earmarked to accommodate stalls that require relocation due to fire safety considerations, absorbed in the course of rationalisation of the overall layout of hawker areas, etc. Fixed-pitches vacated for other reasons and reserved for various purposes such as resite commitments are also excluded.

Applications for Grants Received and Amount of Funding Involved

Year	Number of applications for ex-gratia payment	Number of applications for relocation cum reconstruction grant	Number of applications for in-situ reconstruction grant	Amount of funding involved [#] (\$)
2013-14 (3.6.2013-31.3.2014)	286	101	105	43,531,800
2014-15	115	228	714	49,473,000
2015-16	167	67	1 194	66,230,000
2016-17 (up to 28.2.2017)	153	17	407	30,897,400
Total	721	413	2 420	190,132,200

Remarks:

For applications for reconstruction grants where applicants have not yet provided stall reconstruction quotations, the amount of funding involved is estimated to be the maximum grant for the respective category of pitch sizes.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)118****(Question Serial No. 2134)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the establishment of staff engaged in the public service of environmental hygiene, please advise on the (i) median salary, (ii) highest salary, (iii) lowest salary, (iv) benefits package, (v) retirement protection, and (vi) total establishment expenditure in respect of (a) politically-appointed officers, (b) civil servants (all types), (c) civil servants serving on agreement terms, (d) non-civil service contract staff, and (e) outsourced workers over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. 4)Reply:

In the past 5 years, there was no politically appointed official and civil servant on agreement terms in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department). Civil servants (of all types) are remunerated according to the Model Scale 1 Pay Scale, Master Pay Scale and Directorate Pay Scale. As regards non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, their employment package is no less favourable than the provisions of the Employment Ordinance and no more favourable than those applicable to civil servants in comparable ranks. The information sought is provided as follows –

(a) Monthly salaries ^{Note}

	2012-13 \$ (as at 31.3.2013)	2013-14 \$ (as at 31.3.2014)	2014-15 \$ (as at 31.3.2015)	2015-16 \$ (as at 31.3.2016)	2016-17 \$ (as at 31.12.2016)
Civil Servant					
Model Scale 1 Pay Scale	10,155 - 13,225	10,555 - 13,745	11,055 - 14,395	11,570 - 15,065	12,115 - 15,775

Master Pay Scale	10,160 - 100,625	10,560 - 103,190	11,060 - 109,340	11,575 - 117,080	12,120 - 121,985
Directorate Pay Scale	133,150 - 169,050	136,550 - 173,350	144,700 - 183,700	154,950 - 196,700	161,450 - 204,950
NCSC staff	9,435 - 20,780	9,815 - 21,615	10,280 - 22,635	10,755 - 43,105	11,260 - 45,120

Note: The information on median salaries is not available.

(b) Total expenditure

	2012-13 \$'million	2013-14 \$'million	2014-15 \$'million	2015-16 \$'million	2016-17 \$'million (Revised Estimate)
Civil Servant	892.3	938.5	989.9	1,040.4	1,112.4
NCSC staff	31.2	30.6	32.3	27	25.9

Civil servants enjoy a range of fringe benefits, including medical and dental benefits, education allowances, housing benefits, leave and passage etc. depending on their rank, length of service, terms of appointment and other rules. On retirement, civil servants are eligible for retirement benefits as provided in the pensions legislation or specified in their terms of appointment.

As regards NCSC staff, their terms and conditions of service should be no more favourable than civil servants in comparable civil service ranks or responsibilities, where they exist, and no less favourable than those prescribed under the Employment Ordinance and the Minimum Wage Ordinance and must fully meet the provisions of other employment legislation which binds the Government, including the Employees' Compensation Ordinance. NCSC staff are provided with benefits under the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance.

Information on the monthly salaries of workers hired by outsourced service contractors and the Department's expenditure on environmental hygiene and related services contracts in the past 5 years is set out below –

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (Revised Estimate)
Monthly salaries of workers hired by outsourced service contractors (\$)	6,944 - 9,100	7,440 - 12,400	7,440 - 12,400	8,060 - 12,800	8,060 - 12,800
Annual expenditure on environmental hygiene and related services contracts (\$'million)	906.3	1,028.9	1,090.4	1,163.8	1,223.7

As regards fringe benefits and retirement benefits of workers hired by outsourced service contractors, the Department has included in the terms and conditions of outsourced service contracts the requirement that contractors have to comply with under various employment-related ordinances including the Employment Ordinance, the Minimum Wage Ordinance, the Employees' Compensation Ordinance and the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)119****(Question Serial No. 1411)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the wholesale of live cattle, please advise on the following:

- (a) the total number, the average daily number, as well as the highest and the lowest daily wholesale numbers of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (b) the monthly average, the highest and the lowest prices of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (c) the total expenditure and average expenditure per head of cattle by the Government in handling live cattle (such as the arrangements for slaughterhouses and quarantine management), as well as the manpower involved; and
- (d) the process of supplying live cattle to Hong Kong.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 20)Reply:

- (a) Information on the number of live cattle imported in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows –

Calendar Year	Total number of live cattle imported	Daily number of live cattle imported		
		Average	Highest	Lowest
2014	18 602	51	110	9
2015	17 911	49	97	8
2016	17 493	48	97	9

- (b) All imported live cattle are sold through the wholesale agent. Information on the wholesale prices of live cattle imported in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows -

Calendar Year	Wholesale prices per picul of live cattle imported (HK\$)*					
	Marbled Meat Cattle			Beef Cattle		
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest
2014	4,690	4,690	4,690	4,070	4,070	4,070
2015	4,690	4,690	4,690	4,070	4,070	4,070
2016	4,690	4,690	4,690	4,070	4,070	4,070

* The wholesale price of live cattle is determined by the wholesale agent. The wholesale prices of marbled meat cattle and beef cattle were last adjusted to HK\$4,690 / picul and HK\$4,070 / picul respectively on 6 May 2013.

- (c) The revised estimate of the expenditure on live food animal inspection in slaughterhouses in 2016-17 is \$38.9 million, involving 89 staff posts. The average expenditure during the year on each live food animal slaughtered is about \$25. The live food animals concerned include pigs, cattle and goats. The cost for handling live cattle cannot be separately identified.
- (d) Live cattle from the Mainland must be supplied by farms registered with the Mainland authority. All imported live cattle enter into Hong Kong by land through the Man Kam To Control Point. Each consignment of imported live cattle must be accompanied by an official health certificate and is subject to import inspection at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station. Live cattle admitted to slaughterhouse would be sampled for testing for veterinary drug residues before slaughtering and release to the market.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)120****(Question Serial No. 1415)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the wholesale of live pigs, please advise on the following:

- (a) the total number, the average daily number, as well as the highest and the lowest daily wholesale numbers of live pigs supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (b) the monthly average, the highest and the lowest prices of live pigs supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (c) the total expenditure and average expenditure per head of pig by the Government in handling live pigs (such as the arrangements for slaughterhouses and quarantine management), as well as the manpower involved; and
- (d) the process of supplying live pigs to Hong Kong.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 24)Reply:

- (a) Information on the number of live pigs imported in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows –

Calendar Year	Total number of live pigs imported	Daily number of live pigs imported		
		Average	Highest	Lowest
2014	1 624 926	4 452	6 298	2 597
2015	1 583 398	4 338	6 993	2 094
2016	1 439 568	3 933	6 642	1 934

- (b) All imported live pigs are sold through auctions. Information on the auction prices of live pigs imported in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows -

Calendar Year	Auction prices per picul of live pigs imported (HK\$)		
	Average	Highest	Lowest
2014	1,253	1,431	1,122
2015	1,361	1,545	1,252
2016	1,567	1,777	1,463

- (c) The revised estimate of the expenditure on live food animal inspection in slaughterhouses in 2016-17 is \$38.9 million, involving 89 staff posts. The average expenditure during the year on each live food animal slaughtered is about \$25. The live food animals concerned include pigs, cattle and goats. The cost for handling live pigs cannot be separately identified.
- (d) Live pigs from the Mainland must be supplied by farms registered with the Mainland authority. All imported live pigs enter into Hong Kong by land through the Man Kam To Control Point. Each consignment of imported live pigs must be accompanied by an official health certificate and is subject to import inspection at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station. Live pigs admitted to slaughterhouse would be sampled for testing for veterinary drug residues before slaughtering and release to the market.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)121****(Question Serial No. 1417)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene issued an order under section 78B of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) on 24 March 2011 to prohibit the import of vegetables and fruits, milk, milk beverages and milk powder from the five most affected prefectures of Japan, namely Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Chiba and Gunma. The import of all chilled or frozen game, meat and poultry, poultry eggs and all live, chilled or frozen aquatic products from the five prefectures is prohibited, unless they are accompanied by a certificate issued by the competent authority of Japan attesting that the radiation levels do not exceed the guideline levels. In this connection, please advise on the following:

- (a) details of the work on testing of food products imported from Japan performed by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the past 3 years, and the number of food samples that failed to meet food safety standards;
- (b) the total value and quantity of food products imported from Japan in the past 3 years (tabulated by food type);
- (c) the value and quantity of food products imported from the 5 prefectures, namely Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Chiba and Gunma, in the past 3 years (tabulated by food type);
- (d) the regulatory measures applied by various regions or countries in the world to food products imported from Japan;
- (e) given that the "Japan Aizu Fair" recently held by an enterprise was found by members of the public to be related to Fukushima, where Aizu is situated, hence the query that the organiser failed to label Fukushima as the origin of the food products, whether the existing legislation has any provisions requiring that food products from Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Chiba and Gunma shall be specified as originated from these 5 prefectures; and

- (f) whether the Department plans to review the strategies for the regulatory control of food products imported from Japan, such as requiring the production of certificates of origin for all the food products imported from Japan, and requiring clear indication on the package as to whether the food product concerned is originated from Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Chiba or Gunma.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 51)

Reply:

- (a) - (c) The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has been testing the radiation levels of every consignment of food products imported from Japan since the Fukushima nuclear power plant incident in Japan in 2011. Only food products with satisfactory test results are released for sale in the market. For the past 3 years, CFS tested more than 200 000 samples of food imported from Japan and the test results of all samples were satisfactory. In fact, no samples were found unsatisfactory since the import restriction on Japanese food had taken effect. Test results on food imported from Japan are made public on CFS's website. CFS does not have information on the total value of food products imported from Japan. Also, it does not have readily available records on the total quantities of food products imported from Japan.
- (d) In the wake of the Fukushima nuclear power plant incident, individual countries or economies have implemented different import restrictions on Japanese food of varying magnitude. For instance, the Mainland suspended the import of all types of food from Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma and Chiba prefectures in Japan. In the U.S., import restrictions on Japanese food mirrored the export prohibition measures taken by Japan. Singapore imposed import ban on certain food types from the Fukushima Prefecture. Countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Canada have already lifted their import restrictions previously imposed on Japanese food.
- (e) According to the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap. 132W), all prepackaged food shall be labelled with the name and full address of the manufacturer or packer. Otherwise, the prepackaged food shall be labelled with its country of origin, together with the name and office address of the distributor or brand owner in Hong Kong provided that the full address of the manufacturer or packer of the food in its country of origin has been notified in writing to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.

Besides, CFS requires importers to provide relevant import documents such as invoices, airway bills / bills of lading, packing lists and health certificates, whichever applicable. For Japanese food, the prefectures of origin have to be shown in the relevant import documents and the information will facilitate CFS to

check against the import restrictions. Also, CFS checks the labels on the packing of the products against the information in the documents.

- (f) CFS will continue to adopt a risk-based approach in formulating strategies to monitor food imports from Japan, and will adjust the surveillance measures as necessary to safeguard food safety and protect public health. In doing so, CFS makes reference to the test results of the Japanese authority and local surveillance, latest measures taken by other countries/economies against food products imported from Japan, and recommendations made by international agencies including the World Health Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency on the issue.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)122

(Question Serial No. 1410)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the issue of fresh provision shop (FPS) licences with permission for selling live poultry, please advise on the following:

- (a) the number of FPS licences issued with permission for selling live poultry, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved, in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2014-15 to 2016-17); and
- (b) the number of FPS licences with permission for selling live poultry in each of the past three years (ie. from 2014-15 to 2016-17).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 19)

Reply:

The numbers of FPS licences with permission for selling live poultry are 46, 46 and 45 in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. There is no breakdown for the expenditure and manpower involved in handling applications for this category of licences.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)123

(Question Serial No. 1424)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under the Programme, it is stated that the Bureau will enhance environmental hygiene, especially at hygiene blackspots. Please advise on the following:

- (a) the locations of all existing hygiene blackspots in the territory and the hygiene problems involved, with a breakdown by district;
- (b) the criteria adopted by the Bureau in assessing hygiene blackspots and the follow-up actions taken after the assessment;
- (c) the progress and review schedule of the Pilot Scheme on Installation of Internet Protocol Cameras (the Scheme) planned to be launched by the Department at refuse deposit blackspots in Central and Western, Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long districts to strengthen the monitoring of illegal deposits of refuse and facilitate the planning of more effective enforcement actions; and
- (d) whether the Department has any plan to extend the Scheme to cover refuse deposit blackspots across the territory.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 58)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) With a view to improving environmental hygiene, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has identified 142 hygiene blackspots in the territory in 2017 for enhanced clean-up operations. A list of the blackspots with hygiene problems, including but not limited to accumulation of bagged refuse, littering problems, rodent infestation, dog fouling and poor hygiene conditions, is given at Annex.

- (b) The Department will identify hygiene blackspots based on actual ground situation, information from repeated complaint cases, and comments from District Council members and local residents. For a location identified as a blackspot, the Department will closely monitor its cleanliness and hygiene conditions, enhance the frequency of clean-up operations, and step up law enforcement actions as necessary.
- (c) & (d) The installation of Internet Protocol (IP) cameras aims to strengthen the monitoring of illegal deposits of refuse and facilitate the planning of more effective enforcement actions. As the relevant measure involves privacy and other legal and implementation considerations, we consider that the more prudent approach is to start on a trial basis before full implementation. Under the Pilot Scheme launched in late December 2016, the Department has installed IP cameras at a total of 6 illegal dumping blackspots in Central and Western, Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long districts. The initial response to the Pilot Scheme is positive and the hygiene condition at the blackspots has improved. A review on the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme will be made upon its completion in late June 2017. If proven to be effective, the Department will consider extending the Scheme to other districts with support of respective District Councils.

- End -

List of Hygiene Blackspots in 2017

District	Location of Hygiene Blackspots
Central/ Western	Vicinity of Cochrane Street, Graham Street, Wellington Street, Elgin Street and Staunton Street
	Vicinity of Central Connaught Place and General Post Office
	Vicinity of Bonham Strand and Jervois Street
	Vicinity of Wing Lok Street and Morrison Street
	Admiralty MTR Station Exit C1
	Sheung Wan MTR Station Exit A1, towards Des Voeux Road Central
	Queen's Road Central, near Chiu Lung Street
	Queen Victoria Street and Jubilee Street, near Des Voeux Road Central
	Central Pier, near Man Kwong Street
	Queen's Road West, in the vicinity of Shek Tong Tsui Municipal Services Building, near Hill Road
Wanchai	Vicinity of Sugar Street and Yee Wo Street
	Vicinity of Jardine's Crescent near MTR Station exit and Jardine's Bazaar
	Vicinity of Russell Street and Kai Chiu Road
	Vicinity of Canal Road
	Vicinity of Tang Lung Street
	Vicinity of Hennessy Road, especially outside Off-course Betting Branches and bus stops
	Vicinity of Percival Street
	Vicinity of Luard Road
	O'Brien Road near MTR exit
	Vicinity of Cannon Street
	Area outside Spring Garden Lane Off-course Betting Branch
	Vicinity of Sharp Street East and Yiu Wa Street
	Vicinity of Johnston Road
	Vicinity of Wan Chai Road
	Caroline Hill Road Refuse Collection Point
	No. 19, Tai Hang Road

District	Location of Hygiene Blackspots
	Vicinity of Chan Tong Lane
	Vicinity of Gloucester Road near Sugar Street
Eastern	Vicinity of nos. 2-16 North Point Road (near Chun Yeung Street) , North Point
	Vicinity of nos. 94-124 Shau Kei Wan Main Street East and no. 6 Mong Lung Street outside Kam Wai Building (near Kam Wa Street), Shau Kei Wan
	Vicinity of no. 341 Chai Wan Road (near Walton Estate), Chai Wan
Southern	Nos. 66-97 Shek Pai Wan Road
	Tang Fung Street
	Wu Pak Street
	Wu Nam Street
	Tung Sing Road
	Nos. 28-118 Aberdeen Main Road
	Ap Lei Chau Praya Road
	Yip Kan Street
	Yip Fat Street
	Seaview Promenade (Repulse Bay to Deep Water Bay)
Islands	Piazza outside Citygate, Tung Chung
	Areas outside Exits A, B and D of Tung Chung MTR
	Bus stations at Tat Tung Road, Tung Chung
	Man Tung Road, Tung Chung
	Yu Tung Road and Chung Yan Road, Tung Chung
	Area outside Cheung Chau Public Pier
	Area outside Peng Chau Ferry Pier
Yau Tsim	Tsim Sha Tsui MTR Station (Kowloon Park Nathan Road exit)
	Yau Ma Tei MTR Station (Nathan Road and Man Ming Lane exit)
	Jordan MTR Station (near Yue Wha Chinese Product exit)
	Bus station near Cross Harbour Tunnel (toward Hong Kong direction)
	Jordan bus station (from Nathan Road to Canton Road)

District	Location of Hygiene Blackspots
Mong Kok	Bus terminal near Mong Kok East Station
	Footbridge near Charming Garden and Dundas Street
	Rear lane/side lane near Fa Hui
	Mong Kok MTR Station (Fife Street and Sai Yeung Choi Street South exit)
	Mong Kok MTR Station (Bank Center exit)
	Nos. 61-91 Sai Yee Street and rear lane (between Boundary Street and Nelson Street)
	Sai Yeung Choi Street South (between Dundas Street and Argyle Street)
	Argyle Street (between Yim Po Fong Street and Nathan Road)
Sham Shui Po	Area bounded by Yen Chow Street, Castle Peak Road, Tonkin Street and Cheung Sha Wan Road
	Vicinity of Sham Shui Po MTR Station Exits A1, A2, C1 and C2
	Vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market
	Sham Mong Road (from Yen Chow Street to Chui Yu Road)
	Po On Road (from Hing Wah Street to Tonkin Street)
	Pratas Street (From Kwong Lee Road to Shun Ning Road)
	Shek Kip Mei Service Reservoir near Police Sports and Recreation Club
	Cheung Sha Wan Road (from Tonkin Street to Pratas Street)
	Boundary between Nam Cheong Street, Boundary Street and Tai Po Road
	Area around Tung Chau Street Park
	Area outside Cronin Garden (near Camp Street and Shun Ning Road)
	Area outside Sai Yeung Choi Street North, Tai Hang Tung Recreation Ground
	Mei Fu Lai Wan Road (from Lai Wan Road to Broadway Road)
	Yau Yat Chuen
	Kiu Kiang Street (at the junction of Lai Chi Kok Road and Yee Kuk Street)
Kowloon City	Wuhu Street (lane behind Hung Wu Building)
	Kowloon City Road (between Lok Shan Road and Ma Hang Chung Road), Lok Shan Road, Wing Kwong Street, Mei King Street
	Rear lane of Tam Kung Road
	Rear lane of Lung Kong Road

District	Location of Hygiene Blackspots
Wong Tai Sin	Rear lane surrounded by Kam Wing Street, Yin Hing Street, Shung Ling Street and FooYuen Street
	Rear lane of Hong Keung Street
	Rear lane between Wan Fung Street and Ngan Fung Street
	Rear lane between Sheung Fung Street and Ngan Fung Street
	Lanes at Kam Chi Path, Fu Chi Path and Wah Chi Path
	Side lane and rear lane of Yuk Wah Crescent
Kwun Tong	Vicinity of Yue Man Square, Hip Wo Street Interim Bus Terminus and Kwun Tong Railway Station
	Hoi Yuen Road
	Shui Wo Street
	Wan Hon Street
	Hip Wo Street
	Lam Hing Street
	Tsun Yip Lane
	Hung To Road
	Wai Yip Street
	How Ming Street
Kwai Tsing	Rear lane of Lai Fong Street
	Rear lane of Shing Fong Street
	Rear lane of Tai Ha Street
	Tsing Yi Chung Mei Village
	Tsing Yi St Paul's Village
	Slopes near Liu To Road Garden
Tsuen Wan	Rear lane between No. 146E Sha Tsui Road and Heung Wo Street
	Rear lane of nos. 23-37 Siu Wo Street
	Rear lane of nos. 2-32 Hoi Pa Street
	Rear lane of Sam Pei Square behind Chen Hsin Mansion
Tuen Mun	Vicinity of San Hui Market, Tuen Mun
	Vicinity of Tsing Shan Square and Tsing Ho Square

District	Location of Hygiene Blackspots
Yuen Long	Yuen Long New Street
	Hop Choi Street
	Sau Fu Street
	Tai Tong Road
	Fook Hong Street
	Kau Yuk Road (Yuen Long)
	Kik Yeung Road
	Fau Tsoi Street
	Sai Ching Street
	Yu King Square
	Chung Sing Path
North	San Kung Street, Sheung Shui
	Vicinity of San Fung Avenue, Sheung Shui
	Vicinity of San Hong Street, Sheung Shui
	Vicinity of Lung Sum Avenue, Sheung Shui
	Vicinity of Sheung Shui MTR Station, Sheung Shui
	Vicinity of Fanling MTR Station, Fanling
Tai Po	Rear lane of no. 19 Tai Wing Lane, Tai Po
	Rear lane of no. 26 Tai Wing Lane, Tai Po
	Rear lane of nos. 26-62, Kwong Fuk Road, Tai Po.
Sha Tin	Chik Fu Street, Tai Wai
	Chik Shun Street, Tai Wai
	Vicinity of Che Kung Miu Road, Tin Sum Tsuen
Sai Kung	Sai Kung Hoi Pong Square
	Sai Kung Pier
	Sai Kung Bus Terminus
	Sai Kung Mini-bus Terminus
	Tsueng Kwan O Station Interchange area
	Hang Hau Station Interchange area
	Tiu Keng Leng Station Interchange area
	Po Lam Station Interchange area

District	Location of Hygiene Blackspots
	Sheung Tak Estate Bus Terminus
	Hau Tak Estate Bus Stop
	Periphery of Beverly Garden Shopping Arcade

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)124

(Question Serial No. 1433)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the operation of unlicensed restaurants, please advise on the following:

- (a) the number of suspected unlicensed restaurants against which complaints were received from the public in the past 3 years (from 2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (b) the numbers of prosecutions instituted and convictions recorded in the past 3 years (from 2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (c) the manpower for the surveillance operations, and the expenditure involved;
- (d) the procedure from taking enforcement action to instituting a prosecution, and the rectification period allowed;
- (e) the maximum and minimum fines and penalties imposed upon conviction; and
- (f) given the common occurrence of restaurants operating without a licence, which suggests that there are loopholes in the existing prosecution process, or even that the fines imposed may not have the deterrent effect, when a review will be conducted in this respect.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 67)

Reply:

- (a) In 2014, 2015 and 2016, the number of complaints against suspected illegal operation of food business including unlicensed restaurants are 1 882, 2 199 and 2 262 respectively.
- (b)&(e) The information sought in respect of unlicensed restaurants is given in the table below –

	2014	2015	2016
No. of prosecutions	2 831	2 373	1 801
No. of convictions	2 728	2 263	1 301
Maximum fines*	\$81,110	\$63,800	\$58,500
Minimum fines	\$100	\$600	\$600

* including daily fines

- (c) At present, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) deploys about 290 health inspectors to 19 district environmental hygiene offices across the territory to handle various environmental hygiene issues in the district, including, inter alia, inspecting and taking follow-up enforcement action against unlicensed restaurants in the district. We do not keep separate statistics on the manpower and expenditure involved in taking enforcement action against unlicensed restaurants.
- (d) Upon detection of suspected operation of unlicensed restaurants through routine inspection, or receipt of complaints from the public or media as well as referrals from other government departments, the Department will conduct inspection to the suspected food premises, advise the operator to apply for appropriate food business licences from the Department, and make application to the Court for summons against the operator of the unlicensed food premises under the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132 sub. leg. X) with support of evidence collected. Upon receiving application, the Court will issue the summons to the defendant and fix a date for the hearing according to established procedures.
- (f) For recalcitrant offenders operating unlicensed restaurant business, the Department will step up enforcement efforts which include enhancing frequency of inspection; taking arrest and seizure action; applying to Court for closure orders to close the unlicensed food premises, and publicizing the information of the unlicensed food premises through the media and Department's website when the closure orders are executed. The Department will review the effectiveness of the regulatory and enforcement measures against the operation of food business without a licence in the light of changing circumstances.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)125****(Question Serial No. 1422)**

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under the Programme, it is stated that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to assist the Food and Health Bureau in developing proposals for improving the operating environment of public markets, taking into account the recommendations of the consultancy study conducted in 2014. Please advise on the progress in the implementation of the measures recommended in the consultancy study and the timetable for evaluating the effectiveness of the measures.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 56)

Reply:

The Consultant commissioned by the Food and Health Bureau selected 6 representative markets for detailed study and put forward specific improvement recommendations. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is following up the improvement proposals in phases in consultation with the Market Management Consultative Committees (MMCCs) of these markets. In 2017-18, the Department plans to commence improvement works for Lockhart Road Market at an estimated project cost of \$21.2 million. For Sheung Fung Street Market, the scope of improvement works is being finalised in consultation with relevant departments.

The Consultant also suggested implementing some non-physical improvement measures relating to the management, hygiene, as well as marketing and promotion of public markets. On the management of public markets, the Department agrees with the Consultant and has given priority to tackling inactive stalls and keeping markets clean and tidy in general. On marketing and promotion, the Department has been organising various promotional activities in public markets, including festive promotions, games booths, cooking demonstrations and distribution of souvenirs. The Department will sustain its promotional efforts with a view to increasing customer flows in public markets and improving business viability. In 2017-18, the estimated expenditure for market promotional activities is \$7 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)126****(Question Serial No. 1949)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the aim “to facilitate agricultural and fisheries production and improve productivity”, please advise on the respective share of food supplied locally and imported into Hong Kong in each of the past three years (i.e. 2014, 2015 and 2016) as per the table below:

	Share of food supplied locally (%)	Share of food imported (%)		
		Country A	Country B	Country C
Rice				
Vegetables				
Live cattle				
Live goats				
Live pigs				
Live chickens				
Other live poultry				
Live Fish				
Chilled or frozen beef				
Chilled or frozen mutton				
Chilled or frozen pork				
Chilled or frozen chicken				
Chilled or frozen poultry				
Chilled or frozen fish				

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (Member Question No. 42)

Reply:

The respective percentages of food supplied locally and imported into Hong Kong in the past 3 years, based on data kept by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Census and Statistics Department and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, are as follows –

(a) 2014

Food item	Share of food supplied locally (%)	Share of food imported (%) by top three jurisdictions		
Rice	0	Thailand 49.1	Vietnam 37.1	Mainland 6.8
Vegetables	1.9	Mainland 90.7	USA 2.4	Australia 1.1
Live cattle	0	Mainland 100	-	-
Live goats	0	Mainland 100	-	-
Live pigs	5.1	Mainland 94.9	-	-
Live chickens	81.6	Mainland 18.4 [@]	-	-
Other live poultry	0	Mainland 100	-	-
Live fish	6.5	Mainland 82.3	Philippines 3.3	Thailand 2.2
Chilled beef	0	Australia 38.5	USA 24.3	Mainland 16
Frozen beef	0	Brazil 52.2	USA 33.4	Canada 4.1
Chilled mutton	0	Australia 50.8	New Zealand 35.4	UK 11
Frozen mutton	0	Australia 45.5	New Zealand 28.7	UK 13
Chilled pork	0	Mainland 93.2	Australia 2	Canada 1.3

Food item	Share of food supplied locally (%)	Share of food imported (%) by top three jurisdictions		
Frozen pork	0	Brazil 29.9	Mainland 23	Germany 14.3
Chilled chicken	0	Mainland 98.1	Thailand 0.8	Australia 0.5
Frozen chicken	0	Brazil 39.1	USA 31	Mainland 7.8
Chilled poultry	0	Mainland 98.7	Thailand 0.4	Australia 0.3
Frozen poultry	0	Brazil 37.9	USA 30.4	Mainland 8.2
Chilled and frozen fish	30.5	Mainland 29.4	Norway 11.7	Vietnam 11.6

(b) 2015

Food item	Share of food supplied locally (%)	Share of food imported (%) by top three countries		
Rice	0	Thailand 56.5	Vietnam 30	Mainland 6.4
Vegetables	1.9	Mainland 90.6	USA 2.3	Australia 1.4
Live cattle	0	Mainland 100	-	-
Live goats	0	Mainland 100	-	-
Live pigs	5.1	Mainland 94.9	-	-
Live chickens	98.5	Mainland 1.5 [#]	-	-
Other live poultry	0	Mainland 100	-	-
Live fish	5.4	Mainland 84.7	Philippines 2.5	Indonesia 1.7
Chilled beef	0	Australia 46.3	USA 23	Brazil 16.4

Food item	Share of food supplied locally (%)	Share of food imported (%) by top three countries		
Frozen beef	0	Brazil 50.8	USA 36	Canada 3.4
Chilled mutton	0	Australia 58.7	New Zealand 34.3	UK 4.5
Frozen mutton	0	New Zealand 32.3	Australia 27.5	Mainland 23.2
Chilled pork	0	Mainland 92.6	Australia 2.4	Canada 1.9
Frozen pork	0	Brazil 29.9	Mainland 21.3	Germany 11.4
Chilled chicken	0	Mainland 98.4	Thailand 0.8	Australia 0.5
Frozen chicken	0	USA 40.3	Brazil 36.2	Mainland 9.4
Chilled poultry	0	Mainland 98.9	Thailand 0.5	Australia 0.3
Frozen poultry	0	USA 39.8	Brazil 35	Mainland 9.5
Chilled and frozen fish	29.2	Mainland 31.7	Norway 10.8	Vietnam 10.4

(c) 2016

Food item	Share of food supplied locally (%)	Share of food imported (%) by top three countries		
Rice	0	Thailand 59.6	Vietnam 26.3	Mainland 5.6
Vegetables	1.7	Mainland 92.5	USA 2.2	Australia 1.7
Live cattle	0	Mainland 100	-	-
Live goats	0	Mainland 100	-	-
Live pigs	5.8	Mainland 94.2	-	-

Food item	Share of food supplied locally (%)	Share of food imported (%) by top three countries		
Live chickens	99.2	Mainland 0.8*	-	-
Other live poultry	0	Mainland 100	-	-
Live fish	8.6	Mainland 74.2	Malaysia 3.8	Philippines 3.6
Chilled beef	0	Australia 46.2	USA 29.1	Brazil 9.6
Frozen beef	0	Brazil 55.5	USA 27.5	Canada 6.1
Chilled mutton	0	Australia 61.9	New Zealand 30.0	U.K. 5.5
Frozen mutton	0	New Zealand 40.5	Mainland 29.4	Australia 20.8
Chilled pork	0	Mainland 76.5	Brazil 11.3	USA 4.1
Frozen pork	0	Brazil 36.8	USA 15.9	Mainland 10.5
Chilled chicken	0	Mainland 99.7	Australia 0.2	France 0.1
Frozen chicken	0	USA 39.8	Brazil 35.7	Mainland 8.8
Chilled poultry	0	Mainland 99.92	Australasia & Oceania, Nesoi 0.04	France 0.03
Frozen poultry	0	USA 41.9	France 14.0	Mainland 9.0
Chilled and Frozen Fish	22.9	Mainland 31.7	Vietnam 12.8	Norway 11.5

Remarks:

@ There was no import of live chickens from the Mainland from 28 January to 5 September 2014.

- # Import of live chickens from the Mainland was last suspended as from 31 December 2014 due to the temporary closure of the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market (CSWTWPM) after the detection of a H7 avian influenza positive consignment of imported live poultry. Trading of live poultry at CSWTWPM resumed on 22 January 2015. However, there was no import of live poultry until 10 February 2015 and the import quantity has since been significantly reduced compared to the average in the past.
- * There was no import of live chickens from the Mainland since 17 February 2016.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)127****(Question Serial No. 1799)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Given that the indicator for “applications for restricted food permits” increased from 785 in 2015 to 1 190 in 2016, which was attributed to the introduction of restricted food permits for online selling of restricted foods on 22 February 2016, please provide information on the following:

1. the number of restricted food permits for online selling of restricted foods among the 1 190 permits;
2. the number of food permits for online selling of restricted foods with a breakdown by food type; and
3. the number of complaints received for online food sale and the types of food involved, as well as the number of prosecutions instituted and convictions recorded, in the past 3 years (i.e. from 2014 to 2016).

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (Member Question No. 6)Reply:

1. Since the launch of the permit regime for online sale of restricted foods on 22 February 2016 and up to 31 December 2016, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department received a total of 284 applications for those permits. 151 permits were issued.
2. In 2016, the number of permits for online sale of restricted foods, with breakdown by types of restricted food, is provided below –

Types of restricted food	Number of permits issued
Meat	35
Shellfish	31
Sushi and sashimi	23

Oyster to be eaten in raw state	16
Poultry	16
Fish	15
Frozen confection	9
Milk and milk beverage	3
Siu mei and lo mei	2
Games	1
Total	151

3. The number of complaints, prosecutions and convictions related to online sale of foods without licence/permit is provided in the following table –

	2014	2015	2016
No. of complaints received	8	34	41
No. of prosecutions	9 (9)*	24 (24)*	26 (14)*

- * The number in bracket denotes the number of convictions out of the prosecutions taken. 12 out of the 26 prosecutions in 2016 are pending hearing result.

There is no separate breakdown by type of foods involved in complaints related to online sale of foods without licence/permit.

– End –

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)128

(Question Serial No. 1474)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the work of “managing licensed hawker pitches, hawker permitted places and hawker bazaars”, please provide information on the following:

1. the location, name, year of commissioning, number of stalls that can be accommodated, current number of stalls and vacancy rate of each of the existing licensed hawker pitches, hawker permitted places and hawker bazaars in the territory, with a breakdown by district;
2. whether there are plans to close any of the hawker permitted places or hawker bazaars; if yes, the details and the estimated expenditure involved; and
3. whether stakeholders will be consulted before closure of such venues; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

1. Information on the number of licensed on-street hawker pitches, number of vacant hawker pitches and relevant vacancy rates in the territory is provided at Annex I.

Information on the name, year of commencement, number of licensed hawker pitches, number of vacant hawker pitches and vacancy rate for each of the hawker permitted places and hawker bazaars in the territory are provided at Annexes II and III respectively.

2. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has no plan to close any of the hawker permitted places. For hawker bazaars, the Department recognises that there is a need to formulate exit plans for bazaars with high vacancy rates to ensure that scarce land resources are released for redevelopment and put to gainful use. The Department will actively formulate improvement or exit plans for

existing hawker bazaars, having regard to their business viability, the needs of the community, resource availability and competing priorities. In fact, the Department has closed Tai Lin Pai Road Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar in 2015, Yu Chau West Street Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar and Ma Kok Street Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar in 2016, and is now planning to close Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar. The Department will continue to explore whether the other hawker bazaars can be put to alternative uses. There is no breakdown on expenditure involved.

3. Before closure of any hawker venue, the Department will consult the relevant District Councils and discuss the exit arrangements with the affected hawkers.

- End -

**On-street hawker fixed pitches
(as at December 2016)**

District	Number of on-street fixed pitches		Vacancy rate (b) / ((a)+(b))
	Licensed (a)	Vacant* (b)	
Central and Western	588	28	4.5%
Wanchai	424	19	4.3%
Eastern	329	13	3.8%
Southern	30	0	0%
Islands	2	0	0%
Yau Tsim	774	67	8.0%
Mong Kok	1 373	102	6.9%
Sham Shui Po	1 001	56	5.3%
Kowloon City	98	6	5.8%
Wong Tai Sin	17	0	0%
Kwun Tong	60	0	0%
Kwai Tsing	11	0	0%
Tsuen Wan	18	0	0%
Tuen Mun	8	0	0%
Yuen Long	14	0	0%
North	6	0	0%
Tai Po	6	0	0%
Shatin	1	0	0%
Sai Kung	2	0	0%
Total	4 762	291	5.8%

Note: * The figure represents the number of pitches vacated as a result of voluntary surrender of hawker licences under the Hawker Assistance Scheme. The figure does not include pitches located outside building staircase discharge points / emergency vehicular access, earmarked to accommodate stalls that require relocation due to fire safety considerations, and absorbed in the course of rationalisation of the overall layout of hawker areas, etc. Fixed-pitches vacated for other reasons and reserved for various purposes such as resite commitments are also excluded.

**Hawker fixed pitches
in hawker permitted places
(as at December 2016)**

District	Serial No.	Hawker Permitted Place	Year of Commencement	Number of fixed pitches		Vacancy rate (b) / ((a)+(b))
				Licensed# (a)	Vacant* (b)	
Eastern	1	Kam Wa Street / Aldrich Street	1981	66	3	4.3%
	2	Mong Lung Street	1981	3	0	0%
	3	Tai Tak Street	1981	0	1	100%
Sub-total				69	4	5.5%
Wanchai	4	Gresson Street	1980	4	0	0%
	5	Tai Yuen Street	1980	71	0	0%
	6	Cross Street / Sam Pan Street	1991	10	1	9.1%
Sub-total				85	1	1.2%
Central and Western	7	Findlay Road	1999	6	0	0%
	8	Chiu Lung Street (East)	1999	9	0	0%
	9	Gilman's Bazaar	1985	4	0	0%
	10	Graham Street	1980	15	6	28.6%
	11	MacDonnell Road	1980	1	0	0%
	12	Peel Street	1980	2	5	71.4%
	13	Staunton Street	1980	0	0	0%
	14	Wing Kut Street	1980	2	0	0%
	15	Wing On Street	1980	3	0	0%
Sub-total				42	11	20.8%
Southern	16	Waterfall Bay Park	1980	11	0	0%
Sub-total				11	0	0%
Yau Tsim	17	Reclamation Street	1981	31	5	13.9%
	18	Pak Hoi Street	1981	6	3	33.3%
	19	Temple Street	1981	259	14	5.1%
	20	Canton Road	1993	2	2	50.0%
	21	Pitt Street	1994	0	0	0%
Sub-total				298	24	7.5%

District	Serial No.	Hawker Permitted Place	Year of Commencement	Number of fixed pitches		Vacancy rate (b) / ((a)+(b))
				Licensed [#] (a)	Vacant [*] (b)	
Sham Shui Po	22	Wing Lung Street	1975	39	20	33.9%
	23	Fat Tseung Street	1975	14	4	22.2%
	24	Cheung Fat Street	1975	9	1	10.0%
	25	Apliu Street	1978	42	0	0%
	26	Fuk Wing Street	1993	38	1	2.6%
	27	Kweilin Street	1993	58	0	0%
	28	Ki Lung Street	1993	90	2	2.2%
	29	Pei Ho Street	1993	29	0	0%
	30	Tai Nan Street	1993	59	0	0%
Sub-total				378	28	6.9%
Mong Kok	31	Tung Choi Street	1979	584	34	5.5%
	32	Cheung Wong Road	1979	2	0	0%
	33	Nelson Street	1979	51	11	17.7%
	34	Nam Tau Street	1979	1	0	0%
Sub-total				638	45	6.6%
Total				1 521	113	6.9%

Note : [#] All licensed fixed pitches along the subject streets are counted.

^{*} The figure represents the number of pitches vacated as a result of voluntary surrender of hawker licences under the Hawker Assistance Scheme. The figure does not include pitches located outside building staircase discharge points / emergency vehicular access, earmarked to accommodate stalls that require relocation due to fire safety considerations, and absorbed in the course of rationalisation of the overall layout of hawker areas, etc. Fixed-pitches vacated for other reasons and reserved for various purposes such as resite commitments are also excluded.

**Hawker fixed pitches in hawker bazaars
(as at December 2016)**

District	Serial No.	Hawker Bazaar	Year of Commencement	Number of fixed pitches		Vacancy Rate
				Licensed	Vacant*	
				(a)	(b)	(b) / ((a)+(b))
Southern	1	Stanley Market Open Space Hawker Bazaar	1973	21	4	16%
Yau Tsim	2	Haiphong Road Temporary Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar	1978	11	9	45.0%
	3	Reclamation Street Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar	1976	4	8	66.7%
	4	Woosung Street Temporary Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar	1984	16	8	33.3%
	5	Yau Ma Tei Jade Hawker Bazaar (Zone A)	1985	59	0	0%
	6	Yau Ma Tei Jade Hawker Bazaar (Zone B)	1985	290	0	0%
Shum Shui Po	7	Yen Chow Street Hawker Bazaar	1978	8	0	0%
Kwun Tong	8	Lai Yip Street Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar	1976	6	4	40.0%
	9	Tung Yan Street Interim Hawker Bazaar	2014	125	0	0%
Tsuen Wan	10	Luen Yan Street Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar	1970	5	31	86.1%
	11	Hau Tei Square Hawker Bazaar	1980	93	0	0%
Kwai Tsing	12	Kwai Wing Road Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar	1972	5	15	75%
Tuen Mun	13	Lam Tei Market cum Hawker Bazaar	1969	4	0	0%

Note: * Frozen pitches reserved for various purposes such as resite commitments are excluded.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)129****(Question Serial No. 1740)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the work of “continu(ing) to implement the assistance scheme for improving the fire safety and operating environment of fixed-pitch hawker areas”, please provide information on the following:

1. the latest position of the assistance scheme in the table below:

Item	Number of hawkers eligible	Number of hawkers applied	Number of hawkers approved	Expenditure required
Voluntary surrender of hawker licences				
Relocation of stalls				
In-situ reconstruction of stalls				

2. the take-up rate of the assistance scheme in each of the 43 fixed-pitch hawker areas covered by the scheme in the table below:

District	Location of hawker areas	Number of hawker stalls	Number of ex-gratia payment application	Number of relocation applications	Number of in-situ reconstruction applications	Take-up rate

3. the number of licensed hawkers operating in the 43 fixed-pitch hawker areas before and after the implementation of the assistance scheme in the table below:

District	Location of fixed pitches	Before the implementation of the assistance scheme for hawker licensees			After the implementation of the assistance scheme for hawker licensees		
		Cabinet-type	HPP-type	Total	Cabinet-type	HPP-type	Total
Eastern	Chun Yeung Street						
	Marble Street						
	Kam Wa Street						
	Tai Tak Street						
	Mong Lung Street						
	Subtotal						
Central & Western	Pottinger Street						
	Graham Street						
	Gage Street						
	Li Yuen Street East						
	Li Yuen Street West						
	Peel Street						
	Wing Kut Street						
	Upper Lascar Row						
	Man Wa Lane						
	Subtotal						
Wan Chai	Gresson Street						
	Cross Street						
	Tai Yuen Street						
	Jardine's Crescent						
	Subtotal						
Yau Tsim	Reclamation Street						
	Pak Hoi Street						
	Saigon Street						
	Canton Street						
	Bowring Street						
	Temple Street						
	Subtotal						
Mongkok	Tung Choi Street						
	Canton Street						
	Fife Street						
	Yin Chong Street						
	Ki Lung Street						

	Poplar Street						
	Fa Yuen Street						
	Nelson Street						
	Subtotal						
Sham Shui Po	Wing Lung Street						
	Fat Tseung Street						
	Cheung Fat Street						
	Fuk Wa Street						
	Fuk Wing Street						
	Pei Ho Street						
	Apliu Street						
	Ki Lung Street						
	Tai Nan Street						
	Kweilin Street						
	Subtotal						
Kowloon City	Pau Chung Street						
	Subtotal						
	Total No. of Stalls:						

HPP: Hawker Permitted Place

4. the expenditure and number of licences involved each year since the implementation of the Voluntary Surrender Scheme in 2002 in the table below:

Year	Expenditure of the Voluntary Surrender Scheme	Number of “Dai Pai Tong” licences voluntarily surrendered	Total number of “Dai Pai Tong” licences	Number of Itinerant Hawker Licences voluntarily surrendered	Total number of Itinerant Hawker Licences
2003					
2004					
2005					
2006					
2007					
2008					
2009					
2010					
2011					
2012					
2013					

2014					
2015					
2016					

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

The information sought in respect of the Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas (the Hawker Assistance Scheme) is provided at Annexes 1-4.

**Latest Position of the Hawker Assistance Scheme
(as at 28.2.2017)**

	Number of hawkers eligible	Number of hawkers who applied	Number of applications approved	Expenditure required
Voluntary surrender of hawker licences	4 196	721	644 ¹	\$77,280,000
Relocation of stalls	499	413	391 ²	\$18,227,800
In-situ reconstruction of stalls	3 827	2 420	1 848 ²	\$66,470,600

- 1 Release of ex-gratia payment is subject to clearance of existing stall structure.
- 2 Payment of relocation or in-situ reconstruction grant is subject to compliance with all stall construction specifications and clearance of existing stall structure.

**Take-up Rate of the Hawker Assistance Scheme
(as at 28.2.2017)**

District	Location of Hawker Areas	Number of Hawker Stalls [#]	Number of Ex-gratia Payment Applications	Number of Relocation Applications	Number of In-situ Re-construction Applications	Take-up Rate (e) = [(b)+(c) + (d)]/(a)
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	
Eastern	Chun Yeung Street	93	19	7	66	98.9%
	Marble Street	120	51	12	57	100.0%
	Kam Wa Street	111	20	8	43	64.0%
	Tai Tak Street	35	15	0	16	88.6%
	Mong Lung Street	14	10	0	4	100.0%
	Sub-total	373	115	27	186	87.9%
Central and Western	Pottinger Street	44	7	1	36	100.0%
	Graham Street	56	13	6	37	100.0%
	Gage Street	15	4	0	11	100.0%
	Li Yuen Street East	63	5	12	46	100.0%
	Li Yuen Street West	58	5	20	33	100.0%
	Peel Street	43	19	2	22	100.0%
	Wing Kut Street	33	1	6	26	100.0%
	Upper Lascar Row	13	1	0	12	100.0%
	Man Wa Lane	32	1	2	29	100.0%
	Sub-total	357	56	49	252	100.0%
Wan Chai	Gresson Street	52	12	2	38	100.0%
	Cross Street	70	2	7	59	97.1%
	Tai Yuen Street	76	2	5	69	100.0%

	Jardine's Crescent	166	25	34	106	99.4%
	Sub-total	364	41	48	272	99.2%
District	Location of Hawker Areas	Number of Hawker Stalls [#]	Number of Ex-gratia Payment Applications	Number of Relocation Applications	Number of In-situ Re-construction Applications	Take-up Rate (e) = [(b)+(c) + (d)]/(a)
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	
Yau Tsim	Reclamation Street	233	60	28	145	100.0%
	Pak Hoi Street	16	3	1	11	93.8%
	Saigon Street	19	5	1	13	100.0%
	Canton Road	38	30	1	7	100.0%
	Bowring Street	100	14	9	77	100.0%
	Temple Street	323	37	5	102	44.6%
	Sub-total	729	149	45	355	75.3%
Mongkok	Tung Choi Street	689	127	0	134	37.9%
	Canton Road	317	59	33	216	97.2%
	Fife Street	34	13	2	9	70.6%
	Yin Chong Street	78	13	9	53	96.2%
	Ki Lung Street	22	14	2	2	81.8%
	Poplar Street	12	6	1	1	66.7%
	Fa Yuen Street	219	1	30	188	100.0%
	Nelson Street	63	12	0	0	19.0%
	Sub-total	1 434	245	77	603	64.5%
Sham Shui Po	Wing Lung Street	72	30	4	34	94.4%
	Fat Tseung Street	47	17	5	25	100.0%
	Cheung Fat Street	65	23	3	39	100.0%
	Fuk Wa Street	166	10	33	121	98.8%

	Fuk Wing Street	39	1	8	30	100.0%
	Pei Ho Street	153	6	14	128	96.7%
District	Location of Hawker Areas	Number of Hawker Stalls [#]	Number of Ex-gratia Payment Applications	Number of Relocation Applications	Number of In-situ Re-construction Applications	Take-up Rate (e) = [(b)+(c) + (d)]/(a)
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	
Sham Shui Po (cont'd)	Apliu Street	220	12	51	152	97.7%
	Ki Lung Street	133	7	21	104	99.2%
	Tai Nan Street	61	1	12	46	96.7%
	Kweilin Street	59	0	8	50	98.3%
	Sub-total	1 015	107	159	729	98.0%
Kowloon City	Pau Chung Street	54	8	8	23	72.2%
	Sub-total	54	8	8	23	72.2%
	Total	4 326	721	413	2 420	82.2%

The number of hawker stalls has taken into account changes outside the scope of the Hawker Assistance Scheme, including the death of licensees, licences surrendered but licensees not being eligible for ex-gratia payment, relocation of hawker stalls and succession of licence.

**Licensed Hawkers Operating in the 43 Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas
before and after Implementation of the Hawker Assistance Scheme**

District	Hawker Area	Number of hawkers before implementation of the Scheme			Number of hawkers after implementation of the Scheme ¹ (as at 28.2.2017)		
		Cabinet -type	HPP- type ²	Total	Cabinet -type	HPP- type ²	Total
Eastern	Chun Yeung Street	93	0	93	74	0	74
	Marble Street	124	0	124	76	0	76
	Kam Wa Street	20	91	111	26	66	92
	Tai Tak Street	26	2	28	21	0	21
	Mong Lung Street	4	17	21	3	3	6
	Subtotal	267	110	377	200	69	269
Central & Western	Pottinger Street	47	0	47	36	0	36
	Graham Street	35	20	55	29	14	43
	Gage Street	15	0	15	11	0	11
	Li Yuen Street East	63	0	63	58	0	58
	Li Yuen Street West	58	0	58	53	0	53
	Peel Street	36	7	43	26	2	28
	Wing Kut Street	32	2	34	30	2	32
	Upper Lascar Row	13	0	13	12	0	12
	Man Wa Lane	32	0	32	31	0	31
	Subtotal	331	29	360	286	18	304
Wan Chai	Gresson Street	46	5	51	36	4	40
	Cross Street	60	11	71	58	10	68
	Tai Yuen Street	5	71	76	5	71	76
	Jardine's Crescent	162	0	162	141	0	141
	Subtotal	273	87	360	240	85	325
Yau Tsim	Reclamation Street	189	44	233	148	31	179
	Pak Hoi Street	7	9	16	7	6	13
	Saigon Street	19	0	19	16	0	16
	Canton Road	32	4	36	17	2	19
	Bowring Street	100	0	100	90	0	90
	Temple Street	34	289	323	34	255	289
	Subtotal	381	346	727	312	294	606

District	Hawker Area	Number of hawkers before implementation of the Scheme			Number of hawkers after implementation of the Scheme ¹ (as at 28.2.2017)		
		Cabinet-type	HPP-type ²	Total	Cabinet-type	HPP-type ²	Total
Mongkok	Tung Choi Street	0	698	698	0	572	572
	Canton Road	317	0	317	270	0	270
	Fife Street	29	0	29	21	0	21
	Yin Chong Street	78	0	78	66	0	66
	Ki Lung Street	20	0	20	9	0	9
	Poplar Street	12	0	12	7	0	7
	Fa Yuen Street	220	0	220	216	0	216
	Nelson Street	0	63	63	0	51	51
	Subtotal	676	761	1 437	589	623	1 212
Sham Shui Po	Wing Lung Street	5	66	71	4	39	43
	Fat Tseung Street	27	20	47	20	14	34
	Cheung Fat Street	54	11	65	35	9	44
	Fuk Wa Street	166	0	166	156	0	156
	Fuk Wing Street	0	40	40	0	38	38
	Pei Ho Street	124	30	154	118	29	147
	Apliu Street	179	42	221	167	41	208
	Ki Lung Street	39	96	135	35	91	126
	Tai Nan Street	2	61	63	1	59	60
	Kweilin Street	0	58	58	0	59	59
	Subtotal	596	424	1 020	536	379	915
Kowloon City	Pau Chung Street	54	0	54	45	0	45
	Subtotal	54	0	54	45	0	45
Total No. of Stalls :		2 578	1 757	4 335	2 208	1 468	3 676

- 1 The number of hawkers has taken into account changes as a result of surrender of licences, death of licensees, etc under the Hawker Assistance Scheme (the Scheme) and outside the scope of the Scheme, including the death of licensees, licences surrendered but licensees not being eligible for ex-gratia payment, relocation of hawkers and succession of licence.
- 2 Hawker Permitted Place-type.

**Expenditure and Number of Hawker Licences Involved
Since Implementation of the Voluntary Surrender Scheme in 2002**

Year	Expenditure	Number of “Dai Pai Tong” licences voluntarily surrendered ¹	Total number of “Dai Pai Tong” licences	Number of Itinerant Hawker Licences voluntarily surrendered ²	Total number of Itinerant Hawker Licences
2002	\$0	0	161	0	1 006
2003	\$3,960,000	5	153	138	858
2004	\$2,370,000	13	135	62	787
2005	\$1,620,000	8	119	47	726
2006	\$1,470,000	5	113	48	673
2007	\$1,890,000	6	107	71	600
2008	\$810,000	N/A	105	47	546
2009	\$480,000	N/A	104 ³	30	535
2010	\$690,000	N/A	105	28	522
2011	\$510,000	N/A	103	17	505
2012	\$780,000	N/A	98	26	470
2013	N/A	N/A	97	N/A	455
2014	N/A	N/A	95	N/A	442
2015	N/A	N/A	86	N/A	430
2016	N/A	N/A	74	N/A	415

1. The Voluntary Surrender Scheme for Fixed Pitch (Cooked Food/Light Refreshment) Hawker Licences was administered for 5 years from 1 December 2002 to 30 November 2007.
2. The Voluntary Surrender Scheme for Itinerant Hawker Licences was administered for 10 years from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2012.
3. One licence was cancelled due to the death of a licensee in 2009 but the licence was succeeded by the spouse of the deceased licensee in the following year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)130****(Question Serial No. 1801)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the “number of licensed hawkers”, please set out in the table below the number of various types of hawker licences.

Type		Number of fixed-pitch hawker licence	Number of itinerant hawker licence
“Cabinet-type” stall in 43 hawker areas			
“Hawker Permitted Place” stall in 43 hawker areas			
Other “Cabinet-type” stall			
Other “Hawker Permitted Place” stall			
Bootblack			
Cooked food or light refreshment	Dai Pai Tong		
	Others		
Newspaper			
Tradesman			
Barber			
Wall stall			
Hawker bazaar			
Itinerant (frozen confectionery)			
Itinerant (mobile van)			
Others			
Total:			

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

The number of various types of hawker licences (as at 31 Dec 2016) is tabulated as follows -

Type		Number of fixed-pitch hawker licence	Number of itinerant hawker licence
“Cabinet-type” stall in 43 hawker areas		2 211	0
“Hawker Permitted Place” stall in 43 hawker areas		1 480	0
Other “Cabinet-type” stall		78	0
Other “Hawker Permitted Place” stall		41	0
Bootblack		7	0
Cooked food or light refreshment	Dai Pai Tong	24	0
	Others	137	0
Newspaper		417	2
Tradesman		166	0
Barber		29	0
Wall stall		309	0
Hawker bazaar		597	0
Itinerant (frozen confectionery)		0	64
Itinerant (mobile van)		0	15
Others		0	334
Total:		5 496	415

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)131

(Question Serial No. 1813)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the indicators for licensed hawkers, please provide information on the following:

1. the number of fixed pitch hawkers, itinerant hawkers and registered hawker assistants, as well as the estimated number of unlicensed hawkers, in the past 3 years (i.e. from 2014 to 2016), with a breakdown by district and trade category;
2. the number of hawker licences surrendered under the assistance scheme for hawker licensees since the implementation of the scheme in June 2013 and the expenditure involved; and
3. given that the 5-year assistance scheme has already been implemented for 3.5 years, the Department's assessment of the effectiveness of the scheme; and, given that when seeking funding approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, the Department promised to consider re-issuing the surrendered hawker licences for application by interested parties, whether it will conduct a mid-term review of the assistance scheme (if yes, the details, if not, the reason(s)).

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (Member Question No. 19)

Reply:

1. The information sought is provided at Annex.
2. As at 28 February 2017, we have approved 644 applications for ex-gratia payment (EGP) in return for voluntary surrender of hawker licences to the Government under the five-year Hawker Assistance Scheme (the Scheme). The EGP involved was \$77.28 million.
3. The Scheme aims to provide one-off financial assistance to the hawkers in the hawker areas for stall reconstruction and relocation in order to expedite the work to reduce fire risks in those areas. We have made good progress in implementing the scheme since

its launch in June 2013. All 499 hawkers whose stalls were located directly in front of staircase discharge points of adjacent building, or obstructing the operation of fire engines or other emergency vehicular access have vacated their pitches. As at 28 February 2017, 721 hawkers have applied for voluntary surrender of licence for EGP, while 2 833 have applied for reconstruction grant and 2 239 of them have completed reconstruction of their stalls to meet the fire-resisting specifications. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) would continue to follow up with the remaining hawker stalls (about 800 in number) and encourage eligible hawkers to reconstruct their stall structures to meet the required specifications before the Scheme expires in June 2018.

Going forward, the Department would continue to identify areas which could bring about enhancement to the hawking environment in the course of administering the Scheme. This would include rationalising the overall layout of concerned hawker areas where circumstances permit and enhancing safety of the fixed electrical installations for hawker stalls. On whether to re-issue new hawker licences to fill any vacant pitches in relevant hawker areas, the Department would carefully consider the case, taking into account the circumstances of individual hawker areas, including their fire safety and environmental hygiene situations, the business environment, comments of relevant departments, as well as the views of the relevant District Council and local residents.

– End –

**No. of Licensed Fixed Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers, Registered Assistants and Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers
(Position as at 31.12.2014)**

		Hong Kong Island & Kowloon									New Territories & Islands									Total
		Central & 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	3	1	1	12	8	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
	Bootblack	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	10	3	0	2	33	25	6	7	24	20	20	10	0	4	7	26	0	1	198
	Newspaper	68	48	41	4	116	25	24	14	40	14	20	8	16	7	7	1	3	1	457
	Tradesman	87	14	16	0	53	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	176
	Wall Stall	29	15	18	14	137	58	28	2	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	321
	Other Classes	410	359	320	31	2 363	960	53	0	125	0	92	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 716
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionary	38									31									69
	Mobile Van	9									6									15
	Newspaper	2									0									2
	Other Classes	170									186									356
Registered Hawker Assistants		568	517	365	46	2 141	1 042	102	36	190	21	134	23	23	17	14	30	3	3	5 275
Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers		148	27	130	41	302	281	63	36	56	69	9	54	40	79	33	47	10	15	1 480 [#] (1 440+40)

[#]The figure includes 40 unlicensed hawkers in housing estates as provided by Housing Department.

**No. of Licensed Fixed Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers, Registered Assistants and Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers
(Position as at 31.12.2015)**

		Hong Kong Island & Kowloon									New Territories & Islands									Total
		Central & 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	3	1	1	11	8	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
	Bootblack	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	10	3	0	2	32	24	6	7	24	13	18	10	0	3	7	22	0	1	182
	Newspaper	65	45	39	4	109	23	23	15	37	13	20	8	15	7	6	1	3	1	434
	Tradesman	85	14	15	0	52	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	172
	Wall Stall	29	15	17	14	134	54	28	2	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	313
	Other Classes	402	350	304	30	2 279	930	51	0	125	0	93	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 567
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionary	36									30									66
	Mobile Van	9									6									15
	Newspaper	2									0									2
	Other Classes	165									182									347
Registered Hawker Assistants		548	492	368	50	2 064	1 050	101	31	199	22	119	25	19	14	12	24	1	3	5 142
Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers		143	26	55	49	281	411	64	35	100	68	7	51	26	72	35	42	8	15	1 594 [#] (1 488+106)

[#]The figure includes 106 unlicensed hawkers in housing estates as provided by Housing Department.

**No. of Licensed Fixed Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers, Registered Assistants and Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers
(Position as at 31.12.2016)**

		Hong Kong Island & Kowloon									New Territories & Islands									Total
		Central & 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	1	11	8	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
	Bootblack	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	10	3	0	2	31	22	6	9	23	13	9	7	0	0	4	21	0	1	161
	Newspaper	64	48	32	4	106	23	21	15	37	11	18	8	14	6	6	1	2	1	417
	Tradesman	81	15	13	0	52	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	166
	Wall Stall	29	20	11	14	133	52	28	2	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	309
	Other Classes	395	334	273	30	2 194	914	47	0	124	0	93	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 407
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionary	34									30									64
	Mobile Van	9									6									15
	Newspaper	2									0									2
	Other Classes	156									178									334
Registered Hawker Assistants		552	572	381	57	2 121	1 139	112	33	215	22	146	26	19	14	9	22	1	3	5 444
Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers		143	16	48	42	295	388	64	49	79	63	6	51	22	72	29	31	16	16	1 454# (1 430+24)

#The figure includes 24 unlicensed hawkers in housing estates as provided by Housing Department.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)132****(Question Serial No. 1836)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the work of “continuing to improve the management and upgrade the facilities of public markets”, please provide information on the following:

- the population and the number of public markets in each district as per the table below:

District	Population	No. of Public Markets	Name of Public Market
Central & Western			
Eastern			
Southern			
Wan Chai			
Kowloon City			
Kwun Tong			
Wong Tai Sin			
Sham Shui Po			
Mong Kok			
Yau Tsim			
Sha Tin			
Tai Po			
North			
Kwai Tsing			
Tsuen Wan			
Tuen Mun			

Yuen Long			
Sai Kung			
Islands			
Total			

- the year of commissioning, current number of stalls and occupancy rate of individual public markets (listed by air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned markets) in the territory.

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (Member Question No. 43)

Reply:

The information sought is given in Annexes I and II respectively.

- End -

District	Population#	No. of Public Markets@	Name of Public Markets@
Central & Western	243 266	6	Shek Tong Tsui Market Sheung Wan Market Smithfield Market Centre Street Market Sai Ying Pun Market Queen Street Cooked Food Market
Eastern	555 034	10	North Point Market Electric Road Market Quarry Bay Market Yue Wan Market Java Road Market Sai Wan Ho Market Shaukeiwan Market Aldrich Bay Market Chai Wan Market Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market
Southern	274 994	6	Yue Kwong Road Market Tin Wan Market Aberdeen Market Apleichau Market Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market Stanley Waterfront Mart
Wan Chai	180 123	6	Wanchai Market Bowrington Road Market Lockhart Road Market Wong Nai Chung Market Tang Lung Chau Market Causeway Bay Market
Kowloon City	418 732	4	Kowloon City Market Hung Hom Market Tokwawan Market On Ching Road Flower Market
Kwun Tong	648 541	8	Ngau Tau Kok Market Shui Wo Street Market Yee On Street Market Lei Yue Mun Market Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market

District	Population#	No. of Public Markets@	Name of Public Markets@
Wong Tai Sin	425 235	4	Ngau Chi Wan Market Sheung Fung Street Market Choi Hung Road Market Tai Shing Street Market
Sham Shui Po	405 869	5	Po On Road Market Pei Ho Street Market Lai Wan Market Tung Chau Street Temporary Market Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market
Mong Kok	342 970	3	Fa Yuen Street Market Tai Kok Tsui Market Mong Kok Cooked Food Market
Yau Tsim		3	Yau Ma Tei Market Kwun Chung Market Haiphong Road Temporary Market
Sha Tin	659 794	4	Sha Tin Market Tai Wai Market Fo Tan (East) Cooked Food Market Fo Tan (West) Cooked Food Market
Tai Po	303 926	2	Tai Po Hui Market Plover Cove Road Market
North	315 270	4	Shek Wu Hui Market Luen Wo Hui Market Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre Sha Tau Kok Market
Kwai Tsing	520 572	8	Wing Fong Street Market Tsing Yi Market North Kwai Chung Market Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market Ka Ting Cooked Food Market Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market

District	Population#	No. of Public Markets@	Name of Public Markets@
Tsuen Wan	318 916	6	Yeung Uk Road Market Tsuen Wan Market Heung Che Street Market Tsuen King Circuit Market Sham Tseng Temporary Market Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market
Tuen Mun	489 299	6	Yan Oi Market San Hui Market Lam Tei Market Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market Kin Wing Cooked Food Market Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market
Yuen Long	614 178	8	Tung Yick Market Tai Kiu Market Hung Shui Kiu Market Kam Tin Market Lau Fau Shan Market Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market
Sai Kung	461 864	2	Sai Kung Market Tui Min Hoi Market
Islands	156 801	6	Mui Wo Market Cheung Chau Market Tai O Market Peng Chau Market Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market Mui Wo Cooked Food Market
Total	7 335 384	101	

Based on “Hong Kong 2016 Population By-census - Key Statistics” published by Census and Statistics Department in February 2017

@ Listed in the table are public markets managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department only. They represent one of the avenues through which the community can procure daily provisions. Other avenues include, for example, supermarkets, on-street markets, provision shops on private premises and markets in home-ownership and public rental developments.

Serial No.	Name of Market	Year of Commissioning	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls as at 31 December 2016	Occupancy rate* as at 31 December 2016
1	Aldrich Bay Market	2008	yes	71	86%
2	Apleichau Market	1998	yes	63	100%
3	Centre Street Market	1976	yes	46	78%
4	Chai Wan Market	2001	yes	173	95%
5	Lei Yue Mun Market	2000	yes	20	100%
6	Luen Wo Hui Market	2002	yes	338	99%
7	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	2005	yes	14	100%
8	Peng Chau Market	1999	yes	18	100%
9	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	2004	yes	11	100%
10	Sai Ying Pun Market	1999	yes	102	89%
11	San Hui Market	1982	yes	324	99%
12	Sha Tin Market	1980	yes	172	98%
13	Shek Wu Hui Market	1994	yes	392	100%
14	Tai Kiu Market	1984	yes	379	99%
15	Tai Kok Tsui Market	2005	yes	135	100%
16	Tai Po Hui Market	2004	yes	313	99%
17	Tsing Yi Market	1999	yes	76	100%
18	Wanchai Market	2008	yes	50	96%
19	Yan Oi Market	1983	yes	108	97%
20	Yee On Street Market	1999	yes	65	98%
21	Yue Wan Market	1979	yes	374	94%
22	Bowrington Road Market	1979	yes in CFC only	296	97%
23	Hung Hom Market	1996	yes in CFC only	224	100%
24	Java Road Market	1993	yes in CFC only	194	95%
25	Lockhart Road Market	1987	yes in CFC only	166	80%
26	Pei Ho Street Market	1995	yes in CFC only	227	98%
27	Sai Wan Ho Market	1984	yes in CFC only	274	97%
28	Sheung Wan Market	1989	yes in CFC only	222	100%
29	Smithfield Market	1996	yes in CFC only	216	100%
30	Tai Shing Street Market	1998	yes in CFC only	442	95%

Serial No.	Name of Market	Year of Commissioning	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls as at 31 December 2016	Occupancy rate* as at 31 December 2016
31	Tokwawan Market	1984	yes in CFC only	267	98%
32	Wong Nai Chung Market	1996	yes in CFC only	69	99%
33	Aberdeen Market	1983	no	335	99%
34	Causeway Bay Market	1995	no	51	98%
35	Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market	1979	no	32	94%
36	Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market	1991	no	17	100%
37	Cheung Chau Market	1991	no	240	98%
38	Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	1982	no	28	43%
39	Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market	1987	no	12	100%
40	Choi Hung Road Market	1988	no	116	69%
41	Electric Road Market	1993	no	99	97%
42	Fa Yuen Street Market	1988	no	180	100%
43	Fo Tan (East) Cooked Food Market	1982	no	24	100%
44	Fo Tan (West) Cooked Food Market	1982	no	15	100%
45	Haiphong Road Temporary Market	1978	no	88	66%
46	Heung Che Street Market	1972	no	223	96%
47	Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market	1979	no	11	91%
48	Hung Shui Kiu Market	1987	no	174	75%
49	Ka Ting Cooked Food Market	1983	no	16	62%
50	Kam Tin Market	1964	no	41	98%
51	Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market	1981	no	14	100%
52	Kin Wing Cooked Food Market	1979	no	17	100%
53	Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market	1985	no	14	100%
54	Kowloon City Market	1988	no	581	100%
55	Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	1986	no	11	100%

Serial No.	Name of Market	Year of Commissioning	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls as at 31 December 2016	Occupancy rate* as at 31 December 2016
56	Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market	1990	no	12	83%
57	Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre	1985	no	98	100%
58	Kwun Chung Market	1991	no	218	98%
59	Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market	1984	no	29	100%
60	Lai Wan Market	1992	no	42	98%
61	Lam Tei Market	1969	no	7	100%
62	Lau Fau Shan Market	1964	no	25	88%
63	Mui Wo Cooked Food Market	1985	no	20	100%
64	Mui Wo Market	1993	no	35	97%
65	Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market	1987	no	28	86%
66	Ngau Chi Wan Market	1986	no	402	93%
67	Ngau Tau Kok Market	1981	no	466	87%
68	North Kwai Chung Market	1984	no	222	100%
69	North Point Market	1970	no	42	100%
70	On Ching Road Flower Market	1979	no	13	92%
71	Plover Cove Road Market	1991	no	244	96%
72	Po On Road Market	1988	no	449	93%
73	Quarry Bay Market	1988	no	113	82%
74	Sai Kung Market	1985	no	209	99%
75	Sha Tau Kok Market	1998	no	66	98%
76	Sham Tseng Temporary Market	1984	no	29	90%
77	Shaukeiwan Market	1973	no	82	56%
78	Shek Tong Tsui Market	1991	no	151	98%
79	Sheung Fung Street Market	1989	no	71	100%
80	Shui Wo Street Market	1988	no	302	100%
81	Stanley Waterfront Mart	2007	no	20	95%
82	Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market	1980	no	17	100%
83	Tai O Market	1989	no	26	100%

Serial No.	Name of Market	Year of Commissioning	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls as at 31 December 2016	Occupancy rate* as at 31 December 2016
84	Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market	1985	no	18	100%
85	Tai Wai Market	1985	no	195	88%
86	Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	1984	no	20	55%
87	Tang Lung Chau Market	1963	no	34	94%
88	Tin Wan Market	1979	no	180	100%
89	Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market	1983	no	18	100%
90	Tsuen King Circuit Market	1990	no	241	20%
91	Tsuen Wan Market	1981	no	381	93%
92	Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market	1985	no	56	100%
93	Tui Min Hoi Market	1983	no	34	85%
94	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	1992	no	359	41%
95	Tung Yick Market	1991	no	446	41%
96	Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	1983	no	8	100%
97	Wing Fong Street Market	1982	no	112	92%
98	Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market	1984	no	18	100%
99	Yau Ma Tei Market	1957	no	144	96%
100	Yeung Uk Road Market	1990	no	318	97%
101	Yue Kwong Road Market	1981	no	197	98%

* Occupancy rate is the percentage of let-out stalls versus the total number of stalls in a market. Degree of activity of let-out stalls varies.

Remark :

CFC - Cooked Food Centre in public market

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)133

(Question Serial No. 2598)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the following:

1. the total number of liquor licence applications received in 2015 and 2016, as well as the number of liquor licence applications estimated for 2017;
2. the staff establishment of the Liquor Licensing Board from 2015 to 2017; and
3. the progress in following up the implementation of measures to enhance the liquor licensing regime.

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. 5)

Reply:

- (1) In 2015 and 2016, the total numbers of liquor licence applications received are 8 936 and 6 520 respectively. In 2017, the estimated number of applications expected to be received is 6 800.
- (2) A total of 40 staff in the three licensing offices in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are responsible to handle liquor and club liquor licence applications as part of their licensing-related duties. In addition, 9 staff are deployed for providing secretariat support to the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB). The aforesaid staff establishment has been maintained since 2015.
- (3) The Government conducted a public consultation in 2011 and implemented a number of administrative measures subsequently to improve the liquor licensing regime. In May 2013, the LLB revamped its procedures for dealing with applications for the renewal or transfer of liquor licence, thereby allowing more sensitive handling of views from the neighbourhood. The LLB published in December 2013 a set of guidelines on the factors that should be taken into account when assessing liquor licence applications, the scrutiny on applications from upstairs bars, as well as the

more stringent conditions that the LLB may impose including those relating to capacity limit and measures to abate noise nuisance for premises etc. Separately, the LLB has since June 2014 added express provisions in the licensing conditions stipulating that restaurant licensees must comply with fire safety requirements at all times (such that minor breaches, if repeatedly not attended to promptly, would render them liable to suspension/cancellation of licence). In addition, documentary evidence of continuous compliance with fire safety requirements (namely that the fire safety related certificates issued by registered specialist contractors remain valid at the material time) must be adduced when the Department processes applications for licence renewal. An overwhelming majority of liquor-licensed premises have restaurant licences.

Apart from the administrative measures that have been implemented, the Dutiable Commodities (Liquor) (Amendment) Regulation 2015 came into operation on 3 August 2015. It extends the maximum validity period of a liquor licence from 1 year to 2 years, and facilitates electronic submission of applications for the issue or renewal of liquor licence.

In addition, the LLB has allowed the trade an additional option, other than a digital certificate, to use a password assigned or approved by the Board to submit renewal and amendment applications since July 2016 and new and transfer applications since October 2016.

To minimise disruption to the liquor selling business due to sudden departure of the licensee, the LLB would implement in late March 2017 a reserve licensee mechanism under which identification and nomination of a suitable person as a reserve licensee to take over the role of the licensee at an early stage is allowed.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)134****(Question Serial No. 0403)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the enhancement of the viability of public markets, please provide information on the following:

1. given that, at present, a support rate of 80% among tenants is needed for undertaking the retrofitting of air-conditioning in a public market, whether any questionnaire survey has been conducted in each of the non-air-conditioned public markets to gauge the extent of support from tenants for the retrofitting of air-conditioning; if yes, the results of such survey conducted in each of the participating public markets; if not, the reason(s); and
2. the number of public markets which have reached the threshold of tenants' support at 80% for the retrofitting of air-conditioning, with a breakdown as per the table below:

Serial No.	Name Of Public Market	Support Rate for Retrofitting of Air-conditioning (%)	Estimated Commencement Date of the Air-conditioning Retrofitting Works	Estimated Completion Date of the Air-conditioning Retrofitting Works	Estimated Expenditure

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (Member Question No. 7)Reply:

1. According to the established mechanism, when there is a request from market tenants for the retrofitting of air-conditioning facilities at a public market, the request will first be discussed at a meeting of the relevant Market Management Consultative Committee (MMCC). Where a consensus is reached by MMCC that the request should be further explored, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will conduct a questionnaire survey to gauge the extent of support from market tenants. Since 1 July

2015, the threshold of tenants' support to retrofitting of air-conditioning facilities in public markets has been lowered from 85% to 80%. FEHD has completed the consultation with the MMCCs of those FEHD markets without air-conditioning. The MMCCs of 27 of these markets supported conducting a questionnaire survey to collect the tenants' views on the retrofitting of air-conditioning in the relevant public markets. The questionnaire surveys were subsequently conducted and completed. Out of the 27 public markets surveyed, 2 markets and 6 cooked food centres of the relevant markets attained sufficient tenant support. The results of questionnaire surveys are provided at the Annex. In addition, Shui Wo Street Market Cooked Food Centre (CFC), Tai Wai Market and Aberdeen Market cum CFC, on which questionnaire surveys were conducted before 1 July 2015, have also met the tenants' support threshold.

2. If there is sufficient tenant support, a technical feasibility study will be conducted. Taking into consideration factors such as the findings of the technical feasibility study, extent of works required, cost effectiveness, impact on business and market operation, and whether the implementation details are acceptable to the tenants concerned, the Government will decide whether there is a case for seeking funds to carry out the works for retrofitting air-conditioners. The technical feasibility study for Tai Wai Market has been completed. With regard to Shui Wo Street Market CFC, Aberdeen Market cum CFC and Ngau Tau Kok Market CFC, the preliminary feasibility assessment is underway. FEHD is now following up with the Architectural Services Department to conduct preliminary feasibility assessment for the other markets concerned. We are unable to provide the estimated commencement date, completion date or expenditure at the present stage. The other information sought is provided as follows.

Serial No.	Name of Public Market	Support Rate for Retrofitting of Air-conditioning (%)
1	Shui Wo Street Market CFC	100
2	Tai Wai Market	97.1
3	Aberdeen Market cum CFC	80.4
4	Ngau Tau Kok Market CFC	90
5	Shek Tong Tsui Market CFC	93.3
6	Quarry Bay Market CFC	100
7	Electric Road Market CFC	100
8	Fa Yuen Street Market CFC	80
9	Ngau Chi Wan Market CFC	100
10	Yeung Uk Road Market	81.7
11	Tsuen Wan Market	82.1

- End -

Serial No.	Name of Public Market	Support Rate for Retrofitting of Air-conditioning (%)
1	Shek Tong Tsui Market	21.3
	Shek Tong Tsui Market CFC	93.3
2	Tin Wan Market	26.5
	Tin Wan Market CFC	30
3	Wong Nai Chung Market (Market only)	11.7
4	Bowrington Road Market (Market only)	44.2
5	Quarry Bay Market	30.6
	Quarry Bay Market CFC	100
6	Sai Wan Ho Market (Market only)	5.4
7	North Point Market	14.6
8	Java Road Market (Market only)	17.5
9	Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	18.2
10	Electric Road Market	7.9
	Electric Road Market CFC	100
11	Causeway Bay Market	2
12	Ngau Tau Kok Market CFC	90
13	Pei Ho Street Market (Market only)	12.3
14	Po On Road Market	19.2
	Po On Road Market CFC	73.7
15	Lai Wan Market	39
16	Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	75
17	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	27.8
18	Fa Yuen Street Market	53.9
	Fa Yuen Street Market CFC	80
19	Tai Shing Street Market (Market only)	42.3
20	Ngau Chi Wan Market	53.1
	Ngau Chi Wan Market CFC	100
21	Sheung Fung Street Market	7.8
22	Tung Yick Market	76.5
23	Sai Kung Market	56.9
24	Tui Min Hoi Market	8.8
25	Wing Fong Street Market	47.5
26	Yeung Uk Road Market	81.7
27	Tsuen Wan Market	82.1

Remarks:

CFC – Cooked Food Centre

Market only – for the wet market portion only as the CFC portion has already been provided with air-conditioning.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)135

(Question Serial No. 0444)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is mentioned that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will “continue to enforce against shop front extensions (SFEs)”. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

1. the number of complaints against SFEs received in the past 3 years (i.e. 2014-2016), with a breakdown by year and district;
2. the staff establishment and strength of the Hawker Control Officer grade of the Department in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and rank;
3. the number of complaints received and fixed penalty notices issued since the commencement of the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (the Ordinance); and
4. whether the Department has allocated additional manpower for the enforcement of the Ordinance; if yes, the details and expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (Member Question No. 13)

Reply:

1. The information sought is at Annex I.
2. The information sought is at Annex II.
3. The number of complaints received and fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) between the commencement of the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (the Ordinance) on 24 September 2016 and 31 December 2016 is 5 087 and 2 090 respectively.

4. In 2015-16, the Department set up 3 task force teams to combat shop front extensions (SFEs) at blackspots by creating 39 civil service posts, comprising 33 Hawker Control Officer (HCO) grade staff and 6 workmen. In 2016-17, the Department set up 2 additional task force teams, comprising 22 HCO grade staff and 4 workmen, to further strengthen enforcement against SFEs across the territory which included the issue of FPNs under the Ordinance with effect from 24 September 2016. The expenditure involved in creating the said new posts in 2015-16 and 2016-17 was about \$17.2 million.

- End -

Number of complaints against SFE

District	Year		
	2014	2015	2016
Central and Western	631	563	756
Wan Chai	700	688	888
Eastern	2 655	1 615	1 399
Southern	155	282	299
Islands	94	125	129
Yau Tsim	944	767	809
Mong Kok	1 108	1 777	1 847
Sham Shui Po	2 401	2 204	2 910
Kowloon City	1 234	1 152	934
Wong Tai Sin	456	377	334
Kwun Tong	651	409	859
Kwai Tsing	410	290	489
Tsuen Wan	921	893	931
Tuen Mun	386	373	346
Yuen Long	4 087	1 517	1 483
North	710	468	554
Tai Po	622	340	585
Shatin	436	333	380
Sai Kung	250	201	232
Total	18 851	14 374	16 164

Staff establishment of Hawker control officer grade

Year	Rank	Establishment
2014 (as at 1.4.2014)	Principal Hawker Control Officer	21
	Chief Hawker Control Officer	49
	Senior Hawker Control Officer	230
	Hawker Control Officer	312
	Assistant Hawker Control Officer	1 597
	Grade Total	2 209
2015 (as at 1.4.2015)	Principal Hawker Control Officer	21
	Chief Hawker Control Officer	49
	Senior Hawker Control Officer	231
	Hawker Control Officer	312
	Assistant Hawker Control Officer	1 597
	Grade Total	2 210
2016 (as at 1.4.2016)	Principal Hawker Control Officer	21
	Chief Hawker Control Officer	49
	Senior Hawker Control Officer	234
	Hawker Control Officer	318
	Assistant Hawker Control Officer	1 621
	Grade Total	2 243

The strength of the Hawker Control Officer grade in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (position as at 1 April of the respective year) was 2 079, 2 145 and 2 105 respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)136

(Question Serial No. 0454)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will “take action to close public markets which are under-utilised”. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the definition of “utilisation rate”, the criteria used to determine whether the utilisation rate is high or low, and the list of public markets currently assessed as under-utilised;
- (b) the “occupancy rate” and “vacancy rate” of each public market in the territory; and
- (c) the number of markets that were closed in the past 5 years (i.e. from 2012 to 2016), the expenditure involved, and the reason(s) for the closure.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (Member Question No. 15)

Reply:

- (a) As a result of demographic changes, new development/redevelopment projects and competition from other fresh provision outlets, the appeal of some public markets has been diminishing over time thus leading to reduced patronage and high vacancy rates. When considering whether an under-utilised public market is to be closed, we will take into account a host of factors, including vacancy rate, prospects for improvement, availability of alternative sources of fresh provision outlets in the vicinity, and the likely cost-effectiveness of upgrading works and the views of the relevant District Councils, etc. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department plans to close Shau Kei Wan Market and Tsuen King Circuit Market in 2017-18.
- (b) The information sought is provided at Annex.
- (c) In the past 5 years ending 2016, 1 market, namely Bridges Street Market, was closed due to consistently high vacancy rate. Closure of the said market resulted in

reduction of annual operating cost of about \$1.28 million and the annual revenue forgone was about \$0.08 million.

- End -

Serial No.	Name of Market	As at 31 December 2016		
		No. of stalls	Occupancy rate*	Vacancy rate#
1	Aberdeen Market	335	99%	1%
2	Aldrich Bay Market	71	86%	14%
3	Apleichau Market	63	100%	0%
4	Bowrington Road Market	296	97%	3%
5	Causeway Bay Market	51	98%	2%
6	Centre Street Market	46	78%	22%
7	Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market	32	94%	6%
8	Chai Wan Market	173	95%	5%
9	Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market	17	100%	0%
10	Cheung Chau Market	240	98%	2%
11	Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	28	43%	57%
12	Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market	12	100%	0%
13	Choi Hung Road Market	116	69%	31%
14	Electric Road Market	99	97%	3%
15	Fa Yuen Street Market	180	100%	0%
16	Fo Tan (East) Cooked Food Market	24	100%	0%
17	Fo Tan (West) Cooked Food Market	15	100%	0%
18	Haiphong Road Temporary Market	88	66%	34%
19	Heung Che Street Market	223	96%	4%
20	Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market	11	91%	9%
21	Hung Hom Market	224	100%	0%
22	Hung Shui Kiu Market	174	75%	25%
23	Java Road Market	194	95%	5%
24	Ka Ting Cooked Food Market	16	62%	38%
25	Kam Tin Market	41	98%	2%

Serial No.	Name of Market	As at 31 December 2016		
		No. of stalls	Occupancy rate*	Vacancy rate#
26	Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market	14	100%	0%
27	Kin Wing Cooked Food Market	17	100%	0%
28	Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market	14	100%	0%
29	Kowloon City Market	581	100%	0%
30	Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	11	100%	0%
31	Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market	12	83%	17%
32	Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre	98	100%	0%
33	Kwun Chung Market	218	98%	2%
34	Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market	29	100%	0%
35	Lai Wan Market	42	98%	2%
36	Lam Tei Market	7	100%	0%
37	Lau Fau Shan Market	25	88%	12%
38	Lei Yue Mun Market	20	100%	0%
39	Lockhart Road Market	166	80%	20%
40	Luen Wo Hui Market	338	99%	1%
41	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	14	100%	0%
42	Mui Wo Cooked Food Market	20	100%	0%
43	Mui Wo Market	35	97%	3%
44	Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market	28	86%	14%
45	Ngau Chi Wan Market	402	93%	7%
46	Ngau Tau Kok Market	466	87%	13%
47	North Kwai Chung Market	222	100%	0%
48	North Point Market	42	100%	0%
49	On Ching Road Flower Market	13	92%	8%
50	Pei Ho Street Market	227	98%	2%
51	Peng Chau Market	18	100%	0%

Serial No.	Name of Market	As at 31 December 2016		
		No. of stalls	Occupancy rate*	Vacancy rate#
52	Plover Cove Road Market	244	96%	4%
53	Po On Road Market	449	93%	7%
54	Quarry Bay Market	113	82%	18%
55	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	11	100%	0%
56	Sai Kung Market	209	99%	1%
57	Sai Wan Ho Market	274	97%	3%
58	Sai Ying Pun Market	102	89%	11%
59	San Hui Market	324	99%	1%
60	Sha Tau Kok Market	66	98%	2%
61	Sha Tin Market	172	98%	2%
62	Sham Tseng Temporary Market	29	90%	10%
63	Shaukeiwan Market	82	56%	44%
64	Shek Tong Tsui Market	151	98%	2%
65	Shek Wu Hui Market	392	100%	0%
66	Sheung Fung Street Market	71	100%	0%
67	Sheung Wan Market	222	100%	0%
68	Shui Wo Street Market	302	100%	0%
69	Smithfield Market	216	100%	0%
70	Stanley Waterfront Mart	20	95%	5%
71	Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market	17	100%	0%
72	Tai Kiu Market	379	99%	1%
73	Tai Kok Tsui Market	135	100%	0%
74	Tai O Market	26	100%	0%
75	Tai Po Hui Market	313	99%	1%
76	Tai Shing Street Market	442	95%	5%
77	Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market	18	100%	0%
78	Tai Wai Market	195	88%	12%
79	Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	20	55%	45%
80	Tang Lung Chau Market	34	94%	6%
81	Tin Wan Market	180	100%	0%

Serial No.	Name of Market	As at 31 December 2016		
		No. of stalls	Occupancy rate*	Vacancy rate#
82	Tokwawan Market	267	98%	2%
83	Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market	18	100%	0%
84	Tsing Yi Market	76	100%	0%
85	Tsuen King Circuit Market	241	20%	80%
86	Tsuen Wan Market	381	93%	7%
87	Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market	56	100%	0%
88	Tui Min Hoi Market	34	85%	15%
89	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	359	41%	59%
90	Tung Yick Market	446	41%	59%
91	Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	8	100%	0%
92	Wanchai Market	50	96%	4%
93	Wing Fong Street Market	112	92%	8%
94	Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market	18	100%	0%
95	Wong Nai Chung Market	69	99%	1%
96	Yan Oi Market	108	97%	3%
97	Yau Ma Tei Market	144	96%	4%
98	Yee On Street Market	65	98%	2%
99	Yeung Uk Road Market	318	97%	3%
100	Yue Kwong Road Market	197	98%	2%
101	Yue Wan Market	374	94%	6%

* Occupancy rate is the percentage of let-out stalls versus the total number of stalls in a market. Degree of activity of let-out stalls varies.

Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)137

(Question Serial No. 1212)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the work of “continuing to improve the management and upgrade the facilities of public markets”, please provide information on the number of stalls, occupancy rate, vacancy rate and average stall rental per square metre of individual public markets (listed by air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned markets) in the territory over the past 3 years (i.e. 2014, 2015 and 2016).

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

The information sought is provided at Annex.

- End -

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls			Occupancy rate as at 31 December*			Vacancy rate as at 31 December#			Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)		
			2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
1	Aldrich Bay Market	yes	71	71	71	82%	85%	86%	18%	15%	14%	788	751	747
2	Apleichau Market	yes	63	63	63	98%	98%	100%	2%	2%	0%	228	233	237
3	Centre Street Market	yes	47	46	46	74%	85%	78%	26%	15%	22%	412	425	416
4	Chai Wan Market	yes	173	173	173	94%	95%	95%	6%	5%	5%	424	485	526
5	Lei Yue Mun Market	yes	20	20	20	100%	90%	100%	0%	10%	0%	267	268	268
6	Luen Wo Hui Market	yes	338	338	338	97%	99%	99%	3%	1%	1%	400	410	447
7	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	yes	14	14	14	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	988	988	988
8	Peng Chau Market	yes	18	18	18	89%	94%	100%	11%	6%	0%	92	93	92
9	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	yes	11	11	11	91%	100%	100%	9%	0%	0%	1,146	1,305	1,305
10	Sai Ying Pun Market	yes	102	102	102	88%	89%	89%	12%	11%	11%	267	280	299
11	San Hui Market	yes	324	324	324	99%	100%	99%	1%	0%	1%	565	567	568
12	Sha Tin Market	yes	172	172	172	100%	100%	98%	0%	0%	2%	977	1,006	996
13	Shek Wu Hui Market	yes	392	392	392	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	370	376	377
14	Tai Kiu Market	yes	379	379	379	98%	98%	99%	2%	2%	1%	598	587	590
15	Tai Kok Tsui Market	yes	135	135	135	99%	100%	100%	1%	0%	0%	428	429	433
16	Tai Po Hui Market	yes	313	313	313	100%	99%	99%	0%	1%	1%	605	610	623
17	Tsing Yi Market	yes	76	76	76	91%	91%	100%	9%	9%	0%	970	976	971
18	Wanchai Market	yes	50	50	50	100%	100%	96%	0%	0%	4%	989	992	976
19	Yan Oi Market	yes	108	108	108	99%	98%	97%	1%	2%	3%	407	410	421
20	Yee On Street Market	yes	65	65	65	98%	95%	98%	2%	5%	2%	228	232	240
21	Yue Wan Market	yes	374	374	374	94%	97%	94%	6%	3%	6%	469	478	485

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls			Occupancy rate as at 31 December*			Vacancy rate as at 31 December#			Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)		
			2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
22	Bowrington Road Market	only in CFC	296	296	296	99%	99%	99%	1%	1%	1%	457	459	462
23	Hung Hom Market	only in CFC	224	224	224	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	204	206	208
24	Java Road Market	only in CFC	194	194	194	97%	96%	95%	3%	4%	5%	397	388	399
25	Lockhart Road Market	only in CFC	166	166	166	89%	83%	80%	11%	17%	20%	292	297	359
26	Pei Ho Street Market	only in CFC	227	227	227	100%	100%	98%	0%	0%	2%	255	255	252
27	Sai Wan Ho Market	only in CFC	274	274	274	98%	99%	97%	2%	1%	3%	331	331	332
28	Sheung Wan Market	only in CFC	222	222	222	98%	99%	100%	2%	1%	0%	188	191	192
29	Smithfield Market	only in CFC	216	216	216	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	210	210	210
30	Tai Shing Street Market	only in CFC	446	446	442	94%	95%	95%	6%	5%	5%	317	333	331
31	Tokwawan Market	only in CFC	267	267	267	99%	99%	98%	1%	1%	2%	343	354	361
32	Wong Nai Chung Market	only in CFC	69	69	69	99%	97%	99%	1%	3%	1%	254	252	275
33	Aberdeen Market	no	335	335	335	99%	99%	99%	1%	1%	1%	632	631	626
34	Causeway Bay Market	no	51	51	51	100%	98%	98%	0%	2%	2%	158	157	161
35	Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market	no	32	32	32	100%	94%	94%	0%	6%	6%	218	195	195
36	Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market	no	17	17	17	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	173	173	173
37	Cheung Chau Market	no	237	237	240	100%	100%	98%	0%	0%	2%	184	184	185
38	Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	no	28	28	28	43%	43%	43%	57%	57%	57%	168	168	168
39	Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market	no	12	12	12	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	169	169	169
40	Choi Hung Road Market	no	116	116	116	78%	74%	69%	22%	26%	31%	148	144	145
41	Electric Road Market	no	99	99	99	98%	95%	97%	2%	5%	3%	191	191	195
42	Fa Yuen Street Market	no	180	180	180	98%	100%	100%	2%	0%	0%	528	540	556
43	Fo Tan (East) Cooked Food Market	no	24	24	24	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	309	309	309

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls			Occupancy rate as at 31 December*			Vacancy rate as at 31 December#			Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)		
			2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
44	Fo Tan (West) Cooked Food Market	no	15	15	15	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	222	222	222
45	Haiphong Road Temporary Market	no	88	88	88	66%	66%	66%	34%	34%	34%	319	319	316
46	Heung Che Street Market	no	223	223	223	99%	96%	96%	1%	4%	4%	278	279	278
47	Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market	no	11	11	11	100%	100%	91%	0%	0%	9%	343	343	335
48	Hung Shui Kiu Market	no	215	215	174	38%	37%	75%	62%	63%	25%	237	234	297
49	Ka Ting Cooked Food Market	no	16	16	16	81%	69%	62%	19%	31%	38%	377	397	401
50	Kam Tin Market	no	41	41	41	100%	100%	98%	0%	0%	2%	83	83	84
51	Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market	no	14	14	14	100%	93%	100%	0%	7%	0%	392	413	755
52	Kin Wing Cooked Food Market	no	20	17	17	85%	100%	100%	15%	0%	0%	320	320	320
53	Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market	no	14	14	14	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	135	135	135
54	Kowloon City Market	no	581	581	581	98%	98%	100%	2%	2%	0%	276	283	293
55	Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	no	11	11	11	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	162	162	162
56	Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market	no	12	12	12	92%	92%	83%	8%	8%	17%	158	158	158
57	Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre	no	98	98	98	99%	100%	100%	1%	0%	0%	53	54	54
58	Kwun Chung Market	no	218	218	218	99%	99%	98%	1%	1%	2%	172	202	200
59	Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market	no	29	29	29	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	99	99	99
60	Lai Wan Market	no	42	42	42	98%	98%	98%	2%	2%	2%	670	670	670

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls			Occupancy rate as at 31 December*			Vacancy rate as at 31 December#			Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)		
			2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
61	Lam Tei Market	no	7	7	7	86%	100%	100%	14%	0%	0%	58	66	66
62	Lau Fau Shan Market	no	25	25	25	88%	88%	88%	12%	12%	12%	32	32	32
63	Mui Wo Cooked Food Market	no	20	20	20	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	148	148	140
64	Mui Wo Market	no	35	35	35	100%	97%	97%	0%	3%	3%	182	183	177
65	Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market	no	28	28	28	89%	89%	86%	11%	11%	14%	467	467	471
66	Ngau Chi Wan Market	no	402	402	402	95%	93%	93%	5%	7%	7%	357	380	380
67	Ngau Tau Kok Market	no	466	466	466	88%	86%	87%	12%	14%	13%	481	477	494
68	North Kwai Chung Market	no	222	222	222	97%	98%	100%	3%	2%	0%	279	281	290
69	North Point Market	no	42	42	42	90%	98%	100%	10%	2%	0%	170	175	188
70	On Ching Road Flower Market	no	13	13	13	100%	100%	92%	0%	0%	8%	167	167	169
71	Plover Cove Road Market	no	244	244	244	99%	97%	96%	1%	3%	4%	225	232	233
72	Po On Road Market	no	449	449	449	94%	96%	93%	6%	4%	7%	402	415	411
73	Quarry Bay Market	no	113	113	113	93%	92%	82%	7%	8%	18%	224	232	250
74	Sai Kung Market	no	209	209	209	100%	99%	99%	0%	1%	1%	226	228	265
75	Sha Tau Kok Market	no	66	66	66	100%	100%	98%	0%	0%	2%	22	23	23
76	Sham Tseng Temporary Market	no	29	29	29	100%	100%	90%	0%	0%	10%	110	110	108
77	Shaukeiwan Market	no	82	82	82	56%	56%	56%	44%	44%	44%	130	130	130
78	Shek Tong Tsui Market	no	151	151	151	97%	94%	98%	3%	6%	2%	234	229	247
79	Sheung Fung Street Market	no	71	71	71	100%	99%	100%	0%	1%	0%	234	241	244
80	Shui Wo Street Market	no	302	302	302	99%	99%	100%	1%	1%	0%	633	639	649

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls			Occupancy rate as at 31 December*			Vacancy rate as at 31 December#			Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)		
			2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
81	Stanley Waterfront Mart	no	20	20	20	95%	90%	95%	5%	10%	5%	1,543	1,489	1,437
82	Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market	no	17	17	17	88%	88%	100%	12%	12%	0%	460	460	502
83	Tai O Market	no	26	26	26	85%	88%	100%	15%	12%	0%	57	56	61
84	Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market	no	18	18	18	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	237	237	237
85	Tai Wai Market	no	195	195	195	90%	89%	88%	10%	11%	12%	520	521	522
86	Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	no	20	20	20	100%	80%	55%	0%	20%	45%	42	40	46
87	Tang Lung Chau Market	no	34	34	34	97%	97%	94%	3%	3%	6%	349	349	357
88	Tin Wan Market	no	180	180	180	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	179	179	179
89	Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market	no	18	18	18	98%	100%	100%	2%	0%	0%	151	178	177
90	Tsuen King Circuit Market	no	241	241	241	24%	21%	20%	76%	79%	80%	76	81	79
91	Tsuen Wan Market	no	381	381	381	96%	93%	93%	4%	7%	7%	383	387	383
92	Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market	no	56	56	56	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	111	114	148
93	Tui Min Hoi Market	no	34	34	34	100%	100%	85%	0%	0%	15%	45	45	50
94	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	no	359	359	359	50%	50%	41%	50%	50%	59%	191	192	216
95	Tung Yick Market	no	446	446	446	42%	42%	41%	58%	58%	59%	217	216	218
96	Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	no	8	8	8	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	271	271	271
97	Wing Fong Street Market	no	112	112	112	93%	93%	92%	7%	7%	8%	307	317	320
98	Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market	no	18	18	18	94%	94%	100%	6%	6%	0%	177	188	204

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls			Occupancy rate as at 31 December*			Vacancy rate as at 31 December#			Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)		
			2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
99	Yau Ma Tei Market	no	144	144	144	99%	99%	96%	1%	1%	4%	252	265	269
100	Yeung Uk Road Market	no	318	318	318	98%	98%	97%	2%	2%	3%	305	304	303
101	Yue Kwong Road Market	no	197	197	197	98%	100%	98%	2%	0%	2%	368	334	328

Remarks:

* Occupancy rate is the percentage of let-out stalls versus the total number of stalls in a market. Degree of activity of let-out stalls varies.

Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.

CFC – Cooked Food Centre in public market

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)138****(Question Serial No. 0448)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the number of staff of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) by programme, please advise on the following:

1. the staff establishment and strength of the Department at present, as well as the expenditure involved, with a breakdown by grade and rank as per the table below; and

Grade	Rank	Staff Establishment	Strength	Expenditure Involved

2. the number of staff in the Department currently working on five-day week, with a breakdown by grade and rank as per the table below; whether the Department will consider implementing the five-day work week for staff of all grades (if yes, the details and the estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s)).

Grade	Rank	No. of Staff Working on Five-day Week

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (Member Question No. 14)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. As at 1 February 2017, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has an establishment of 11 189 posts, with a strength of 9 979. The breakdown is provided in the table below.

Grade/Rank	Establishment	Strength*
Directorate Administrative Officer Staff Grade A Administrative Officer Staff Grade B Assistant Director of Health Assistant Director of Municipal Services Chief Treasury Accountant Consultant Controller, Centre for Food Safety Principal Executive Officer Principal Medical and Health Officer Senior Principal Executive Officer	15	18
Non-directorate		
Hawker Control Officer Principal Hawker Control Officer Chief Hawker Control Officer Senior Hawker Control Officer Hawker Control Officer Assistant Hawker Control Officer	2 265	2 121
Health Inspector Senior Superintendent of Environmental Health Superintendent of Environmental Health Chief Health Inspector Senior Health Inspector Health Inspector I/II	1 345	1 314
Pest Control Assistant Pest Control Assistant II/Student Pest Control Assistant	29	29
Pest Control Officer Pest Control Officer/Assistant Pest Control Officer	16	16
Accounting Officer Senior Accounting Officer Accounting Officer I Accounting Officer II	10	10
Administrative Officer Senior Administrative Officer Administrative Officer	5	4
Analyst/Programmer Senior Systems Manager Systems Manager Analyst/Programmer I Analyst/Programmer II	4	5
Calligraphist	4	4
Clerical Assistant	310	273
Clerical Officer	541	534

Senior Clerical Officer Clerical Officer Assistant Clerical Officer		
Computer Operator Senior Computer Operator Computer Operator I Computer Operator II/Student Computer Operator	9	9
Confidential Assistant Senior Confidential Assistant Confidential Assistant	5	4
Data Processor	3	3
Executive Officer Chief Executive Officer Senior Executive Officer Executive Officer I Executive Officer II	160	157
Field Officer Senior Field Officer Field Officer I Field Officer II/Assistant Field Officer	62	59
Government Transport Manager	1	1
Information Officer Chief Information Officer Principal Information Officer Senior Information Officer Information Officer Assistant Information Officer	16	16
Management Services Officer Chief Management Services Officer Senior Management Services Officer Management Services Officer I Management Services Officer II	13	11
Motor Driver	721	722
Office Assistant	42	31
Official Languages Officer Chief Official Languages Officer Senior Official Languages Officer Official Languages Officer I Official Languages Officer II	25	25
Personal Secretary Senior Personal Secretary Personal Secretary I Personal Secretary II	29	24
Special Driver	286	199
Statistical Officer Senior Statistical Officer Statistical Officer I	4	4
Statistician	2	2

Supplies Assistant	12	13
Supplies Attendant	3	1
Supplies Officer Principal Supplies Officer Senior Supplies Officer Supplies Officer Assistant Supplies Officer	9	9
Supplies Supervisor Senior Supplies Supervisor Supplies Supervisor I Supplies Supervisor II	14	15
Technical Officer (Cultural Services) Technical Officer II (CS)	1	1
Training Officer Chief Training Officer Senior Training Officer Training Officer I	3	3
Transport Services Officer Chief Transport Services Officer Senior Transport Services Officer Transport Services Officer I Transport Services Officer II	21	20
Treasury Accountant Senior Treasury Accountant Treasury Accountant	5	5
Typist	1	1
Veterinary Officer Senior Veterinary Officer Veterinary Officer	17	13
Agricultural Officer	1	1
Artisan	87	29
Chemist Senior Chemist Chemist	9	9
Driving Instructor	2	2
Field Assistant Senior Field Assistant Field Assistant	44	33
Fisheries Officer	1	1
Foreman Senior Overseer Overseer Senior Foreman Foreman	1 113	1 006
Ganger	144	76
Laboratory Attendant	9	8
Mechanical Inspector Mechanical Inspector	2	2

Assistant Mechanical Inspector		
Medical and Health Officer	12	11
Senior Medical and Health Officer		
Medical and Health Officer		
Occupational Safety Officer	2	2
Senior Divisional Occupational Safety Officer		
Occupational Safety Officer I		
Photographer	2	2
Senior Photographer		
Photographer I		
Projectionist	3	3
Property Attendant	3	1
Registered Nurse	9	9
Nursing Officer		
Registered Nurse/Student Nurse		
Science Laboratory Technician	30	30
Science Laboratory Technologist		
Science Laboratory Technician I		
Science Laboratory Technician II		
Scientific Officer (Medical)	18	18
Senior Artisan	14	3
Workman I	580	256
Workman II	3 084	2 788
Works Supervisor	12	13
Works Supervisor I		
Works Supervisor II		
Total	11 189	9 979

* The strength may be greater than the establishment in some grades mainly due to the inclusion of officers on pre-retirement leave in the strength figures.

In 2016-17, the revised estimate of personal emoluments and personnel related expenses is around \$3,410 million.

- There are about 5 000 civil servants in the Department working on five-day week. A breakdown is set out below –

Grade/Rank	No. of Staff Working on Five-day Week [#]
Directorate	16
Administrative Officer Staff Grade A	
Administrative Officer Staff Grade B	
Assistant Director of Health	
Assistant Director of Municipal Services	
Chief Treasury Accountant	
Consultant	
Controller, Centre for Food Safety	

Principal Executive Officer Principal Medical and Health Officer Senior Principal Executive Officer	
Non-directorate	
Hawker Control Officer Principal Hawker Control Officer Chief Hawker Control Officer Senior Hawker Control Officer Hawker Control Officer Assistant Hawker Control Officer	409
Health Inspector Senior Superintendent of Environmental Health Superintendent of Environmental Health Chief Health Inspector Senior Health Inspector Health Inspector I/II	1 162
Pest Control Assistant Pest Control Assistant II/Student Pest Control Assistant	29
Pest Control Officer Pest Control Officer/Assistant Pest Control Officer	16
Accounting Officer Senior Accounting Officer Accounting Officer I Accounting Officer II	10
Administrative Officer Senior Administrative Officer Administrative Officer	4
Analyst/Programmer Senior Systems Manager Systems Manager Analyst/Programmer I Analyst/Programmer II	5
Calligraphist	4
Clerical Assistant	249
Clerical Officer Senior Clerical Officer Clerical Officer Assistant Clerical Officer	519
Computer Operator Senior Computer Operator Computer Operator I Computer Operator II/Student Computer Operator	9
Confidential Assistant Senior Confidential Assistant Confidential Assistant	5
Data Processor	3
Executive Officer Chief Executive Officer	154

Senior Executive Officer Executive Officer I Executive Officer II	
Field Officer Senior Field Officer Field Officer I Field Officer II/Assistant Field Officer	59
Government Transport Manager	1
Information Officer Chief Information Officer Principal Information Officer Senior Information Officer Information Officer Assistant Information Officer	16
Management Services Officer Chief Management Services Officer Senior Management Services Officer Management Services Officer I Management Services Officer II	11
Motor Driver	134
Office Assistant	30
Official Languages Officer Chief Official Languages Officer Senior Official Languages Officer Official Languages Officer I Official Languages Officer II	25
Personal Secretary Senior Personal Secretary Personal Secretary I Personal Secretary II	24
Special Driver	24
Statistical Officer Senior Statistical Officer Statistical Officer I	4
Statistician	2
Supplies Assistant	12
Supplies Attendant	1
Supplies Officer Principal Supplies Officer Senior Supplies Officer Supplies Officer Assistant Supplies Officer	9
Supplies Supervisor Senior Supplies Supervisor Supplies Supervisor I Supplies Supervisor II	14
Technical Officer (Cultural Services) Technical Officer II (CS)	1

Training Officer Chief Training Officer Senior Training Officer Training Officer I	3
Transport Services Officer Chief Transport Services Officer Senior Transport Services Officer Transport Services Officer I Transport Services Officer II	20
Treasury Accountant Senior Treasury Accountant Treasury Accountant	5
Typist	1
Veterinary Officer Senior Veterinary Officer Veterinary Officer	13
Agricultural Officer	1
Artisan	6
Chemist Senior Chemist Chemist	8
Driving Instructor	2
Field Assistant Senior Field Assistant Field Assistant	33
Fisheries Officer	1
Foreman Senior Overseer Overseer Senior Foreman Foreman	906
Ganger	29
Laboratory Attendant	7
Mechanical Inspector Mechanical Inspector Assistant Mechanical Inspector	2
Medical and Health Officer Senior Medical and Health Officer Medical and Health Officer	10
Occupational Safety Officer Senior Divisional Occupational Safety Officer Occupational Safety Officer I	2
Photographer Senior Photographer Photographer I	2
Projectionist	3
Registered Nurse Nursing Officer	9

Registered Nurse/Student Nurse	
Science Laboratory Technician Science Laboratory Technologist Science Laboratory Technician I Science Laboratory Technician II	30
Scientific Officer (Medical)	18
Workman I Workman II	967
Total	5 039

The number refers to the total number of staff of respective grades working on five-day week and excludes officers on pre-retirement leave.

The Department will continue to explore options for extending the five-day week work mode to more civil servants under the relevant governing principles, viz no additional staffing resources, no reduction in the conditioned hours of service of individual staff, no reduction in emergency services and continued provision of some essential counter services on Saturdays.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)139

(Question Serial No. 3045)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18, it is stated that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to take forward plans to provide more columbarium facilities. As regards the new / extended columbarium facilities to be commissioned in the coming 5 years, please advise this Committee on the locations, the commencement and completion dates of the works concerned, as well as the number of niches and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

Under the district-based columbarium development scheme, a total of 24 potential sites have been identified in the 18 districts for columbarium development. Between the second quarter of 2011 and the end of 2016, the Government has consulted the relevant District Councils (DCs) on the projects at 14 sites, and all DCs indicated support or no-objection to the projects. These 14 projects would provide around 589 000 new niches in total, accounting for about two thirds of the total number of new niches available in all the 24 projects.

Among the projects for which relevant DCs have been consulted, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has obtained funding support for taking forward the following projects in the coming 5 years –

Location	Actual / Tentative Commencement Date of Construction Works	Tentative Completion Date of Construction Works	Number of Niches	Estimated Expenditure (\$ million)
Peng Chau Columbarium Extension, Islands District	November 2016	September 2017	360	1.20
Cheung Chau Columbarium Extension, Islands District	September 2017	February 2018	1 250	5.10
Hong Kong Cemeteries and Crematoria Office (part) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department at Wong Nai Chung Road, Wan Chai District	September 2017	March 2018	855	7.25
Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun District	July 2016	Q3 2019	160 000	2,874.30
Wo Hop Shek Cemetery (Phase 1), North District	December 2016	Q4 2019	44 000	945.60

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)140****(Question Serial No. 3037)**

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) that during 2017-18, the Department will take action to close public markets which are under-utilised. In this connection, please set out the following: (a) public markets which are intended to be closed, and the plans to better utilise such facilities; (b) the criteria adopted for assessing a market as under-utilised, and whether there are measures to improve the utilisation of the markets assessed as under-utilised (if yes, the details).

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (Member Question No. 13)

Reply:

As a result of demographic changes, new development/redevelopment projects and competition from other fresh provision outlets, the appeal of some public markets has been diminishing over time thus leading to reduced patronage and high vacancy rates. When considering whether an under-utilised market is to be closed, we will take into account a host of factors, including vacancy rate, prospects for improvement, availability of alternative sources of fresh provision outlets in the vicinity, and the likely cost-effectiveness of upgrading works and the views of the relevant District Councils, etc. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) plans to close Shau Kei Wan Market and Tsuen King Circuit Market in 2017-18, the vacancy rates¹ of which were 44% and 80% respectively as at 31 December 2016. Noteworthy is that a sizable portion of the occupied (i.e. leased) stalls are not in active operation, e.g. for the Shau Kei Wan Market, of the 46 occupied stalls, only 19 stalls are actively in operation.

Where a market is closed and the premises are no longer required by the Department, the vacated building space will be handled according to established procedures. Depending on the circumstances, the Government Property Agency, Planning Department or Lands

¹ Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.

Department may be requested to seek inputs from other government departments on proposals to put the premises to gainful long-term use.

As an on-going initiative, the Department has been taking forward measures to improve the operating environment of public markets, including replacement of aged lifts and escalators, improvement of ventilation, lighting systems and fire services, refurbishment of external walls, refurbishment of toilets, etc. as appropriate. Promotional activities are also conducted to enhance the patronage of public markets. These include thematic exhibitions and workshops, festive celebration activities, display of multi-language recipes as well as publication of booklets and quarterly newsletters to provide updated market information. In addition, the Department will continue, as appropriate, to let out long-standing vacant stalls at reduced upset auction prices and introduce a greater variety of service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rate of public markets.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)141****(Question Serial No. 0973)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the engagement of outsourced service contractors by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department from 2014 to 2017, please provide data on the following four types of outsourced services as per the table below:

- a) Street cleansing
- b) Public toilet management
- c) Waste collection
- d) Recyclables collection service

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Number of service contracts			
Total amount paid to service contractors			
Number of staff employed by street cleansing service contractors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total • Supervisor • Worker 			
Monthly salary range of staff employed by street cleansing service contractors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >\$30,000 • \$20,001-\$30,000 • \$16,001-\$20,000 • \$13,001-\$16,000 • \$10,001-\$13,000 • \$8,001-\$10,000 • <\$8,001 			

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 3044)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- a) Street Cleansing (street cleansing service contracts also include cleansing and management of public toilets except portable toilets)

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (as at 31.12.2016)
Number of outsourced street cleansing contracts	25	29	30
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	\$878.0 million	\$926.1 million	\$953.0 million ^{Note}
Number of staff employed by outsourced service providers			
• Total	7 197	6 995	6 973
• Supervisor	608	593	616
• Workman	6 589	6 402	6 357
Monthly salary range of outsourced staff			
• >\$30,000	-	-	-
• \$20,001-\$30,000	-	-	-
• \$16,001-\$20,000	-	-	-
• \$13,001-\$16,000	-	-	13
• \$10,001-\$13,000	92	240	351
• \$8,001-\$10,000	1 358	6 755	6 609
• <\$8,001	5 747	-	-

Note : Revised estimate for 2016-17.

- b) Public Toilet Management (involves cleansing and management of portable toilets only, as cleansing and management of other public toilets is part of the street cleansing service contracts, the information on which is given at (a) above)

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (as at 31.12.2016)
Number of outsourced public toilet management contracts	1	1	1
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	\$11.4 million	\$12.3 million	\$12.3 million ^{Note}

Number of staff employed by outsourced service providers			
• Total	95	95	95
• Supervisor	7	7	7
• Workman	88	88	88
Monthly salary range of outsourced staff			
• >\$30,000	-	-	-
• \$20,001-\$30,000	-	-	-
• \$16,001-\$20,000	2	2	2
• \$13,001-\$16,000	-	-	-
• \$10,001-\$13,000	5	5	5
• \$8,001-\$10,000	83	88	88
• <\$8,001	5	-	-

Note : Revised estimate for 2016-17.

c) Waste Collection

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (as at 31.12.2016)
Number of outsourced waste collection contracts	16	16	18
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	\$146.8 million	\$172.5 million	\$205.8 million ^{Note}
Number of staff employed by outsourced service providers			
• Total	291	292	323
• Supervisor	184	185	204
• Workman	107	107	119
Monthly salary range of outsourced staff			
• >\$30,000	-	-	-
• \$20,001-\$30,000	-	-	-
• \$16,001-\$20,000	-	1	1
• \$13,001-\$16,000	19	32	98
• \$10,001-\$13,000	106	93	86
• \$8,001-\$10,000	69	166	138
• <\$8,001	97	-	-

Note : Revised estimate for 2016-17.

d) Recyclables Collection

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (as at 31.12.2016)
Number of outsourced recyclables collection contracts	2	2	2
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	\$9.7 million	\$12.7 million	\$12.8 million ^{Note}
Number of staff employed by outsourced service providers			
• Total	38	38	38
• Supervisor	17	17	17
• Workman	21	21	21
Monthly salary range of outsourced staff			
• >\$30,000	-	-	-
• \$20,001-\$30,000	-	-	-
• \$16,001-\$20,000	-	-	1
• \$13,001-\$16,000	-	-	-
• \$10,001-\$13,000	16	16	25
• \$8,001-\$10,000	17	22	12
• <\$8,001	5	-	-

Note : Revised estimate for 2016-17.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)142

(Question Serial No. 2127)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the number of hawkers and the policies concerned, please provide information on the following:

1. the number of unlicensed hawkers, complaints received against unlicensed hawkers, prosecutions against unlicensed hawkers, as well as the operational expenses and expenditure on salaries of the Hawker Control Teams, in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17);
2. the number of registered assistants to licensed hawkers, fixed pitch hawkers and itinerant hawkers in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by type of licence and district; and
3. the number of vacant stalls in fixed-pitch hawker areas, new applications for hawker licences and applications for succession to hawker licences in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by district; among the above 2 types of applications, the number of successful and unsuccessful applications, as well as the reason(s) for the unsuccessful applications.

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 3059)

Reply:

1. The information sought is provided at Annex I.
2. The information sought is provided at Annex II.
3. The number of vacant hawker pitches in the territory broken down by district is provided at Annex III. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not keep statistics on the number of new applications for hawker licences, number of applications for succession to hawker licences and the result of the applications.

- End -

Annex I

Calendar year	Estimated no. of unlicensed hawkers	No. of complaints against unlicensed hawking and obstruction [^]	No. of prosecutions against unlicensed hawkers	Financial year	Expenditure on hawker control (\$ million)	Expenditure on salaries on Hawker Control Teams (\$ million)
2014	1 480 [#] (1 440+40)	16 468	26 025	2014-15	951.8	654.1
2015	1 594 [#] (1 488+106)	13 428	23 054	2015-16	1,025.2	690.1
2016	1 454 [#] (1 430+24)	10 512	15 310	2016-17	1,076.0 (revised estimate)	715.6 (revised estimate)

[^] A further breakdown which shows the number of the complaints against unlicensed hawking is not available.

[#] The figures include 40, 106 and 24 unlicensed hawkers in housing estates as provided by Housing Department respectively for 2014, 2015 and 2016.

**No. of Licensed Fixed Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers and Registered Assistants
(Position as at 31.12.2014)**

		Hong Kong Island & Kowloon									New Territories & Islands									Total
		Central & Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Southern	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowl- oon 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	3	1	1	12	8	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
	Bootblack	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	10	3	0	2	33	25	6	7	24	20	20	10	0	4	7	26	0	1	198
	Newspaper	68	48	41	4	116	25	24	14	40	14	20	8	16	7	7	1	3	1	457
	Tradesman	87	14	16	0	53	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	176
	Wall Stall	29	15	18	14	137	58	28	2	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	321
	Other Classes	410	359	320	31	2 363	960	53	0	125	0	92	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 716
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionary	38									31									69
	Mobile Van	9									6									15
	Newspaper	2									0									2
	Other Classes	170									186									356
Registered Hawker Assistants		568	517	365	46	2 141	1 042	102	36	190	21	134	23	23	17	14	30	3	3	5 275

**No. of Licensed Fixed Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers and Registered Assistants
(Position as at 31.12.2015)**

		Hong Kong Island & Kowloon									New Territories & Islands									Total
		Central & 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	3	1	1	11	8	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
	Bootblack	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	10	3	0	2	32	24	6	7	24	13	18	10	0	3	7	22	0	1	182
	Newspaper	65	45	39	4	109	23	23	15	37	13	20	8	15	7	6	1	3	1	434
	Tradesman	85	14	15	0	52	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	172
	Wall Stall	29	15	17	14	134	54	28	2	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	313
	Other Classes	402	350	304	30	2 279	930	51	0	125	0	93	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 567
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionary	36									30									66
	Mobile Van	9									6									15
	Newspaper	2									0									2
	Other Classes	165									182									347
Registered Hawker Assistants		548	492	368	50	2 064	1 050	101	31	199	22	119	25	19	14	12	24	1	3	5 142

**No. of Licensed Fixed Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers and Registered Assistants
(Position as at 31.12.2016)**

		Hong Kong Island & Kowloon									New Territories & Islands									Total
		Central & 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	1	11	8	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
	Bootblack	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	10	3	0	2	31	22	6	9	23	13	9	7	0	0	4	21	0	1	161
	Newspaper	64	48	32	4	106	23	21	15	37	11	18	8	14	6	6	1	2	1	417
	Tradesman	81	15	13	0	52	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	166
	Wall Stall	29	20	11	14	133	52	28	2	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	309
	Other Classes	395	334	273	30	2 194	914	47	0	124	0	93	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 407
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionary	34									30									64
	Mobile Van	9									6									15
	Newspaper	2									0									2
	Other Classes	156									178									334
Registered Hawker Assistants		552	572	381	57	2 121	1 139	112	33	215	22	146	26	19	14	9	22	1	3	5 444

**Vacant on-street hawker fixed pitches
(as at December 2016)**

District	Number of vacant on-street fixed pitches*
Central and Western	28
Wanchai	19
Eastern	13
Southern	0
Islands	0
Yau Tsim	67
Mong Kok	102
Sham Shui Po	56
Kowloon City	6
Wong Tai Sin	0
Kwun Tong	0
Kwai Tsing	0
Tsuen Wan	0
Tuen Mun	0
Yuen Long	0
North	0
Tai Po	0
Shatin	0
Sai Kung	0
Total	291

Note: * The figure represents the number of pitches vacated as a result of voluntary surrender of hawker licences under the Hawker Assistance Scheme. The figure does not include pitches located outside building staircase discharge points / emergency vehicular access, earmarked to accommodate stalls that require relocation due to fire safety considerations, absorbed in the course of rationalisation of the overall layout of hawker areas, etc. Fixed-pitches vacated for other reasons and reserved for various purposes such as resite commitments are also excluded.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)143

(Question Serial No. 2129)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Given the Government's policies that sizable public markets will be built in new development areas (NDAs)(including Tung Chung New Town Extension, Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area and other NDAs) and improvement will also be made for the existing public markets, please provide information on the following:

1. the number of markets, market stalls, population, as well as the population-to-market ratio and population-to-market stall ratio, in 18 districts; whether the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has any plan to build public markets to meet residents' needs in districts with a lower population-to-market stall ratio (for example, below the standard of providing approximately 40 to 45 stalls per 10 000 persons);
2. the number of public markets currently assessed as "under-utilised", and whether the Department has any plan to carry out improvement works in these under-utilised markets or to close them; and
3. the number of new public markets that the Department plans to build in those NDAs and the amount of provision earmarked in this respect; the number of public markets that the Department plans to build or improve in districts over the territory in the coming 3 years (i.e. 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20) and the details involved.

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 3062)

Reply:

1. The information sought is provided at Annex. The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) conducted a policy review on public markets in 2007-08, which concluded that the future provision of new public markets should be considered on a case-by-case basis to ensure efficient use of public resources. Apart from the population of the area in question, other relevant factors that should be considered include the demographic mix, community needs, the presence of market facilities nearby, the number of fresh

provision retail outlets available in the vicinity, and public sentiment towards the preservation of hawker areas in the particular locality. The Government consulted the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council and all District Councils on the review findings in 2008. As a result of the policy review, those parts concerning public markets in Chapter 6 of the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) (which deals with retail facilities) were amended in April 2009 and have remained in force since then. The revised HKPSG is based on a more holistic consideration of relevant factors, rather than just the size of the population, in the planning of public markets.

Our focus is on facilitating convenient access for the public to retail outlets in their vicinity for meeting their daily needs on fresh food. Currently, there exists a variety of channels for the public to purchase fresh food. Apart from public markets, many members of the public when purchasing fresh food may choose to patronise markets, supermarkets and various types of retail outlets operated by other public and private entities.

Customer preference for different shopping venues in purchasing fresh food may evolve in tandem with changes in socio-economic circumstances, lifestyles, purchasing power and various other factors. Providing a new public market requires the use of Government land and entails public financial commitment. Therefore, in considering whether a public market should be built, we have to duly assess the need for the market and cost-effectiveness in order to ensure that public resources are put to proper use. In fact, in the face of fierce competition, changing circumstances in individual communities and changes in the purchasing habits of members of the public, some public markets are facing relatively high vacancy rates and low customer flows. Also, the Audit Commission has in previous reports pointed out that, given the high cost of constructing a new public market, the relevant principles should be strictly adhered to.

2. As a result of demographic changes, new development/redevelopment projects and competition from other fresh provision outlets, the appeal of some public markets has been diminishing over time thus leading to reduced patronage and high vacancy rates. To enhance the patronage of existing public markets, as an on-going initiative, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) conducts promotional activities. These include thematic exhibitions and workshops, festive celebration activities, display of multi-language recipes as well as publication of booklets and quarterly newsletters to provide updated market information. In addition to regular maintenance and daily management of markets, we have also been implementing various improvement works in public markets to improve the operating environment. The scope of works may include replacement of aged lifts and escalators, improvement of ventilation, lighting systems and fire services, refurbishment of external walls, refurbishment of toilets, etc.

When considering whether an under-utilised public market is to be closed, we will take into account a host of factors, including vacancy rate, prospects for improvement, availability of alternative sources of fresh provision outlets in the vicinity, the likely cost-effectiveness of upgrading works and the views of the relevant District Councils, etc. The Department plans to close Shau Kei Wan Market and Tsuen King Circuit

Market in 2017-18, the vacancy rates¹ of which were 44% and 80% respectively as at 31 December 2016. Noteworthy is that a sizable portion of the occupied (i.e. leased) stalls are not in active operation, e.g. for the Shau Kei Wan Market, of the 46 occupied stalls, only 19 stalls are actively in operation.

3. The Government has initially identified suitable sites in the east of Tung Chung New Town East Extension Area as well as in the southwest of Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area (NDA) to build sizable public markets. The markets are intended to serve not only Tung Chung New Town Extension Area and Hung Shui Kiu NDA but also the whole Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai areas. The projects will need to undergo technical feasibility study (of which the project estimates would be worked out) and to seek necessary funding.

In 2017-18, in addition to regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Department will carry out improvement works in Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (East), Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (West), Tsuen Wan Market, San Hui Market, Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market, Kwun Chung Market, Lockhart Road Market, Sai Ying Pun Market and Sai Wan Ho Market. The estimated cost of these improvement works is \$56.2 million. The scope of works includes installation of a goods lift, improvement of ventilation, electricity and fire services, refurbishment of external walls and toilets, etc.

In addition, to ensure the smooth operation of escalators and lifts in the public markets, we have plans to replace by phases the aged escalators and lifts. From 2015-16 to 2017-18, we have earmarked \$292 million to replace 84 escalators and 33 lifts in 23 markets.

¹ Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.

District	Population#	No. of Public Markets*	No. of Stalls	Population-to-Market Ratio	Population-to-Stalls Ratio
Central & Western	243 266	6	748	40 544	325
Eastern	555 034	10	1 433	55 503	387
Southern	274 994	6	823	45 832	334
Wan Chai	180 123	6	666	30 021	270
Kowloon City	418 732	4	1 085	104 683	386
Kwun Tong	648 541	8	963	81 068	673
Wong Tai Sin	425 235	4	1 031	106 309	412
Sham Shui Po	405 869	5	1 105	81 174	367
Yau Tsim Mong	342 970	6	779	57 162	440
Sha Tin	659 794	4	406	164 949	1 625
Tai Po	303 926	2	557	151 963	546
North	315 270	4	894	78 818	353
Kwai Tsing	520 572	8	488	65 072	1 067
Tsuen Wan	318 916	6	1 224	53 153	261
Tuen Mun	489 299	6	485	81 550	1 009
Yuen Long	614 178	8	1 111	76 772	553
Sai Kung	461 864	2	243	230 932	1 901
Islands	156 801	6	356	26 134	440

Based on “Hong Kong 2016 Population By-census-population by District Council district” published by Census and Statistics Department in February 2017

* Listed in the table are public markets managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department only. They represent one of the avenues through which the community can procure daily provisions. Other avenues include, for example, supermarkets, on-street markets, fresh provision shops on private premises and markets in home-ownership and public rental developments.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)144

(Question Serial No. 2136)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The work of market management and hawker control involves managing licensed hawker pitches, hawker permitted places and hawker bazaars. Given that the Secretary for Food and Health has stated that the Government adopts a positive attitude towards specific bottom-up proposals for organising bazaars, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. the number of successful and unsuccessful applications for “Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licence” under the category of bazaars or temporary bazaars, as well as the reason(s) for the unsuccessful applications, in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17), with a breakdown by District Council district;
2. the number and types of organisations which submitted applications for holding bazaars or temporary bazaars in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by District Council district;
3. the Programme under which the issues of bazaars are currently handled by the Department, and the manpower involved; and
4. whether there is any plan to allocate resources to set up a dedicated team or a dedicated establishment for processing applications relating to bazaars; if yes, the details and the establishment in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 3064)

Reply:

The information sought is as follows –

1. In 2014, 2015 and 2016, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) issued 1 504, 1 473 and 1 532 Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licences (TPPEL) respectively. The Department did not compile

statistics on the number of successful and unsuccessful applications for TPPEL by nature of the events or activities.

2. The project proponent of a bazaar proposal should provide details of his/her specific proposal in the application for permission to use the venue. If the owner/department in charge of the venue gives consent, the project proponent would need to apply for the relevant licence/permission required from the respective departments separately. The Department does not have a breakdown of the numbers and types of organisations which submitted applications for holding bazaars or temporary bazaars in each of the past 3 years. In the proposals received by the Government since November 2015, the proposed locations of holding bazaars include Sham Shui Po, Islands District, North District, Eastern District, Yuen Long and Central and Western District. Thus far, bazaars have already been successfully held in some of these districts.
3. and 4. Work related to bazaars is subsumed under Programme (3): Market Management and Hawker Control. The Department has its established mechanisms and staff for liaison with the relevant bureaux and departments regarding the use of sites for bazaars and for processing applications for holding activities which require a TPPEL and/or Temporary Food Factory Licence. The staff concerned are involved in other duties. The Department does not have a separate breakdown of the manpower involved in bazaar-related work. There is currently no plan to set up a dedicated team or a dedicated establishment for processing applications relating to bazaars.

The Government adopts a positive attitude towards proposals for organising bazaars. Depending on the specific details of the bazaar proposals, the policy bureaux concerned will, according to the roles they play, give comments on matters related to their policy areas respectively while the departments concerned will process bazaar proposals according to standing procedures and criteria.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)145

(Question Serial No. 0515)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the reason(s) for the increase in the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated for two successive years, as well as the details and effectiveness of the work concerned in 2016. Please also advise whether sufficient resources have been earmarked with relevant measures drawn up, including the deployment of manpower and allocation of resources, to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases; if yes, please give details of the work, the manpower and the estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 34)

Reply:

In 2015 and 2016, 55 353 and 57 103 mosquito breeding places were eliminated respectively. The increase in 2016 was attributable to the enhanced mosquito prevention and control measures taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in public places in response to a number of confirmed local cases of dengue fever and imported cases of Zika virus infection in that year. In addition to about 700 departmental staff deployed to pest control (including mosquito control), the Department engages private contractors to provide pest control services in the territory through roving teams. As regards the winter season from November 2016 to March 2017, the Department has increased the number of roving teams by 56 in order to maintain the same number of teams as in the wet season. Together with the additional roving teams under the District-led Actions Scheme, the number of roving teams this winter is largely maintained at about 280 (with a workforce of about 1 680) to strengthen mosquito control in the season. Additional funding has been provided to the Department for sustaining its anti-mosquito work throughout the winters of 2014, 2015 and 2016. We would keep up the work on mosquito prevention and control in 2017-18 with an estimated expenditure of \$263.6 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)146

(Question Serial No. 0517)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the reason(s) for the rising trend in the number of pest control surveys conducted for two successive years, as well as the details and effectiveness of the work concerned in 2016. As it is estimated that the number will continue to increase in the current year, please also advise whether sufficient resources have been earmarked with relevant measures drawn up, including the deployment of manpower and allocation of resources; if yes, please give details of the work, the manpower and the estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 35)

Reply:

In 2015 and 2016, 8 043 and 9 085 pest control surveys were conducted respectively. The increase was mainly attributed to (i) the strengthening of dengue vector surveillance in the community, whereby the number of locations covered by the surveys has been increased from 44 to 52 since October 2015, and the frequency of the surveillance has been increased from once per month to once every fortnight for 2 consecutive months since September 2016 in surveyed areas that fall within 500 meters radius from locations visited by patients of local dengue fever cases during incubation and infectious periods of the disease, as well as areas with Area Ovitraps Index reaching or exceeding 20% for 2 consecutive months; (ii) the increase in the frequency of the surveillance in port areas from once per month to once every fortnight since November 2015, and increase in the number of ports including Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal and Midfield Concourse of the Airport since February 2016; (iii) the increase in the number of surveys relating to biting midges; and (iv) the extension of the Japanese encephalitis vector surveillance to cover Tuen Mun, North, Sai Kung, Kwai Tsing, Southern and Sham Shui Po districts in addition to Yuen Long district since October 2015. The implementation of the strengthened measures, involving a total of 7 staff, would continue in 2017. The revised estimated expenditure in 2016-17 and the estimated expenditure in 2017-18 in this respect is \$37.1 million and \$38.3 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)147

(Question Serial No. 0679)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is responsible for implementing the licensing scheme for private columbaria upon commencement of the Private Columbaria Bill. In this connection, please advise on the manpower and financial provision earmarked for such work in 2017-18, as well as the timetable for implementing the licensing scheme.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 31)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will set up a dedicated office known as the Private Columbaria Affairs Office (PCAO) to deal with the preparatory work for taking forward the Private Columbaria Ordinance and for implementing the licensing scheme for private columbaria upon commencement of the legislation. The Private Columbaria Bill is being scrutinised by the Legislative Council, and we are working closely with the Council to facilitate its early passage. If everything goes smoothly, the Ordinance could be enacted by as early as mid-2017. The new PCAO comprises the Licensing Board Secretariat, the Administration Unit, the Licensing Team and the Enforcement Team. About 50 staff and \$50 million have been earmarked for the operation of the PCAO in 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)148

(Question Serial No. 0603)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 255 of the 2017 Policy Address that "...we will continue to enhance the hardware of a number of existing public markets, including reprovisioning, reconfiguration and upgrading of facilities, etc. We will also take forward progressively the installation of air-conditioning in public markets which have obtained overwhelming support from tenants (totalling 10 markets at present)." In this connection, please provide information on the cost of works involved for the installation of air-conditioning in the 10 public markets and the Programme under which the cost will be covered. Please also advise on the markets' locations, works schedules and implementation timetables.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 22)

Reply:

According to the established mechanism, when there is a request from market tenants for the retrofitting of air-conditioning facilities at a public market, the request will first be discussed at a meeting of the relevant Market Management Consultative Committee (MMCC). Where a consensus is reached by MMCC that the request should be further explored, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will conduct a questionnaire survey to gauge the extent of support from market tenants. Since 1 July 2015, the threshold of tenants' support to retrofitting of air-conditioning facilities in public markets has been lowered from 85% to 80%. FEHD has completed the consultation with the MMCCs of those FEHD markets without air-conditioning. The MMCCs of 27 of these markets supported conducting a questionnaire survey to collect the tenants' views on the retrofitting of air-conditioning in the relevant public markets. The questionnaire surveys were subsequently conducted and completed. Out of the 27 public markets surveyed, 2 markets and 6 cooked food centres of the relevant markets attained sufficient tenant support. In addition, Shui Wo Street Market Cooked Food Centre (CFC), Tai Wai Market and Aberdeen Market cum CFC on which questionnaire surveys were conducted before 1 July 2015, have also met the tenants' support threshold. The location of these 11 markets is provided as follows-

Serial No.	Name of Public Market	Location
1	Shui Wo Street Market CFC	Shui Wo Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon
2	Tai Wai Market	Chik Fai Street, Tai Wai, Sha Tin, New Territories
3	Aberdeen Market cum CFC	Aberdeen Main Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong
4	Ngau Tau Kok Market CFC	Ngau Tau Kok Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon
5	Shek Tong Tsui Market CFC	Queen's Road West, Shek Tong Tsui, Hong Kong
6	Fa Yuen Street Market CFC	Fa Yuen Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon
7	Electric Road Market CFC	Electric Road, Fortress Hill, Hong Kong
8	Quarry Bay Market CFC	Quarry Bay Street, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong
9	Ngau Chi Wan Market CFC	Clear Water Bay Road, Ngau Chi Wan, Kowloon
10	Yeung Uk Road Market	Yeung Uk Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories
11	Tsuen Wan Market	Chung On Street, Tsuen Wan, New Territories

If there is sufficient tenant support, a technical feasibility study will be conducted. Taking into consideration factors such as the findings of the technical feasibility study, extent of works required, cost effectiveness, impact on business and market operation, and whether the implementation details are acceptable to the tenants concerned, the Government will decide whether there is a case for seeking funds to carry out the works for retrofitting air-conditioners. The technical feasibility study for Tai Wai Market has been completed. With regard to Shui Wo Street Market CFC, Aberdeen Market cum CFC and Ngau Tau Kok Market CFC, the preliminary feasibility assessment is underway. FEHD is now following up with the Architectural Services Department to conduct preliminary feasibility assessment for the other markets concerned. The proposed retrofitting works will be funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund subject to availability of resources and funding approval of the Finance Committee. We are unable to provide the cost of works and the works schedule at the present stage.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)149

(Question Serial No. 0680)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is responsible for enforcement against shop front extensions (SFEs). Please advise on the number of prosecutions which have so far been instituted in this regard, the number of successful prosecutions, and the penalties imposed in general.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 32)

Reply:

In 2016, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) instituted 14 307 prosecutions against shop front extensions (SFEs). There were 11 238 convictions, and the fines imposed were on average about \$750.

Prosecutions aside, between the commencement of the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap.570) on 24 September 2016 and 31 December 2016, the Department issued a total of 2 090 Fixed Penalty Notices, each carrying a fine of \$1,500, in respect of SFEs. The fines involved were about \$3.14 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)150****(Question Serial No. : 1252)**

Head : (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

As annotated under the indicators of this Programme, "... samples (were) taken from imported Japanese food for examination of radiation level in connection with the Japan nuclear power plant incident in March 2011. The number of such samples was 72 549 in 2015 and 73 699 in 2016." In this connection, please advise on:

- (1) the number of samples taken from imported Japanese food for examination of radiation level in the past 3 years. With a breakdown by prefecture of origin in Japan;
- (2) the number of samples taken from imported Japanese food for examination of radiation level in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by food type; and
- (3) the quantity of Japanese food imports detected with excessive radiation levels in the past 3 years, and relevant details.

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (Member Question No. 5)

Reply:

- (1) The Centre for Food Safety has been testing the radiation levels of every consignment of food products imported from Japan since the Fukushima nuclear power plant incident in Japan in 2011. The number of samples taken from imported Japanese food for testing of radiation levels by prefectures of Japan in the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Prefectures of Japan	Number of samples		
	2014	2015	2016
Fukushima	124	92	136
Ibaraki	576	1 013	1 217
Tochigi	463	595	745
Gunma	578	718	983
Chiba	916	1 065	1 126
Others	58 802	69 066	69 492
Total	61 459	72 549	73 699

- (2) The number of samples taken from imported Japanese food for testing of radiation levels by food types in the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Food types	Number of samples		
	2014	2015	2016
Vegetables	3 024	3 052	3 442
Fruits	2 891	4 496	6 278
Milk and milk beverage	473	534	546
Milk powder	89	216	216
Frozen confections	98	133	187
Aquatic products	11 488	12 101	12 136
Meat and meat products	2 152	2 057	1 987
Drinks	5 714	6 849	6 577
Others	35 530	43 111	42 330
Total	61 459	72 549	73 699

- (3) Of the samples taken from imported Japanese food in the past 3 years, none of them was tested to be unsatisfactory in terms of radiation levels. In fact, no samples were found unsatisfactory since the import restriction on Japanese food had taken effect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)151

(Question Serial No. 1323)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18, it is mentioned that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will “take action to close public markets which are under-utilised”. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (1) details on the intended closure of under-utilised public markets;
- (2) given the strong demand for public market services from nearly 300 000 residents in Tin Shui Wai, whether the Department will conduct a study on the utilisation of public markets by those residents and the ways to meet local demand for public markets; and
- (3) the progress in setting up bazaar(s) in Tin Shui Wai.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (Member Question No. 47)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (1) As a result of demographic changes, new development/redevelopment projects and competition from other fresh provision outlets, the appeal of some public markets has been diminishing over time thus leading to reduced patronage and high vacancy rates. When considering whether an under-utilised public market is to be closed, we will take into account a host of factors, including vacancy rate, prospects for improvement, availability of alternative sources of fresh provision outlets in the vicinity, and the likely cost-effectiveness of upgrading works and the views of the relevant District Councils, etc. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) plans to close Shau Kei Wan Market and Tsuen King Circuit Market in 2017-18, the vacancy

rates¹ of which were 44% and 80% respectively as at 31 December 2016. Noteworthy is that a sizable portion of the occupied (i.e. leased) stalls are not in active operation, e.g. for the Shau Kei Wan Market, of the 46 occupied stalls, only 19 stalls are actively in operation.

- (2) In considering the provision of a new public market, the Government will take into account various factors, including the population in the area, demographic mix, community needs, the availability of public and private market facilities and the number of fresh provision retail outlets in the vicinity, etc. Moreover, we have to duly assess the demand and cost effectiveness in order to ensure that public resources are put to proper use. Currently, there are 5 wet markets and over 80 fresh provision retail outlets in Tin Shui Wai. The Housing Authority will also provide a shopping centre and a market in Ping Yan Court, a subsidised sale flats project under construction in the area and scheduled for completion in 2018.

When deciding the location site of a new public market, the Government will consider key factors such as the geographical location, existing and planned uses, usable area and ancillary transport facilities provided nearby, in order to ensure that, upon completion, the market will be of a substantial scale and viability and that the use of public finances and land resources can be optimised.

Having considered all relevant factors, and as announced in the Policy Address in January 2017, the Government has initially identified a suitable site in the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area (NDA), which is adjacent to Tin Shui Wai, to build a sizable public market. This site is located in the vicinity of the proposed Hung Shui Kiu Railway Station, the proposed environmentally friendly transport services facilities and a public transport interchange, thus facilitating its link with Hung Shui Kiu NDA and various areas in Tin Shui Wai. Well-connected by public transport and close to the train station and public transport interchange, the site is accessible to more members of the public. As such, not only the needs of the residents in Hung Shui Kiu NDA, but also the needs of the population in the Tin Shui Wai area will be catered for.

- (3) In recent years, there have been calls for the establishment of open-air bazaars with local characteristics. While keeping an open mind, the Government believes that for the successful operation of such bazaars, the proposals should be developed bottom-up so that they can fully address the divergent needs and concerns of the local community in addition to commanding broad local support. If suitable sites are identified and support from the relevant District Councils has been obtained and provided that food safety and environmental hygiene are not compromised, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and FEHD stand ready to facilitate liaison with relevant government departments.

¹ Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.

FHB has earlier received a proposal on organizing a bazaar in Tin Yiu Estate, Tin Shui Wai. Relevant departments, the venue management and the Area Committee of the Yuen Long District raise no objections to the bazaar proposal. The relevant committee under the Yuen Long District Council shows support to holding temporary bazaars at suitable sites in the district, and raises no objection to the proposal. FEHD will offer assistance to the organiser in connection with any applications for Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licence and related food business licences.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)152

(Question Serial No. 1200)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the training of rodent control staff by the Government, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the expenditure and manpower for training rodent control staff in the past three years;
2. whether any assessment has been made on the training provided; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s); and
3. the expenditure for training rodent control staff in the coming year; whether consideration will be made to allocate additional manpower and resources for the training programme for rodent control staff (if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s)).

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. 50)

Reply:

1. Rodent control is included in the pest control training programme provided to health inspectorate and foremen grade staff of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in induction training and refresher training courses. To keep abreast of the latest development of rodent control, our staff have attended international pest control conferences organized by the National Pest Management Association of U.S.A., the Confederation of European Pest Control Associations, Federation of Asian and Oceania Pest Managers Associations, etc. A total of 8 departmental staff are involved in the provision of training on pest control as well as other duties. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure relating to training for rodent control staff.
2. Upon completion of the training sessions, attendees are required to evaluate the training programmes to provide feedback to ensure that they are relevant and effective. The Training Section of the Department also holds annual "Liaison Group Meeting"

with grade management and district staff, and visits district offices on a regular basis to solicit the views of staff concerned. The feedback received has been positive.

3. The Department does not compile statistics on the expenditure specifically for training rodent control staff in 2017-18 as the trainers are also responsible for other training programmes. We will continue to monitor the training needs and adjust the manpower and resources if necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)153

(Question Serial No. 1199)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has earlier announced that the overall Rodent Infestation Rate in 2016 was 4%. This is not only slightly higher than the rate in 2015 (3%), but also the highest rate since 2010. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the resources allocated by the Department for the prevention and control of rodents and other pests in the past three years;
2. whether the Department has assessed the effectiveness of the rodent and pest control measures; if yes, the findings of the assessment; if not, the reason(s); and
3. whether the Department has considered making reference to the rodent and pest control methods recommended by the World Health Organisation and adopted by other cities, and allocating additional resources to organise territory-wide anti-rodent publicity activities; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. 49)

Reply:

1. The actual expenditure on rodent control work for 2014-15 and 2015-16 was \$156.2 million and \$160.9 million respectively. The revised estimate for 2016-17 is \$164.8 million. The actual expenditure on other pest control work (including fly, cockroach, wasp/wild bee, biting midge, etc.) for 2014-15 and 2015-16 was \$62.0 million and \$62.8 million respectively. The revised estimate for 2016-17 is \$69.3 million.
2. The Rodent Infestation Rate (RIR) in 2014, 2015 and 2016 was 3.2%, 3.0% and 4.0% respectively. At such a level, the RIR suggests that the rodent problem in public areas remains generally under control. The RIR is not the only factor that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) considers when assessing

the actual situation of rodent infestation in a district. In addition to the RIR, frontline staff of the Department also take into account the trails left by rodents, complaint figures and the views of the local community and the public in identifying problematic locations for rodent prevention and control actions.

3. The Department will continue to keep in view the methods of disease vector surveillance recommended by the World Health Organisation and adopted by other cities. We keep an open mind on adopting or trying out methods that are suitable for use in local circumstances for further improving the effectiveness of our rodent infestation survey. The Department will also continue to enhance rodent control work and launch district-specific rodent control measures in districts with a higher RIR, including publicity and educational programmes to promote greater community involvement in rodent control and prevention, in addition to the deployment of “Ah Tak” as Keep Clean Ambassador and its regular pest control work and annual territory-wide publicity campaigns.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)154****(Question Serial No. 0165)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of outsourced service contracts of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the total amount paid to outsourced service providers, the total number of outsourced workers, as well as the respective numbers of outsourced cleansing workers and outsourced security guards.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 5)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

	2016-17 (as at 31.12.2016)
Number of outsourced service contracts	153
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	\$1,945.4 million ^{Note1}
Number of staff of outsourced service contracts	11 694
Number of cleansing workmen of outsourced service contracts ^{Note2}	8 827
Number of security guards of outsourced service contracts	554

Note 1: Revised estimate for 2016-17.

Note 2: Cleansing workmen also include toilet attendants.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)155

(Question Serial No. 0166)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has set up a Central Investigation Team (CIT) to follow up on complaints against outsourced service contractors' non-compliance with employment requirements. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. the number of CIT staff, their ranks and duties, as well as the annual expenditure required;
2. the number of inspections conducted in each year since the setting up of CIT;
3. the number of complaints against outsourced service contractors' non-compliance with employment requirements received (with a breakdown by the types of complaints), the number of substantiated complaints, and the number of cases in which outsourced service contractors were penalised due to substantiation of their complaints and the penalties thus imposed, in each year since the setting up of CIT.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (1) The Central Investigation Team (CIT) of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) was established in September 2005 and tasked with the functions of investigating into complaints on employment-related matters concerning the Department's outsourced service contractors, as well as carrying out audit and employment-related inspections. The CIT is staffed by 6 officers comprising 1 Senior Health Inspector, 3 Health Inspectors I/II, 1 Executive Officer II and 1 Motor Driver. The annual expenditure incurred by the CIT is around \$2.803 million in 2016-17.

(2) The number of inspections performed by the CIT is given below -

Year	No. of Inspections
2005 (September – December)	48
2006	256
2007	292
2008	301
2009	378
2010	420
2011	388
2012	282
2013	257
2014	260
2015	263
2016	280

(3) The number of employment-related complaints received by the CIT is as follows -

Year	Types of Complaints						Total No. of Complaints	No. of Substantiated Cases
	Under-payment	No signing of Standard Employment Contract	Exceeding maximum working hours	Payment not made by autopay	Failure to grant severance / long service payment	Others [^]		
2005 (Sept-Dec)	(No breakdown by type of complaints was kept.)						52	2
2006							127	27
2007							55	7
2008							28	2
2009							19	3
2010							16	1
2011							26	7
2012	5	1	1	0	3	6	16	4
2013	10	2	2	0	5	4	23	3
2014	13	2	2	0	1	1	19	2
2015	14	0	1	0	3	4	22	1
2016	5	1	4	0	2	0	12	3

[^] Including forced dismissal, late payment of wages, failure to make contribution to Mandatory Provident Fund, etc.

For substantiated cases, default notice and/or warning letters were issued to the contractors concerned and/or deduction from relevant contract payments was made as appropriate. In particular, substantiated cases in breach of certain contractual obligations will result in demerit points being recorded, which might affect the contractors' bidding of similar Government contracts in the future.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)156****(Question Serial No. 0167)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the respective numbers of verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices issued by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) to cleansing service contractors, as well as cases of deduction of monthly payments of service charge and demerit points given, in each of the past three years; and, among the above cases, the number of cases relating to violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance, the Standard Employment Contract and the Employment Ordinance, as well as defaults in severance payment and non-payment of wages. Please also advise on other penalties for the violations imposed by the Department apart from the above-mentioned penalties.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 7)Reply:

The numbers of verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices issued by the Department to public cleansing service contractors, as well as deduction of monthly payments of service charge are provided in the following table –

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (as at 28 February 2017)
Verbal warnings	2 422	2 116	2 387
Written warnings	260	118	839
Default notices issued	1 316	1 228	679
Deduction of monthly payments of service charge	\$2.608 million	\$2.718 million	\$3.723 million

Note: There is no demerit point registered against public cleansing service contractors in the past three years.

Apart from the above-mentioned penalties, there are no other penalties imposed on public cleansing service contracts by the Department.

The number of breaches of the standard employment contract by public cleansing service contractors in the past 3 years is as follows –

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (as at 28 February 2017)
No. of cases	1	0	1

There are no non-compliance cases related to the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509), the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57), severance payment and non-payment of wages.

Under the demerit point system, any breach of contractual obligations in connection with wage level; daily maximum working hours; the signing of the standard employment contract with non-skilled workers; and the payment of wages by means of autopay to them will lead to the issuance of a default notice. Each default notice attracts one demerit point. For any contractor who has, over a rolling period of 36 months, accumulated 3 demerit points obtained on or after 1 May 2006 from one or more government departments, its tender offer for service contracts that rely heavily on the deployment of non-skilled workers will not be considered for the next 5 years. A contractor will also be debarred from tendering for such service contracts for a period of 5 years if he has any conviction under the relevant sections of the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) and the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 282), which individually carry maximum fines corresponding to Level 5 or higher within the meaning of Schedule 8 to the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Cap. 221).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)157

(Question Serial No. 0168)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

As regards cases of injury at work handled by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in respect of outsourced cleansing workers, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. the number of reported cases of injury at work received by the Department in respect of outsourced cleansing workers in each of the past three years (if no such statistics are available, the reason(s)); the measures taken by the Department to follow up the reported cases of injury at work (if no follow-up actions have been taken, the reason(s));
2. whether the Department has considered increasing manpower to monitor the occupational safety and health of outsourced workers; and
3. whether the Department has specified in the tender document for each outsourced cleansing service contract and the signed contract the minimum staffing requirement for each service item, the protective equipment in the required quantities, the number of training courses on occupational safety and health, the provision of sufficient drinking water, and the regular provision of changing and locker facilities (if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s)); whether a review will be conducted and relevant arrangements implemented.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

1. The contracts signed between the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) and its service contractors stipulate that in the event of any of the contractors' employees suffering from any injury or death in the course of or arising out of the contract (whether or not a claim for compensation is involved), the contractor shall, within 7 clear working days, give notice in writing of such injury or

death to the Department. The contractors are also required to comply with all the legislation in relation to the execution of the service contracts, including the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509) (the Ordinance). The number of reported cases received by the Department on injury at work of cleansing workers employed under cleansing service contracts in the past three years is given below -

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (as at 28.2.2017)
No. of reported cases on injury at work	89	94	61

If the Department suspects a breach of the Ordinance in a reported case, the case will be referred to the Labour Department (LD) for investigation. If it is confirmed that the contractor has committed an offence under the Ordinance, LD will take appropriate action including instituting prosecution against the contractor. The Department will also take action in accordance with the contract terms, including the issuance of verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices as well as withholding/deducting monthly payment of service charge.

2. The contractors have a duty to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, their employees' safety and health at work. The Department will offer appropriate assistance where circumstances and resources permit.
3. The Department has generally adopted an "outcome-based" approach in outsourcing cleansing services. Clear and precise performance-based service requirements including the scope of the services required, level of cleanliness expected, response time for rectification of unsatisfactory performance, etc. are incorporated in the tender document. Minimum requirements relating to manpower, work shift, and cleansing frequency may be stipulated in the tender document based on operational needs. The tenderers are required to apply their expertise and experience in devising the staff deployment plan and the mode of operation to provide cleansing services up to the performance standard as required by the Department. Tender proposals are binding once the relevant tender is accepted and will form the basis for monitoring the contractor's performance.

In the tender document for each cleansing service contracts and the signed contract, the Department specifies that the contractor shall provide sufficient protective equipment, necessary training on occupational safety, provision of potable water and ancillary tools as well as comply with all the legislation in relation to the execution of the service contracts, including the Ordinance. It is incumbent upon contractors to ensure their employees' safety and health at work. There is no specific requirement on the provision of changing and locker facilities and the number of training courses on occupational safety and health. Nevertheless, many venues of the Department with contractors engaged have resting/changing facilities which can be used by employees of the contractors.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)158

(Question Serial No. 0169)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Last year, the Government amended its guidelines on the tendering of service contracts. As such, when a service contract relies heavily on deployment of non-skilled workers and is assessed with a marking scheme, the procuring department is required to include in its assessment criteria the evaluation of the tenderers' proposed wage rates and working hours for non-skilled workers during tender evaluation. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. after the implementation of the guidelines, whether the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has, in accordance with the new guidelines, adjusted its assessment criteria regarding wage rates and working hours for outsourced service contracts relying heavily on deployment of non-skilled workers; if yes, the adjustments thus made; if no relevant information is available, the reason(s);
2. the number of outsourced service contracts relying heavily on deployment of non-skilled workers which have been awarded by the Department since the implementation of the guidelines, and the respective numbers of the outsourced cleansing service contracts and outsourced security guard service contracts; and
3. after the implementation of the guidelines, whether there has been a rise in the average wage rate in respect of outsourced service contracts relying heavily on deployment of non-skilled workers; if yes, the number of contracts involving a wage rise; if no relevant information is available, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 9)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

1. As regards the revised guidelines promulgated by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau in 2016 requiring procuring departments to include in its assessment criteria the evaluation of the tenderers' proposed wage rates and working hours for non-skilled workers during tender evaluation, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has in fact already included these criteria in the marking scheme for evaluating tenders involving non-skilled workers before the announcement of the revised guidelines.
2. Since the promulgation of the revised guidelines up to end of January 2017, the Department has awarded 11 service contracts engaged heavily with non-skilled workers involving 8 street cleansing service contracts and 3 security guard service contracts respectively.
3. The average wages of non-skilled workers before and after the promulgation of the revised guidelines have no significant difference.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)159****(Question Serial No. 0927)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the inspections of registered vegetable farms on the Mainland supplying organic vegetables to Hong Kong in the past year, please provide information on the following:

- 1) the number of registered vegetable farms supplying organic vegetables to Hong Kong in each province;
- 2) the number of inspections conducted; whether any targets have been set for the number of inspections (if not, the reason(s)); and
- 3) whether there will be an increase in the manpower and expenditure in 2017-18, as well as the details of the post(s) to be created; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (Member Question No. 15)Reply:

1) The number of registered vegetable farms in the Mainland which may supply vegetables to Hong Kong, with a breakdown by province/city/autonomous region, in 2016 is tabulated as follows. We do not have information on how many of those farms supply organic vegetables to Hong Kong.

Province / City / Autonomous Region	No. of registered vegetable farms
Guangdong	113
Shenzhen	2

Province / City / Autonomous Region	No. of registered vegetable farms
Zhuhai	1
Anhui	2
Beijing	4
Chongqing	5
Fujian	4
Gansu	5
Guangxi	5
Guizhou	3
Hainan	11
Hebei	16
Henan	14
Hubei	13
Hunan	32
Jiangsu	12
Jiangxi	9
Liaoning	5
Ningxia	23
Shandong	84
Shanghai	13
Sichuan	3
Tianjin	1
Xiamen	5
Yunnan	41
Zhejiang	16
Total	442

- 2) The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department inspected 9 Mainland registered vegetable farms in 2016. It plans to inspect 20 vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong in 2017.
- 3) CFS does not plan to increase the manpower or expenditure on work in this area in 2017-18. It will handle the workload by means of its existing manpower.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)160

(Question Serial No. 0929)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

As regards the promotion of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach, please advise on the following:

1. the estimated manpower and expenditure for the promotion work in 2017-18 and their comparison with the previous year's figures;
2. the implementation of HACCP-based food safety plans as adopted by the trade; and if such plans are not adopted, the difficulties encountered and follow-up actions; and
3. details of new promotion initiatives and activities, and the estimated resources involved, in 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has been promoting the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system as an integral part of its overall education and promotion programmes on food safety. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.

Application of HACCP is voluntary. It is the business decision of individual companies on whether to apply the HACCP system.

In 2017, CFS plans to organise 33 seminars to increase the awareness of the food trade and the public on the HACCP system and promote the application of the HACCP. Practice guidelines, bulletins and leaflets will be distributed during the seminars. CFS will explore further means to facilitate targeted sectors of the trade to adopt the HACCP system.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)161****(Question Serial No. 2228)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

It is stated that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will “continue to step up the marine refuse removal services at coastal areas under the Department’s purview”. In this connection, please advise on the amount of marine refuse at coastal areas and the expenditure involved in providing removal services in the past 3 years (i.e. 2014, 2015 and 2016), with a breakdown by location. Please also advise whether the Department has compiled a list of marine refuse blackspots so that the effort to step up the removal services can be made specifically; if yes, the details and locations of the blackspots; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (Member Question No. 45)Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) removes marine refuse washed ashore to coastal areas under its purview (marine refuse). This contributes to keeping the shorelines clean under the policy purview of the Environment Bureau.

In November 2012, the Government set up the Inter-departmental Working Group on Clean Shorelines (Working Group) to enhance the collaboration among relevant Government departments to address marine refuse problem. The Working Group is coordinated by the Environment Bureau and comprises representatives from relevant departments, including FEHD. The amount of marine refuse collected by FEHD is provided in the following table.

Districts	Marine refuse collected (tonnes)		
	2014	2015	2016
Eastern	1.24	0.48	0.12
Southern	21.77	17.25	45.31

	Marine refuse collected (tonnes)		
Districts	2014	2015	2016
Wan Chai	0.28	0.23	0.66
Kowloon City	0.90	0.97	0.27
Kwun Tong	1.19	0.89	1.18
Yau Tsim Mong	0.10	0.78	0.06
Islands	145.44	144.13	265.35
Kwai Tsing	4.20	4.10	3.77
North	68.85	63.26	65.51
Sai Kung	42.91	56.22	86.32
Sha Tin	10.14	4.29	7.57
Tai Po	7.04	2.31	26.94
Tsuen Wan	46.96	71.80	71.79
Tuen Mun	4.83	21.06	50.29
Yuen Long	1.02	0.54	0.51
Total	356.87	388.31	625.65

FEHD does not keep separate breakdown on the expenditure for removal of marine refuse.

In support of the Working Group, the Environmental Protection Department conducted a Marine Refuse Study (the Study) in 2013-14 to investigate the sources, distribution and movement of marine refuse, and to suggest measures to further improve the cleanliness of Hong Kong waters and shorelines. A list of 27 priority sites which were more prone to marine refuse accumulation was drawn up in the report of the Study completed in 2015. Among these priority sites, 22 sites (at Annex) are under FEHD's purview.

- End -

Priority Sites under FEHD's purview

	Location
1	Along Tsuen Wan Bay and Tsing Yi Northshore
2	Ap Lei Chau / Ap Lei Pai
3	Beach behind Ocean Park, below Dolphin University
4	Fan Lau, Lantau Island
5	Lap Sap Wan, Shek O
6	Lung Kwu Tan
7	Nam Wai (near Au Tsai Tsuen)
8	Ngau Kwu Wan, Chi Ma Wan, Lantau Island
9	Nim Shue Wan, Discovery Bay, Lantau Island
10	Rocky Bay Beach (ungazetted area)
11	Sam Mun Tsai / Yim Tin Tsai
12	Sam Pak Wan, Discovery Bay, Lantau Island
13	Sha Ha, Sai Kung
14	Sha Lan Beach
15	Shek Pai Wan, Lamma Island
16	Shek Tsai Po, Tai O (Stilted house areas)
17	Shui Hau Mangrove
18	Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma Island
19	Tai Wan To Beach
20	Unallocated coastal area near Gemini Beaches
21	Ungazetted beach (near Shan Liu Road) of Ting Kok Road
22	Wu Kai Sai, Shatin

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)162

(Question Serial No. 3162)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the Government's outsourced services, please provide in tabular form information on the following:

- a. the number of outsourced cleansing service contracts that will expire in the coming 3 years (with details including the names of the contractors, the names of the facilities using the services, the service contract sums, the number of workers employed and the total amount of wages involved, and the expiry date of the contracts) in each of the 18 districts;
- b. the number of outsourced security guard service contracts that will expire in the coming 3 years (with details including the names of the contractors, the names of the facilities using the services, the service contract sums, the number of workers employed and the total amount of wages involved, and the expiry date of the contracts) in each of the 18 districts; and
- c. the employment details of the outsourced workers for cleansing services and security guard services respectively, including the monthly salary range, the range of length of service, the amount of the Severance Payment (SP) / Long Service Payment (LSP) offset by the accrued benefits attributable to the employers' contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) as well as the number of workers affected.

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (Member Question No. 42)

Reply:

The information sought is provided at Annexes I, II and III respectively.

Outsourced cleansing services contracts expiring in the coming 3 years

	Contractor	Expiry Date	Service Description / Location	Contract Value	No. of Staff*
Central and Western					
1	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	30/06/2017	Street cleansing services for Sheung Wan, Sai Ying Pun, Shek Tong Tsui and Kennedy Town and portion of Mid-levels area in Central and Western District	\$98,069,760	285
2	Lapco Service Limited	28/02/2018	Street cleansing services for portion of Mid-levels and Central in Central and Western District	\$85,653,312	267
3	Yee Tai Cleaning Company Limited	30/06/2018	Management, cleansing and pest control services for markets in Central and Western District	\$26,086,800	85
4	Waihong Environmental Services Limited	30/04/2019	Waste collection services in Central and Western District	\$28,699,200	16
			Sub-total	\$243,010,422	653
Eastern					
5	Baguio Pest Management Limited	31/03/2017	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Eastern District	\$15,846,000	58
6	Baguio Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/05/2017	Street cleansing services in Eastern District (West)	\$52,959,960	213
7	Baguio Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/05/2017	Street cleansing services in Eastern District (East)	\$63,288,720	200
8	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/10/2017	Cleansing services for markets and cooked food market in Eastern District	\$39,636,880	152
9	Baguio Cleaning Services Company Limited	30/04/2018	Cleansing services for Chai Wan Municipal Services Building in Eastern District	\$1,745,402	12
			Sub-total	\$173,476,962	635

Islands					
10	Lapco Service Limited	31/03/2017	Waste collection services by village vehicles for Lamma Island in Islands District	\$4,680,000	7
11	Law's Cleaning Services Limited	30/06/2017	Street cleansing services for Tung Chung, Mui Wo, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities) and other specified areas in Islands District	\$36,000,000	124
12	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/01/2018	Management, cleansing and pest control services for markets and cooked food markets in Islands District	\$11,640,000	38
13	Success Grand Environmental Limited	30/09/2018	Recyclables (glass bottle and waste electrical and electronic equipment) collection services in Islands District	\$3,841,920	10
14	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/03/2019	Street cleansing and waste collection services for Cheung Chau, Chi Ma Wan, Po Toi, Shek Kwu Chau and Lamma Island in Islands District	\$65,884,710	147
			Sub-total	\$122,046,630	326
Kowloon City					
15	Baguio Pest Management Limited	31/03/2017	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Kowloon City District	\$19,310,000	64
16	Man Shing Cleaning Service Company Limited	30/09/2017	Street cleansing services in Kowloon City District (North)	\$57,663,848	186
17	Man Shing Cleaning Service Company Limited	30/09/2017	Street cleansing services in Kowloon City District (South)	\$57,650,616	221
18	Baguio Waste Management & Recycling Limited	31/10/2017	Waste collection services in Kowloon City District	\$55,755,600	19

19	Yee Tai Cleaning Company Limited	30/06/2018	Management, cleansing and pest control services for markets in Kowloon City District	\$18,648,900	51
			Sub-total	\$209,028,964	541
Kwai Tsing					
20	Johnson Group Pest Specialist Limited	30/11/2017	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Kwai Tsing District	\$33,603,200	118
21	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	30/04/2018	Cleansing services for markets, cooked food markets and cooked food hawker bazaar in Kwai Tsing District	\$13,356,320	53
22	Law's Cleaning Services Limited	31/10/2018	Street cleansing services in Kwai Tsing District	\$87,500,176	349
			Sub-total	\$134,459,696	520
Kwun Tong					
23	Johnson Group Pest Specialist Limited	30/09/2017	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Kwun Tong District	\$21,603,500	78
24	Law's Cleaning Services Limited	31/10/2017	Street cleansing services in Kwun Tong District	\$89,133,600	335
25	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/12/2017	Cleansing services for markets and cooked food markets in Kwun Tong District	\$24,182,960	95
			Sub-total	\$134,920,060	508
Mong Kok					
26	Creative Pest control services Limited	31/03/2017	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Mong Kok District	\$12,151,200	40
27	Man Shing Cleaning Service Company Limited	31/05/2017	Waste collection services in Mong Kok District	\$38,880,000	19
28	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	30/09/2017	Cleansing services for Tai Kok Tsui Municipal Services Building in Mong Kok District	\$2,326,000	7
29	Man Shing Cleaning Service Company Limited	31/08/2018	Street cleansing services for Mong Kok District (East)	\$51,949,776	318

30	Man Shing Cleaning Service Company Limited	31/08/2018	Street cleansing services for Mong Kok District (West)	\$51,354,856	162
31	Integrity Service Limited	30/11/2018	Management, cleansing and pest control services for markets and pest control services for the former Mong Kok Market in Mong Kok District	\$11,407,040	33
			Sub-total	\$168,068,872	579
North					
32	Man Shing Cleaning Service Company Limited	30/09/2017	Street cleansing services for Sheung Shui in North District	\$76,883,680	290
33	Man Shing Cleaning Service Company Limited	30/09/2017	Street cleansing services for Fanling in North District	\$56,605,424	201
34	Goodyear (Mak's) Services Company Limited	31/05/2018	Cleansing services for Luen Wo Hui Municipal Services Building in North District	\$2,542,920	18
35	Yee Tai Cleaning Company Limited	31/07/2018	Management, cleansing and pest control services for markets in North District	\$25,699,200	83
			Sub-total	\$161,731,224	592
Sai Kung					
36	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	30/06/2017	Street cleansing services for Tseung Kwan O in Sai Kung District	\$40,141,920	161
37	Creative Pest control services Limited	31/03/2018	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Sai Kung District	\$35,151,000	118
38	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	30/04/2018	Cleansing services for markets in Sai Kung District	\$6,328,560	22
39	Baguio Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/08/2018	Street cleansing services for Sai Kung in Sai Kung District	\$61,977,180	225
40	Goodyear (Mak's) Services Company Limited	30/11/2018	Cleansing services for Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex in Sai Kung District	\$1,790,080	10

			Sub-total	\$145,388,740	536
Sham Shui Po					
41	Li Hing Environmental Services Company Limited	31/03/2017	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Sham Shui Po District	\$17,216,730	64
42	Lik Shun Services Limited	31/03/2017	Waste collection services by automatic refuse collection systems in Sham Shui Po District	\$1,500,600	2
43	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/05/2017	Street cleansing services in Sham Shui Po District (East)	\$53,911,500	286
44	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/05/2017	Street cleansing services in Sham Shui Po District (West)	\$54,675,160	216
45	World Environmental Services Limited	30/06/2018	Management, cleansing and pest control services for markets in Sham Shui Po District	\$19,440,000	59
46	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/01/2019	Cleansing services for Pei Ho Street Municipal Services Building in Sham Shui Po District	\$1,762,360	5
			Sub-total	\$148,506,350	632
Sha Tin					
47	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	30/06/2017	Street cleansing services in Sha Tin District (East)	\$50,126,760	194
48	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	30/06/2017	Street cleansing services in Sha Tin District (West)	\$43,315,000	186
49	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/01/2018	Cleansing services for markets in Sha Tin District	\$9,346,880	38
50	Johnson Group Pest Specialist Limited	31/03/2018	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Sha Tin District	\$28,866,000	100
51	Lik Shun Services Limited	31/10/2018	Waste collection services in Sha Tin District	\$45,000,000	15
			Sub-total	\$176,654,640	533

Southern					
52	Creative Pest control services Limited	31/03/2017	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Southern District	\$21,297,200	70
53	Baguio Pest Management Limited	30/06/2017	Management, cleansing and pest control services for markets in Southern District	\$20,127,040	56
54	Lapco Service Limited	31/10/2017	Street cleansing services in Southern District	\$57,597,312	179
55	Baguio Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/05/2018	Cleansing services for Aberdeen Municipal Services Building, Stanley Environmental Hygiene Sub-Office and Tin Wan Pest Control Office in Southern District	\$1,466,400	11
			Sub-total	\$100,487,952	316
Tai Po					
56	Flourishing Trading Company Limited	30/06/2017	Management, cleansing and pest control services for markets in Tai Po District	\$15,250,050	41
57	Creative Pest control services Limited	30/11/2017	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Tai Po District	\$32,598,000	106
58	Hung Fat Cleaning Transportation Co. Limited	30/04/2018	Waste collection services in Tai Po District	\$62,088,000	19
59	Law's Cleaning Services Limited	31/10/2018	Street cleansing services in Tai Po District	\$84,000,000	319
60	Flourishing Trading Company Limited	30/11/2018	Cleansing services for Tai Po Complex in Tai Po District	\$1,622,000	7
			Sub-total	\$195,558,050	492
Tsuen Wan					
61	Man Shing Cleaning Service Company Limited	30/04/2017	Street cleansing services in Tsuen Wan District	\$82,688,896	339

62	Lapco Service Limited	30/11/2017	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Tsuen Wan District	\$35,685,366	118
63	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/12/2017	Cleansing services for markets, cooked food market, hawker bazaar and cooked food hawker bazaars in Tsuen Wan District	\$25,913,320	101
			Sub-total	\$144,287,582	558
Tuen Mun					
64	Man Shing Cleaning Service Company Limited	30/11/2017	Street cleansing services in Tuen Mun District	\$66,312,112	284
65	Lapco Service Limited	31/12/2017	Management, cleansing and pest control services for markets, cooked food markets and hawker bazaar in Tuen Mun District	\$10,272,000	30
66	Baguio Pest Management Limited	31/03/2018	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Tuen Mun District	\$29,654,000	106
			Sub-total	\$106,238,112	420
Wan Chai					
67	Lapco Service Limited	31/03/2017	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Wan Chai District	\$15,729,502	52
68	Asia Cleaning Service Co.	30/06/2017	Waste collection services in Wan Chai District	\$43,298,400	18
69	Lapco Service Limited	31/12/2017	Street cleansing services in Wan Chai District (East)	\$46,656,000	162
70	Lapco Service Limited	31/12/2017	Street cleansing services in Wan Chai District (West)	\$43,584,000	143
71	Dussmann Service Hong Kong Limited	31/08/2018	Management, cleansing and pest control services for markets in Wan Chai District	\$23,206,820	72
72	Baguio Cleaning Services Company Limited	30/11/2018	Cleansing services for Lockhart Road Municipal Services Building in Wan Chai District	\$2,956,800	15
			Sub-total	\$175,431,522	462

Wong Tai Sin					
73	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	30/09/2017	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Wong Tai Sin District	\$21,768,000	76
74	Lapco Service Limited	28/02/2018	Street cleansing services in Wong Tai Sin District	\$46,555,200	184
75	Baguio Pest Management Limited	31/10/2018	Management, cleansing and pest control services for markets in Wong Tai Sin District	\$23,321,360	79
			Sub-total	\$91,644,560	339
Yau Tsim					
76	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/03/2017	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Yau Tsim District	\$11,481,000	40
77	Law's Cleaning Services Limited	30/04/2018	Street cleansing services in Yau Tsim District	\$85,000,000	291
78	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/05/2018	Cleansing services for Kwun Chung Municipal Services Building in Yau Tsim District	\$1,932,960	6
79	Yee Tai Cleaning Company Limited	31/08/2018	Management, cleansing and pest control services for Markets in Yau Tsim District	\$11,124,400	33
			Sub-total	\$109,538,360	370
Yuen Long					
80	Law's Cleaning Services Limited	31/03/2018	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Yuen Long District	\$35,403,000	124
81	Man Shing Cleaning Service Company Limited	30/06/2018	Street cleansing services in Yuen Long District (East)	\$63,816,624	197
82	Man Shing Cleaning Service Company Limited	30/06/2018	Street cleansing services in Yuen Long District (West)	\$76,951,512	309
83	World Environmental Services Limited	30/09/2018	Management, cleansing and pest control services for markets and cooked food markets in Yuen Long District	\$14,880,028	52
			Sub-total	\$307,579,564	682

Cross-District					
84	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/03/2017	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Central and Western and Islands Districts	\$45,418,200	166
85	ISS Environmental Services (HK) Limited	31/03/2017	Desludging and mid-night conservancy services in the Territory	\$37,538,350	16
86	Lik Shun Services Limited	31/03/2017	Waste collection services by mobile refuse compactors / automatic refuse collection systems for selected refuse collection points in Central and Western, Southern, Islands, Yau Tsim, Sham Shui Po, Kwai Tsing, Sai Kung and North Districts	\$38,178,910	7
87	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/03/2017	Roving teams for inspection, undergrowth cutting and special cleansing services for selected cemeteries & crematoria in the Territory	\$37,663,200	108
88	Baguio Landscaping Services Limited	31/03/2017	Cleansing and horticultural maintenance services for public cemeteries, crematoria, columbaria and gardens of remembrance in New Territories and Kowloon	\$29,335,680	470
89	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/08/2017	Cleansing services for hawker bazaars in Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po and Yau Tsim Districts	\$7,224,480	27
90	Man Shing Cleaning Service Company Limited	30/09/2017	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in Cemeteries and Crematoria (Hong Kong) Section and Cemeteries and Crematoria (Kowloon) Section	\$10,844,000	44

91	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	30/11/2017	Mosquito, rodent and other pest control services in North District and Cemeteries and Crematoria (New Territories) Section	\$37,635,000	130
92	Johnson Cleaning Services Company Limited	31/12/2017	Cleansing services for Po On Road Municipal Services Building in Sham Shui Po District and Hung Hom Municipal Services	\$5,384,320	29
93	Law's Cleaning Services Limited	31/12/2017	Cleansing services for Whitfield Depot, Kwai Chung Depot and Tai Po Depot	\$1,680,000	6
94	Shiny Glory Services Limited	28/02/2018	Cleansing and waste removal services for special sites/ areas in Hong Kong and Islands Districts	\$5,040,000	NA [#]
95	ISS Environmental Services (HK) Limited	28/02/2018	Portable toilet service in the Territory	\$37,161,467	95
96	Goodyear (Mak's) Services Company Limited	28/02/2018	Cleansing and waste removal services for special sites/ areas in Kowloon and New Territories Districts	\$6,290,600	NA [#]
97	ISS Environmental Services (HK) Limited	30/04/2018	Mechanical gully cleansing services for Districts in Hong Kong, Kowloon and New Territories	\$32,415,840	17
98	Lapco Service Limited	30/04/2018	Mechanical street sweeping services for Districts in Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories	\$67,172,332	17
99	Lapco Service Limited	30/06/2018	Animal carcasses collection services in Hong Kong, Kowloon and New Territories	\$9,331,200	11
100	Baguio Waste Management & Recycling Limited	31/07/2018	Recyclables collection services in Hong Kong and Islands, Kowloon, New Territories East and New Territories West	\$22,378,100	28
			Sub-total	\$430,691,679	1 171
			Total	\$3,478,749,941	10 865

* As committed by contractor in contract signed.

Not available as number of staff is not specified in contract signed.

Other information sought is not readily available.

Outsourced security guard service contracts expiring in the coming 3 years

	Contractor	Expiry Date	Service Description / Location	Contract Value	No. of Staff*
Central and Western					
1	Wise Security Limited	30/09/2017	Security guard services for Sheung Wan Municipal Services Building and Smithfield Municipal Services Building in Central and Western District	\$9,780,446	26
Eastern					
2	Mainland Services Management Limited	31/05/2017	Security guard services for Chai Wan Municipal Services Building in Eastern District	\$4,356,864	15
Mong Kok					
3	Asia Pacific Security Services Limited	30/09/2017	Security guard services for Tai Kok Tsui Municipal Services Building in Mong Kok District	\$3,337,152	12
North					
4	Mainland Services Management Limited	31/01/2018	Security guard services for Shek Wu Hui Municipal Services Building and Luen Wo Hui Municipal Services Building in North District	\$9,275,798	36
Sham Shui Po					
5	Wise Security Limited	31/03/2017	Security guard services for Pei Ho Street Municipal Services Building in Sham Shui Po District	\$4,207,551	16
Southern					
6	Mainland Services Management Limited	30/06/2017	Security guard services for markets and hawker bazaar in Southern District	\$1,885,594	6
Tai Po					
7	Asia Pacific Security Services Limited	31/10/2018	Security guard services for Tai Po Complex in Tai Po District	\$9,030,984	35

Tsuen Wan					
8	Wise Security Limited	31/07/2018	Security guard services for Yeung Uk Road Municipal Services Building in Tsuen Wan District	\$1,843,632	6
Wan Chai					
9	Sky Wise Services Management Limited	31/07/2018	Security guard services for Lockhart Road Municipal Services Building in Wan Chai District	\$1,914,163	7
Cross-District					
10	Guard Able Limited	31/03/2017	Security guard services for depots of Transport Section	\$4,461,816	17
11	Mainland Services Management Limited	31/05/2017	Security guard services for venues in East Kowloon Region and West Kowloon Region	\$13,202,195	53
12	Mainland Services Management Limited	31/07/2017	Security guard services for markets and hawker bazaars in New Territories Districts	\$20,812,183	83
13	Guard Able Limited	31/07/2017	Security guard services for Whitfield Depot, Kwai Chung Depot, Yuen Long Depot and Tai Po Depot	\$5,192,928	17
14	Guard Able Limited	31/08/2017	Security guard services for Hung Hom MSB in Kowloon City District and Kwun Chung MSB in Yau Tsim District	\$6,524,280	21
15	Mainland Services Management Limited	31/10/2017	Security guard services for Municipal Services Buildings in Eastern and Southern Districts	\$5,468,995	18
16	Sunguard Security Co. Limited	30/11/2017	Security guard services for public cemeteries, crematoria and cremation booking office in Hong Kong, Kowloon and New Territories	\$20,479,344	99
17	Sky Wise Services Management Limited	31/03/2018	Security guard services for markets in Hong Kong and Islands Districts	\$14,865,274	46
			Total	\$152,194,715	513

* As committed by contractor in contract signed.
Other information sought is not readily available.

Employment of outsourced workers for cleansing services and security guard services

Monthly salaries range	Cleansing workman / security guard	Supervisor	Driver
Cleansing Service			
\$8,001-\$10,000	9 622	427	140
\$10,001-\$13,000	15	470	217
\$13,001-\$16,000	-	19	16
Security Guard Service			
\$8,001-\$10,000	554	11	-
\$10,001-\$13,000	-	1	-

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not keep other information sought.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)163****(Question Serial No. 1170)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the work of “assist(ing) FHB in developing proposals for improving the operating environment of public markets, taking into account the recommendations of the consultancy study conducted in 2014”, please advise on the following:

- given that the consultancy report has studied 6 markets, including Tsuen Wan Market, Yau Ma Tei Market, Ngau Chi Wan Market, Sheung Fung Street Market, Lockhart Road Market and Wing Fong Street Market, in detail and recommended refurbishment works be implemented, the progress of the study, the works schedule and the expenditure involved, with a breakdown by the 6 markets;
- Please set out in the table below the population, as well as the number of markets (with a breakdown by operator), supermarkets and fresh provision shops, in Tin Shui Wai, Tung Chung, Ma On Shan and Tseung Kwan O.

District	Population	No. of markets				No. of supermarkets	No. of fresh provision shops
		FEHD	Link	Housing Authority	Private developer(s)		
Tin Shui Wai							
Tung Chung							
Ma On Shan							
Tseung Kwan O							

- Please set out in the table below the population, as well as the number of markets (with a breakdown by operator), supermarkets and fresh provision shops, in each of the districts shown.

District	Population	No. of markets				No. of supermarkets	No. of fresh provision shops
		FEHD	Link	Housing Authority	Private developer(s)		
Central and							

Western							
Eastern							
Southern							
Wan Chai							
Kowloon City							
Kwun Tong							
Wong Tai Sin							
Sham Shui Po							
Mong Kok							
Yau Tsim							
Sha Tin							
Tai Po							
North							
Kwai Tsing							
Tsuen Wan							
Tuen Mun							
Yuen Long							
Sai Kung							
Islands							
Total							

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (Member Question No. 18)

Reply:

1. The Consultant commissioned by the Food and Health Bureau selected 6 representative markets for detailed study and put forward specific improvement recommendations. These 6 markets are Lockhart Road Market, Sheung Fung Street Market, Yau Ma Tei Market, Wing Fong Street Market, Tsuen Wan Market and Ngau Chi Wan Market. The Government is following up the specific improvement proposals for these markets in phases including gauging their feasibility and acceptability to the tenants. The experience gained and the improvement recommendations taken forward will serve as a reference for pursuing improvements to other similar markets in the future. The progress of the 6 selected markets is provided at Annex I.
2. The information sought is provided at Annex II.
3. The information sought is provided at Annex III.

- End -

Name of Market	Progress
Lockhart Road Market	<p>The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has consulted the Market Management Consultative Committees (MMCCs) of these 2 markets. The MMCCs expressed support for some of the proposals that do not require temporary closure of stalls or suspension of business. Rejection of those that necessitate temporary closure/business suspension implies that the scope of improvement will be significantly less than that envisaged in the Consultancy Report. Having considered MMCCs' views and the results of the feasibility studies, the improvement works for Lockhart Road Market will include beautification of the façade and upgrading market external wall facing the major road, enhancement of the ventilating system, upgrading of market toilets, loading bay facilities, fire service installation, barrier free access and lightings, provision of Closed-circuit Television System and a new TV broadcast system, replacement of directional signboards and floor tiles, and conversion of former poultry stalls into trading stalls. The improvement works will commence in the second quarter of 2017 for completion in the fourth quarter of 2019, at an estimated cost of \$21.2 million.</p> <p>For Sheung Fung Street Market, the scope of improvement works is being finalised in consultation with relevant departments.</p>
Sheung Fung Street Market	
Yau Ma Tei Market	<p>The MMCCs of these 2 markets were consulted in the fourth quarter of 2016. The MMCCs expressed support for some of the proposals that do not require temporary closure of stalls or suspension of business. Rejection of those that necessitate temporary closure implies that the scope of improvement will be significantly less than that envisaged in the Consultancy Report. The Department is carefully considering their views and will conduct feasibility studies and seek funding approval according to the established mechanism for taking forward the improvement works.</p>
Wing Fong Street Market	
Tsuen Wan Market	<p>The Department is now following up on the Consultant's recommended improvements for these 2 markets. Recent surveys indicated that Tsuen Wan Market has attained the 80% threshold support rate for the installation of air-conditioning system. This will be taken into account in conducting the technical feasibility studies and further consultation with the MMCC.</p>
Ngau Chi Wan Market	

District	Population#	No. of markets				No. of supermarkets	No. of fresh provision shops*
		FEHD	Link	Housing Authority	Private developer(s)		
Tin Shui Wai	287 901	-	4	1	-	11	82
Tung Chung@	78 443	-	2	-	-	5	29
Ma On Shan	202 431	-	5	-	3	13	74
Tseung Kwan O	371 590	-	5	-	4	21	119

Based on 2011 Population Census data provided by Census and Statistics Department. 2016 Population By-census data for the above areas will not be available until mid-2017.

@ There is no official geographical demarcation for "Tung Chung" in population censuses/by-censuses conducted by Census and Statistics Department. The figure refers to population in new town of North Lantau Island.

* A fresh provision shop is a licensed premise which sells fresh, chilled or frozen beef, mutton, pork, reptiles, fish or poultry.

District	Population#	No. of markets				No. of supermarkets	No. of fresh provision shops*
		FEHD	Link	Housing Authority	Private developer(s)		
Central and Western	243 266	6	-	-	-	47	114
Eastern	555 034	10	2	-	2	50	174
Southern	274 994	6	2	2	2	29	84
Wan Chai	180 123	6	-	-	-	22	86
Kowloon City	418 732	4	2	1	-	44	127
Kwun Tong	648 541	8	10	-	-	47	258
Wong Tai Sin	425 235	4	6	3	-	33	168
Sham Shui Po	405 869	5	1	3	-	46	147
Mong Kok	342 970	3	-	-	-	30	129
Yau Tsim		3	-	-	-	30	80
Sha Tin	659 794	4	14	2	9	58	272
Tai Po	303 926	2	5	-	-	18	95
North	315 270	4	4	-	1	31	66
Kwai Tsing	520 572	8	6	5	2	49	180
Tsuen Wan	318 916	6	-	2	3	40	102
Tuen Mun	489 299	6	9	1	3	34	171
Yuen Long	614 178	8	5	2	-	42	183
Sai Kung	461 864	2	5	-	4	32	149
Islands	156 801	6	2	-	-	13	51
Total	7 335 384	101	73	21	26	695	2636

Based on “Hong Kong 2016 Population By-census - Key Statistics” published by Census and Statistics Department in February 2017.

* A fresh provision shop is a licensed premise which sells fresh, chilled or frozen beef, mutton, pork, reptiles, fish or poultry.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)164****(Question Serial No. 2288)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the criteria and circumstances under which a place will be listed as a hygiene blackspot.

Please tabulate details of the hygiene blackspots in Kowloon West (including Sham Shui Po, Yau Tsim Mong and Kowloon City) over the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and District Council district as follows:

2016-17 Financial Year/Sham Shui Po District

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Land use of building or site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work	Expenditure on environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work	Effectiveness

2016-17 Financial Year/Yau Tsim Mong District

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Land use of building or site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work	Expenditure on environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work	Effectiveness

2016-17 Financial Year/Kowloon City District

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Land use of building or site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work	Expenditure on environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work	Effectiveness

Please advise whether any financial provision has been earmarked for the 2017-18 financial year to enhance cleansing work at hygiene blackspots in Kowloon West; if yes, the details.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 23)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will identify hygiene blackspots based on actual ground situation, information from repeated complaint cases, and comments from District Council members and local residents. For a location identified as a blackspot, the Department will closely monitor its cleanliness and hygiene conditions, enhance frequency of clean-up operations, and step up law enforcement actions as necessary. Overall speaking, the enhancement measures are effective in containing the hygiene problems. Details of the hygiene blackspots for Kowloon West districts (including Sham Shui Po, Yau Tsim, Mong Kok and Kowloon City Districts) in the past 3 years are given at Annex.

In 2017-18, the Department will deploy additional resources to enhance street washing, central road divider cleansing, evening and midnight street sweeping, pest control, and public education and publicity; implement a pilot scheme on installation of Internet Protocol cameras at hygiene blackspots; and increase manpower in the management of public cleansing contracts and law enforcement. The additional expenditure involved in 2017-18 is estimated at \$110.97 million. The Department does not keep separate breakdown on the expenditure for the enhancement measures for Kowloon West districts.

- End -

Details of the hygiene blackspots for Kowloon West districts

2014-15 / Sham Shui Po District

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work <i>(i) Increased frequency of inspection (ii) Enhanced cleansing services (iii) Strengthened enforcement action (iv) Strengthened pest control action (v) Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Rear lane of nos. 1-3, Un Chau St. / nos. 18-20, Fuk Wing Street	Accumulation of waste and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of nos. 231-247, Un Chau Street	Accumulation of waste and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of nos. 31-33, Shek Kip Mei Street	Accumulation of waste and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of nos. 32-60, Fuk Wing Street	Accumulation of waste and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of nos. 287-327A, Tai Nam Street	Accumulation of waste and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear Lane of nos. 171-181, Woosung Street, Jordan	Accumulation of refuse and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)

2014-15 / Yau Tsim and Mong Kok District

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work <i>(i) Increased frequency of inspection</i> <i>(ii) Enhanced cleansing services</i> <i>(iii) Strengthened enforcement action</i> <i>(iv) Strengthened pest control action</i> <i>(v) Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Rear Lane of nos. 100-126, Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui	Accumulation of refuse and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear Lane of nos. 256-282, Reclamation Street, Yaumatei	Accumulation of refuse and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Kerb side and rear lane of nos. 46-58, Arthur Street, Yaumatei	Accumulation of refuse and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of nos. 261-289, Temple Street, Jordan	Accumulation of refuse and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane between Oak Street and Pine Street	Littering problem and accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane between nos. 1-5, Fa Yuen Street and Tung Choi Street	Littering problem and accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane at Tak Cheung Building, 10-14, Fife Street	Littering problem and accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane between Nelson Street and Nam Tau Street	Littering problem and accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane between Chung Wui Street and Tai Tsun Street	Littering problem and accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)

2014-15 / Kowloon City District

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work <i>(i) Increased frequency of inspection</i> <i>(ii) Enhanced cleansing services</i> <i>(iii) Strengthened enforcement action</i> <i>(iv) Strengthened pest control action</i> <i>(v) Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Section of To Kwa Wan Road, Mei King Street and Wai King Street next to Wyler Garden	Accumulation of refuse	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lanes of Maidstone Road	Accumulation of refuse	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Pavement of Hung Hom Road and Tai Wan Road (outside Hutchison Park)	Accumulation of refuse	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Pavement near Lux Theatre, Bulkeley Street	Accumulation of refuse	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of Kar King Mansion, Baker Street, Hung Hom	Accumulation of refuse	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)

2015-16 / Sham Shui Po District

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work <i>(i) Increased frequency of inspection</i> <i>(ii) Enhanced cleansing services</i> <i>(iii) Strengthened enforcement action</i> <i>(iv) Strengthened pest control action</i> <i>(v) Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Rear lane of nos. 32-60, Fuk Wing Street	Accumulation of waste and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of nos. 287 - 327A, Tai Nam Street	Accumulation of waste and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Entrance of Pei Ho Street Market	Accumulation of waste, foul smell and choked drain	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Junction of Pei Ho Street and Ki Lung Street	Foul smell and choked drain	Public site	(i) and (ii)
Junction of Yu Chau Street and Kweilin Street	Foul smell and choked drain	Public site	(i), and (ii)
Junction of Yu Chau Street and Kweilin Street	Accumulation of waste and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of nos. 286 -294, Yu Chau Street	Accumulation of construction waste	Public site	(i) and (v)
Rear lane of Ki Lung Street, Tai Nam Street, and Pei Ho Street	Accumulation of waste and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Junction of Ki Lung Street and Kweilin Street	Accumulation of waste and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work <i>(i) Increased frequency of inspection</i> <i>(ii) Enhanced cleansing services</i> <i>(iii) Strengthened enforcement action</i> <i>(iv) Strengthened pest control action</i> <i>(v) Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Outside no. 371, Ki Lung Street	Accumulation of waste and construction waste	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
Outside no. 27, Shek Kip Mei Street	Accumulation of waste and construction waste	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
Outside no. 278, Tai Nam Street	Waste and trolley causing obstruction	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
Junction of Tai Nam Street and Pei Ho Street	Miscellaneous articles and trolley causing obstruction	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
Rear lane of no. 396, Lai Chi Kok Road	Accumulation of waste and recycled articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Open area outside no. 265, Lai Chi Kok Road	Accumulation of waste	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Podium of 2nd to 3rd floor, no. 75, Nam Cheong Street	Accumulation of waste	Private building	(i) and (iii)
Pavement outside nos. 173-177, Yee Kuk Street	Accumulation of waste / miscellaneous articles and construction waste	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
Roof of no. 164, Apliu Street	Accumulation of waste and miscellaneous articles	Private building	(i) and (iii)

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work <i>(i) Increased frequency of inspection</i> <i>(ii) Enhanced cleansing services</i> <i>(iii) Strengthened enforcement action</i> <i>(iv) Strengthened pest control action</i> <i>(v) Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Rear lane of nos. 179, 185-187, 205, 235-259, Apliu Street	Accumulation of waste and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of nos. 169-171, 241, Cheung Sha Wan Road	Accumulation of waste and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of nos. 56B-56C, Yen Chow Street	Accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Fuk Wa Street Rest Garden	Accumulation of construction waste	Public site	(i) and (v)
Fuk Wing Street Rest Garden	Accumulation of construction waste	Public site	(i) and (v)
Junction of Tai Po Road and Fuk Wing Street	Accumulation of construction waste	Public site	(i) and (v)
Rear lane of no. 31, Shek Kip Mei Street	Accumulation of construction waste	Public site	(i) and (v)
Nos. 85-95, Fuk Wa Street	Rodent infestation	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iv)
Nos. 46-64, Fuk Wa Street	Rodent infestation	Public site	(i) , (ii) and (iv)
Nos. 2-30, Fuk Wing Street	Rodent infestation	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iv)
Nos. 25-69, Fuk Wing Street	Rodent infestation	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iv)
Nos. 168-174, Nam Cheong Street	Rodent infestation	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iv)
Nam Cheong Park	Rodent infestation	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iv)

2015-16 / Yau Tsim and Mong Kok District

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work (i) <i>Increased frequency of inspection</i> (ii) <i>Enhanced cleansing services</i> (iii) <i>Strengthened enforcement action</i> (iv) <i>Strengthened pest control action</i> (v) <i>Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Rear lane of Saigon Street (between Parkes Street and Woosung Street)	Accumulation of refuse and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Vicinity of Yau Ma Tei Market (Ning Po Street / Reclamation Street / Battery Street / Pak Hoi Street)	Accumulation of refuse and foam boxes and rodent infestation	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)
Arthur Street (From Wing Sing Lane to Man Ming Lane)	Illegal food business extension; refuse and debris on the floor and obstruction by bamboo baskets; table and stool	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Ferry Street / Junction of Waterloo Road footbridge and Ferry Street / Junction of Dundas Street footbridge	Dog fouling during midnight and early morning	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Pavement and rear lane of no. 322, Shanghai Street	Urine odor	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Vicinity of Yau Ma Tei Fruit Market (Reclamation Street / Waterloo Road) and the vicinity of T.K.D.S. Fong Shu Chuen School's back door	Moldy pallet at Fruit Market	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work (i) <i>Increased frequency of inspection</i> (ii) <i>Enhanced cleansing services</i> (iii) <i>Strengthened enforcement action</i> (iv) <i>Strengthened pest control action</i> (v) <i>Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Canton Road / Dundas Street Rest Garden ; pavement of no. 86, Portland Street	Litter container overload	Public site	(i) and (ii)
Pavement of no. 429, Shanghai Street	Litter container overload	Public site	(i) and (ii)
Pavement of Kimberley Street (nos. 23-23A and 25-25A, Granville Road)	Defected road surface; accumulation of miscellaneous articles and water dripping from air-conditioner	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
"BBQ Lobster " at Man Wah Building, Man Ying Street, Ferry Street	Extension of food business on the pavement	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane between nos. 1-5, Fa Yuen Street and Tung Choi Street	Littering problem and accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of Fife Street (between Nathan Road and Portland Street)	Littering problem and accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane between Nelson Street and Nam Tau Street	Littering problem and accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Chiu Yu Road, Sham Mong Road and Chung Wui Street	Littering problem and accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work (i) <i>Increased frequency of inspection</i> (ii) <i>Enhanced cleansing services</i> (iii) <i>Strengthened enforcement action</i> (iv) <i>Strengthened pest control action</i> (v) <i>Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Pavement outside Bus Terminal of Olympian City One	Littering problem and accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Road surface of Hoi Fan Road	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Side lane of Tit Shu Street	Littering problem and accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Oak Street outside CCC Ming Kei College	Accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Underneath of the Flyover of Tong Mei Road and Cherry Street	Accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Tai Kok Tusi Road	Accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
Li Tak Street	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Tai Kok Tsui Market stalls	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Junction of Wai On Street and Kok Cheung Street	Littering problem and accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
No. 36, Boundary Street	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of nos. 369-379, Portland Street	Littering problem and accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work <i>(i) Increased frequency of inspection</i> <i>(ii) Enhanced cleansing services</i> <i>(iii) Strengthened enforcement action</i> <i>(iv) Strengthened pest control action</i> <i>(v) Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Pavement of Sycamore Street	Littering problem and dog fouling	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
Cheung Wong Road Market and Canton Road Market (from Argyle Street to Mong Kok Road)	Accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
Rear lane of nos. 1-7, Yuen Po Street	Accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
Tung Choi Street (along Mong Kok Road footbridge)	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of Fa Yuen Street and Sai Yee Street	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Dundas Street (between Tung Choi Street and Sai Yeung Choi Street South)	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of nos. 26-28, Tung Choi Street	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)

2015-16 / Kowloon City District

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work <i>(i) Increased frequency of inspection</i> <i>(ii) Enhanced cleansing services</i> <i>(iii) Strengthened enforcement action</i> <i>(iv) Strengthened pest control action</i> <i>(v) Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Part of Mei Kwong Street, To Kwa Wan Road, Mei King Street, Wai King Street (Next to Wyler Garden)	Accumulation of refuse, choke of waste pipe/defect of pipes/illegal connection, foul smell	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
Rear lanes of Cheung Ning Street, Ha Heung Road, and Pau Chung Street, Kowloon City Road	Accumulation of refuse and junk, rodent infestation	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v)
No. 56, Kowloon City Road	Accumulation of refuse	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Pavement of nos. 51-107, Ma Tau Chung Road	Accumulation of refuse	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Junction of Chi Kiang Street and Lung Tak Street	Accumulation of refuse and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Junction of Lok Shan Road and Yuk Yat Street	Accumulation of refuse and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Junction of Ngan Hon Street and Sung On Street	Accumulation of refuse and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of Ngan Hon Street and Hung Fok Street (Behind nos. 27-29, To Kwa Wan Road)	Waste water and dirt on road surface	Public site	(i), (ii) and (v)

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work <i>(i) Increased frequency of inspection</i> <i>(ii) Enhanced cleansing services</i> <i>(iii) Strengthened enforcement action</i> <i>(iv) Strengthened pest control action</i> <i>(v) Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Rear lane of Luen Yip Building, Kowloon City Road	Accumulation of refuse and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of Tam Kung Road	Accumulation of refuse; waste water on road surface; insects and rodent infestation and foul smell	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v)
Rear lane of Pei Tai Street	Accumulation of refuse and miscellaneous articles, waste water on road surface; insects and rodent infestation and foul smell	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v)
Wing Kwong Street and Kai Ming Street and the vicinity	Accumulation of refuse and miscellaneous articles; choke of waste pipe/defect pipes; accumulation of water and foul smell at no. 1 Wing Kwong Street	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
Rear lane of Hung Wu Building, Dock Street	Accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
Sung Chi Street	Accumulation of miscellaneous articles /waste water	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work <i>(i) Increased frequency of inspection</i> <i>(ii) Enhanced cleansing services</i> <i>(iii) Strengthened enforcement action</i> <i>(iv) Strengthened pest control action</i> <i>(v) Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Chun Tin Street	Accumulation of refuse and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Nga Tsin Long Road, Kowloon City Market and the vicinity	Accumulation of refuse, miscellaneous articles; insect and rodent infestation and foul smell	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v)
Junction of Peace Avenue and Argyle Street	Accumulation of refuse	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
San Francisco Path, Emma Avenue, Julia Avenue, Victory Avenue, Embankment Road	Insect and rodent infestation and foul smell	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iv)

2016-17 / Sham Shui Po District

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work <i>(i) Increased frequency of inspection</i> <i>(ii) Enhanced cleansing services</i> <i>(iii) Strengthened enforcement action</i> <i>(iv) Strengthened pest control action</i> <i>(v) Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Rear lane of no. 169 – 241, Cheung Sha Wan Road	Accumulation of waste and miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Area around SSP MTR Station A1, A2, C1 and C2 exit	Accumulation of waste / miscellaneous articles and construction waste	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
Area around Pei Ho Street Market	Accumulation of waste / miscellaneous articles and construction waste	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
Pavement outside nos. 277 – 411, Shun Ning Road (portion outside Po On Road Market)	Accumulation of waste	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Sai Yeung Choi Street North (near Police Sports and Recreation Club)	Feeding of feral birds and dog fouling	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Junction of Cheung Sha Wan Road and Tonkin Street	Feeding of feral birds	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)

2016-17 / Yau Tsim and Mong Kok District

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work <i>(i) Increased frequency of inspection</i> <i>(ii) Enhanced cleansing services</i> <i>(iii) Strengthened enforcement action</i> <i>(iv) Strengthened pest control action</i> <i>(v) Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Tsim Sha Tsui MTR Station (Exit at Nathan Road outside Kowloon Park)	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Yau Ma Tei MTR Station (Exit at junction of Nathan Road and Man Ming Lane)	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Jordan MTR Station (Exit near Yue Wha Chinese Product)	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Bus Station near Cross Harbour Tunnel (towards Hong Kong)	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Jordan Bus Stations (from Nathan Road to Canton Road)	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Bus Terminal near Mong Kok East Station	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Footbridge near Charming Garden and Dundas Street	Littering problem and dog fouling	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane/side lane near Fa Hui	Littering problem and accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Mong Kok MTR Station (Exits at Fife Street and Sai Yeung Choi Street South)	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work <i>(i) Increased frequency of inspection</i> <i>(ii) Enhanced cleansing services</i> <i>(iii) Strengthened enforcement action</i> <i>(iv) Strengthened pest control action</i> <i>(v) Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Mong Kok MTR Station (Bank Center exit)	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Pavement of Nos. 61-91, Sai Yee Street and rear lanes between Boundary Street and Nelson Street	Littering problem and accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
Sai Yeung Choi Street South between Dundas Street and Argyle Street	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Argyle Street between Yim Po Fong Street and Nathan Road	Littering problem	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)

2016-17 / Kowloon City District

Location of hygiene blackspot	Hygiene problem	Public or private building / site	Environmental hygiene enhancement measures/work <i>(i) Increased frequency of inspection</i> <i>(ii) Enhanced cleansing services</i> <i>(iii) Strengthened enforcement action</i> <i>(iv) Strengthened pest control action</i> <i>(v) Made referral to other relevant department(s)</i>
Rear lane of Wuhu Street (behind Hung Wu Building)	Accumulation of miscellaneous articles	Public site	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
Kowloon City Road, Junction of Lok Shan Road and Ma Hang Chung Road	Accumulation of refuse	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Junction of Kowloon City Road, Wing Kwong Street and Mei King Street	Accumulation of refuse	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of Tam Kung Road	Accumulation of refuse	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)
Rear lane of Lung Kong Road	Accumulation of refuse	Public site	(i), (ii) and (iii)

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)165****(Question Serial No. 2731)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of liquor licence applications received and granted in each of the past 5 years. For those unsuccessful applications, please give reasons for the rejection.

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (Member Question No. 39)Reply:

The number of liquor licence applications received and liquor licences issued in each of the past 5 years is provided in the table below –

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total number of liquor licence applications received (including new issue, renewal, transfer and amendment applications)	7 789	8 179	8 630	8 936	6 520
Total number of liquor licences granted (including newly issued and renewed licences)	6 781	6 807	7 488	7 743	6 331

The decrease in the number of cases in 2016 was due to the rolling out of the 2-year liquor licences since August 2015. There were 2 427 and 1 838 applications for 2-year licences in 2015 and 2016 respectively, and 1 827 and 1 949 such licences were issued in these two years respectively. It is noteworthy that applications for liquor licence received in one year may be carried forward with the processing completed in the subsequent year.

For the unsuccessful applications, the reasons of rejection are mainly (a) the applicant was not a fit and proper person to hold the licence; (b) the premises to which the application related were not suitable for selling or supplying intoxicating liquor, having regard to the location and structure of the premises, and the fire safety and hygienic conditions in the premises; and (c) the grant of licence would be contrary to public interest.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)166

(Question Serial No. 0669)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The newly revised Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance came into effect on 24 September 2016. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has indicated that it will take joint enforcement actions with other departments mainly against shop front extensions (SFEs) not involving illegal hawking activities. Please advise on the number of joint enforcement actions taken in various districts since the implementation of the new legislation, as well as the number of frontline Foreman grade staff of the Cleansing Sections involved. With regard to the enforcement work against SFEs, please also advise whether the Department will review staffing arrangement on a regular basis and provide additional manpower for the work as appropriate.

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (Member Question No. 49)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) took part in 73 joint enforcement operations with other relevant departments to combat shop front extensions (SFEs) not involving illegal hawking activities upon commencement of the new fixed penalty regime on 24 September 2016 and up to end December 2016. On average, 2 frontline Foreman grade staff of the Cleansing Sections of the Department were involved in each operation.

In 2015-16, the Department set up 3 task force teams to combat SFEs at blackspots by creating 39 civil service posts. In 2016-17, the Department set up 2 additional task force teams with the creation of 26 civil service posts, to further strengthen enforcement against SFEs across the territory, including the issue of fixed penalty notices under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570). The Department will review the staffing arrangement for enforcement against SFEs from time to time and seek additional resources in accordance with the established mechanism when required.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)167

(Question Serial No. 1213)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

During 2017-18, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will put forth legislative proposals in respect of the regulation of the safety and quality standards of edible fats and oils and develop guidelines on good practice on “cooking oils in use” for the trade as appropriate. In this connection, please advise on the following:

- a. whether there has been adequate consultation and negotiation with the stakeholders; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s); and
- b. the timetable for implementing these proposals.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

The Government launched a three-month public consultation exercise on the legislative proposals for regulating edible fats and oils in July 2015. As part of the public consultation exercise, we briefed relevant stakeholders, including the food industry, of the regulatory objectives and legislative proposals through public consultation sessions, the Trade Consultation Forum of the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) and meetings. We reported the views received during the public consultation exercise and the Government's observations to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in December 2015. We are in the course of formulating specific regulatory proposals, and do not have a definite timetable on when the proposed regulatory proposals will be ready at this stage.

Separately, CFS will commission a consultancy study on “cooking oils in use” in 2017, with a view to developing guidelines on good practices on “cooking oils in use” for the trade. CFS will engage the trade in the process.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)168

(Question Serial No. 1214)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will implement re-engineering of workflow and overhaul of information technology systems for more effective data management in the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) during 2017-18. In this connection, please advise on:

1. the reason(s) for re-engineering of workflow in CFS; and
2. the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) needs to revamp its information technology (IT) systems which are out-dated and have considerable limitations in interface, data structure and automation. The overhaul of the IT systems will involve rationalization and streamlining of CFS' workflows for IT-enabled transformation to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness and strengthen data management and analysis for enhanced food safety control.

A dedicated team will be set up in the CFS to carry out the aforementioned work. The team will be headed by a supernumerary Senior Principal Executive Officer post, who will be underpinned by a multi-disciplinary team comprising about 30 non-directorate officers and contract staff (through internal redeployment of manpower resources and the creation of 5 time-limited posts in the CFS) mainly in the Analyst / Programmer, Executive Officer and Health Inspector grades. The total notional annual salary cost at mid-point for the supernumerary/time-limited posts to be created for the purpose is \$5,655,420.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)169

(Question Serial No. 2717)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

During 2017-18, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will study the latest international development on regulation of nutrition claims and health claims for formula products and prepackaged food for infants and young children under the age of 36 months, with a view to putting forth specific legislative proposals. In this connection, please advise on the following:

- a. the regions chosen to be studied, with reasons and the findings (if any);
- b. the legislative timetable; and
- c. the manpower and expenditure in this respect.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. 24)

Reply:

Having conducted a public consultation exercise on the proposal for establishing a regulatory framework on nutrition and health claims on formula products and prepackaged foods for infants and young children under the age of 36 months some time earlier, we are currently working on the legislative proposals taking into account views expressed during the public consultation exercise, the latest international development, as well as the World Trade Organisation's requirements. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is considering the most appropriate means to collect information on international development in this aspect. The manpower and expenditure required would be absorbed from within the Department's existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)170

(Question Serial No. 0815)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) will enhance environmental hygiene, especially at hygiene blackspots, in 2017-18. In this connection, please advise on the locations of the hygiene blackspots, details of the enhancement measures and estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will continue to work with the respective District Councils to closely monitor the cleanliness and hygiene condition of the hygiene blackspots, enhance public education and publicity and step up law enforcement actions as necessary. A list of the blackspots is given at Annex.

In 2017-18, the Department will deploy additional resources to enhance street washing, central road divider cleansing, evening and midnight street sweeping, pest control, and public education and publicity; implement a pilot scheme on installation of Internet Protocol cameras at hygiene blackspots; and increase manpower in the management of public cleansing contracts and law enforcement. The additional expenditure involved is estimated at \$110.97 million.

- End -

List of Hygiene Blackspots in 2017-18

District	Location of Hygiene Blackspots
Central/ Western	Vicinity of Cochrane Street, Graham Street, Wellington Street, Elgin Street and Staunton Street
	Vicinity of Central Connaught Place and General Post Office
	Vicinity of Bonham Strand and Jervois Street
	Vicinity of Wing Lok Street and Morrison Street
	Admiralty MTR Station Exit C1
	Sheung Wan MTR Station Exit A1, towards Des Voeux Road Central
	Queen's Road Central, near Chiu Lung Street
	Queen Victoria Street and Jubilee Street, near Des Voeux Road Central
	Central Pier, near Man Kwong Street
	Queen's Road West, in the vicinity of Shek Tong Tsui Municipal Services Building, near Hill Road
Wanchai	Vicinity of Sugar Street and Yee Wo Street
	Vicinity of Jardine's Crescent near MTR Station exit and Jardine's Bazaar
	Vicinity of Russell Street and Kai Chiu Road
	Vicinity of Canal Road
	Vicinity of Tang Lung Street
	Vicinity of Hennessy Road, especially outside Off-course Betting Branches and bus stops
	Vicinity of Percival Street
	Vicinity of Luard Road
	O'Brien Road near MTR exit
	Vicinity of Cannon Street
	Area outside Spring Garden Lane Off-course Betting Branch
	Vicinity of Sharp Street East and Yiu Wa Street
	Vicinity of Johnston Road
	Vicinity of Wan Chai Road
	Caroline Hill Road Refuse Collection Point
	No. 19, Tai Hang Road
	Vicinity of Chan Tong Lane

District	Location of Hygiene Blackspots
	Vicinity of Gloucester Road near Sugar Street
Eastern	Vicinity of nos. 2-16 North Point Road (near Chun Yeung Street) , North Point
	Vicinity of nos. 94-124 Shau Kei Wan Main Street East and no. 6 Mong Lung Street outside Kam Wai Building (near Kam Wa Street), Shau Kei Wan
	Vicinity of no. 341 Chai Wan Road (near Walton Estate), Chai Wan
Southern	Nos. 66-97 Shek Pai Wan Road
	Tang Fung Street
	Wu Pak Street
	Wu Nam Street
	Tung Sing Road
	Nos. 28-118 Aberdeen Main Road
	Ap Lei Chau Praya Road
	Yip Kan Street
	Yip Fat Street
	Seaview Promenade (Repulse Bay to Deep Water Bay)
Islands	Piazza outside Citygate, Tung Chung
	Areas outside Exits A, B and D of Tung Chung MTR Station
	Bus stations at Tat Tung Road, Tung Chung
	Man Tung Road, Tung Chung
	Yu Tung Road and Chung Yan Road, Tung Chung
	Area outside Cheung Chau Public Pier
	Area outside Peng Chau Ferry Pier
Yau Tsim	Tsim Sha Tsui MTR Station (Kowloon Park Nathan Road exit)
	Yau Ma Tei MTR Station (Nathan Road and Man Ming Lane exit)
	Jordan MTR Station (near Yue Wha Chinese Product exit)
	Bus station near Cross Harbour Tunnel (toward Hong Kong direction)
	Jordan bus station (from Nathan Road to Canton Road)

District	Location of Hygiene Blackspots
Mong Kok	Bus terminal near Mong Kok East Station
	Footbridge near Charming Garden and Dundas Street
	Rear lane/side lane near Fa Hui
	Mong Kok MTR Station (Fife Street and Sai Yeung Choi Street South exit)
	Mong Kok MTR Station (Bank Center exit)
	Nos. 61-91 Sai Yee Street and rear lane (between Boundary Street and Nelson Street)
	Sai Yeung Choi Street South (between Dundas Street and Argyle Street)
	Argyle Street (between Yim Po Fong Street and Nathan Road)
Sham Shui Po	Area bounded by Yen Chow Street, Castle Peak Road, Tonkin Street and Cheung Sha Wan Road
	Vicinity of Sham Shui Po MTR Station Exits A1, A2, C1 and C2
	Vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market
	Sham Mong Road (from Yen Chow Street to Chui Yu Road)
	Po On Road (from Hing Wah Street to Tonkin Street)
	Pratas Street (From Kwong Lee Road to Shun Ning Road)
	Shek Kip Mei Service Reservoir near Police Sports and Recreation Club
	Cheung Sha Wan Road (from Tonkin Street to Pratas Street)
	Boundary between Nam Cheong Street, Boundary Street and Tai Po Road
	Area around Tung Chau Street Park
	Area outside Cronin Garden (near Camp Street and Shun Ning Road)
	Area outside Sai Yeung Choi Street North, Tai Hang Tung Recreation Ground
	Mei Fu Lai Wan Road (from Lai Wan Road to Broadway Road)
	Yau Yat Chuen
	Kiu Kiang Street (at the junction of Lai Chi Kok Road and Yee Kuk Street)
Kowloon City	Wuhu Street (lane behind Hung Wu Building)
	Kowloon City Road (between Lok Shan Road and Ma Hang Chung Road), Lok Shan Road, Wing Kwong Street, Mei King Street
	Rear lane of Tam Kung Road

District	Location of Hygiene Blackspots
	Rear lane of Lung Kong Road
Wong Tai Sin	Rear lane surrounded by Kam Wing Street, Yin Hing Street, Shung Ling Street and FooYuen Street
	Rear lane of Hong Keung Street
	Rear lane between Wan Fung Street and Ngan Fung Street
	Rear lane between Sheung Fung Street and Ngan Fung Street
	Lanes at Kam Chi Path, Fu Chi Path and Wah Chi Path
	Side lane and rear lane of Yuk Wah Crescent
Kwun Tong	Vicinity of Yue Man Square, Hip Wo Street Interim Bus Terminus and Kwun Tong Railway Station
	Hoi Yuen Road
	Shui Wo Street
	Wan Hon Street
	Hip Wo Street
	Lam Hing Street
	Tsun Yip Lane
	Hung To Road
	Wai Yip Street
	How Ming Street
Kwai Tsing	Rear lane of Lai Fong Street
	Rear lane of Shing Fong Street
	Rear lane of Tai Ha Street
	Tsing Yi Chung Mei Village
	Tsing Yi St Paul's Village
	Slopes near Liu To Road Garden
Tsuen Wan	Rear lane between No. 146E Sha Tsui Road and Heung Wo Street
	Rear lane of nos. 23-37 Siu Wo Street
	Rear lane of nos. 2-32 Hoi Pa Street
	Rear lane of Sam Pei Square behind Chen Hsin Mansion
Tuen Mun	Vicinity of San Hui Market, Tuen Mun
	Vicinity of Tsing Shan Square and Tsing Ho Square

District	Location of Hygiene Blackspots
Yuen Long	Yuen Long New Street
	Hop Choi Street
	Sau Fu Street
	Tai Tong Road
	Fook Hong Street
	Kau Yuk Road (Yuen Long)
	Kik Yeung Road
	Fau Tsoi Street
	Sai Ching Street
	Yu King Square
	Chung Sing Path
North	San Kung Street, Sheung Shui
	Vicinity of San Fung Avenue, Sheung Shui
	Vicinity of San Hong Street, Sheung Shui
	Vicinity of Lung Sum Avenue, Sheung Shui
	Vicinity of Sheung Shui MTR Station, Sheung Shui
	Vicinity of Fanling MTR Station, Fanling
Tai Po	Rear lane of no. 19 Tai Wing Lane, Tai Po
	Rear lane of no. 26 Tai Wing Lane, Tai Po
	Rear lane of nos. 26-62, Kwong Fuk Road, Tai Po.
Sha Tin	Chik Fu Street, Tai Wai
	Chik Shun Street, Tai Wai
	Vicinity of Che Kung Miu Road, Tin Sum Tsuen
Sai Kung	Sai Kung Hoi Pong Square
	Sai Kung Pier
	Sai Kung Bus Terminus
	Sai Kung Mini-bus Terminus
	Tsueng Kwan O Station Interchange area
	Hang Hau Station Interchange area
	Tiu Keng Leng Station Interchange area
	Po Lam Station Interchange area

District	Location of Hygiene Blackspots
	Sheung Tak Estate Bus Terminus
	Hau Tak Estate Bus Stop
	Periphery of Beverly Garden Shopping Arcade

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)171****(Question Serial No. 0761)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

During 2017-18, the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) will formulate improvement proposals for a number of public markets, taking into account the recommendations of the consultancy study conducted in 2014. In this connection, please set out in tabular form the location, improvement proposal, schedule for completion of works and estimated expenditure of each of the public markets concerned.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. 5)Reply:

The Consultant commissioned by the Food and Health Bureau selected 6 representative markets for detailed study and put forward specific improvement recommendations. These 6 markets are Lockhart Road Market, Sheung Fung Street Market, Yau Ma Tei Market, Wing Fong Street Market, Tsuen Wan Market and Ngau Chi Wan Market. The Government is following up the specific improvement proposals for these markets in phases including gauging their feasibility and acceptability to the tenants. The experience gained and the improvement recommendations taken forward will serve as a reference for pursuing improvements to other similar markets in the future. The progress of the 6 selected markets is tabulated as follows.

Serial No.	Name of Market	Location	Progress
1.	Lockhart Road Market	Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has consulted the Market Management Consultative Committees (MMCCs) of these 2 markets. The MMCCs expressed support for some of the proposals that do not require temporary closure of stalls or suspension of business. Rejection of those that necessitate temporary closure/business

2.	Sheung Fung Street Market	Sheung Fung Street Joint User Building, Sheung Fung Street, Diamond Hill, Kowloon	<p>suspension implies that the scope of improvement will be significantly less than that envisaged in the Consultancy Report. Having considered MMCCs' views and the results of the feasibility studies, the improvement works for Lockhart Road Market will include beautification of the façade and upgrading market external wall facing the major road, enhancement of the ventilating system, upgrading of market toilets, loading bay facilities, fire service installation, barrier free access and lightings, provision of Closed-circuit Television System and a new TV broadcast system, replacement of old directional signboards and old floor tiles, and conversion of former poultry stalls into trading stalls. The improvement works will commence in the second quarter of 2017 for completion in the fourth quarter of 2019, at an estimated cost of \$21.2 million.</p> <p>For Sheung Fung Street Market, the scope of improvement works is being finalised in consultation with relevant departments.</p>
3.	Yau Ma Tei Market	Kansu Street, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon	<p>The MMCCs of these 2 markets were consulted in the fourth quarter of 2016. The MMCCs expressed support for some of the proposals that do not require temporary closure of stalls or suspension of business. Rejection of those that necessitate temporary closure implies that the scope of improvement will be significantly less than that envisaged in the Consultancy Report. The Department is carefully considering their views and will conduct feasibility studies and seek funding approval according to the established mechanism for taking forward the improvement works.</p>
4.	Wing Fong Street Market	Wing Fong Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories	
5.	Tsuen Wan Market	Chung On Street, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	<p>The Department is now following up on the Consultant's recommended improvements for these 2 markets. Recent surveys indicated that Tsuen Wan Market has attained the 80% threshold</p>
6.	Ngau Chi Wan	Clear Water Bay Road,	

	Market	Ngau Chi Wan, Kowloon	support rate for the installation of air-conditioning system. This will be taken into account in conducting the technical feasibility studies and further consultation with the MMCC.
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- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)172

(Question Serial No. 0764)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

During 2017-18, the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) will implement the assistance scheme for improving the fire safety and operating environment of fixed-pitch hawker areas. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. whether sufficient consultation and negotiation have been conducted with the stakeholders; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s); and
2. details of the assistance scheme and the implementation schedule.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

The Finance Committee approved in March 2013 a financial commitment of \$230 million for launching a five-year Hawker Assistance Scheme (the Scheme) for some 4 300 licensed fixed-pitch hawkers operating in 43 hawker areas. The Scheme, which commenced on 3 June 2013, aims to provide one-off financial assistance to hawkers in the hawker areas for stall reconstruction and relocation in order to expedite the work of reducing fire risks in those areas. Besides, an ex-gratia payment (EGP) is offered under the Scheme for voluntary surrender of hawker licences to the Government. This would help expedite the release of vacant pitches and facilitate the relocation of stalls which pose higher fire risks. Specifically, the Scheme has the following features –

- (a) hawkers who are required by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) to relocate their stalls to new pitch spaces for fire safety reasons may apply for a one-off relocation grant;
- (b) hawkers who are not required to relocate their stalls under (a) may apply for a one-off reconstruction grant to carry out partial or full reconstruction of their stalls in-situ for reducing fire risks; and

- (c) an EGP will be paid to hawkers (except those whose licences are newly issued pursuant to the hawker licensing policy review in 2008-09) who opt for voluntary surrender of their hawker licences to the Government.

A summary of the package under the Scheme is at Annex.

In the past 3 years and 8 months, the Department has positively engaged hawker associations, hawker representatives, local District Council members and every individual hawker in each of the 43 hawker areas in 356 special forums and 106 Hawker Management Consultative Committee meetings. Stakeholders were clearly briefed of the Scheme and the relevant details, including stall reconstruction specifications, reasons for relocating the stalls which are situated directly in front of staircase discharge points of buildings or which may obstruct the operation of fire engines or other emergency vehicles, as well as stall relocation and reconstruction proposals. We listened and responded to their views on the hawker relocation proposals and endeavoured to identify areas which could bring about enhancement to the hawking environment in the hawker areas. This included rationalising the overall layout of the concerned hawker areas where circumstances permit and enhancing safety of the fixed electrical installations to hawker stalls. The Department also reported the progress to the respective District Committees on 16 occasions and the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in December 2015.

We have made good progress in implementing the Scheme since its launch in June 2013. All 499 hawkers whose stalls were located directly in front of staircase discharge points of adjacent building, or obstructing the operation of fire engines or other emergency vehicular access have vacated their pitches. As at 28 February 2017, among the 4 326 hawkers in the 43 hawker areas, 721 hawkers have applied for voluntary surrender of licence for EGP. For the remaining 3 605 hawkers, 2 833 have applied for reconstruction grant and 2 239 of them have completed reconstruction of their stalls to meet the fire-resisting specifications. 772 hawkers have yet to apply for financial assistance under the Scheme. The Department would continue to follow up with the remaining hawker stalls and encourage hawkers to reconstruct their stall structures to meet the required specifications before the Scheme expires in June 2018.

- End -

**Amounts of Grant/Ex-gratia Payment (“EGP”) under the
Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas**

Type	Stall Size	Maximum Grant		EGP for Voluntary Surrender of Licence
		In-situ Reconstruction	Relocation cum Reconstruction	
“Cabinet-type” Hawker Stalls	Not exceeding 1.1 m ²	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$120,000
	Exceeding 1.1 m ² but not exceeding 1.7 m ²	\$47,000	\$57,000	
	Exceeding 1.7 m ² but not exceeding 2.2 m ²	\$54,000	\$64,000	
Hawker Permitted Places Hawker Stalls	Not exceeding 1.1 m ²	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$120,000
	Exceeding 1.1 m ² but not exceeding 1.7 m ²	\$23,500	\$33,500	
	Exceeding 1.7 m ² but not exceeding 2.2 m ²	\$27,000	\$37,000	

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)173

(Question Serial No. 1215)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In 2017-18, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to enhance the viability of public markets by improving management, upgrading facilities, providing a more flexible mix of trade, and carrying out promotional activities. Please provide the details and a breakdown of the estimated expenditure in this respect.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. 27)

Reply:

The Consultant commissioned by the Food and Health Bureau selected 6 representative markets for detailed study and put forward specific improvement recommendations. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is following up the specific improvement proposals in phases in consultation with the Market Management Consultative Committees (MMCCs) of these markets. In 2017-18, the Department plans to commence improvement works for Lockhart Road Market at an estimated project cost of \$21.2 million. The scope of improvement works for Sheung Fung Street Market is being finalised in consultation with relevant departments.

In addition, to ensure smooth operation of escalators and lifts in the public markets, we have plans to replace by phases the aged escalators and lifts. From 2015-16 to 2017-18, we have earmarked \$292 million to replace 84 escalators and 33 lifts in 23 markets.

In 2017-18, in addition to regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Department will carry out improvement works in Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (East), Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (West), Tsuen Wan Market, San Hui Market, Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market, Kwun Chung Market, Lockhart Road Market, Sai Ying Pun Market and Sai Wan Ho Market. The estimated cost of these improvement works is \$56.2 million. The scope of works includes installation of a goods lift, improvement of ventilation, electricity and fire services, refurbishment of external walls and toilets, etc.

In early years, public markets were built by the 2 former Municipal Councils to resite on-street hawkers so as to improve environmental hygiene. The trade mix of resitees was a major factor affecting the commodities to be sold in public markets from the outset. Generally speaking, in considering the appropriate trade mix, we aim to cover key categories of daily provisions that the community would normally procure from public markets such as vegetables, fruits, fish, meat and poultry, etc. To provide a more flexible mix of trade, the Department introduced a greater variety of service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rates of public markets. In 2016-17, we successfully let out stalls for conducting service trades such as Chinese medicine practitioners / bone-setters' clinics, computer-related services, beauty / manicure / massage parlours, laundry delivery services, etc. in a number of public markets.

As an on-going initiative, the Department will continue to conduct promotional activities to enhance the patronage of existing public markets. These include festive celebrations, thematic activities, display of multi-language recipes, publication of booklets to provide updated market information as well as other promotional activities that could help attract members of the public to visit the public markets. In addition, the Department will continue, as appropriate, to let out long-standing vacant stalls at reduced upset auction prices and introduce a greater variety of service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rate of public markets. The estimated expenditure for market promotional activities in 2017-18 is \$7 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)174

(Question Serial No. 1216)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

During 2017-18, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will take action to close public markets which are under-utilised. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

1. the locations of the public markets concerned and their respective utilisation rates; and
2. whether the Department has reviewed the reason(s) for the low utilisation rates of those markets and made attempts to improve the situation; if yes, the details, if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. 28)

Reply:

As a result of demographic changes, new development/redevelopment projects and competition from other fresh provision outlets, the appeal of some public markets has been diminishing over time thus leading to reduced patronage and high vacancy rates. When considering whether an under-utilised public market is to be closed, we will take into account a host of factors, including vacancy rate, prospects for improvement, availability of alternative sources of fresh provision outlets in the vicinity, and the likely cost-effectiveness of upgrading works and the views of the relevant District Councils, etc. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) plans to close Shau Kei Wan Market and Tsuen King Circuit Market in 2017-18, the vacancy rates¹ of which were 44% and 80% respectively as at 31 December 2016. Noteworthy is that a sizable portion of the occupied (i.e. leased) stalls are not in active operation, e.g. for the Shau Kei Wan Market, of the 46 occupied stalls, only 19 stalls are actively in operation.

¹ Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.

As an on-going initiative, the Department has been taking forward measures to improve the operating environment of public markets, including replacement of aged lifts and escalators, improvement of ventilation, lighting systems and fire services, refurbishment of external walls, refurbishment of toilets, etc. as appropriate. Promotional activities are also conducted to enhance the patronage of public markets. These include thematic exhibitions and workshops, festive celebration activities, display of multi-language recipes as well as publication of booklets and quarterly newsletters to provide updated market information. In addition, the Department will continue, as appropriate, to let out long-standing vacant stalls at reduced upset auction prices and introduce a greater variety of service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rate of public markets.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)175****(Question Serial No. 1219)**

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has stated that enforcement actions against shop front extensions will continue in 2017-18. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. the number of shops against which the enforcement actions were taken in each month of the past year (with a breakdown by type of enforcement actions); and
2. the manpower and estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. 29)

Reply:

The information sought is provided below.

1. The number of enforcement actions against shop front extensions (SFEs) taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in 2016 is tabulated as follows -

Enforcement action	Number of action taken
Summons	8 794
Arrest	5 513
Seizure of article	1 558
Fixed Penalty Notice	2 090

The Department does not keep statistics on enforcement actions against SFEs by month.

2. The Department does not keep statistics on manpower and expenditure specific to enforcement actions against SFEs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)176****(Question Serial No. 2047)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the work of “continu(ing) to enhance the viability of public markets by improving management, upgrading facilities, providing a more flexible mix of trade, and carrying out promotional activities”, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the expenditure on public market management in 18 districts;
- (b) the criteria adopted for determining the “mix of trade” of public markets and the details involved;
- (c) details of the “promotional activities” conducted in public markets, as well as the expenditure and effectiveness in respect of the activities concerned, in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (Member Question No. 48)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (The Department) does not keep breakdown of the expenditure on public market management by district. The overall expenditure on market management in the past 3 years is given below:

Financial Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Expenditure on market management (\$ million)	741.0	720.4	843.0 (revised estimate)

- (b) In early years, public markets were built by the two former Municipal Councils to resite on-street hawkers so as to improve environmental hygiene. The trade mix of resitees was a major factor affecting the commodities to be sold in public markets from the outset. Generally speaking, in considering the appropriate trade mix, we aim to cover key categories of daily provisions that the community would normally procure from public markets such as vegetables, fruits, fish, meat and poultry, etc. To provide a more flexible mix of trade, the Department introduced a greater variety of service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rates of public markets. In 2016-17, we successfully let out stalls for conducting service trades such as Chinese medicine practitioners / bone-setters' clinics, computer-related services, beauty / manicure / massage parlours, laundry delivery services, etc. in a number of public markets.
- (c) To enhance the patronage of existing public markets, as an on-going initiative, the Department conducts promotional activities. These include festive celebrations, thematic activities, display of multi-language recipes, publication of booklets to provide updated market information as well as other promotional activities that could help attract members of the public to visit the public markets. According to the sample surveys of market patrons and tenants, over 90% of the respondents were satisfied with the promotional activities. The expenditure involved in market promotional activities pursued in the past three years is \$4 million each year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)177

(Question Serial No. 2384)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In the 2017-18 financial year, does the Department have any strategies and measures for surveillance of licensed food premises and prosecution of those engaging in illegal sale of waste cooking oils (WCO) to unauthorised recyclers and edible oil manufactures, so as to prevent WCO from re-entering the food chain through improper recycling channels and being reused as cooking oil to harm public health? Please advise on the manpower and resources in this respect.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), has implemented administrative measures to regulate the recycling of waste cooking oils (WCO) generated from licensed food premises and cooked food centres. Specifically, EPD introduced an administrative scheme in February 2016 to register eligible local collectors/processors/exporters of WCO. FEHD has imposed an additional licensing condition by phases since July 2016 on food premises operating under a licence for a restaurant, factory canteen, food factory, bakery or under a tenancy for cooked food centres, requiring them to hand over any WCO produced during the cooking process on the premises to a collector, processor or exporter registered by EPD for disposal, and to keep relevant transaction records for at least 12 months. FEHD will conduct random checks to ensure that the licensees concerned comply with the aforementioned licensing condition.

To allow sufficient time for the trade to make necessary preparations, FEHD will implement the new licensing condition 15 months after the written notifications are issued to the licensees (i.e. starting from November 2017). Warnings will be issued to licensees in breach of the aforementioned licensing condition. FEHD will consider cancelling the licences of those licensees which have repeatedly breached the aforementioned licensing condition.

The manpower and resources due to the above administrative regulatory measure will be absorbed by FEHD from within its existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)178

(Question Serial No. 2387)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under “Matters Requiring Special Attention” in the new financial year, it is mentioned that “measures to require recycling of waste cooking oils (WCO) produced by local licensed food premises” will continue to be implemented. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. details of the work;
2. the estimated number of food premises involved in WCO collection and recycling;
3. the estimated amount of WCO that will be collected for recycling in the said financial year and their disposal arrangements; and
4. the estimated amount of WCO that will be collected for resale to local and overseas recyclers for generation of biodiesel (B5).

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (Member Question No. 9)

Reply:

1. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), has implemented administrative measures to regulate the recycling of waste cooking oils (WCO) generated from licensed food premises and cooked food centres. Specifically, EPD introduced an administrative scheme in February 2016 to register eligible local collectors/processors/exporters of WCO. FEHD has imposed an additional licensing condition by phases since July 2016 on food premises operating under a licence for a restaurant, factory canteen, food factory, bakery or under a tenancy for cooked food centres, requiring them to hand over any WCO produced during the cooking process on the premises to a collector, processor or exporter registered by EPD for disposal, and to keep the relevant transaction records for at least 12 months. FEHD will

conduct random checks to ensure that the licensees concerned comply with the aforementioned licensing condition.

To allow sufficient time for the trade to make necessary preparations, FEHD will implement the new licensing condition 15 months after the written notifications are issued to the licensees (i.e. starting from November 2017). Warnings will be issued to licensees in breach of the aforementioned licensing condition. FEHD will consider cancelling the licences of those licensees which have repeatedly breached the aforementioned licensing condition.

2. As at 31 December 2016, FEHD has imposed the above additional licensing condition on about 21 550 licensed food premises. The operators are required to properly store any WCO abandoned from any cooking process on the premises (including grease trap waste, used cooking oil and unused oil abandoned) and hand it over to a collector/processor/exporter registered by the EPD for disposal.
- 3&4 Under EPD's administrative registration scheme to register local eligible WCO collectors, processors and exporters, registered parties should comply with the requirements stipulated in the Good Practice Guides issued by EPD, and only deliver WCO to a party registered with EPD for non-edible industrial uses, such as production of biodiesel and eco-soap, etc. According to the data provided by the parties registered with EPD, they may collect up to about 17 000 tonnes of used cooking oils and about 180 000 tonnes of grease trap waste from local restaurants in a year. While some of the WCO will be used to produce biodiesel locally, most of it will be exported, after initial treatment, to overseas waste oils recyclers as raw materials for producing biodiesel.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)179

(Question Serial No. 2399)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will implement a pilot scheme in the new financial year to deliver food waste collected from selected public markets and cooked food centres to the Organic Waste Treatment Facility for treatment. Please advise on the markets and cooked food centres selected for the scheme, how the tenants and operators concerned should dovetail with the implementation of the Department's new policy, and whether non-compliant tenants and operators will be penalised (if yes, the details).

Please set out the number, names and locations of the selected markets and cooked food centres which are located in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

The pilot scheme on collecting food waste in selected public markets and cooked food centres for delivery to the Organic Waste Treatment Facility contributes to the waste management policy of the Environment Bureau.

In collaboration with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will launch a pilot project in 2017-18 to engage service contractors to collect source-separated food waste generated from 40 selected public markets and their associated cooked food centres, for delivery to the Government's Organic Waste Treatment Facility at Siu Ho Wan for off-site recycling.

To facilitate recycling of food waste, stall operators of the public markets and their associated cooked food centres will be encouraged to donate recyclable food waste to food waste collection contractor on a voluntary basis. The tenants and stall operators who are not able to donate recyclable food waste will not be penalized. To encourage the stall operators to recycle and handle food waste properly and further enhance the quality of the food waste to be collected, EPD will also arrange the contractor to provide training to the

stall operators at the public markets and cooked food stalls managed by FEHD on how to separate food waste at source on a daily basis at the initial phase of the pilot project.

The requested information on selected public markets and their associated cooked food centres is provided at Annexes I and II.

- End -

**Selected public markets and associated cooked food centres
Covered in the pilot project**

District	Name of Public Markets/Cooked Food Centres
Central / Western	Sheung Wan Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Smithfield Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Shek Tong Tsui Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Sai Ying Pun Market
Eastern	Sai Wan Ho Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Yue Wan Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Java Road Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Chai Wan Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Quarry Bay Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Electric Road Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Aldrich Bay Market and Cooked Food Centre
Southern	Aberdeen Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Yue Kwong Road Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Tin Wan Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Ap Lei Chau Market and Cooked Food Centre
Wan Chai	Causeway Bay Market
	Bowrington Road Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Lockhart Road Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Wong Nai Chung Market and Cooked Food Centre
Kowloon City	Kowloon City Market and Cooked Food Centre
	To Kwa Wan Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Hung Hom Market and Cooked Food Centre
Mong Kok	Fa Yuen Street Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Tai Kok Tsui Market and Cooked Food Centre
Sham Shui Po	Po On Road Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Pei Ho Street Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market

District	Name of Public Markets/Cooked Food Centres
Wong Tai Sin	Tai Shing Street Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Ngau Chi Wan Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Choi Hung Road Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Sheung Fung Street Market
Yau Tsim	Kwun Chung Market and Cooked Food Centre
	Yau Ma Tei Market
	Haiphong Road Temporary Market cum Haiphong Road Temporary Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar
Kwai Tsing	North Kwai Chung Market
	Wing Fong Street Market
	Tsing Yi Market
Tsuen Wan	Tsuen Wan Market
	Yeung Uk Road Market
	Heung Che Street Market and Cooked Food Centre

**Selected public markets and associated cooked food centres
in Wong Tai Sin covered in the pilot project**

District#	No. of Public Markets / Cooked Food Centres	Name of Public Markets / Cooked Food Centres	Location
Wong Tai Sin	4	Tai Shing Street Market and Cooked Food Centre	Choi Hung Road, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon
		Ngau Chi Wan Market and Cooked Food Centre	Clear Water Bay Road, Ngau Chi Wan, Kowloon
		Choi Hung Road Market and Cooked Food Centre	Sheung Hei Street, San Po Kong, Kowloon
		Sheung Fung Street Market	Sheung Fung Street, Diamond Hill, Kowloon

#Public markets in Kwun Tong are located outside the catchment area of the Organic Waste Treatment Facility. Hence, they are not included in the pilot scheme.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)180

(Question Serial No. 2396)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated that “responding to 98% of the complaints against hawking in built-up areas within 30 minutes” is one of the targets of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) for the new financial year.

In this regard, please advise this Committee whether complaints against the display of publicity materials using easy-mount frames by major telecommunications companies, pay television programme service providers and other companies are included in the 98% of the complaints mentioned above (if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s)).

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (Member Question No. 13)

Reply:

Display of publicity materials using easy-mount frames is not regarded as hawking. The performance pledge of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) for responding to complaints against illegal hawking does not apply to complaints against such activities.

This notwithstanding, upon receipt of complaints, the Department will take enforcement action as soon as practicable against unauthorised display of bills and posters in accordance with sections 104A and 104D of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132). To address the problem of unauthorised display of commercial publicity materials on the streets with the use of easy-mount frames, the Department has been issuing fixed penalty notices under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness Offences) Ordinance (renamed as the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance since 24 September 2016) (Cap. 570) for unauthorised display of bills and posters since 2011. Besides, the Department may, having regard to the actual circumstances, take prosecutions concerning promotional booths which cause obstruction in public places under section 4A of the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228). The Department will continue to deploy

officers to patrol the blackspots of unauthorised display of bills and posters and take out prosecutions as appropriate. Special blitz operations will be mounted where necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)181****(Question Serial No. 2407)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Street obstruction caused by easy-mount frames displaying sale advertisements is far more serious than that caused by illegal hawkers (as can be seen at the exits of Kwun Tong MTR Station, Amoy Gardens and Kowloon Bay MTR Station). Please advise on the manpower and expenditure allocated for implementing the policies of controlling on-street hawking activities in each of the past 3 financial years.

In addition, please advise whether there are policies to control the rampant activities of displaying sale advertisements with the use of easy-mount frames, as well as the effectiveness of the policies concerned.

What are the estimated manpower and expenditure for the above policies in the 2017-18 financial year?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (Member Question No. 14)Reply:

The Hawker Control Teams of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) are responsible for hawker management and control. The number of staff and the expenditure for hawker management and control for the financial years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are tabulated as follows –

Financial Year	Number of staff	Expenditure on hawker management and control (\$ million)
2014-15	2 209	951.8
2015-16	2 210	1,025.2
2016-17	2 243	1,075.8 (revised estimate)

The Department takes enforcement action against unauthorised display of bills and posters including commercial publicity materials in accordance with sections 104A and 104D of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) (the Ordinance). To address the increasingly rampant activities of unauthorised display of commercial publicity materials on the streets with the use of easy-mount frames, the Department has started since 2011 issuing fixed penalty notices under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness Offences) Ordinance (renamed as the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance since 24 September 2016) (Cap. 570) to tackle unauthorised display of bills and posters. Having regard to the actual circumstances, the Department may also take prosecutions against promotional booths causing obstruction in public places under section 4A of the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228). The Department will continue to deploy staff to patrol the blackspots of unauthorised display of bills and posters, take out prosecutions as appropriate and remove unattended bills and posters. Special blitz operations will be mounted where necessary.

The Department's estimated expenditure on street cleansing services in 2017-18 is \$2,021 million. The Department does not keep separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower provision for prosecution and removal of unauthorised bills and posters.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)182

(Question Serial No. 1751)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

1. Please advise on the public markets which will be closed in 2017.
2. Please advise on the utilisation rate of the markets that were closed in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon WAN Siu-kin, Andrew (Member Question No. 23)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

1. As a result of demographic changes, new development/redevelopment projects and competition from other fresh provision outlets, the appeal of some public markets has been diminishing over time thus leading to reduced patronage and high vacancy rates. When considering whether an under-utilised market is to be closed, we will take into account a host of factors, including vacancy rate, prospects for improvement, availability of alternative sources of fresh provision outlets in the vicinity, and the likely cost-effectiveness of upgrading works and the views of the relevant District Councils, etc. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department plans to close Shau Kei Wan Market and Tsuen King Circuit Market in 2017-18.
2. No public market was closed in the past 3 years.

End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)183

(Question Serial No. 1820)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under “Matters Requiring Special Attention” in 2017-18, it is stated that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will assist the Food and Health Bureau in developing proposals for improving the operating environment of public markets, taking into account the recommendations of the consultancy study conducted in 2014. With reference to a Legislative Council Paper (LC Paper No. CB(2) 643/14-15 (01)), it is noted that the proposals include retrofitting of air-conditioning in older markets and improvement on the interior and exterior design of the markets. Given that no details are provided under this Head, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. the implementation and effectiveness of the improvement plan for each of the 6 markets mentioned in the consultancy study conducted in 2014; whether the Department will formulate improvement plans for other markets based on the experience gained (if yes, the markets involved and details; if not, the reason(s));
2. the markets which have been included in the retrofitting programme, the progress of implementation in each of these markets, and the timetable for launching the first batch of projects; and
3. given the information on Aberdeen Market that the Department is working on the retrofitting of air-conditioning and that the project is quite large in scale, whether the Department will take the opportunity to also implement other improvement proposals mentioned in the above consultancy study to help attract patronage; the timetable for submission of the detailed design to the Southern District Council and this Committee for discussion and the details involved.

Asked by: Hon WAN Siu-kin, Andrew (Member Question No. 50)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

1. The Consultant commissioned by the Food and Health Bureau selected 6 representative markets for detailed study and put forward specific improvement recommendations. These 6 markets are Lockhart Road Market, Sheung Fung Street Market, Yau Ma Tei Market, Wing Fong Street Market, Tsuen Wan Market and Ngau Chi Wan Market. The Government is following up the specific improvement proposals for these markets in phases including gauging their feasibility and acceptability to the tenants. The experience gained and the improvement recommendations taken forward will serve as a reference for pursuing improvements to other similar markets in the future. The progress of the 6 selected markets is provided at Annex.
2. According to the established mechanism, when there is a request from market tenants for the retrofitting of air-conditioning facilities at a public market, the request will first be discussed at a meeting of the relevant Market Management Consultative Committee (MMCC). Where a consensus is reached by MMCC that the request should be further explored, FEHD will conduct a questionnaire survey to gauge the extent of support from market tenants. Since 1 July 2015, the threshold of tenants' support to retrofitting of air-conditioning facilities in public markets has been lowered from 85% to 80%. FEHD has completed the consultation with the MMCCs of those FEHD markets without air-conditioning. The MMCCs of 27 of these markets supported conducting a questionnaire survey to collect the tenants' views on the retrofitting of air-conditioning in the relevant public markets. The questionnaire surveys were subsequently conducted and completed. Out of the 27 public markets surveyed, 2 markets and 6 cooked food centres (CFCs) of the relevant markets attained sufficient tenant support. In addition, 3 markets / CFCs on which questionnaire surveys were conducted before 1 July 2015, have also met the tenants' support threshold. These 11 markets are Shui Wo Street Market CFC, Tai Wai Market, Aberdeen Market cum CFC, Ngau Tau Kok Market CFC, Shek Tong Tsui Market CFC, Fa Yuen Street Market CFC, Electric Road Market CFC, Quarry Bay Market CFC, Ngau Chi Wan Market CFC, Yeung Uk Road Market and Tsuen Wan Market.

With sufficient tenant support, a technical feasibility study will be conducted. Taking into consideration factors such as the findings of the technical feasibility study, extent of works required, cost effectiveness, impact on business and market operation, and whether the implementation details are acceptable to the tenants concerned, the Government will decide whether there is a case for seeking funds to carry out the works for retrofitting air-conditioners. The technical feasibility study for Tai Wai Market has been completed. With regard to Shui Wo Street Market CFC, Aberdeen Market cum CFC and Ngau Tau Kok Market CFC, the preliminary feasibility assessment is underway. FEHD is now following up with the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) to conduct preliminary feasibility assessment for the other markets concerned. The proposed retrofitting works will be funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund. We are unable to provide the cost of works and the works schedule at the present stage.

3. The experience gained and the improvement recommendations taken forward for 6 selected markets will serve as a reference for pursuing improvements to other similar markets in the future. FEHD would consult ArchSD to consider other improvement measures for Aberdeen Market cum CFC and the MMCC to gauge tenants' views

before drawing up the scope of works. We are unable to provide the timetable and details of the project at the present stage.

- End -

Name of Market	Progress
Lockhart Road Market	<p>The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has consulted the Market Management Consultative Committees (MMCCs) of these 2 markets. The MMCCs expressed support for some of the proposals that do not require temporary closure of stalls or suspension of business. Rejection of those that necessitate temporary closure/business suspension implies that the scope of improvement will be significantly less than that envisaged in the Consultancy Report. Having considered MMCCs' views and the results of the feasibility studies, the improvement works for Lockhart Road Market will include beautification of the façade and upgrading market external wall facing the major road, enhancement of the ventilating system, upgrading of market toilets, loading bay facilities, fire service installation, barrier free access and lightings, provision of Closed-circuit Television System and a new TV broadcast system, replacement of directional signboards and floor tiles, and conversion of former poultry stalls into trading stalls. The improvement works will commence in the second quarter of 2017 for completion in the fourth quarter of 2019, at an estimated cost of \$21.2 million.</p> <p>For Sheung Fung Street Market, the scope of improvement works is being finalised in consultation with relevant departments.</p>
Sheung Fung Street Market	
Yau Ma Tei Market	<p>The MMCCs of these 2 markets were consulted in the fourth quarter of 2016. The MMCCs expressed support for some of the proposals that do not require temporary closure of stalls or suspension of business. Rejection of those that necessitate temporary closure implies that the scope of improvement will be significantly less than that envisaged in the Consultancy Report. The Department is carefully considering their views and will conduct feasibility studies and seek funding approval according to the established mechanism for taking forward the improvement works.</p>
Wing Fong Street Market	
Tsuen Wan Market	<p>The Department is now following up on the Consultant's recommended improvements for these 2 markets. Recent surveys indicated that Tsuen Wan Market has attained the 80% threshold support rate for the installation of air-conditioning system. This will be taken into account in conducting the technical feasibility studies and further consultation with the MMCC.</p>
Ngau Chi Wan Market	

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)184

(Question Serial No. 2567)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

1. It is estimated that 450 vehicles carrying poultry and 34 000 vehicles carrying vegetables will be inspected at Man Kam To in 2017. Please advise on the benchmarks for these target figures.
2. Please advise on the respective percentages of inspections of vehicles carrying poultry and vegetables in 2017.
3. Please advise on the respective manpower involved in inspections of vehicles carrying poultry and vegetables in 2017.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

- 1&2. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department inspects every consignment of live food poultry. In 2016, all of the 448 live poultry vehicles entering Hong Kong were inspected. We estimate that there will be 450 vehicles carrying live poultry entering Hong Kong in 2017 and we will inspect all of them (i.e. 100% inspection).

In 2016, the average daily number of vegetable vehicles passing through the Man Kam To Control Point and entering Hong Kong was 272 according to the Road Cargo System records of the Customs and Excise Department. CFS conducts food surveillance work under a risk-based approach, taking into account past food surveillance results, local and overseas food incidents as well as relevant risk analyses, etc. In 2016, CFS inspected about 92 vegetable vehicles on average every day at Man Kam To Food Control Office. The percentage of inspection for vegetable vehicles in 2016 was 34%. The estimated percentage of inspection for 2017 would remain the same.

3. The manpower establishment of CFS for inspecting vehicles carrying live food animal (including but not limited to live poultry) in 2017-18 is 42, whereas the manpower establishment for inspecting food other than live food (including but not limited to vegetables) imported by land at Man Kam To Food Control Office for 2017-18 is 84.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)185

(Question Serial No. 2461)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18, it is mentioned that environmental hygiene efforts will be stepped up specifically against hygiene blackspots. Please advise on the details.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 34)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will continue to work with the respective District Councils to closely monitor the cleanliness and hygiene condition of the hygiene blackspots, enhance public education and publicity and step up law enforcement actions as necessary.

In 2017-18, the Department will deploy additional resources to enhance street washing, central road divider cleansing, evening and midnight street sweeping, pest control, and public education and publicity; implement a pilot scheme on installation of Internet Protocol cameras at hygiene blackspots; and increase manpower in the management of public cleansing contracts and law enforcement. The additional expenditure involved is estimated at \$110.97 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)186

(Question Serial No. 2661)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the reason(s) for the significant decrease in the amount of sludge collected by gully emptiers since 2016.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 10)

Reply:

The estimated volume of sludge collected by gully emptiers in 2016 is, by weight, 27% less than that collected in 2015. This is mainly attributable to the fact that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has, upon the advice of Environmental Protection Department (EPD), stepped up actions to drain away the water content of collected sludge thoroughly before delivering it to EPD's disposal site.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)187

(Question Serial No. 2746)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

1. Please advise on the total number of refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) currently owned by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.
2. Please advise on the average service life of the 49 RCVs to be replaced.
3. Please advise on the total replacement cost in this respect.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 12)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. At present, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has 145 refuse collection vehicles (RCVs).
2. We plan to start replacing 49 RCVs in 2017-18. These vehicles commenced service between December 2009 and July 2011. Their average service life would be around 8.57 years by the time they are replaced.
3. The total estimated replacement cost of the 49 RCVs is \$120.5 million, with payments to be settled by phases.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)188****(Question Serial No. 2744)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the actual and estimated number of enforcement actions against shop front extensions in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 11)Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not keep separate statistics on the number of enforcement actions against shop front extensions (SFEs) in 2015. Relevant statistics on this aspect in 2016 are tabulated as follows –

Enforcement action	Number of action taken
Summons	8 794
Arrest	5 513
Seizure of article or thing	1 558
Fixed Penalty Notice	2 090

The Department could not provide any meaningful estimate on the number of enforcement actions against SFEs in 2017, which will depend on the actual situation on the ground.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)189

(Question Serial No. 0726)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the work of continuing to improve the management and upgrade the facilities of public markets, please advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) given that the Food and Health Bureau has commissioned a consultancy study on the operation of public markets, in which improvement measures were recommended for Ngau Chi Wan Market and Sheung Fung Street Market, the progress in the implementation of the improvement measures in 2016-17, the commencement date of the improvement works, and the manpower and expenditure involved; and
- 2) the progress of the feasibility study on the installation of air-conditioning facilities in Ngau Tau Kok Market, the expenditure involved, and the expected completion date of the study.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 38)

Reply:

The information sought is provided below-

- (1) The consultant selected 6 representative markets for detailed study and put forward specific improvement recommendations. These 6 markets are Tsuen Wan Market, Yau Ma Tei Market, Ngau Chi Wan Market, Sheung Fung Street Market, Lockhart Road Market and Wing Fong Street Market. The Government is following up the specific improvement proposals for these markets in phases including gauging their feasibility and acceptability to the tenants. With regard to the recommended improvement measures for Ngau Chi Wan Market and Sheung Fung Street Market, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has consulted the Market Management Consultative Committee (MMCC) of Sheung Fung Street Market on the recommended improvement works. The MMCC expressed support for some of the proposals that do not require temporary closure of stalls or suspension of business. Rejection of those that necessitate temporary closure implies that the scope of

improvement will be significantly less than that envisaged in the Consultancy Report. The scope of improvement works is being finalised in consultation with relevant departments. We are now following up the Consultant's recommended improvements for Ngau Chi Wan Market. The above work will be undertaken by existing staff, and the project estimates would be finalised upon completion of the feasibility studies and the funding approval process.

- (2) The Government has lowered the threshold of tenants' support for the installation of air-conditioning facilities in public markets from 85% to 80% with effect from 1 July 2015. The result of the questionnaire survey shows that Ngau Tau Kok Cooked Food Centre (NTKCFC) has a support rate of 90% whereas that for the Ngau Tau Kok Market is below 80%. The Architectural Services Department has already commissioned a preliminary feasibility assessment on the retrofitting of air-conditioners at the NTKCFC. FEHD is now examining the initial assessment report, and plans to consult the MMCC in the first half of 2017. Taking into consideration factors such as the findings of the technical feasibility study, extent of works required, cost effectiveness, impact on business and market operation, and whether the implementation details are acceptable to the tenants concerned, FEHD will decide whether there is a case for seeking funds to carry out the installation works in accordance with the established mechanism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)190

(Question Serial No. 2983)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18 under Programme (3), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) states that it will continue to enhance the viability of public markets by improving management and upgrading facilities, improve the operating environment of public markets as well as to close public markets which are under-utilised. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. whether there is a target for the overall occupancy rate of its market stalls (if yes, the target); the current vacancy rate of each of the public markets in the New Territories East, the number of markets assessed as “under-utilised” for closure; whether the uses of market stalls for letting, as well as the mix and proportion of retail categories, will be comprehensively reviewed;
2. whether there are plans to conduct any comprehensive review of remedial measures aiming to minimise the vacancy rate of markets, including measures to enhance the patronage of markets with a high vacancy rate, redevelop these markets for other uses in a bid to put public resources to proper use (if yes, the details, if not, the reason(s));
3. the business volume of each of the public markets in the New Territories East; and
4. whether any detailed assessment has been conducted to determine if the number of markets in the New Territories East is sufficient to meet the needs of local population; whether consideration will be made to restate the local population-based planning standard for public markets (i.e. 1 public market stall for every 55 to 65 households or approximately 40 to 45 stalls per 10 000 persons) in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, and to include population as one of the factors in the provision of markets to meet the daily needs of residents.

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

1. The actual letting percentage in 2015 and 2016 achieved 91%. The information sought in connection with the public markets in the New Territories East is provided at Annex. To provide a more flexible mix of trade, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has introduced a greater variety of service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rates of public markets. In 2016-17, we successfully let out stalls for conducting service trades such as Chinese medicine practitioners / bone-setters' clinics, computer-related services, beauty / manicure / massage parlours, laundry delivery services, etc. in a number of public markets. FEHD plans to close Shau Kei Wan Market and Tsuen King Circuit Market in 2017-18, the vacancy rates¹ of which were 44% and 80% respectively as at 31 December 2016. Noteworthy is that a sizable portion of the occupied (i.e. leased) stalls are not in active operation, e.g. for the Shau Kei Wan Market, of the 46 occupied stalls, only 19 stalls are actively in operation.
2. To enhance the patronage of existing public markets, as an on-going initiative, FEHD conducts promotional activities. These include thematic exhibitions and workshops, festive celebration activities, display of multi-language recipes as well as publication of booklets and quarterly newsletters to provide updated market information. FEHD will continue, as appropriate, to let out long-standing vacant stalls at reduced upset auction prices and introduce a greater variety of service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rate of public markets. Besides, we have been implementing various improvement works in public markets to improve the operating environment. The scope of works may include replacement of aged lifts and escalators, improvement of ventilation, lighting systems and fire services, refurbishment of external walls, refurbishment of toilets, etc.

When considering whether an under-utilised public market is to be closed, we will take into account a host of factors, including vacancy rate, prospects for improvement, availability of alternative sources of fresh provision outlets in the vicinity, and the likely cost-effectiveness of upgrading works and the views of the relevant District Councils, etc. FEHD will consult the relevant District Council and the market tenants to be affected on any market closure plans. Where a market is closed and the premises is no longer required by FEHD, the vacated building space will be handled according to established procedures. Depending on the circumstances, the Government Property Agency, Planning Department or Lands Department may be requested to seek inputs from other government departments on proposals to put the premises to gainful long-term use.

3. The information about the business volume of each of the public markets in the New Territories East is not available.

¹ Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.

4. The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) conducted a policy review on public markets in 2007-2008, which concluded that the future provision of new public markets should be considered on a case-by-case basis to ensure efficient use of public resources. Apart from the population of the area in question, other relevant factors that should be considered include the demographic mix, community needs, the presence of market facilities nearby, the number of fresh provision retail outlets available in the vicinity, and public sentiment towards the preservation of hawker areas in the particular locality. The Government consulted the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council and all District Councils on the review findings in 2008. As a result of the policy review, those parts concerning public markets in Chapter 6 of the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) (which deals with retail facilities) were amended in April 2009 and have remained in force since then. The revised HKPSG is based on a more holistic consideration of relevant factors, rather than just the size of the population, in the planning of public markets. When preparing or reviewing town plans, the Planning Department will consult the relevant policy bureaux and departments, so as to ascertain whether there is a need to reserve land for public markets. We will, in the light of developments and the actual situation on the ground, assess the need to review the planning guidelines for public markets as and when appropriate.

Our focus is on facilitating convenient access for the public to retail outlets in their vicinity for meeting their daily needs on fresh food. Currently, there exists a variety of channels for the public to purchase fresh food. Apart from public markets, many members of the public when purchasing fresh food may choose to patronise markets, supermarkets and various types of retail outlets operated by other public and private entities.

Customer preference for different shopping venues in purchasing fresh food may evolve in tandem with changes in socio-economic circumstances, lifestyles, purchasing power and various other factors. Providing a new public market requires the use of Government land and entails public financial commitment. Therefore, in considering whether a public market should be built, we have to duly assess the need for the market and cost-effectiveness in order to ensure that public resources are put to proper use. In fact, in the face of fierce competition, changing circumstances in individual communities and changes in the purchasing habits of members of the public, some public markets are facing relatively high vacancy rates and low customer flows. Also, the Audit Commission has in previous reports pointed out that, given the high cost of constructing a new public market, the relevant principles should be strictly adhered to.

District	Name of Market	As at 31 December 2016		
		No. of stalls	Occupancy rate*	Vacancy rate#
North	Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre	98	100%	0%
	Luen Wo Hui Market	338	99%	1%
	Sha Tau Kok Market	66	98%	2%
	Shek Wu Hui Market	392	100%	0%
Tai Po	Plover Cove Road Market	244	96%	4%
	Tai Po Hui Market	313	99%	1%
Shatin	Fo Tan (East) Cooked Food Market	24	100%	0%
	Fo Tan (West) Cooked Food Market	15	100%	0%
	Sha Tin Market	172	98%	2%
	Tai Wai Market	195	88%	12%
Sai Kung	Sai Kung Market	209	99%	1%
	Tui Min Hoi Market	34	85%	15%

* Occupancy rate is the percentage of let-out stalls versus the total number of stalls in a market. Degree of activity of let-out stalls varies.

Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)191

(Question Serial No. 4166)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the continuation of implementing a multi-pronged strategy to prevent avian influenza outbreak, what were the details of the relevant work in 2016? What are the specific work plan and timetable for 2017, and the estimated manpower and resources required?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 125)

Reply:

The Government implements a range of preventive and control measures against the risk of avian influenza (AI). For local live chickens, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) ensures local farms comply with the requirements related to biosecurity, farm hygiene and vaccination of chickens against AI virus through regular inspections at the farms, and education on farm management and disease prevention to local farmers and their workers. For imported live poultry, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) conducts surveillance on AI virus in imported live poultry at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station, and regularly inspects registered farms on the Mainland that export poultry to Hong Kong. At the wholesale poultry market and retail outlets, samples are collected for testing to closely monitor if AI virus is present in the environment, and cleansing is strictly implemented to ensure observance of the hygiene requirement.

The Government has just completed a consultancy study on the future development of the live poultry trade in Hong Kong, including whether the sale of live poultry should continue. A public consultation exercise is now being conducted to gauge public views on the recommendations. Taking into account the Consultant's recommendations, views of the public and stakeholders collected during the public consultation, the Government will formulate the policy direction on the way forward of the live poultry trade.

The Food and Health Bureau is, among other duties, responsible for overseeing the policy work on implementing a multi-pronged strategy to prevent AI outbreak. The work in combating AI is carried out by AFCD and FEHD within their resources for the monitoring, prevention and control of AI. The estimated manpower and expenditure in 2017-18 for AFCD are 46 staff and \$50.8 million, while those for FEHD are 53 staff and \$17.1 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)192

(Question Serial No. 3525)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Government stated last year that it was working on a review of Section 56 of the Road Traffic Ordinance (Chapter 374) in order to cover cats and dogs. What is the work progress?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 62)

Reply:

The Government has been reviewing the matter with reference to the practices in overseas jurisdictions, and will, upon the conclusion of the review, consider amending our legislation to bring dogs and cats within the scope of section 56 of the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)193

(Question Serial No. 3761)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

A cooked food bazaar lasting for a few days was held in Sham Shui Po District during the Lunar New Year, and the public response was quite positive. Would the Government consider conducting studies and public consultations on the setting up of more temporary or permanent cooked food bazaars in different districts during 2017-18? If yes, what are the work plan, timetable and estimated expenditure for the studies and consultations? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 335)

Reply:

The Government adopts a positive attitude towards specific proposals for organising bazaars. When suitable sites have been identified by the proponents concerned (i.e. the venue owners have no in-principle objection to the proposed bazaars being held at their venues at the proposed time slots) and support from local communities and respective District Councils have been obtained, provided that the bazaar proposals will not compromise public order and safety, food safety and environmental hygiene, and will not obstruct public passageways, we will facilitate liaison with the relevant bureaux and departments regarding the use of the sites.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)194

(Question Serial No. 4207)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

During the scrutiny of the Private Columbaria Bill, the Government had said that upon the completion of the scrutiny of the Bill, it would proceed to amend the Undertakers of Burials Regulation so as to regulate the provision of temporary storage of cremains by undertakers of burials, thereby preventing the existing undertakers of burials in the market from operating as columbaria. In 2017-18, will the Government allocate resources for the review and amendment of the Undertakers of Burials Regulation? If yes, what are the work plan and timetable? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 231)

Reply:

Since licensed undertakers are already regulated under the Undertakers of Burials Regulation (Cap. 132CB) (the Regulation), they will not be regulated under the Private Columbaria Bill (the Bill). That said, Part 7 of and Schedule 5 to the Bill, which is on the proper disposal of ashes, will still be applicable to undertakers. At present, there are a total of 81 licensed undertakers whose licences do not debar temporary storage of ashes within their premises. After the passing of the Bill, additional licensing conditions will be imposed on undertaker's licences to enhance regulation, without the need to amend the Regulation. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved in such work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)195

(Question Serial No. 4209)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the review on the hawker licensing mechanism, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

(a) In 2017-2018, will the Government allocate resources for conducting a review on the hawker licensing mechanism and relevant public consultation? If yes, what are the work plan and timetable concerned?

(b) In 2017-2018, will the Food and Health Bureau allocate resources for coordinating the relevant bureaux and departments to carry out a study on identifying feasible locations for establishing temporary or permanent hawker permitted areas in all districts of the territory in a bid to increase the number of hawker licenses that can be issued? If yes, what are the details of the work? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 232)

Reply:

The Government is committed to implementing a hawker policy which can strike an optimal balance between allowing licensed hawking business to thrive on the one hand and addressing other legitimate concerns such as avoiding unreasonable nuisance to the local community in addition to ensuring food safety, environmental hygiene and public security on the other hand. We keep an open mind towards proposals for developing the hawker trade or the establishment of bazaars with local characteristics, so long as food safety and environmental hygiene are not compromised, public passageways are not obstructed and local community support is obtained. If suitable sites are identified, support from the relevant District Councils has been obtained and food safety and environmental hygiene are not compromised, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) stands ready to facilitate liaison with relevant government

departments. Existing resources will continue to be deployed to carry out the said facilitation work.

On whether to re-issue new hawker licences to fill any vacant pitches in relevant hawker areas upon conclusion of the Hawker Assistance Scheme in June 2018, the Department would carefully consider the case, taking into account the circumstances of individual hawker areas, including their fire safety and environmental hygiene situations, the business environment, comments of relevant departments, as well as the views of the relevant District Council and local residents.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)196

(Question Serial No. 4253)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Government's plan to provide public columbarium in 18 districts of Hong Kong, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

(a) The Government proposed 24 sites which might be suitable for providing public niches. What is the latest progress of work for the proposed sites? Please provide a breakdown by individual sites.

(b) Has the Government formulated any work plan to pursue the provision of public niches in various districts of Hong Kong during 2017-18? If so, what are the specific details and timetable of the plan? If not, what are the reasons?

(c) Given that the work of providing public niches at some of the proposed sites came to a complete standstill in the past few years, would the Government consider embarking on a comprehensive review in 2017-18 to assess whether the sites concerned are still suitable for such purpose? If so, what are the work plan and timetable? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 236)

Reply:

(a) & (b) To enhance the supply of public niches, the Government is committed to taking forward the district-based columbarium development scheme, under which all 18 districts would collectively share the responsibility of developing columbaria. To this end, we have identified a total of 24 potential sites in the 18 districts for columbarium development, and announced the sites in 2010 and 2011. At present, the relevant initial studies have largely been completed. Since the second quarter of 2011, we have been progressively consulting the relevant District Councils. Whether the 24 sites could eventually be used for developing columbarium facilities would depend on the results of the studies or assessments,

as well as the views of the relevant District Councils. Details on the 24 sites are set out at Annex.

- (c) Among the 24 sites, we have hitherto consulted 9 District Councils on 14 projects, providing a total of around 589 000 niches, representing about two-thirds of the total number of new niches under planning. The Government will continue to consult the District Councils on the remaining projects, with a view to fortifying the supply of public niches in the coming 15 years.

- End -

24 potential sites for public columbarium development

	District	Location	Approx. number of niches	Progress	Actual / target commissioning year
1	Wong Tai Sin	Diamond Hill Columbarium extension	1 540	Completed	2012
2	Islands	Cheung Chau Cemetery extension	1 000	Completed	2013
			1 250	Works will commence in Sep 2017	2018
3	Tuen Mun	Part of the Tsang Tsui ash lagoon next to Black Point Power Station	160 000	Works have commenced in early Jul 2016	2019
4	North	Surplus coffin burial grounds and other land within the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery	Phase I: 44 000 Phase II: 35 000 Phase III: 25 000	Works for Phase I have been commenced in end Dec 2016 Timetable for Phases II and III to be confirmed	2019 (Phase I)
5	Islands	Mui Wo Lai Chi Yuen Cemetery extension	780	Consultation with IsDC has been completed	To be confirmed
6	Eastern	A site on Cape Collinson Road opposite the Chai Wan Chinese Permanent Cemetery Columbarium and next to Wan Tsui Estate Park	25 000	Consultation with EDC on traffic impact assessment (TIA) has been completed. Consultation with EDC on initial design will be conducted	To be confirmed
7	Kwai Tsing	A site on Tsing Tsuen Road near the Tsuen Wan Chinese Permanent Cemetery	20 000	Proposed to be developed by the Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries	To be confirmed
8	Sha Tin	A site on On Hing Lane, Shek Mun, next to Shatin Transfer Station	40 000	Consultation with STDC on TIA has been completed. Consultation with STDC on initial design will be conducted	To be confirmed

	District	Location	Approx. number of niches	Progress	Actual / target commissioning year
9	North	Undeveloped areas within the Sandy Ridge Cemetery	200 000	Consultation with NDC on site formation and infrastructure works has been completed To consult PWSC on site formation and infrastructure works	To be confirmed
10 & 11	Kwai Tsing	Site at the Ex-Kwai Chung Incineration Plant at Kwai Yu Street and Site on Kwai Tai Road, southeast of Ex-Kwai Chung Incineration Plant	68 500	Consultation with K&TDC on TIA has been completed. Consultation with K&TDC on initial design will be conducted	To be confirmed
12	Sha Tin	Fu Shan Columbarium Extension	Not applicable	The Panel was informed via FHB's letter dated 17 May 2016 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1531/15-16(01) that the Government decided to use the site at Fu Shan for reprovisioning of the Fu Shan Public Mortuary	Not applicable
13	Wan Chai	Hong Kong Cemeteries and Crematoria Office (part) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department at Wong Nai Chung Road	855	Works will commence in end 2017	2018
14	Central/ Western	Site at Mount Davis Road, east of Chiu Yuen Cemetery	To be confirmed	Consultation with CWDC is being planned	To be confirmed
15	Sham Shui Po	Site at north of Ching Cheung Road near Roman Catholic Cemetery	To be confirmed	Consultation with SSPDC is being planned	To be confirmed
16	Kwun Tong	Site next to the Ex-Ma Yau Tong Central Landfill	To be confirmed	Consultation with KTDC is being planned	To be confirmed
17	Yau Tsim Mong	Former school within Tin Hau Temple on Temple Street	To be confirmed	Consultation with YTMDC is being planned	To be confirmed

	District	Location	Approx. number of niches	Progress	Actual / target commissioning year
18	Tsuen Wan	Site located at the eastern end of Sham Shui Kok Drive, Siu Ho Wan, North Lantau	10 300	Consultation with TWDC on TIA has been completed. Consultation with TWDC on initial design will be conducted	To be confirmed
19	Tsuen Wan	Site located at the western end of Sham Shui Kok Drive, Siu Ho Wan, North Lantau	15 700	Consultation with TWDC on TIA has been completed. Consultation with TWDC on initial design will be conducted	To be confirmed
20	Yuen Long	Site between San Tam Road and Mai Po Lung Road, San Tin	To be confirmed	Consultation with YTMDC is being planned	To be confirmed
21	Tai Po	Site at the southwestern corner of the Shuen Wan Ex-Landfill, near Tai Po Industrial Estate	To be confirmed	Consultation with TPDC on TIA will be conducted	To be confirmed
22	Southern	Site adjoining the Chinese Christian Cemetery at Pok Fu Lam	To be confirmed	Consultation with SDC is being planned	To be confirmed
23	Sai Kung	Site at Area 132, Tseung Kwan O, near the Tseung Kwan O Chinese Permanent Cemetery	To be confirmed	Consultation with SKDC is being planned	To be confirmed
24	Kowloon City	A vacant staff quarter (part thereof) inside a funeral parlour at 6 Cheong Hang Road, Hung Hom	To be confirmed	Consultation with KCDC is being planned	To be confirmed

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)197

(Question Serial No. 6852)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide the following information regarding the Committee on Reduction of Salt and Sugar in Food since its establishment in 2015:

- (1) the number and date of meetings;
- (2) the attendance rate of individual members;
- (3) the expenditure involved; and
- (4) details of the strategic plan to promote a healthy diet.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 35)

Reply:

The Government attaches much importance to the reduction of salt and sugar levels in food. Given that healthy eating is one of the keys to reducing the intake of salt and sugar in food, the Department of Health (DH) and the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) have done a lot in promoting healthy eating habits through collaboration with the food trade, schools and other stakeholders. For example, DH launched the "EatSmart@school.hk" in 2006 to promote healthy eating at schools, and launched the EatSmart@restaurant.hk Campaign in 2008 to encourage and assist restaurants to provide dishes with more fruit and vegetables and less oil, salt and sugar. The CFS launched the "Reduce Salt, Sugar, Oil. We Do!" programme calling for food premises which are the Food Safety Charter signatories to follow the CFS' advice on reducing salt and sugar in preparing food.

In charting the way forward to further reduce salt and sugar in food, the Food and Health Bureau, CFS, DH and the Education Bureau have been working closely with the Committee on Reduction of Salt and Sugar in Food (CRSS) and the International Advisory Panel on

Reduction of Dietary Sodium and Sugar to come up with measures which are down-to-earth, well-understand and feasible, through various meetings, discussion sessions, small-group discussions, and visits.

The CRSS and its working groups had conducted in-depth discussion among themselves and with the IAP and relevant stakeholders in the form of meetings, group discussion sessions, consultation sessions and email exchange since it came into operation in March 2015.

Considering the actual circumstances of Hong Kong, both the Government and CRSS are of the view that a step-by-step approach should be adopted, starting from aspects which are more achievable first before tackling the more difficult ones. In practical terms, the CRSS has advised the Government to further cultivate a culture of low-salt-and-sugar diets in the community along the three directions of “starting from an early age” through promoting healthy eating in preprimary institutions and primary schools, enhancing transparency of information through the introduction of a front-of-pack low-salt-and-sugar labelling scheme for pre-packaged food to help consumers make better choices, and implementation of the “calorie” indication pilot scheme at staff canteens of public hospitals, while strengthening publicity and education.

In this regard, DH has stepped up promoting healthy eating in preprimary institutions and primary schools. With the support of the Hospital Authority, more than 80% of the staff canteens of public hospitals, i.e. 20 canteens have implemented the “calorie” indication pilot scheme and indicated the calorie of selective dishes on their menus. As a precursor to the introduction of a voluntary front-of-pack low-salt-and-sugar labelling scheme for pre-packaged food, the Government will join hands with the CRSS to launch a front-of-pack low-salt-and-sugar label design competition and slogan-poster design competition in 2017.

Reducing intake of salt and sugar through food is an integral part of the ongoing work. Therefore, manpower and other recurrent expenses cannot be discretely identified from the overall allocation. Where necessary, one-off additional funding will be provided for specific one-off projects. A recent example is the provision of \$0.25mn for each District Council to encourage district/local community groups to organize activities that bring home the health messages of reduced salt and sugar intake through food.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)198****(Question Serial No. 5665)**

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office, (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety, (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the records management work of your Bureau and the departments under your purview over the past year:

1. Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management.
2. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred

3. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

4. Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 4020)

Reply:

The details of records management work in the Food and Health Bureau and its departments under the Food portfolio, i.e. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and Government Laboratory in 2016 are provided at Annex 1, Annex 2, Annex 3 and Annex 4 respectively.

- End -

Records management work
in the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) in 2016

1. Information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform records management work in FHB is provided below -

Two Confidential Assistants, two Assistant Clerical Officers and one Clerical Assistant are designated to carry out records management duties on a full time basis in FHB, including both Food Branch (Head 139) and Health Branch (Head 140). The other clerical and secretarial staff in the Bureau also perform routine records management duties in addition to their own operational duties. At the management level, the Bureau has appointed officers at different levels to oversee records management policies and activities as part of their work, in addition to other administrative or operational duties. A directorate officer overseeing records management is underpinned by the Departmental Records Manager (at Senior Executive Officer level) and an Assistant Departmental Records Manager (at Executive Officer II level) to coordinate and perform records management work in the Bureau. 13 Records Managers at or above the rank of Executive Officer II or equivalent are also appointed to oversee records management matters in their respective units.

2. Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal is provided below-

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred
Programme records	1946 - 1989	42 records (1.68 lm)	25 years	8 records of which are confidential	Pending GRS's further instruction

3. Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Administrative records	2000 - 2003	5 records (0.20 lm)	2016	3 - 5 years	No

4. Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Administrative records	1991 - 2007	432 records (22.91 lm)	Not applicable#	2 - 7 years	No

Destruction of these records was arranged by FHB (Food Branch) direct after obtaining approval from GRS. There was no need to transfer such records to GRS.

Records management work
in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in 2016

1. Information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform records management work in AFCD is provided below -

A total of 11 staff in the Department, including 2 Clerical Officers, 2 Assistant Clerical Officers, 5 Clerical Assistants and 2 Confidential Assistants, are deployed full time to carry out records management work. To ensure proper management of departmental records, the Department has assigned the Departmental Secretary (at the rank of Chief Executive Officer) as the Departmental Records Manager and 14 officers of various grades and ranks as Assistant Departmental Records Managers. They oversee the establishment, implementation and documentation of departmental records management practices and procedures according to the relevant guidelines and instructions of GRS and the departmental records management policy, in addition to performing other duties.

2. Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to GRS for appraisal is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred
Programme records	1988 - 1992	161 records (3.00 lm)	7 years	No	Pending GRS's further instruction
Administrative records	1987 - 2009	3 011 records (2.26 lm)	retain until obsolete*	No	Pending GRS's further instruction

*Until the invalidation of relevant warrant cards

3. Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Programme records	1983 - 2005	2 records (0.08 lm)	2016	5 years	No

4. Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Programme records	1997 - 2009	11 597 records (94.21 lm)	Not applicable#	5 - 6 years	No
Administrative records	1992 - 2012	21 627 records (89.64 lm)	Not applicable#	0.5 - 7 years	No

Destruction of these records was arranged by AFCD direct after obtaining approval from GRS. There was no need to transfer such records to GRS.

Records management work
in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in 2016

1. Information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform records management work in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is provided as follows -

The day-to-day records management work is mainly undertaken by the registry staff (e.g. clerical grades staff) of the Department on a full-time or part-time basis. At the headquarters level, apart from staff who work on records management on a part-time basis, a total of 12 staff, including 1 Assistant Clerical Officer, 6 Clerical Assistants, 1 Senior Confidential Assistant, 4 Confidential Assistants, are deployed full time to carry out records management work. At the section/district level, such work is taken up by staff on a part-time basis. On the management side, the Department has appointed officers at different levels to oversee records management policies and activities on a part-time basis in addition to their other administrative or operational duties. A directorate officer overseeing records management is underpinned by the Departmental Records Manager and Branch Records Managers at Chief Executive Officer level to establish and implement comprehensive records management programmes at departmental and branch levels respectively. A total of 126 Records Managers not below the rank of Executive Officer II or equivalent are also appointed to oversee records management matters in each section/district.

2. Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to GRS for appraisal is provided as follows -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred
Programme records	1976 - 2016	341 records (18.29 lm)	5 - 12 years	No	These files are still under their retention period
Administrative records	1981 - 2016	174 records (8.74 lm)	2 - 7 years	Yes	These files are still under their retention period

3. Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention is provided as follows -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Programme records	2000 - 2011	14 records (0.70 lm)	2016	Not applicable~	No
Administrative records	1957 - 2001	18 records (0.69 lm)	2016	2 - 4 years	Yes

~ These are old files without a disposal schedule. They have been appraised to have archival values and transferred to GRS for retention.

4. Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS is provided as follows -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Programme records	1962 - 2013	229 957 records (1 156.04 lm)	Not applicable#	1.5 - 7 years	No
Administrative records	1960 - 2015	656 664 records (596.38 lm)	Not applicable#	3 months - 7 years	Yes

Destruction of these records was arranged by FEHD direct after obtaining approval from GRS. There was no need to transfer such records to GRS.

Records management work
in the Government Laboratory (GL) in 2016

1. Information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform records management work in GL is provided below -

In GL, 31 officers from various grades and ranks are involved in records management work, as part of their duties. On average, they spend about 10% of their working hours each day on such work. On top of records management, depending on the nature of their posts, they will be involved in other clerical, secretarial, personnel, financial, accounting, procurement and office management duties. To ensure proper management of departmental records, the Department has assigned the Departmental Secretary (at the rank of Chief Executive Officer) as the Departmental Records Manager and 3 officers at the rank of Executive Officer I as Assistant Departmental Records Managers. They oversee the establishment, implementation and documentation of departmental records management practices and procedures according to the relevant guidelines and instructions of the Government Records Service and the departmental records management policy, in addition to performing other duties.

2. Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to GRS for appraisal is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred
Nil	-	-	-	-	-

3. Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Nil	-	-	-	-	-

4. Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Nil	-	-	-	-	-

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)199

(Question Serial No. 4279)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under Programme (2), the revised estimate for 2016 is lower than the original estimate by 27.1%. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 77)

Reply:

The decrease of \$26.1 million (27.1%) in the 2016-17 revised estimate of Programme 2 : Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety as compared with the 2016-17 original estimate is mainly due to the less than expected funding requirements for dealing with avian influenza and food incidents, supporting the work of Fishermen Claim Appeal Board and the various researches and studies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)200

(Question Serial No. 4639)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (1) What are the estimated expenditure on the prevention of avian influenza outbreak and the details of the work in 2017-18?
- (2) What is the estimated expenditure on the introduction of avian influenza virus rapid tests at chicken stalls in the markets?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 143)

Reply:

The Government implements a range of preventive and control measures against the risk of avian influenza (AI). For local live chickens, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) ensures local farms comply with the requirements related to biosecurity, farm hygiene and vaccination of chickens against AI virus through regular inspections at the farms, and education on farm management and disease prevention to local farmers and their workers. For imported live poultry, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) conducts surveillance on AI virus in imported live poultry at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station, and regularly inspects registered farms on the Mainland that export poultry to Hong Kong. At the wholesale poultry market and retail outlets, samples are collected for testing to closely monitor if AI virus is present in the environment, and cleansing is strictly implemented to ensure observance of the hygiene requirement.

The Government has just completed a consultancy study on the future development of the live poultry trade in Hong Kong, including whether the sale of live poultry should continue. A public consultation exercise is now being conducted to gauge public views on the recommendations. Taking into account the Consultant's recommendations, views of the public and stakeholders collected during the public consultation, the Government will formulate the policy direction on the way forward of the live poultry trade.

The Food and Health Bureau is, among other duties, responsible for overseeing the policy work on implementing a multi-pronged strategy to prevent AI outbreak. The work in combating AI is carried out by AFCD and FEHD within their resources for the monitoring, prevention and control of AI. The estimated manpower and expenditure in 2017-18 for AFCD are 46 staff and \$50.8 million, while those for FEHD are 53 staff and \$17.1 million, including around \$1.7 million for FEHD to conduct the AI test at retail level.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)201

(Question Serial No. 4640)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding “continuing to review and update the existing standards on food safety having regard to international practices and local needs”, would the Bureau inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the criteria used in setting the categories and standards of concentration for the harmful substances covered by the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations?
2. Please set out in table form the “international practices” that are used as reference. What are the categories of harmful substances and standards used by these “international practices”?
3. Will the Bureau follow the EU safety standards in updating the food safety standards? If not, what are the reasons?
4. What were the expenditures involved in updating the existing standards on food safety in the past 3 years? What is the estimated expenditure for 2017-18?
5. What were the expenditures involved in refining the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation and details of the work in the past 5 years? What are the estimated expenditure and details of the work for 2017-18?
6. Regarding the updating of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation, please set out the items updated in the past 10 years.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 144)

Reply:

Ensuring that our food safety regime is backed up by the requisite food safety legislation and the provisions in the food safety legislation are adequate and effective is one of the functions of the Food and Health Bureau (FHB). In this regard, FHB works closely with the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to review the food safety legislation from time to time.

In general, we make reference to the international food safety standards set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, relevant standards by different jurisdictions (including but not limited to those established by the European Commission), and local food consumption patterns, etc, in reviewing, updating and setting our food safety standards and their categories, including those in the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap. 132AF) and the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM).

The Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap. 132AF) regulates harmful substances such as aflatoxin, erucic acid, veterinary drugs residues and melamine, etc.

The Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM) regulates the levels of pesticide residues in food. It covers 360 types of pesticides and involves about 7 000 food pairs.

Formulating and reviewing food safety legislation form part and parcel of the work of the FHB under the food safety portfolio. We do not have separate breakdown on the manpower expenditure specifically on this area of work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)202

(Question Serial No. 4641)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding “monitoring the progress of various measures introduced to sustain and upgrade the development of local fisheries”, what were the details of the work and expenditures involved in the past 5 years? Please also set out the details of the work and estimated expenditure for 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 145)

Reply:

The Government has been promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry through (a) implementing a suite of fisheries management measures to help conserve and restore depleted marine resources such as the ban on trawling since December 2012 and the introduction of a registration system for local fishing vessels; (b) assisting fishermen to switch to sustainable fisheries operations and helping fish farmers to develop sustainable aquaculture through technical support services, credit facilities and training courses; (c) promoting good aquaculture practices and enhancing the monitoring of aquaculture environment; and (d) administering the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) to help fishermen adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode and subsidise projects and research that help enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry.

The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) is, among other duties, responsible for overseeing the policy work promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry, including monitoring the progress of measures implemented by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. There is no breakdown for the manpower expenditure for FHB for this part of the work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)203

(Question Serial No. 4642)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding “encouraging reduced intake of salt and sugars in food”, what were the details of the work and expenditures involved in the past 5 years. Please also set out the estimated expenditure and the details of the “strategic plan” for 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 146)

Reply:

The Government attaches much importance to the reduction of salt and sugar levels in food. Given that healthy eating is one of the keys to reducing the intake of salt and sugar in food, the Department of Health (DH) and the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) have done a lot in promoting healthy eating habits through collaboration with the food trade, schools and other stakeholders. For example, DH launched the “EatSmart@school.hk” in 2006 to promote healthy eating at schools, and launched the EastSmart@restaurant.hk Campaign in 2008 to encourage and assist restaurants to provide dishes with more fruit and vegetables and less oil, salt and sugar. The CFS launched the “Reduce Salt, Sugar, Oil. We Do!” programme calling for food premises which are the Food Safety Charter signatories to follow the CFS’ advice on reducing salt and sugar in preparing food.

In charting the way forward to further reduce salt and sugar in food, the Food and Health Bureau, CFS, DH and the Education Bureau have been working closely with the Committee on Reduction of Salt and Sugar in Food (CRSS) and the International Advisory Panel on Reduction of Dietary Sodium and Sugar to come up with measures which are down-to-earth, well-understand and feasible.

Considering the actual circumstances of Hong Kong, both the Government and CRSS are of the view that a step-by-step approach should be adopted, starting from aspects which are more achievable first before tackling the more difficult ones. In practical terms, the CRSS has advised the Government to further cultivate a culture of low-salt-and-sugar diets in the

community along the three directions of “starting from an early age” through promoting healthy eating in preprimary institutions and primary schools, enhancing transparency of information through the introduction of a front-of-pack low-salt-and-sugar labelling scheme for pre-packaged food to help consumers make better choices, and implementation of the “calorie” indication pilot scheme at staff canteens of public hospitals, while strengthening publicity and education.

In this regard, DH has stepped up promoting healthy eating in preprimary institutions and primary schools. With the support of the Hospital Authority, more than 80% of the staff canteens of public hospitals, i.e. 20 canteens have implemented the “calorie” indication pilot scheme and indicated the calorie of selective dishes on their menus. As a precursor to the introduction of a voluntary front-of-pack low-salt-and-sugar labelling scheme for pre-packaged food, the Government will join hands with the CRSS to launch a front-of-pack low-salt-and-sugar label design competition and slogan-poster design competition in 2017.

Reducing intake of salt and sugar through food is an integral part of the ongoing work. Therefore, manpower and other recurrent expenses cannot be discretely identified from the overall allocation. Where necessary, one-off additional funding will be provided for specific one-off projects. A recent example is the provision of \$0.25 million for each District Council to encourage district/local community groups to organize activities that bring home the health messages of reduced salt and sugar intake through food.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)204****(Question Serial No. 4804)**

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

1. Did the Government conduct any sample tests for nutrition labelling of food products to detect non-compliant cases in the past 5 years? Please list in a table the number of sample tests conducted, and the origins, types and test results of the food products concerned.

2. What are the details of the Government's work plan on conducting sample tests for nutrition labelling of food products? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 341)

Reply:

1. In 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) had checked 5 277, 5 151, 5 080, 5 369 and 5 625 nutrition labels of prepackaged food products respectively, with a total of 370 found to be non-compliant. Detailed breakdowns of the 370 cases by nature of non-compliance, type of food and country / place of origin are as follows –

(a) Breakdown of non-compliant cases by nature of non-compliance

Nature of non-compliance	Number of cases					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
No nutrition label or incomplete labels on the energy content	14	16	19	17	18	84

Nature of non-compliance	Number of cases					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
and seven core nutrients (i.e. “1 + 7” nutrition label)						
Inappropriate nutrition label format	3	1	1	1	0	6
Inappropriate nutrient claim	7	14	2	0	0	23
Inappropriate language	3	6	3	0	2	14
Involving more than one type of the abovementioned irregularities	8	3	17	0	0	28
Discrepancy on declared nutrient value confirmed after chemical analysis	38	78	54	11	34	215
Total	73	118	96	29	54	370

(b) Breakdown of non-compliant cases by type of food

Type of food	Number of cases					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Bakery and cereal products	20	9	24	5	9	67
Candies and snacks	22	19	12	15	13	81
Drinks	15	31	15	1	7	69
Oils, sauces and condiments	7	22	18	2	12	61
Others	9	37	27	6	13	92
Total	73	118	96	29	54	370

(c) Breakdown of non-compliant cases by country / place of origin

Country/place of origin	Number of cases					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total

Country/place of origin	Number of cases					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Australia	2	3	1	0	6	12
Canada	0	1	0	0	0	1
Mainland China	3	13	20	4	1	41
France	0	3	2	0	3	8
Germany	3	2	0	0	0	5
Hong Kong	3	0	1	2	4	10
Indonesia	1	0	1	0	0	2
Italy	1	5	0	1	0	7
Japan	5	10	9	1	5	30
Korea	5	7	3	1	3	19
Malaysia	2	2	3	0	0	7
Mauritius	0	0	0	1	0	1
New Zealand	1	3	2	0	0	6
Singapore	0	3	0	0	0	3
Sri Lanka	0	1	0	0	0	1
Taiwan	5	11	5	1	4	26
Thailand	3	4	2	0	0	9
UK	3	5	1	0	5	14
USA	1	5	2	0	3	11
Vietnam	0	0	2	0	0	2
Total						215*

* Of the 370 non-compliant cases, we do not have information on the country / place of origin of 155 cases.

2. The Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap. 132W) requires prepackaged foods sold in Hong Kong to carry a nutrition label to provide information on the energy content and seven core nutrients. The CFS adopts a risk-based enforcement approach. Samples are collected for visual label checking and chemical analysis. Non-compliant cases would be followed up and prosecution action would be taken if there is sufficient evidence. The expenditure on enforcement of nutrition labelling requirements forms part of the expenditure on food surveillance and complaint handling, and cannot be separately identified. The estimated expenditure for food surveillance and complaint handling is \$85.1 million for 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)205

(Question Serial No. 4805)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding genetically modified food, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Does the Government have any plan to formulate an official certification system for genetically modified food? If yes, what are the timetable and details of the work? What is the estimated expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?
2. Over the past 5 years, did the Government spot-check or examine genetically modified food? Please provide information, in tabular form, on the number of spot-checks conducted, place of origin and category of the food, and the examination results.
3. Has the Government compiled statistics for the past 5 years on the number of cases in which people fell ill and required medical treatment or hospitalisation due to consumption of genetically modified food in Hong Kong? If yes, what are the figures and details?
4. What are the details of the Government's work plan on "genetically modified food"? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 342)

Reply:

According to the World Health Organisation, genetically modified (GM) food currently available on the international market has passed the safety assessments of the respective food safety regulatory authorities and is not likely to be harmful to human health.

GM food is treated like any other food and is covered in the regular Food Surveillance Programme (FSP) of the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). The CFS takes food samples at the import,

wholesale and retail (including online retailers) levels and adopts a risk-based principle in determining the types of samples to be collected, the frequency and number of samples taken for testing, and types of laboratory analysis to be conducted. The CFS releases the test results to the public through various channels.

The CFS has issued the “Guidelines on Voluntary Labelling of Genetically Modified Food” which sets out the principles underlying recommended labelling approaches for GM food, and provides reference for the trade to make truthful and informative labels in a consumer-friendly manner. The CFS will continue to promote the voluntary labelling regime to traders, provide the public with information on GM food and address food safety issues related to GM food, while keeping in view international development in GM technology and GM food labelling standards.

The Government has been considering introducing a mandatory pre-market safety assessment scheme, with a view to providing additional safeguard to consumers on GM food being sold in Hong Kong. In this regard, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and the CFS/FEHD have been keeping in view international developments on the regulation of GM foods and the local circumstances with a view to coming up with a proposal for public consultation. We need more time to formulate the proposal, and are not ready to come up with an estimated timetable for the public consultation exercise at this stage. The aforementioned preparatory work has been and will continue to be undertaken by the existing manpower and resources in FHB and CFS/FEHD.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)206

(Question Serial No. 4806)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding organic food, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Does the Government have any plan to formulate an official certification system for organic food? If yes, what are the timetable and details of the work? What is the estimated expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?
2. Over the past 5 years, did the Government spot-check or examine organic food to confirm that the food was indeed organic? Please provide information, in tabular form, on the number of spot-checks conducted, place of origin and category of the food, and the examination results.
3. What is the estimated expenditure on the certification, spot-checking and promotion of organic food?
4. Please set out, in tabular form, the category, quantity and place of origin of organic food that is produced in Hong Kong, imported from the Mainland, or imported from overseas, and the proportion such food accounts for among all similar products in the market.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 343)

Reply:

1. In 2011, the Government commissioned a consultancy study on organic food to assess whether, and if so, how the production and sale of organic food in Hong Kong should be regulated. The study findings were reported to the Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene Panel of the Legislative Council in February 2013. Noting the very small market size of the local organic food sector and the primary focus of the Government on food safety and stable food supply, the consultant considered that there was no pressing need to regulate the domestic production and sale of organic food.

The consultant recommended that efforts to raise public awareness about organic food should be stepped up. Existing administrative measures such as further promoting certification schemes, streamlining the certification procedures and promulgating a reporting mechanism of food fraud should also be strengthened. The Government accepted the consultant's recommendations. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been implementing these recommendations with the support of the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre (HKORC) which, apart from providing organic certification service, also organises events to enhance public awareness.

2. The major differences between organic food and ordinary food are their ways of production, processing and handling. Such differences cannot be detected by testing the food products (including vegetables). There is no significant difference between the two in terms of food safety. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, through the risk-based food surveillance programme, takes food samples (including organic food) at the import, wholesale and retail levels for testing. We do not have breakdown on the number of food samples which are organic food.

3. In 2017-18, AFCD will continue to promote organic farming and the marketing of local organic produce through technical assistance to local farmers under the Organic Farming Support Service (OFSS) Scheme, made joint efforts with the Vegetable Marketing Organization and the Federation of Vegetable Marketing Cooperative Societies in promoting the production and marketing of local organic produce, as well as providing support to HKORC for the promotion of organic education and certification. The estimated expenditure involved is about \$7.8 million.

4. As at February 2017, 299 farms in Hong Kong had joined the OFSS. Occupying a total land area of 108 hectares, these 299 organic farms produce about six tonnes of organic vegetables per day on average, accounting for less than 0.3% of the total fresh vegetables supply in Hong Kong. We do not have data on the types, quantities and place of origins of all those organic foods which are sold in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)207

(Question Serial No. 3476)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

As regards studying the feasibility of reprovisioning and expanding the Food Safety Laboratory of the Government Laboratory to increase its testing capability and enhance its operational efficiency for tests relating to food safety stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention, please advise on the progress and details of work, and the manpower and estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 75)

Reply:

The Government Laboratory (GL) is currently in shortage of laboratory area. To enhance GL's testing capability and operational efficiency for tests relating to food safety, we are exploring the option of reprovision or expansion. Expansion of the facility in the Victoria Road and redevelopment at another site are among the options being explored. Details such as implementation timelines and budget estimates can only be ascertained when the site search and other related technical considerations are complete. The manpower and expenditure required by the Food and Health Bureau and GL for pursuing this exercise are absorbed from within existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)208

(Question Serial No. 3477)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the continuation of implementing a multi-pronged strategy to prevent avian influenza outbreak, what was the progress of the relevant work in 2016? What are the specific work plan and timetable for 2017, and the estimated manpower and resources required?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 76)

Reply:

The Government implements a range of preventive and control measures against the risk of avian influenza (AI). For local live chickens, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) ensures local farms comply with the requirements related to biosecurity, farm hygiene and vaccination of chickens against AI virus through regular inspections at the farms, and education on farm management and disease prevention to local farmers and their workers. For imported live poultry, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) conducts surveillance on AI virus in imported live poultry at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station, and regularly inspects registered farms on the Mainland that export poultry to Hong Kong. At the wholesale poultry market and retail outlets, samples are collected for testing to closely monitor if AI virus is present in the environment, and cleansing is strictly implemented to ensure observance of the hygiene requirement.

The Government has just completed a consultancy study on the future development of the live poultry trade in Hong Kong, including whether the sale of live poultry should continue. A public consultation exercise is now being conducted to gauge public views on the recommendations. Taking into account the Consultant's recommendations, views of the public and stakeholders collected during the public consultation, the Government will formulate the policy direction on the way forward of the live poultry trade.

The Food and Health Bureau is, among other duties, responsible for overseeing the policy work on implementing a multi-pronged strategy to prevent AI outbreak. The work in

combating AI is carried out by AFCD and FEHD within their resources for the monitoring, prevention and control of AI. The estimated manpower and expenditure in 2017-18 for AFCD are 46 staff and \$50.8 million, while those for FEHD are 53 staff and \$17.1 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)209

(Question Serial No. 3478)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding continuing to review and update the existing standards on food safety having regard to international practices and local needs, please advise on the progress and details of the work concerned, as well as the manpower and estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 77)

Reply:

Ensuring that our food safety regime is backed up by the requisite food safety legislation and the provisions in the food safety legislation are adequate and effective is one of the functions of the Food and Health Bureau (FHB). In this regard, FHB works closely with the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to review the food safety legislation from time to time.

In general, we make reference to the international food safety standards set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, relevant standards by different jurisdictions, and local food consumption patterns, etc, in reviewing, updating and setting our food safety standards and their categories.

To better protect public health, facilitate effective regulation and promote harmonisation between local and international standards, FHB and CFS have embarked on the preparatory work to review and update the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V) (the regulation). CFS is working out details of the proposed legislative amendments. We plan to conduct a public consultation exercise on the proposed amendments to the Regulations in 2017.

Formulating and reviewing food safety legislation form part and parcel of the work of the FHB under the food safety portfolio. We do not have separate breakdown on the manpower expenditure specifically on this area of work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)210

(Question Serial No. 3373)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding outsourcing of service in your department, please inform this Committee of the following in respect of the past 3 years:

1. the total number of outsourced service staff employed by your department and the percentage of outsourced service staff against the total number of staff with the same types of duties in your department;
2. the total expenditure on staff of your department; the total amount paid to outsourced service providers; and the percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers against the total expenditure on staff of your department; and
3. the nature of your department's outsourced services and the duration of the relevant contracts.

In addition, according to the Government's guidelines for tendering of outsourced services revised last year, if the procured service relies heavily on the deployment of non-skilled workers, and a marking scheme for assessing the tenders is adopted, the procuring department, when assessing the tenders, should include in the assessment criteria the evaluation of tenderers' proposed wage rates and working hours for non-skilled workers. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

4. the current number of outsourced service contracts involving a large number of non-skilled workers awarded by your department since implementation of the guidelines;
5. the departments which have adjusted their assessment criteria in respect of wage rates and working hours for the outsourced service contracts involving a large number of non-skilled workers in the light of the new guidelines since their implementation; how your department has made adjustment; and if no relevant information is available, the reasons for it;
6. whether there have been any rises in the average wage rates for workers in the contracts of outsourced services that rely heavily on deployment of non-skilled workers since the

implementation of the guidelines; if yes, the number of contracts with rises in wage rates; if no relevant information is available, the reasons for it;

7. your department's measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the new tendering guidelines;
8. whether your department is required to adopt the existing mechanism of two-envelope assessment of the technical and price aspects when evaluating tenders for contracts of outsourced service; if no, the number of contracts awarded without adopting the existing mechanism of two-envelope assessment of the technical and price aspects in the past 3 years;
9. the annual numbers of cases of government service contractors breaching the service contracts, the Employment Ordinance or the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance as revealed by the inspections conducted by your department, and the annual numbers of complaints lodged by the outsourced service staff;
10. the details of follow-up actions on the aforementioned non-compliance and complaint cases; and
11. the number and details of cases involving contractors being punished for non-compliance or sustained complaints.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 146)

Reply:

The Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) did not award any outsourcing contracts (including those involving a large number of non-skilled workers) for delivering the services of the Food Branch in the past three years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)211

(Question Serial No. 3393)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Does your department provide sign language interpretation services? If yes, what are the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 190)

Reply:

The Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) has not received any request for sign language interpretation services. Arrangement would be made for the provision of the services on a need basis.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)212****(Question Serial No. 5132)**

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In respect of the public relations expenditure of government departments, please inform this Committee of the following:

(1) the total expenditure and details of publishing advertisements, sponsored content or advertorials in newspapers registered under the Registration of Local Newspapers Ordinance by your department in the past year:

Date of publish (Day/Month/Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing/done) (as at 28 February 2017)	Government or public organisation (including bureau/ department/ public organisation/ government advisory body)	Name and purpose of advertisement	Name of media organisation and newspaper	Frequency (as at 28 February 2017)	Expenditure (as at 28 February 2017)

(2) the expenditure and details of sponsoring local free-to-air television stations, pay television stations and radio stations to provide information and produce programmes or materials by your department in the past year:

Date of broadcast (Day/Month/Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing/done) (as at 28 February 2017)	Government or public organisation (including bureau/ department/ public	Name and purpose of advertisement	Media organisation	Frequency (as at 28 February 2017)	Expenditure (as at 28 February 2017)

		organisation/ government advisory body)				

(3) the media organisations which published or broadcasted advertisements/sponsored content of your department in the past year, as well as the frequency and total expenditure involved (in descending order):

Name of media organisation	Frequency	Total expenditure (\$)

(4) the websites/network platforms on which your department published online advertisements/sponsored content in the past year, as well as the frequency, duration (days) and total expenditure involved (tabulated in descending order):

Website/ network platform	Content of advertisement	Frequency	Duration (days)	Hit rate, frequency of exposure and number of viewers	Total expenditure (\$)

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. 79)

Reply:

The requested information pertaining to public relations expenditure incurred by the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) is provided below -

(1) Published advertisements, sponsored content or advertorials in newspapers registered under the Registration of Local Newspapers Ordinance in the past year:

Date of publish (Day/Month/Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing/done) (as at 28 February 2017)	Government or public organisation (including bureau/ department/ public organisation/ government advisory body)	Name and purpose of advertisement	Name of media organisation and newspaper	Frequency (as at 28 February 2017)	Expenditure (as at 28 February 2017)
July and August 2016	One-off	Food and Health Bureau	<p><u>Name</u></p> <p>Regulation of Private Columbaria: Governments' Message for Consumers</p> <p><u>Purpose</u></p> <p>To inform the public about the latest status of the proposed legislation for regulating private columbaria in Hong Kong, and to alert consumers intending to purchase or rent private niches to stay vigilant during the interim period</p>	Ming Pao, Hong Kong Economic Journal, South China Morning Post, Sing Tao Daily	One-off	\$61,180.60

(2) Nil.

(3) Media organisations which published or broadcasted advertisements/sponsored content of the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) in the past year, as well as the frequency and total expenditure involved (in descending order):

Name of media organisation	Frequency	Total expenditure (\$)
South China Morning Post	1	\$19,920.60
Ming Pao	1	\$17,220
Hong Kong Economic Journal	1	\$14,000
Sing Tao Daily	1	\$10,040

(4) Nil.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)213****(Question Serial No. 5149)**

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the records management work of your Bureau and the departments under your purview over the past year:

1. Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management.

2. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred

3. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred

4. Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. 96)

Reply:

The details of records management work in the Food and Health Bureau and its departments under the Food portfolio, i.e. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and Government Laboratory in 2016 are provided at Annex 1, Annex 2, Annex 3 and Annex 4 respectively.

- End -

Records management work
in the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) in 2016

1. Information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform records management work in FHB is provided below -

Two Confidential Assistants, two Assistant Clerical Officers and one Clerical Assistant are designated to carry out records management duties on a full time basis in FHB, including both Food Branch (Head 139) and Health Branch (Head 140). The other clerical and secretarial staff in the Bureau also perform routine records management duties in addition to their own operational duties. At the management level, the Bureau has appointed officers at different levels to oversee records management policies and activities as part of their work, in addition to other administrative or operational duties. A directorate officer overseeing records management is underpinned by the Departmental Records Manager (at Senior Executive Officer level) and an Assistant Departmental Records Manager (at Executive Officer II level) to coordinate and perform records management work in the Bureau. 13 Records Managers at or above the rank of Executive Officer II or equivalent are also appointed to oversee records management matters in their respective units.

2. Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal is provided below-

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred
Programme records	1946 - 1989	42 records (1.68 lm)	25 years	8 records of which are confidential	Pending GRS's further instruction

3. Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred
Administrative records	2000 - 2003	5 records (0.20 lm)	3 - 5 years	No	Not applicable^

^These records were transferred to GRS for retention in 2016.

4. Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred
Administrative records	1991 - 2007	432 records (22.91 lm)	2 - 7 years	No	Not applicable#

Destruction of these records was arranged by FHB (Food Branch) direct after obtaining approval from GRS. There was no need to transfer such records to GRS.

Records management work
in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in 2016

1. Information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform records management work in AFCD is provided below -

A total of 11 staff in the Department, including 2 Clerical Officers, 2 Assistant Clerical Officers, 5 Clerical Assistants and 2 Confidential Assistants, are deployed full time to carry out records management work. To ensure proper management of departmental records, the Department has assigned the Departmental Secretary (at the rank of Chief Executive Officer) as the Departmental Records Manager and 14 officers of various grades and ranks as Assistant Departmental Records Managers. They oversee the establishment, implementation and documentation of departmental records management practices and procedures according to the relevant guidelines and instructions of GRS and the departmental records management policy, in addition to performing other duties.

2. Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to GRS for appraisal is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred
Programme records	1988 - 1992	161 records (3.00 lm)	7 years	No	Pending GRS's further instruction
Administrative records	1987 - 2009	3 011 records (2.26 lm)	retain until obsolete*	No	Pending GRS's further instruction

*Until the invalidation of relevant warrant cards

3. Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred
Programme records	1983 - 2005	2 records (0.08 lm)	5 years	No	Not Applicable^

^These records were transferred to GRS for retention in 2016.

4. Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred
Programme records	1997 - 2009	11 597 records (94.21 lm)	5 - 6 years	No	Not Applicable#
Administrative records	1992 - 2012	21 627 records (89.64 lm)	0.5 - 7 years	No	Not Applicable#

Destruction of these records was arranged by AFCD direct after obtaining approval from GRS. There was no need to transfer such records to GRS.

Records management work
in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in 2016

1. Information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform records management work in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is provided as follows -

The day-to-day records management work is mainly undertaken by the registry staff (e.g. clerical grades staff) of the Department on a full-time or part-time basis. At the headquarters level, apart from staff who work on records management on a part-time basis, a total of 12 staff, including 1 Assistant Clerical Officer, 6 Clerical Assistants, 1 Senior Confidential Assistant, 4 Confidential Assistants, are deployed full time to carry out records management work. At the section/district level, such work is taken up by staff on a part-time basis. On the management side, the Department has appointed officers at different levels to oversee records management policies and activities on a part-time basis in addition to their other administrative or operational duties. A directorate officer overseeing records management is underpinned by the Departmental Records Manager and Branch Records Managers at Chief Executive Officer level to establish and implement comprehensive records management programmes at departmental and branch levels respectively. A total of 126 Records Managers not below the rank of Executive Officer II or equivalent are also appointed to oversee records management matters in each section/district.

2. Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to GRS for appraisal is provided as follows -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred
Programme records	1976 - 2016	341 records (18.29 lm)	5 - 12 years	No	These files are still under their retention period
Administrative records	1981 - 2016	174 records (8.74 lm)	2 - 7 years	Yes	These files are still under their retention period

3. Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention is provided as follows -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred
Programme records	2000 - 2011	14 records (0.70 lm)	Not applicable~	No	Not applicable^
Administrative records	1957 - 2001	18 records (0.69 lm)	2 - 4 years	Yes	Not applicable^

~ These are old files without a disposal schedule. They have been appraised to have archival values and transferred to GRS for retention.

^ These records were transferred to GRS for retention in 2016.

4. Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS is provided as follows -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred
Programme records	1962 - 2013	229 957 records (1 156.04 lm)	1.5 - 7 years	No	Not applicable#
Administrative records	1960 - 2015	656 664 records (596.38 lm)	3 months - 7 years	Yes	Not applicable#

Destruction of these records was arranged by FEHD direct after obtaining approval from GRS. There was no need to transfer such records to GRS.

Records management work
in the Government Laboratory (GL) in 2016

1. Information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform records management work in GL is provided below -

In GL, 31 officers from various grades and ranks are involved in records management work, as part of their duties. On average, they spend about 10% of their working hours each day on such work. On top of records management, depending on the nature of their posts, they will be involved in other clerical, secretarial, personnel, financial, accounting, procurement and office management duties. To ensure proper management of departmental records, the Department has assigned the Departmental Secretary (at the rank of Chief Executive Officer) as the Departmental Records Manager and 3 officers at the rank of Executive Officer I as Assistant Departmental Records Managers. They oversee the establishment, implementation and documentation of departmental records management practices and procedures according to the relevant guidelines and instructions of the Government Records Service and the departmental records management policy, in addition to performing other duties.

2. Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to GRS for appraisal is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred
Nil	-	-	-	-	-

3. Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred
Nil	-	-	-	-	-

4. Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for not having been transferred
Nil	-	-	-	-	-

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)214****(Question Serial No. 6720)**

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

(1) Please provide, in table form, the number of requests for information under the Code on Access to Information received by the Food and Health Bureau and its subvented organisations in 2016-17 as well as the relevant details:

Bureau/ Department/ Organisation	Number of requests received	Information involved (items)	Number of requests being handled	Number of requests in which all information was provided	Number of requests in which some information was provided	Average number of days taken to handle the requests (working days)

(2) the 3 pieces of information most frequently requested by the public and the number of such requests;

(3) the 5 requests for information which took the longest time to handle, the number of days taken to handle such requests and the reasons; and

(4) the content of the requests refused, the reasons for the refusal and the number of requests for reviews lodged by the public.

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. 141)

Reply:

During the period from January to September 2016, the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) received 1 request for information under the Code on Access to Information (the Code). After a thorough search of records and liaison with other relevant department/bureau, it was confirmed that the information requested was not in Food Branch's possession. Action on the request was completed within 51 days from date of receipt of the request in accordance with the requirements of the Code.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)215****(Question Serial No. 6721)**

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please tabulate the details concerning the social media platforms set up and run by the Bureau and subvented organisations under its commission (including outsourced contractors or consultants) in 2016-17 (as at 28 February 2017).

Commence- ment date (month/ year)	Status (updating in progress/ ceased updating)	Bureau/ agencies under its commission	Name	Social media platforms	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of "likes"/ subscribers / average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (yes/no)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of "likes", comments and shares)	Ranks and no. of officers responsible for running the platforms	Expenditure for setting up the platforms and daily operational expenses

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. 142)

Reply:

The Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) has not set up or run any social media platforms in 2016-17.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)216****(Question Serial No. 4485)**

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the improvement of public market services, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

(a) The current number of stalls, occupancy rate, average stall rental per square metre each month and whether air-conditioning facilities are provided in each of the public markets in the territory.

(b) Is there any plan to change the use of public markets which have been under-utilised for a long time, such as the Tsuen King Circuit Market? If yes, what are the criteria for making such change?

(c) Please list out the number of markets and the population in each district as per the table below:

District	Public Market	Market Operated by Link REIT	Market Operated by Hong Kong Housing Authority	Market Operated by Private Developers	Population
Tin Shui Wai					
Yuen Long					
Hung Shui Kiu					
Tung Chung					
Tsuen Wan					

(d) Is there any plan to build public markets in districts which lack public markets, such as Tin Shui Wai? If yes, what are the details and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

(e) Is there any plan to include afresh the population-based planning standard for public markets into the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (Member Question No. 20)

Reply:

- (a) The information sought is provided at Annex I.
- (b) As a result of demographic changes, new development/redevelopment projects and competition from other fresh provision outlets, the appeal of some public markets has been diminishing over time thus leading to reduced patronage and high vacancy rates. When considering whether an under-utilised market is to be closed, we will take into account a host of factors, including vacancy rate, prospects for improvement, availability of alternative sources of fresh provision outlets in the vicinity, and the likely cost-effectiveness of upgrading works and the views of the relevant District Councils, etc. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) plans to close Shau Kei Wan Market and Tsuen King Circuit Market in 2017-18, the vacancy rates[^] of which were 44% and 80% respectively as at 31 December 2016. Noteworthy is that a sizable portion of the occupied (i.e. leased) stalls are not in active operation, e.g. for the Shau Kei Wan Market, of the 46 occupied stalls, only 19 stalls are actively in operation.

[^] Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.

Where a market is closed and the premises are no longer required by FEHD, the vacated building space will be handled according to established procedures. Depending on the circumstances, the Government Property Agency, Planning Department or Lands Department may be requested to seek inputs from other government departments on proposals to put the premises to gainful long-term use.

- (c) The information sought is provided at Annex II.
- (d) In considering the provision of a new public market, the Government will take into account various factors, including the population in the area, demographic mix, community needs, the availability of public and private market facilities and the number of fresh provision retail outlets in the vicinity, etc. Moreover, we have to duly assess the demand and cost effectiveness in order to ensure that public resources are put to proper use. Currently, there are 5 wet markets and over 80 fresh provision retail outlets in Tin Shui Wai. The Housing Authority will also provide a shopping centre and a market in Ping Yan Court, a subsidised sale flats project under construction in the area and scheduled for completion in 2018.

When deciding the location site of a new public market, the Government will consider key factors such as the geographical location, existing and planned uses, usable area and ancillary transport facilities provided nearby, in order to ensure that, upon completion, the market will be of a substantial scale and viability and that the use of public finances and land resources can be optimised.

Having considered all relevant factors, and as announced in the Policy Address in January 2017, the Government has initially identified a suitable site in the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area (NDA), which is adjacent to Tin Shui Wai, to build a sizable public market. This site is located in the vicinity of the proposed Hung Shui Kiu Railway Station, the proposed environmentally friendly transport services facilities and a public transport interchange, thus facilitating its link with Hung Shui Kiu NDA and various areas in Tin Shui Wai. Well-connected by public transport and close to the train station and public transport interchange, the site is accessible to members of the public in the region. As such, not only the needs of the residents in Hung Shui Kiu NDA, but also the needs of the population in the Tin Shui Wai area will be catered for. Besides, the Government has initially identified a suitable site in the east of Tung Chung New Town East Extension Area to build a sizable public market. The market is intended to serve not only Tung Chung New Town Extension Area but also the whole Tung Chung. We are not able to provide further details or expenditure involved in these projects at this stage.

- (e) The Food and Health Bureau conducted a policy review on public markets in 2007-08, which concluded that the future provision of new public markets should be considered on a case-by-case basis to ensure efficient use of public resources. Apart from the population of the area in question, other relevant factors that should be considered include the demographic mix, community needs, the presence of market facilities nearby, the number of fresh provision retail outlets available in the vicinity, and public sentiment towards the preservation of hawker areas in the particular locality. The Government consulted the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council and all District Councils on the review findings in 2008. As a result of the policy review, those parts concerning public markets in Chapter 6 of the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) (which deals with retail facilities) were amended in April 2009 and have remained in force since then. The revised HKPSG is based on more holistic consideration of relevant factors, rather than just the size of the population, in the planning of public markets.

Our focus is on facilitating convenient access for the public to retail outlets in their vicinity for meeting their daily needs on fresh food. Currently, there exists a variety of channels for the public to purchase fresh food. Apart from public markets, many members of the public when purchasing fresh food may choose to patronise markets, supermarkets and various types of retail outlets operated by other public and private entities.

Customer preference for different shopping venues in purchasing fresh food may evolve in tandem with changes in socio-economic circumstances, lifestyles, purchasing power and various other factors. Providing a new public market requires the use of Government land and entails public financial commitment. Therefore, in considering whether a public market should be built, we have to duly assess the need for the market and cost-effectiveness in order to ensure that public resources are put to proper use. In fact, in the face of fierce competition, changing circumstances in individual communities and changes in the purchasing habits of members of the public, some public markets are facing relatively high vacancy rates and low customer flows. Also, the Audit Commission has in previous reports pointed out that, given the high cost of constructing a new public market, the relevant principles should be strictly adhered to.

- End -

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls	Occupancy rate* as at 31 December 2016	Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)
1	Aldrich Bay Market	yes	71	86%	747
2	Apleichau Market	yes	63	100%	237
3	Centre Street Market	yes	46	78%	416
4	Chai Wan Market	yes	173	95%	526
5	Lei Yue Mun Market	yes	20	100%	268
6	Luen Wo Hui Market	yes	338	99%	447
7	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	yes	14	100%	988
8	Peng Chau Market	yes	18	100%	92
9	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	yes	11	100%	1,305
10	Sai Ying Pun Market	yes	102	89%	299
11	San Hui Market	yes	324	99%	568
12	Sha Tin Market	yes	172	98%	996
13	Shek Wu Hui Market	yes	392	100%	377
14	Tai Kiu Market	yes	379	99%	590
15	Tai Kok Tsui Market	yes	135	100%	433
16	Tai Po Hui Market	yes	313	99%	623
17	Tsing Yi Market	yes	76	100%	971
18	Wanchai Market	yes	50	96%	976
19	Yan Oi Market	yes	108	97%	421

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls	Occupancy rate* as at 31 December 2016	Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)
20	Yee On Street Market	yes	65	98%	240
21	Yue Wan Market	yes	374	94%	485
22	Bowrington Road Market	only in CFC	296	99%	462
23	Hung Hom Market	only in CFC	224	100%	208
24	Java Road Market	only in CFC	194	95%	399
25	Lockhart Road Market	only in CFC	166	80%	359
26	Pei Ho Street Market	only in CFC	227	98%	252
27	Sai Wan Ho Market	only in CFC	274	97%	332
28	Sheung Wan Market	only in CFC	222	100%	192
29	Smithfield Market	only in CFC	216	100%	210
30	Tai Shing Street Market	only in CFC	442	95%	331
31	Tokwawan Market	only in CFC	267	98%	361
32	Wong Nai Chung Market	only in CFC	69	99%	275
33	Aberdeen Market	no	335	99%	626
34	Causeway Bay Market	no	51	98%	161
35	Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market	no	32	94%	195
36	Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market	no	17	100%	173

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls	Occupancy rate* as at 31 December 2016	Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)
37	Cheung Chau Market	no	240	98%	185
38	Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	no	28	43%	168
39	Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market	no	12	100%	169
40	Choi Hung Road Market	no	116	69%	145
41	Electric Road Market	no	99	97%	195
42	Fa Yuen Street Market	no	180	100%	556
43	Fo Tan (East) Cooked Food Market	no	24	100%	309
44	Fo Tan (West) Cooked Food Market	no	15	100%	222
45	Haiphong Road Temporary Market	no	88	66%	316
46	Heung Che Street Market	no	223	96%	278
47	Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market	no	11	91%	335
48	Hung Shui Kiu Market	no	174	75%	297

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls	Occupancy rate* as at 31 December 2016	Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)
49	Ka Ting Cooked Food Market	no	16	62%	401
50	Kam Tin Market	no	41	98%	84
51	Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market	no	14	100%	755
52	Kin Wing Cooked Food Market	no	17	100%	320
53	Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market	no	14	100%	135
54	Kowloon City Market	no	581	100%	293
55	Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	no	11	100%	162
56	Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market	no	12	83%	158
57	Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre	no	98	100%	54
58	Kwun Chung Market	no	218	98%	200
59	Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market	no	29	100%	99

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls	Occupancy rate* as at 31 December 2016	Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)
60	Lai Wan Market	no	42	98%	670
61	Lam Tei Market	no	7	100%	66
62	Lau Fau Shan Market	no	25	88%	32
63	Mui Wo Cooked Food Market	no	20	100%	140
64	Mui Wo Market	no	35	97%	177
65	Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market	no	28	86%	471
66	Ngau Chi Wan Market	no	402	93%	380
67	Ngau Tau Kok Market	no	466	87%	494
68	North Kwai Chung Market	no	222	100%	290
69	North Point Market	no	42	100%	188
70	On Ching Road Flower Market	no	13	92%	169
71	Plover Cove Road Market	no	244	96%	233
72	Po On Road Market	no	449	93%	411
73	Quarry Bay Market	no	113	82%	250
74	Sai Kung Market	no	209	99%	265
75	Sha Tau Kok Market	no	66	98%	23
76	Sham Tseng Temporary Market	no	29	90%	108

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls	Occupancy rate* as at 31 December 2016	Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)
77	Shaukeiwan Market	no	82	56%	130
78	Shek Tong Tsui Market	no	151	98%	247
79	Sheung Fung Street Market	no	71	100%	244
80	Shui Wo Street Market	no	302	100%	649
81	Stanley Waterfront Mart	no	20	95%	1,437
82	Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market	no	17	100%	502
83	Tai O Market	no	26	100%	61
84	Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market	no	18	100%	237
85	Tai Wai Market	no	195	88%	522
86	Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	no	20	55%	46
87	Tang Lung Chau Market	no	34	94%	357
88	Tin Wan Market	no	180	100%	179
89	Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market	no	18	100%	177
90	Tsuen King Circuit Market	no	241	20%	79

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	No. of stalls	Occupancy rate* as at 31 December 2016	Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)
91	Tsuen Wan Market	no	381	93%	383
92	Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market	no	56	100%	148
93	Tui Min Hoi Market	no	34	85%	50
94	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	no	359	41%	216
95	Tung Yick Market	no	446	41%	218
96	Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	no	8	100%	271
97	Wing Fong Street Market	no	112	92%	320
98	Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market	no	18	100%	204
99	Yau Ma Tei Market	no	144	96%	269
100	Yeung Uk Road Market	no	318	97%	303
101	Yue Kwong Road Market	no	197	98%	328

Remarks:

- * Occupancy rate is the percentage of let-out stalls versus the total number of stalls in a market. Degree of activity of let-out stalls varies.
CFC – Cooked Food Centre in public market

District	Public Market	Market Operated by Link REIT	Market Operated by Hong Kong Housing Authority	Market Operated by Private Developers	Population
Tin Shui Wai	-	4	1	-	287 901
Yuen Long	5	5	2	-	614 178
Hung Shui Kiu#	1	-	1	-	-
Tung Chung@	-	2	-	-	78 443
Tsuen Wan	5	-	2	3	318 916

- # There is no official geographical demarcation for "Hung Shui Kiu" in population censuses/by-censuses conducted by Census and Statistics Department.
- @ There is no official geographical demarcation for "Tung Chung" in population censuses/by-censuses conducted by Census and Statistics Department. The figure for Tung Chung refers to population in new town of North Lantau Island.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)217

(Question Serial No. 7188)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out the following information in table form:

- (1) The expenditure incurred by the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) on publicity on the Internet/social media in 2016-17, the manpower involved and the percentage this item accounts for in the total expenditure. Please provide a breakdown by publicity channel.
- (2) The means to be adopted by the Branch to assess the effectiveness and value for money of the above initiatives.
- (3) The estimated expenditure to be incurred by the Branch on the above initiatives in 2017-18 and the manpower to be involved.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (Member Question No. 54)

Reply:

The Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) has not incurred expenditure on publicity on the Internet/social media in 2016-17. No provision has been reserved in 2017-18 for the purpose.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)218

(Question Serial No. 7216)

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Will the Government, from the perspective of “prevention is better than cure”, follow the practice of countries such as France, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, etc. to introduce a sugar levy to raise the prices of drinks with a sugar content, so as to dampen the public’s desire (especially that of children) to buy drinks with a high sugar content, and subsidise public healthcare expenditure with the revenue from the sugar levy?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (Member Question No. 39)

Reply:

The Government attaches much importance to the reduction of salt and sugar levels in food. Given that healthy eating is one of the keys to reducing the intake of salt and sugar in food, the Department of Health (DH) and the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) have done a lot in promoting healthy eating habits through collaboration with the food trade, schools and other stakeholders. For example, DH launched the “EatSmart@school.hk” in 2006 to promote healthy eating at schools, and launched the EatSmart@restaurant.hk Campaign in 2008 to encourage and assist restaurants to provide dishes with more fruit and vegetables and less oil, salt and sugar. The CFS launched the “Reduce Salt, Sugar, Oil. We Do!” programme calling for food premises which are the Food Safety Charter signatories to follow the CFS’ advice on reducing salt and sugar in preparing food.

In charting the way forward to further reduce salt and sugar in food, the Food and Health Bureau, CFS, DH and the Education Bureau have been working closely with the Committee on Reduction of Salt and Sugar in Food (CRSS) and the International Advisory Panel on Reduction of Dietary Sodium and Sugar to come up with measures which are down-to-earth, well-understand and feasible.

There are divergent views locally and internationally on the effectiveness of introducing fiscal measures as a means to reduce the intake of sugar from food among the general public.

Considering the actual circumstances of Hong Kong, both the Government and CRSS are of the view that a step-by-step approach should be adopted, starting from aspects which are more achievable first before tackling the more difficult ones. In practical terms, the CRSS has advised the Government to further cultivate a culture of low-salt-and-sugar diets in the community along the three directions of “starting from an early age” through promoting healthy eating in preprimary institutions and primary schools, enhancing transparency of information through the introduction of a front-of-pack low-salt-and-sugar labelling scheme for pre-packaged food to help consumers make better choices, and implementation of the “calorie” indication pilot scheme at staff canteens of public hospitals, while strengthening publicity and education.

In this regard, DH has stepped up promoting healthy eating in preprimary institutions and primary schools. With the support of the Hospital Authority, more than 80% of the staff canteens of public hospitals, i.e. 20 canteens have implemented the “calorie” indication pilot scheme and indicated the calorie of selective dishes on their menus. As a precursor to the introduction of a voluntary front-of-pack low-salt-and-sugar labelling scheme for pre-packaged food, the Government will join hands with the CRSS to launch a front-of-pack low-salt-and-sugar label design competition and slogan-poster design competition in 2017. Also, we will provide \$0.25million for each District Council to encourage district/local community groups to organize activities that bring home the health messages of reduced salt and sugar intake through food.

The Government will continue to make reference to the recommendations of the CRSS and the WHO, as well as the relevant measures and experience relating to reduction of salt and sugar in food in other places (including the effectiveness of the measures, the response from the industry and consumers’ receptiveness), and give full and thorough consideration to the local situation in order to explore and formulate salt and sugar reduction measures that are suitable for Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)219

(Question Serial No. 3530)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What is the current number of Animal Trader Licence holders? What is the current number of shops involved in trading of animals? What are the numbers of cats and dogs traded each year, according to the Government's statistics?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 67)

Reply:

Under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B), a person shall not carry on business as an animal trader otherwise than under an Animal Trader Licence (ATL) granted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). An ATL is required in respect of each keeping premises. As at 28 March 2017, there were 401 valid ATLs for the same number of animal keeping premises.

AFCD does not have statistics on the number of dogs and cats traded in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)220

(Question Serial No. 3532)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What is the progress of the trap-neuter-return trial programme for stray dogs? When will the Government report to the Legislative Council on the programme?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 69)

Reply:

The 3-year Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs being conducted at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 animal welfare organisations since early 2015 is still in progress. A total of 64 and 37 dogs have been neutered and returned to the trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long respectively. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is closely monitoring the progress, and will consider the way forward upon completion of the trial programme in 2018. AFCD will report progress of the programme at the coming meeting of the Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Animal Rights under the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene, scheduled for April 2017.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE) 221****(Question Serial No. 3533)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Over the past 3 years, what were the numbers of the various kinds of live animals imported every year, the numbers of animal health certificates issued and the numbers of sanitary certificates for products of animal issued?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 70)Reply:

The import of live animals and birds is regulated under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Regulations (Cap. 139A) and the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A). The types and numbers of imported live animals handled by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	Calendar Year		
	2014	2015	2016
Dogs and cats	6 170	7 433	8 840
Birds	22 687	48 155	39 244
Small mammals	25 238	32 595	24 826
Pet reptiles	878 879	826 384	996 896
Horses	487	625	555
Breeding pigs	1 249	2 253	1 546
Day-old chicks	1 598 380	1 600 330	1 763 710
Food poultry	1 239 356	526 605	622 598
Food animals (pigs, cattle, and goats)	1 648 899	1 605 690	1 460 457
Food reptiles (kg.)	54 000	38 771	8 807
Zoo animals	16	6	5

The numbers of veterinary health certificates and sanitary certificates issued by AFCD and FEHD over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Calendar Year	Number of veterinary health certificates issued	Number of sanitary certificates issued
2014	4 336	842
2015	4 564	866
2016	4 682	998

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)222****(Question Serial No. 3707)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

- (a) Please set out the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on promoting organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production over the past 5 years, as well as the Department's estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2017-2018.
- (b) What are AFCD's estimated expenditure on and the details of implementing the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in 2017-2018?
- (c) What were the types and volumes of imported toothfish in Hong Kong over the past 5 years? What will be the specific impact of implementing the Catch Documentation Scheme on the import of toothfish into Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 538)Reply:

- (a) Information on the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in promoting organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production over the past 5 years and the estimate for 2017-18 is tabulated below:

Financial year	Organic cultivation (\$ million)	Intensive greenhouse production (\$ million)
2012-13	6.7	4.9
2013-14	6.3	4.9
2014-15	5.6	4.9
2015-16	5.8	4.9
2016-17 (revised estimate)	6.7	7.3
2017-18 (estimate)	7.8	7.3

- (b) In 2017-18, AFCD has earmarked \$1.3 million for work relating to the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (the Convention). This includes the preparation of a new piece of legislation for implementing the Convention and the relevant conservation measures in Hong Kong, obtaining relevant technical knowledge in implementing the conservation measures from other contracting parties to the Convention through training and visits, and conducting market surveys on toothfish.
- (c) Two species of toothfish, namely *Dissostichus mawsoni* (Antarctic toothfish) and *Dissostichus eleginoides* (Patagonian toothfish), were imported into Hong Kong over the past 5 years. The import volume is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Volume* (tonnes)
2012	567.0
2013	695.3
2014	1 093.3
2015	959.8
2016	1 968.6

* Based on statistics compiled by the Census and Statistics Department

Toothfish constitutes a small proportion of the fish produce traded in Hong Kong and accounts for about 0.5% of the total consumption of fish produce. The impact on the trade in meeting the requirements under the proposed Catch Documentation Scheme is expected to be minimal.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)223****(Question Serial No. 3709)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the management of stray animals and the promotion of animal welfare, please advise on the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's expenditures involved over the past 5 years, as well as the estimated expenditure in 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 540)Reply:

The requested information over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	34.3
2013-14	35.6
2014-15	40.2
2015-16	38.3
2016-17 (revised estimate)	40.3

In 2017-18, \$40.3 million has been earmarked by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for this area of work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5666)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme implemented by the Government, please provide information on: (a) the details of expenditure on implementing the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, including the departmental manpower and expenditure involved; the number of applications for agricultural land rehabilitation, participating land owners, cases of successful matching, as well as the area of land involved in each case; (b) the number of new applicants for agricultural land rehabilitation, the cumulative number of applicants on the waiting list and the area of land involved; (c) the number of cases of successful matching, the details of area of land and rentals involved in each case as well as the average and the longest waiting time; and (d) whether the Government puts in place any measures to increase the chance of successful matching and reduce the waiting time for agricultural land rehabilitation.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 4021)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (ALRS) through bringing owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out a rental agreement for leasing out the farmland. The manpower and expenditure involved in operating the ALRS and the relevant statistics on the cases handled in 2016 are tabulated below:

	2016
Number of staff	1
Expenditure (\$ million)	0.9
Number of landowners participating in the ALRS	28
Number of new applications / land area involved (hectare)	65 / 8.3
Number of successful cases	29
- Total land area involved (hectares)	4.0
- Range of farm sizes of individual case (dau chung *)	0.2 to 9.0
- Range of annual rental (per dau chung *)	\$1,400 to \$32,100
- Average / longest waiting time (year)	4 / 12
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end / land area involved (hectare)	300 / 67.6

* 1 dau chung is equivalent to 7 260 square feet.

Agricultural land in Hong Kong is mainly in private hands. It is up to the landowners to decide whether to lease out their land for farming. AFCD will continue to facilitate the leasing out of fallow farmland through the ALRS, and provide farmers with technical advice and services to return fallow land to active farming. In addition, the Government will commission a consultancy study later this year to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as Agricultural Priority Areas, and explore how to formulate suitable policies and measures to provide incentives to encourage owners to put fallow agricultural land into long-term agricultural use.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)225

(Question Serial No. 5780)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

At present, how many hectares of agricultural land are suitable for rehabilitation? Is there any limit on the area of land for which a person can apply for agricultural rehabilitation? What is the maximum area of land available for agricultural rehabilitation? How many people are there on the waiting list? What is the average waiting time?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1046)

Reply:

Through the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department brings owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out a rental agreement for leasing out the farmland. At present, about 11 hectares of agricultural land is available for leasing. There is no restriction on the size of farmland that may be rented. In 2016, the average waiting time for successful cases was 4 years. 300 applicants were on the waiting list as at end 2016.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)226

(Question Serial No. 6174)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Over the past 5 years, how many persons had made applications under the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund? What were the respective numbers of applications successfully approved? What is the amount of surplus in the Fund?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1211)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has received 28 applications since the inception of the \$500 million Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund in July 2014. So far, 7 applications have been approved, involving a total commitment of about \$36.7 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)227****(Question Serial No. 6178)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Over the past 5 years, how many applications were received and approved respectively regarding the lease of agricultural land under the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (the Scheme) by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department? What is the area of land leased out under the Scheme? What is the average waiting time for applicants? What is the number of waiting cases for leasing agricultural land at present?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1212)Reply:

Information on the operation of the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of new applications	38	51	44	45	65
Number of successful cases	9	14	12	41	29
- Total land area involved (hectare)	3.4	6.2	2.6	5.4	4.0
- Average waiting time (year)	3.5	4.0	5.0	5.0	4.0
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end	221	258	278	287	300

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)228****(Question Serial No. 6619)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please provide the number of existing locally-operated hydroponic farms, their locations, distribution among districts, areas, total production areas, and respective **zonings** on the **Outline Zoning Plan** (such as Agriculture, Green Belt, etc).

Location	District	Number	Area	Total production area	Zoning on the Outline Zoning Plan
Agricultural Land					
Industrial Building					

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2227)Reply:

Information on local hydroponic farms gathered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department as at 28 February 2017 is tabulated below:

Location	District	Number	Farm area (m ²)	Production area (m ²)	Zoning on Outline Zoning Plan
Agricultural Land	Yuen Long	5	44 500	14 500	Agriculture
		1	11 000	6 000	Industrial
		1	6 000	3 350	Village Type Development
		1	3 500	2 500	Green Belt
		1	2 500	2 000	Coastal Protection Area

		1	560	300	Open Space
		1	300	180	Open Storage
	North	2	2 730	2 430	Agriculture
		1	6 000	4 000	Agriculture/Green Belt
		1	2 000	500	Green Belt
	Sai Kung	1	18 500	1 850	Agriculture
	Tuen Mun	1	6 000	2 000	Village Type Development
Industrial Building	Kwun Tong	2	480	890	Other Specified Use
	Kwai Tsing	1	200	180	Other Specified Use
		1	30	30	Industrial
	Tsuen Wan	1	330	450	Industrial
	Shatin	1	50	50	Industrial
Others *	Sham Shui Po	1	250	250	Residential

* The “Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre” established and operated by the Vegetable Marketing Organization on a piece of land under short term tenancy which allows operation of a small vegetable factory.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE) 229

(Question Serial No. 6422)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The 3 major components of the new agriculture policy are the Agricultural Park, the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund, and agricultural priority areas. The study on the establishment of the Agricultural Park, such as the engineering feasibility study for the establishment of an agricultural park, has commenced. It is mentioned in the 2017 Policy Address that a study on agricultural priority areas under the new agriculture policy will commence within 2017.

- (a) Please provide all the tender documents for hiring consultants to conduct studies on the Agricultural Park and agricultural priority areas.
- (b) Please provide the names of all the successful tenderers of the studies on the Agricultural Park and agricultural priority areas, and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. 55)

Reply:

The engineering feasibility study commissioned by the Government in 2016 for the establishment of an Agriculture-Park (Agri-Park) was undertaken by Halcrow China Limited with a lump sum fee of \$1.10 million. The Government has recently commissioned an investigation, design and construction (IDC) consultancy assignment for the investigation work of the potential site and the detailed design of the Agri-Park. The IDC assignment is awarded to Jacobs China Limited with a lump sum fee of \$10.86 million. Both exercises for hiring the consultants were conducted by the Civil Engineering and Development Department, which will handle request for release of the tender documents in accordance with the Code on Access to Information.

Separately, the Government is in the process of preparing for the tender exercise for the consultancy study on agricultural priority areas.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)230****(Question Serial No. 4255)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

On stepping up monitoring of aquaculture environment, please advise on the following:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower of the Government for monitoring water quality and red tides respectively over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17).
- (b) The numbers, locations, time of the red tide incidents, and the species of phytoplankton that caused red tides respectively over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 28)Reply:

- (a) Information on the expenditure and manpower of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in monitoring water quality and red tides over the past 3 years is given below:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of Staff)
2014-15	8.1	10
2015-16	8.5	10
2016-17 (revised estimate)	8.4	10

- (b) Red tide incidents recorded by AFCD over the past 3 years are given below:

Year	Month	Location	Causative species of phytoplankton
2014	January	Port Shelter	<i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>
		Tolo Harbour	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
		Tuen Mun River	<i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i>
	February	South Lantau	<i>Eucampia zodiacus</i> <i>Guinardia delicatula</i> <i>Dactyliosolen phuketensis</i>
	April	Tolo Harbour, Port Shelter, Mirs Bay, southern waters	<i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i> <i>Prorocentrum minimum</i> <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i>
		East Lamma Channel, West Lamma Channel, Pui O Beach	<i>Prorocentrum minimum</i> <i>Pseudo-nitzschia delicatissima</i> <i>Pseudo-nitzschia pungens</i> <i>Skeletonema costatum</i>
		Silver Mine Bay Beach	<i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i>
		Tolo Harbour, Mirs Bay	<i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i>
		Silverstrand Beach	<i>Cochlodinium cf. geminatum</i>
	May	Pui O Beach, Silver Mine Bay Beach	<i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i>
		Silverstrand Beach, Tung Ping Chau, Cheung Chau	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
		Tolo Harbour, southern waters	<i>Thalassiosira pseudonana</i> <i>Teleaulax acuta</i>
		Tolo Harbour	<i>Scrippsiella trochoidea</i> <i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i>
		Port Shelter, southern waters, East Lantau, West Lamma Channel	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
		Silverstrand Beach	<i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i>
	June	Clear Water Bay First Beach	<i>Cochlodinium cf. germinatum</i>
		Long Harbour	<i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i>
	July	West Lamma Channel, East Lamma Channel, Tai Tam Bay	<i>Pseudo-nitzschia delicatissima</i>
	September	Repulse Bay Beach	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
		Tolo Harbour	<i>Haematococcus pluvialis</i>
	October	Shing Mun River	<i>Chattonella</i> sp. 0310, <i>Chattonella marina</i>
	November	Tolo Harbour, Port Shelter, southern waters, East Lantau, East Lamma Channel, West Lamma Channel, Golden Beach, Mirs Bay	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
		Clear Water Bay Second Beach	<i>Mesodinium rubrum</i>
2015	January	Port Shelter, southern waters,	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>

		Cheung Chau, Tolo Harbour, Lam Tsuen River, Long Harbour, Tai Lam, Mirs Bay	
		Po Pin Chau	<i>Mesodinium rubrum</i>
	February	Tolo Harbour	<i>Heterocapsa circularisquama</i>
	April	Port Shelter, Mirs Bay, southern waters, Long Harbour, East Lamma Channel	<i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i>
	May	East Lantau, Junk Bay, southern waters	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
	June	Deep Water Bay, Repulse Bay	<i>Pseudo-nitzschia pungens</i>
	August	Mirs Bay	<i>Gyrodinium impudicum</i>
	November	Silverstrand Beach	<i>Trichodesmium erythraeum</i>
	December	Tolo Harbour	<i>Karenia mikimotoi</i>
2016	January	Tolo Harbour, Mirs Bay, Long Harbour	<i>Karenia mikimotoi</i> , <i>Karenia papilionacea</i>
		East Lantau	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
	February	Port Shelter, Mirs Bay, Tolo Harbour, Long Harbour, Golden Beach, East Lantau, southern waters	<i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i>
		Lee Yue Mun, Tathong Channel, Port Shelter, Long Harbour	<i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i> <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> <i>Dictyocha speculum</i>
	March	Port Shelter, southern waters, Tolo Harbour, Long Harbour, Mirs Bay, South Lantau, Junk Bay	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
	April	Pui O Beach, Junk Bay, Cheung Chau	<i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i> <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
	August	Tolo Harbour	<i>Gonyaulax verior</i> <i>Heterocapsa pygmaea</i>
	September	Rocky Harbour	<i>Neoceratium furca</i>
	November	Tsam Chuk Wan	<i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>
	December	Yeung Chau, Tai Tau Chau	<i>Mesodinium rubrum</i>
		Junk Bay	<i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE) 231

(Question Serial No. 4256)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding antibiotic use in livestock, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the numbers of cases of using prohibited antibiotic and restricted antibiotic exceeding maximum residue level in local pig farms and chicken farms, as well as chicken and pigs imported from the Mainland over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) Further to the above question, what were the respective numbers of prosecutions instituted and successful prosecutions?
- (c) What were the expenditures and manpower on matters concerning inspections of meat safety, technical support rendered to farmers and publicity on antibiotics over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 29)

Reply:

- (a) & (b) Over the past 3 calendar years, there were 1 case of using prohibited antibiotics and 1 case of using restricted antibiotics exceeding maximum residue level detected. Prosecution was instituted in respect of the prohibited antibiotics case and the offender was convicted.
- (c) Samples for testing of veterinary drug residues in food animals are collected, and inspection of food animals slaughtered at slaughterhouses (including pigs, cattle and goats) are conducted, by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is responsible for testing of the samples collected by FEHD, and

regular inspection of local livestock and poultry farms to monitor the health of the pigs and chickens on farms and advise local farmers on the proper use of veterinary drugs, including antibiotics. The above work of AFCD is part of its overall farm management and disease prevention plan for local livestock and poultry farms. There is no breakdown for the expenditure and manpower involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)232

(Question Serial No. 4260)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Please set out the numbers, sizes and distribution of the vegetable farms, flower farms, organic farms, leisure farms, vegetable marketing co-operative societies, vegetable depots, farms in industrial buildings, fish rafts and licences for marine fish culture, fish ponds, and oyster breeding rafts currently in operation.
- (b) What are the numbers, sizes and distribution of local pig farms and chicken farms, and the licensed rearing capacity of each farm over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)? Please set out the information with a breakdown by the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 33)

Reply:

- (a) As at 31 December 2016, there are about 2 300 crop farms (including vegetables flowers cultivation and orchards) with a total cultivated area of about 698 hectares. These farms are mainly located in the Yuen Long District and the North District. Amongst these crop farms, 297 organic vegetable farms have joined the Organic Farming Support Service Scheme of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department with a total area of about 107 hectares. It is estimated that there are 139 leisure farms with a total area of about 132 hectares. Regarding farms in industrial buildings, there are 6 farms located in Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing, Tsuen Wan and Shatin Districts with a total area of 0.1 hectare.

Information on the number and distribution of vegetable marketing co-operative societies (VMCS) and vegetable depots as at 31 December 2016 by district is tabulated below:

Districts	VMCS	Vegetable Depots
Yuen Long	13	1
North	8	0
Tuen Mun	3	1
Islands	2	0
Tai Po	1	0
Tsuen Wan	1	0
Total	28	2

Information of marine fish culture farms, pond fish farms and oyster rafts as at 31 December 2016 is as follows –

- There were about 950 licensed marine fish culture farms with about 2 020 fish rafts in 26 designated Fish Culture Zones*. The size of farms ranged from 13 to about 6 800 m².
- There were about 310 pond fish farms with about 1 330 fish ponds, mainly in the north-west New Territories. The size of pond fish farms ranged from 80 to 428 800 m².
- There were about 7 000 oyster rafts in Deep Bay. The size of rafts ranged from 96 to 300 m²

* The 26 Fish Culture Zones are located at Sha Tau Kok, Ap Chau, Kat O, O Pui Tong, Sai Lau Kong, Wong Wan, Tap Mun, Kau Lau Wan, Sham Wan, Lo Fu Wat, Yung Shue Au, Leung Shuen Wan, Tiu Cham Wan, Tai Tau Chau, Kai Lung Wan, Kau Sai, Ma Nam Wat, Po Toi O, Po Toi, Sok Ku Wan, Lo Tik Wan, Ma Wan, Yim Tin Tsai, Cheung Sha Wan, Yim Tin Tsai (East) and Tung Lung Chau.

- (b) Over the past 3 years, the numbers of local pig farms and chicken farms remained the same as 43 and 29 respectively. The licensed area, licensed rearing capacity and distribution of these farms are tabulated below:

Area and rearing capacity of licensed livestock farms (as at 31 December)

Pig Farms

	2014			2015			2016		
	Licensed Area (m ²)	Licensed Capacity (Number)	District	Licensed Area (m ²)	Licensed Capacity (Number)	District	Licensed Area (m ²)	Licensed Capacity (Number)	District
1	691.19	500	North	691.19	500	North	691.19	500	North
2	1 611.16	950	North	1 611.16	950	North	1 611.16	950	North
3	2 407.85	2 000	North	2 407.85	2 000	North	2 407.85	2 000	North
4	4 953.09	4 000	North	4 953.09	4 000	North	4 953.09	4 000	North
5	557.91	800	North	557.91	800	North	557.91	800	North
6	1 280.91	600	North	1 280.91	600	North	1 280.91	600	North
7	4 248.04	3 000	Yuen Long	4 248.04	3 000	Yuen Long	4 248.04	3 000	Yuen Long
8	388.79	350	Sai Kung	388.79	350	Sai Kung	388.79	350	Sai Kung

9	706.90	1 000	Yuen Long	706.90	1 000	Yuen Long	706.90	1 000	Yuen Long
10	1 142.90	600	Yuen Long	1 142.90	600	Yuen Long	1 142.90	600	Yuen Long
11	5 085.70	1 500	Yuen Long	5 085.70	1 500	Yuen Long	5 085.70	1 500	Yuen Long
12	3 130.14	1 500	Yuen Long	3 130.14	1 500	Yuen Long	3 130.14	1 500	Yuen Long
13	938.49	850	Yuen Long	938.49	850	Yuen Long	938.49	850	Yuen Long
14	1 864.27	600	Yuen Long	1 864.27	600	Yuen Long	1 864.27	600	Yuen Long
15	3 015.53	2 000	Yuen Long	3 015.53	2 000	Yuen Long	3 015.53	2 000	Yuen Long
16	3 914.32	3 000	Yuen Long	3 914.32	3 000	Yuen Long	3 914.32	3 000	Yuen Long
17	2 640.33	2 600	Yuen Long	2 640.33	2 600	Yuen Long	2 640.33	2 600	Yuen Long
18	2 601.06	2 000	Yuen Long	3 965.31	2000	Yuen Long	3 965.31	2000	Yuen Long
19	2 146.27	1 600	Yuen Long	2 146.27	1 600	Yuen Long	2 146.27	1 600	Yuen Long
20	384.65	300	Yuen Long	384.65	300	Yuen Long	384.65	300	Yuen Long
21	2 220.09	1 000	Yuen Long	2 220.09	1 000	Yuen Long	2 220.09	1 000	Yuen Long
22	1 725.58	1 900	Yuen Long	1 725.58	1 900	Yuen Long	1 725.58	1 900	Yuen Long
23	838.59	1 500	Yuen Long	838.59	1 500	Yuen Long	838.59	1 500	Yuen Long
24	1 709.24	1 500	Yuen Long	1 709.24	1 500	Yuen Long	1 709.24	1 500	Yuen Long
25	1 612.44	1 000	Yuen Long	1 612.44	1 000	Yuen Long	1 612.44	1 000	Yuen Long
26	2 960.03	3 500	Yuen Long	2 960.03	3 500	Yuen Long	2 960.03	3 500	Yuen Long
27	1 327.53	1 000	Yuen Long	1 327.53	1 000	Yuen Long	1 327.53	1 000	Yuen Long
28	2 614.85	2 000	Yuen Long	2 614.85	2 000	Yuen Long	2 614.85	2 000	Yuen Long
29	3 699.22	1 800	Yuen Long	3 699.22	1 800	Yuen Long	3 699.22	1 800	Yuen Long
30	6 345.66	6 000	Yuen Long	6 345.66	6 000	Yuen Long	6 345.66	6 000	Yuen Long
31	4 524.78	2 600	Yuen Long	4 524.78	2 600	Yuen Long	4 524.78	2 600	Yuen Long
32	3 955.47	2 500	Yuen Long	3 955.47	2 500	Yuen Long	3 955.47	2 500	Yuen Long
33	1 374.87	1 200	Yuen Long	1 374.87	1 200	Yuen Long	1 374.87	1 200	Yuen Long
34	1 239.02	1 500	North	1 239.02	1 500	North	1 239.02	1 500	North
35	2 860.03	1 500	Yuen Long	2 860.03	1 500	Yuen Long	2 860.03	1 500	Yuen Long
36	556.96	250	North	556.96	250	North	556.96	250	North
37	1 392.30	1 990	Yuen Long	1 392.30	1 990	Yuen Long	1 392.30	1 990	Yuen Long
38	626.82	450	Yuen Long	626.82	450	Yuen Long	626.82	450	Yuen Long

39	1 923.26	1 500	Yuen Long	1 923.26	1 500	Yuen Long	1 923.26	1 500	Yuen Long
40	7 108.62	4 000	Yuen Long	7 108.62	4 000	Yuen Long	7 108.62	4 000	Yuen Long
41	4 106.13	3 000	Yuen Long	4 106.13	3 000	Yuen Long	4 106.13	3 000	Yuen Long
42	3 205.77	2 000	Yuen Long	3 205.77	2 000	Yuen Long	3 205.77	2 000	Yuen Long
43	1 180.97	1 200	Yuen Long	1 180.97	1 200	Yuen Long	1 180.97	1 200	Yuen Long
Total	102 817.73	74 640		104 181.98	74 640		104 181.98	74 640	

Chicken Farms

	2014			2015			2016		
	Licensed Area (m²)	Licensed Capacity (Number)	District	Licensed Area (m²)	Licensed Capacity (Number)	District	Licensed Area (m²)	Licensed Capacity (Number)	District
1	433.41	10 000	Tuen Mun	433.41	10 000	Tuen Mun	433.41	10 000	Tuen Mun
2	708.10	18 000	North	708.10	18 000	North	708.10	18 000	North
3	2 597.37	50 000	Yuen Long	2 597.37	50 000	Yuen Long	2 597.37	50 000	Yuen Long
4	387.23	10 000	Yuen Long	387.23	10 000	Yuen Long	387.23	10 000	Yuen Long
5	648.36	20 000	Yuen Long	648.36	20 000	Yuen Long	648.36	20 000	Yuen Long
6	723.86	19 900	Yuen Long	723.86	19 900	Yuen Long	723.86	19 900	Yuen Long
7	569.30	25 000	Yuen Long	569.30	25 000	Yuen Long	569.30	25 000	Yuen Long
8	682.16	19 000	Yuen Long	682.16	19 000	Yuen Long	682.16	19 000	Yuen Long
9	3 372.57	35 000	Yuen Long	3 372.57	35 000	Yuen Long	3 372.57	35 000	Yuen Long
10	775.26	20 000	Yuen Long	775.26	20 000	Yuen Long	775.26	20 000	Yuen Long
11	1 336.34	39 000	Yuen Long	1 336.34	39 000	Yuen Long	1 336.34	39 000	Yuen Long
12	2 004.75	41 000	Yuen Long	2 004.75	41 000	Yuen Long	2 004.75	41 000	Yuen Long
13	4 518.98	48 000	North	4 518.98	48 000	North	4 518.98	48 000	North
14	4 604.03	102 000	Yuen Long	4 604.03	102 000	Yuen Long	4 604.03	102 000	Yuen Long
15	3 226.20	108 000	Yuen Long	3 226.20	108 000	Yuen Long	3 226.20	108 000	Yuen Long
16	948.17	18 000	Yuen Long	948.17	18 000	Yuen Long	948.17	18 000	Yuen Long
17	3 163.24	70 000	Yuen Long	3 163.24	70 000	Yuen Long	3 163.24	70 000	Yuen Long
18	2 944.67	62 800	Yuen Long	2 944.67	62 800	Yuen Long	2 944.67	62 800	Yuen Long
19	1 757.95	38 500	North	1 757.95	38 500	North	1 757.95	38 500	North
20	1 642.53	46 000	Yuen Long	1 642.53	46 000	Yuen Long	2 477.98	46 000	Yuen Long
21	10 454.52	162 300	Yuen Long	10 454.52	162 300	Yuen Long	10 454.52	162 300	Yuen Long

22	4 831.83	80 000	Yuen Long	4 831.83	80 000	Yuen Long	4 831.83	80 000	Yuen Long
23	1 563.39	48 000	Yuen Long	1 563.39	48 000	Yuen Long	1 563.39	48 000	Yuen Long
24	1 137.70	48 000	Yuen Long	1 137.70	48 000	Yuen Long	1 137.70	48 000	Yuen Long
25	873.34	27 000	North	873.34	27 000	North	873.34	27 000	North
26	1 610.01	26 000	Yuen Long	1 610.01	26 000	Yuen Long	1 610.01	26 000	Yuen Long
27	1 655.73	36 000	Yuen Long	1 655.73	36 000	Yuen Long	1 655.73	36 000	Yuen Long
28	1 250.84	42 000	Yuen Long	1 250.84	42 000	Yuen Long	1 250.84	42 000	Yuen Long
29	1 067.54	31 000	Yuen Long	1 067.54	31 000	Yuen Long	1 067.54	31 000	Yuen Long
Total	61 489.38	1 300 500		61 489.38	1 300 500		62 324.83	1 300 500	

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)233

(Question Serial No. 4262)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the development of organic farming, please provide the following information:

- (a) What is the Government's plan in terms of technical support, standard certification and sales promotion for organic farming in 2017-18? What are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved?
- (b) It is mentioned in the programme that the Department will provide technical advice on organic cultivation to farmers to assist them in capturing high-value market niches. What are the relevant measures and their effectiveness?
- (c) Since the introduction of the Organic Farming Conversion Scheme in late 2000 up to now, what are the number, distribution, farming area, production quantity and value of local organic farms? What is the percentage in the total number of farms?
- (d) In view of the great variety of organic food labels found in the market, consumers can hardly verify the authenticity of food products claimed to be organic. Has the Government examined the introduction of specific legislation to regulate the production, certification and labelling of organic food so as to safeguard the interest of consumers?
- (e) Given the large quantity of products claimed to be organic in the market in recent years, consumers can hardly distinguish between organic and non-organic products. What are the details of inspections conducted by the Government on organic products?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 35)

Reply:

- (a) In 2017-18, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to promote organic farming and the marketing of local organic produce through providing technical assistance to local farmers under the Organic Farming Support Service (OFSS) Scheme, making joint efforts with the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) and the Federation of Vegetable Marketing Cooperative Societies in promoting the production and marketing of local organic produce, as well as giving support to the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre (HKORC) for the promotion of organic education and certification. The manpower and estimated expenditure for this area of work in 2017-18 are 17 staff and \$7.8 million respectively.
- (b) In addition, AFCD will continue to provide support services to assist local farmers in capturing high-value market niches, such as developing new farming techniques to raise productivity; introducing new and improved crop varieties for local cultivation; and assisting in setting up farmers' markets to help farmers to reach out to customers and organising large-scale carnivals, such as the annual FarmFest, to showcase local agricultural production. Also, a \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund has been set up under the New Agriculture Policy, to support projects that may benefit the local agricultural community as a whole, including projects that would help farmers move up the value chain. Local organic vegetables are generally selling at a premium price higher than conventional vegetables.
- (c) As at February 2017, 299 farms with a total area of about 108 hectares participated in the OFSS Scheme operated by AFCD, producing about 6 tonnes of organic produce daily. The number of organic farms accounts for about 15% of all local vegetable farms. AFCD does not have statistics on the value of the local organic production. Local organic farms are mostly concentrated in the following 7 major zones in the New Territories: Ng Ka Tsuen, Tai Kong Po, Ping Che, Fanling, Pat Heung, Sheung Shui and Tai Po.
- (d) In 2011, the Government commissioned a consultancy study on organic food to assess whether, and if so, how the production and sale of organic food in Hong Kong should be regulated. The study findings were reported to the Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene Panel of the Legislative Council in February 2013. Noting the very small market size of the local organic food sector and the primary focus of the Government on food safety and stable food supply, the consultant considered that there was no pressing need to regulate the domestic production and sale of organic food.

The consultant recommended that efforts to raise public awareness about organic food should be stepped up. Existing administrative measures such as further promoting certification schemes, streamlining the certification procedures and promulgating a reporting mechanism of food fraud should also be strengthened. The Government accepted the consultant's recommendations. AFCD has been implementing these recommendations with the support of HKORC which, apart from providing organic certification service, also organises events to enhance public awareness.

- (e) It takes the joint efforts of relevant stakeholders to enhance public understanding of organic food production and raise public awareness on the certification schemes on organic produce. In this regard, the Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department provides information on organic food to the public through publicity leaflets, publications and its website. HKORC organises various types of activities every year to introduce recognised certification labels to the public, and encourage them to read the organic certificates of vegetable outlets carefully and buy vegetables with organic certification at reputable shops. VMO and HKORC publish on their websites information on local organic food, such as details of those outlets supplying local organic vegetables. Also, HKORC conducts regular and surprise inspections to all of the certified operations. It also carries out regular surveys and inspections of retail outlets and wet markets, and will refer suspected cases of sale of produce falsely described as organic produce to the Customs and Excise Department for enforcement actions under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap. 362).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)234****(Question Serial No. 4264)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding Hong Kong and Macao floating fishermen, please advise on the following:

- (a) Does the Government have any definition of Hong Kong and Macao floating fishermen currently?
- (b) What were the numbers of floating fishermen in Hong Kong and their fishing vessels over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (c) Does the Government have any policy in place to support the fishing operation of Hong Kong and Macao floating fishermen currently?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 37)Reply:

- (a) & (b) The Government does not have any definition of Hong Kong and Macao floating fishermen. Information of the number of local fishing vessels and capture fishermen over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Calendar Year (as at the end of the period)	Number of local fishing vessels[#]	Number of local capture fishermen[^]
2014	6 599	9 410
2015	6 628	10 500
2016	6 631	10 790

[#] Based on the Marine Department's information on the number of fishing vessels (Class III vessel) licensed under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548D).

[^] Based on the annual survey on capture fishermen conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD).

- (c) AFCD provides a wide range of supportive services, including technical support, credit facilities, funding support for sustainable development projects and training, to the local fisheries industry. In addition, the Government has also banned trawling since late 2012 to help conserve the fisheries resources in the Hong Kong waters for sustainable development of the fisheries industry.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4274)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the details, expenditure and manpower involved in promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry (e.g. the development of eco-tourism, leisure fishing, fisheries operations employing innovative technology and other sustainable fisheries operations) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What are the details, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the planning and implementation of activities and services for promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry in 2017-18?
- (c) What were the expenditure and manpower involved in the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 47)

Reply:

- (a) The Government has been promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry through (i) implementing a suite of fisheries management measures to help conserve and restore depleted marine resources such as the ban on trawling since December 2012 and the introduction of a registration system for local fishing vessels; (ii) assisting fishermen to switch to sustainable fisheries operations and helping fish farmers to develop sustainable aquaculture through technical support services, credit facilities and training courses; (iii) promoting good aquaculture practices and enhancing the monitoring of aquaculture environment; and (iv) administering the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) to help fishermen adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode and subsidise projects and research that help

enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry.

The manpower and expenditure involved by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial Year	Manpower (Number of AFCD staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)
2014-15	96	84.6
2015-16	92	75.6
2016-17 (revised estimate)	104	92.7

- (b) In 2017-18, a provision of 108 staff and \$110.9 million (including \$18.0 million for the one-off assistance package for fishermen affected by the trawl ban and \$25.0 million for SFDF) has been earmarked by AFCD for implementing support measures in (a) above.
- (c) The expenditure and manpower involved in the administration of SFDF over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial Year	Manpower (Number of AFCD Staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)
2014-15	2	0.9
2015-16	3	3.3*
2016-17 (revised estimate)	7	18.9*

*Including expenditures of \$2.2 million (2015-16) and \$16.9 million (revised estimate for 2016-17) for the payment of grants to approved applications under SFDF.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE) 236

(Question Serial No. 4275)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding marine works and New Development Areas, please advise on the following:

Please set out, by marine works project and New Development Area, the expenditure and manpower respectively involved in assessing the impact of marine works and New Development Areas on the agriculture and fisheries industries, and in implementing measures related to the development of the agriculture and fisheries industries, over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 48)

Reply:

Assessments on the impact of marine works and New Development Areas (NDAs) on the agriculture and fisheries industries are conducted by the subject bureaux or works departments. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides professional advice to the concerned bureaux / departments in respect of the assessments conducted. The expenditure and manpower incurred by AFCD for providing inputs to the assessments, and in implementing measures related to the development of the agriculture and fisheries industries in marine works areas and NDAs are subsumed under AFCD's overall resources for supporting the agricultural and fisheries industries. There is no separate breakdown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)237****(Question Serial No. 4276)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding co-operative societies, please advise on:

- (a) the numbers of co-operative societies related to the fisheries and agriculture industries respectively over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (b) the expenditures and manpower involved in co-operative societies related to the fisheries and agriculture industries respectively over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 49)Reply:

- (a) The number of co-operative societies related to the agriculture and fisheries industries over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Number of Co-operative Societies (as at end of the period)		
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
115	112	111

- (b) The expenditure and manpower involved in co-operative societies related to the agriculture and fisheries industries over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of AFCD staff)
2014-15	2.5	6
2015-16	2.4	6
2016-17 (revised estimate)	3.3	7

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE) 238****(Question Serial No. 4278)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the development of the local agricultural industry, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the locations of the agricultural land, active agricultural land, and arable land, in Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17) (please show with a map). What were the areas of the said land?
- (b) What were the manpower and expenditure involved in the investigations conducted by the Department over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (c) Does the Department have any plans to develop some of the agricultural land to arable land in the coming year? If yes, what is/are the relevant location(s)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 76)Reply:

- (a) According to the survey on agricultural land use conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the total area of agricultural land in Hong Kong is around 4 500 hectares. The estimated areas of agricultural land in active farming use over the past 3 years are tabulated by district below. The survey did not provide information on the boundaries of the relevant land for compiling a location map.

District	Area in active farming use (hectare)		
	2014	2015	2016
North	266	277	280
Yuen Long	222	230	241

Tai Po	67	62	56
Tuen Mun	68	45	45
Islands	35	27	30
Sai Kung	20	21	21
Tsuen Wan	20	12	12
Sha Tin	7	5	7
Southern	4	4	4
Kwai Tsing	2	2	2
Total	711	685	698

- (b) The survey on agricultural land use forms part of the ongoing work of AFCD in supporting the agricultural sector. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower involved.
- (c) AFCD operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (ALRS) to facilitate farmland owners and interested farmers to work out a rental agreement for leasing out the farmland for cultivation. At present, about 11 hectares of agricultural land, mostly in the North district, is available for leasing under ALRS. In addition, as one of the measures under the New Agriculture Policy, the Government is planning to establish an Agricultural Park in Kwu Tung South.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)239

(Question Serial No. 7179)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the imports and exports of fresh food as well as agricultural and fisheries products, please advise on the total values of locally produced fresh food and agricultural and fisheries products for supply to the local market over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 21)

Reply:

The total values of locally produced fresh agricultural and fisheries products* supplied to the local market in 2014, 2015 and 2016 were about \$2,650 million, \$2,600 million and \$2,540 million respectively.

*Including live pigs, live chickens, live and chilled fish and shellfish, vegetables and fruits.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)240

(Question Serial No. 4529)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme implemented by the Government last year, please advise on:

- (a) the details of expenditure on implementing the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, including the departmental manpower and expenditure involved; the number of applications for agricultural land rehabilitation, participating land owners, cases of successful matching, as well as the area of land involved in each case;
- (b) the number of new applicants for agricultural land rehabilitation, the cumulative number of applicants on the waiting list and the area of land involved;
- (c) the number of cases of successful matching, the details of area of land and rentals involved in each case as well as the average and the longest waiting time; and
- (d) whether the Government has put in place any measures to increase the chance of successful matching and reduce the waiting time for agricultural land rehabilitation.

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 3136)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (ALRS) through bringing owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out a rental agreement for leasing out the farmland. The manpower and expenditure involved in operating the ALRS and the relevant statistics on the cases handled in 2016 are tabulated below:

	2016
Number of staff	1
Expenditure (\$ million)	0.9
Number of landowners participating in the ALRS	28
Number of new applications / land area involved (hectare)	65 / 8.3
Number of successful cases	29
- Total land area involved (hectare)	4.0
- Range of farm size of individual case (dau chung *)	0.2 to 9.0
- Range of annual rental (per dau chung)	\$1,400 to \$32,100
- Average / longest waiting time (year)	4 / 12
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end / land area involved (hectare)	300 / 67.6

* 1 dau chung is equivalent to 7 260 square feet.

Agricultural land in Hong Kong is mainly in private hands. It is up to the landowners to decide whether to lease out their land for farming. AFCD will continue to facilitate the leasing out of fallow farmland through the ALRS, and provide farmers with technical advice and services to return fallow land to active farming. In addition, the Government will commission a consultancy study later this year to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as Agricultural Priority Areas, and explore how to formulate suitable policies and measures to provide incentives to encourage owners to put fallow agricultural land into long-term agricultural use.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)241****(Question Serial No. 5024)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the applications under the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, please provide the average waiting time for successful cases, percentage of farmland successfully matched, area of farmland successfully leased out and number of successful applicants, rent per dau chung* per year for successful cases, as well as the geographic distribution of successful applicants (broken down by 18 districts) in each year over the past 5 years (2012-13 to 2016-17):

Year	Average waiting time for successful cases	Percentage of farmland successfully matched	Area of farmland successfully leased out (hectares) and number of successful applicants	Rent per dau chung* per year for successful cases
2012				
2013				
2014				
2015				
2016				

Geographic distribution of successful applicants	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
North					
Yuen Long					
Tai Po					
Tuen Mun					
Sai Kung					
Islands					
Sha Tin					
Tsuen Wan					
Others					

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 540)

Reply:

The relevant statistics of successful cases under the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme are tabulated below:

Calendar Year	Average waiting time (year)	Percentage of farmland matched	Area of farmland leased out (hectare (ha)) / successful cases	Rental per year (per dau chung*)
2012	3.5	6.6%	3.4 ha / 9 cases	\$1,200 to \$5,000
2013	4	11.6%	6.2 ha / 14 cases	\$850 to \$43,500
2014	5	3.6%	2.6 ha / 12 cases	\$300 to \$7,000
2015	5	7.7%	5.4 ha / 41 cases	\$800 to \$10,400
2016	4	5.9%	4.0 ha / 29 cases	\$1,400 to \$32,100

* 1 dau chung is equivalent to 7 260 square feet.

Geographic distribution of successful applicants/cases	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
North	4	4	9	34	13
Yuen Long	3	8	0	3	8
Tai Po	0	1	1	0	1
Sai Kung	0	0	2	0	5
Islands	1	0	0	4	2
Sha Tin	1	1	0	0	0
Total	9	14	12	41	29

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)242

(Question Serial No. 3322)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Does the Department provide sign language interpretation services? If yes, what are the number of staff and staff expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 61)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has not received any request for sign language interpretation services. Arrangement would be made for the provision of the services on a need basis.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)243

(Question Serial No. 3342)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding outsourcing of service in your department, please inform this Committee of the followings in respect of the past 3 years:

- (a) the total number of outsourced service staff employed by your department and the percentage of outsourced service staff against the total number of staff with the same types of duties in your department;
- (b) the total expenditure on staff of your department; the total amount paid to outsourced service providers; and the percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers against the total expenditure on staff of your department; and
- (c) the nature of your department's outsourced services and the duration of the relevant contracts.

In addition, according to the Government's guidelines for tendering of outsourced services revised last year, if the procured service relies heavily on the deployment of non-skilled workers, and a marking scheme for assessing the tenders is adopted, the procuring department, when assessing the tenders, should include in the assessment criteria the evaluation of tenderers' proposed wage rates and working hours for non-skilled workers. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the followings:

- (d) the current number of outsourced service contracts involving a large number of non-skilled workers awarded by your department since implementation of the guidelines;
- (e) the departments which have adjusted their assessment criteria in respect of wage rates and working hours for the outsourced service contracts involving a large number of non-skilled workers in the light of the new guidelines since their implementation; how your department has made adjustment; and if no relevant information is available, the reasons for it;

- (f) whether there have been any rises in the average wage rates for workers in the contracts of outsourced services that rely heavily on deployment of non-skilled workers since the implementation of the guidelines; if yes, the number of contracts with rises in wage rates; if no relevant information is available, the reasons for it;
- (g) your department's measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the new tendering guidelines;
- (h) whether your department is required to adopt the existing mechanism of two-envelope assessment of the technical and price aspects when evaluating tenders for contracts of outsourced service; if no, the number of contracts awarded without adopting the existing mechanism of two-envelope assessment of the technical and price aspects in the past 3 years;
- (i) the annual numbers of cases of government service contractors breaching the service contracts, the Employment Ordinance or the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance as revealed by the inspections conducted by your department, and the annual numbers of complaints lodged by the outsourced service staff;
- (j) the details of follow-up actions on the aforementioned non-compliance and complaint cases; and
- (k) the number and details of cases involving contractors being punished for non-compliance or sustained complaints.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 87)

Reply:

- (a) to (c) There was no departmental staff with the same types of duties of the outsourced service staff in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years.

Other information requested is tabulated below:

Financial Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Total Number of Outsourced Service Staff Employed	469	475	494
Total Expenditure on Staff (\$ million)	700.7	721.7	754.5
Total Amount Paid to Outsourced Service Providers (\$ million)	69.6	77.2	88.2
Percentage of Amount Paid to Outsourced Service Providers against Total Expenditure on Staff	9.9%	10.7%	11.7%
Nature of Outsourced Services	Cleansing and security guard services		
Duration of the Relevant Contracts (months)	5 to 60	9 to 60	6 to 60

- (d) to (g) There has not been any new contract involving a large number of non-skilled workers awarded by AFCD since the implementation of the revised tendering guidelines.
- (h) The adoption of two-envelope assessment mechanism for tender evaluation of outsourced service contracts is subject to the complexity of service requirements. The number of contracts awarded without adopting such mechanism over the past 3 years from 2014-15 to 2016-17 was 1, 8 and 7 respectively. The two-envelope assessment mechanism was not adopted on these contracts as their service requirements were not complex in nature.
- (i) to (k) There was no case of government service contractors breaching the service contracts, the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) or the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509) over the past 3 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)244

(Question Serial No. 7201)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the following funds, would the Bureau please provide their dates of establishment and the start-up capital as well as the annual balances, amounts of Government injection and the total expenditures in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17. If there are other funds under the ambit of the Bureau but not included below, please also provide the above information.

- (a) J.E. Joseph Trust Fund
- (b) Kadoorie Agriculture Aid Loan Fund
- (c) Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund - Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme
- (d) Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund
- (e) Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 98)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department currently administers a total of 12 funds related to the agriculture and fisheries industries, namely:

- (a) Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund (APSF);
- (b) Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere Loan Fund (CARELF);
- (c) Fisheries Development Loan Fund (FDLF);
- (d) Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund (FMOLF) including the Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme set up under FMOLF;
- (e) J.E. Joseph Trust Fund (JEJTF);
- (f) Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund (KAALF);
- (g) Marine Fish Scholarship Fund (MFSF);
- (h) Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF);
- (i) Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF);
- (j) Vegetable Marketing Organization Agricultural Development Fund (VMOADF);

- (k) Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund (VMOLF); and
 (l) World Refugee Year Loan Fund (WRYLF).

The requested information is tabulated below:

Year of Establishment, Start-up Capital and Amounts of Government Injection of Various Funds

Fund	Year of Establishment	Start-up Capital (\$ million)	Amounts of Government Injection (\$ million) (as at 31 end-December 2016)
APSF	1978	1.0	-
CARELF	1957	< 0.1	-
FDLF	1960	2.0	1,100.0
FMOLF	1946	0.3	60.0
JEJTF	1954	0.5	0.8
KAALF	1955	0.5	2.0
MFSF	1978	1.0	-
SADF	2016	500.0	500.0
SFDF	2014	500.0	500.0
VMOADF	1988	5.0	-
VMOLF	1953	0.2	-
WRYLF	1962	0.5 [^]	-

[^] According to our earliest available record.

Total Expenditures (Amounts of Grants/Loans Issued) and Balance of Various Funds from 2013 to 2016

Calendar Year (as at end of the period)	2013		2014		2015		2016	
Fund	Total Expenditure (\$ million)	Fund Balance (\$ million)	Total Expenditure (\$ million)	Fund Balance (\$ million)	Total Expenditure (\$ million)	Fund Balance (\$ million)	Total Expenditure (\$ million)	Fund Balance (\$ million)
APSF	0.5	7.5	0.4	7.2	0.4	6.8	0.3	6.5
CARELF	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
FDLF	34.2	253.4	127.0	127.7	338.3	607.0	173.0	456.9
FMOLF	52.4	93.4	47.7	95.5	40.6	104.2	38.3	108.7
JEJTF	2.0	15.8	2.1	16.8	1.0	18.2	1.0	18.6
KAALF	4.4	9.9	5.5	9.0	4.6	9.9	4.0	10.8
MFSF	0.3	2.9	0.3	5.5	0.5	5.1	0.4	4.7
SADF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500.0
SFDF	-	-	-	500.0	-	500.0	10.5	489.5
VMOADF	38.8	157.7	44.1	113.6	39.5	74.1	41.2	52.9
VMOLF	2.0	12.5	1.7	12.5	1.8	12.6	1.6	12.7
WRYLF	0.3	1.7	0.0	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.0	2.0

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)245****(Question Serial No. 4326)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the development of co-operative societies in Hong Kong,

- (a) please inform of the statistics on the years of establishment, numbers, membership, share capital and reserve fund of credit unions by common bond in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (for months with available data):

Common bond	Years of establishment			Number	Membership	Share capital	Reserve fund
	5 years or below					Over 5 years to 10 years	Above 10 years
Associational							
(Churches)							
(Social centres/services)							
(Benevolent association)							
(Credit union)							
Employment							
(Civil servants)							
(Company employees)							
(Industrial employees)							
(Association employees)							
(University employees)							

Residential							
(Housing estates)							
Grand total							

- (b) please inform of the statistics on the years of establishment, numbers, membership, share capital and deposit of co-operative societies by common bond in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (for months with available data):

Type	Years of establishment			Number	Membership	Share capital	Deposit
	5 years or below					Over 5 years to 10 years	Above 10 years
Primary producers							
(Agriculture)							
(Federation of Vegetable Marketing Societies)							
(Federation of Pig Raising Societies)							
(Agricultural credit)							
(Farmers irrigation)							
(Pig raising)							
(Vegetable marketing)							
(Better living)							
(Fisheries)							
(Federation of Fishermen Societies*)							
(Fishermen credit)							
(Credit and housing)							
(Better living)							
Non-producers							
(Thrift and loan)							
(Building)							
(Consumers)							
(Workers)							
Grand total							

- (c) please advise on the details, expenditure and manpower involved in promoting the development of co-operative societies in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (for months with available data):

Type	Details	Number of staff	Expenditure
Primary producers			
Non-primary producers			

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. 211)

Reply:

- (a) The requested information on credit unions is at Annex 1.
- (b) The requested information on co-operative societies is at Annex 2.
- (c) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Department (AFCD) is responsible for the registration of co-operative societies and their by-laws, the inspection and audit of accounts of the registered co-operative societies, and the general supervision of these co-operative societies to ensure their compliance with the Co-operative Societies Ordinance (Cap. 33). AFCD also provides advice to those who wish to form co-operative societies, for example, through organising talks and providing them with guidance on the drafting of application form and by-laws. The expenditure and manpower involved in this area of work over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Financial Year	Type			
	Agriculture and Fisheries		Others	
	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2014-15	2.5	6	4.6	9
2015-16	2.4	6	4.8	9
2016-17 (revised estimate)	3.3	7	5.1	9

**Statistics on the year of establishment, numbers, membership, share capital and reserve fund of credit unions
by their common bond over the past 3 financial years**

2014-15 (Figures as at end-March 2015)

Common Bond	Year of establishment		Number of credit unions	Number of members	Share capital (\$ million)	Reserve fund (\$ million)
	5 years or below	Over 5 years				
Associational	1	18	19	2 904	148.9	6.3
Church	0	14	14	2 370	61.4	3.8
Social Centre/Services	1	2	3	438	14.2	0.5
Benevolent Association	0	1	1	41	2.0	0.1
Credit Union	0	1	1	55	71.3	1.9
Employment	1	21	22	81 603	10,870.4	273.0
Civil Servants	0	11	11	53 911	7,885.6	175.8
Company Employees	0	4	4	24 855	2,707.4	85.5
Association Employees	1	4	5	584	14.5	0.9
University Employees	0	2	2	2 253	262.9	10.8
Residential (Housing Estates)	0	2	2	98	1.5	0.1
GRAND TOTAL	2	41	43	84 605	11,020.8	279.4

2015-16 (Figures as at end-March 2016)

Common Bond	Year of establishment		Number of credit unions	Number of members	Share capital (\$ million)	Reserve fund (\$ million)
	5 years or below	Over 5 years				
Associational	1	18	19	2 917	156.7	6.1
Church	0	14	14	2 363	65.1	3.8
Social Centre/Services	1	2	3	458	15.0	0.6
Benevolent Association	0	1	1	40	2.3	0.1
Credit Union	0	1	1	56	74.3	1.6
Employment	1	21	22	84 212	12,138.3	290.5
Civil Servants	0	11	11	55 429	8,651.1	188.5
Company Employees	0	4	4	25 852	3,139.1	88.3
Association Employees	1	4	5	570	15.9	1.0
University Employees	0	2	2	2 361	332.2	12.7
Residential (Housing Estates)	0	2	2	94	1.7	0.1
GRAND TOTAL	2	41	43	87 223	12,296.7	296.7

2016-17 (Figures as at end-February 2017)

Common Bond	Year of establishment		Number of credit unions
	5 years or below	Over 5 years	
Associational	1	18	19
Church	0	14	14
Social Centre/Services	1	2	3
Benevolent Association	0	1	1
Credit Union	0	1	1
Employment	2	21	23
Civil Servant	0	11	11
Company Employees	0	4	4
Association Employees	2	4	6
University Employees	0	2	2
Residential (Housing Estates)	0	2	2
GRAND TOTAL	3	41	44

Note: Information on the number of members, share capital and reserve fund for 2016-17 have not been provided by credit unions.

**Statistics on the year of establishment, numbers, membership, share capital and deposit of co-operative societies
by their common bond over the past 3 financial years**

2014-15 (Figures as at end-March 2015)

Type	Year of establishment		Number of co-operative societies	Number of members	Share Capital* (\$)	Deposit* (\$)
	5 years or below	Over 5 years				
Agriculture and Fisheries	0	115	115	7 164	609,900	442,400
Agriculture	0	54	54	5 498	565,800	338,700
Federation of Vegetable Marketing Societies	0	1	1	26^	5,000	0
Federation of Pig Raising Societies	0	1	1	9^	56,100	0
Agricultural Credit	0	1	1	34	23,700	30,100
Farmers Irrigation	0	1	1	23	100	0
Pig Raising	0	9	9	396	414,400	27,400
Vegetable Marketing	0	28	28	3 916	47,300	168,600
Better Living	0	13	13	1 094	19,200	112,600
Fisheries	0	61	61	1 666	44,100	103,700
Federation of Fishermen Societies	0	4	4	32^	3,400	0
Fishermen Credit	0	41	41	546	8,100	103,700
Credit and Housing	0	1	1	12	100	0
Better Living	0	15	15	1 076	32,500	0
Others	0	71	71	3 742	294,000	1,901,800
Thrift and Loan	0	1	1	274	11,000	1,901,800
Building	0	54	54	947	94,700	0
Consumers	0	9	9	2 428	161,100	0
Workers	0	7	7	93	27,200	0
GRAND TOTAL	0	186	186	10 906	903,900	2,344,200

* Figures are rounded to the nearest hundreds.

^ It refers to the number of co-operative societies joining the Federation as members.

2015-16 (Figures as at end-March 2016)

Type	Year of establishment		Number of co-operative societies	Number of members	Share Capital* (\$)	Deposit* (\$)
	5 years or below	Over 5 years				
Agriculture and Fisheries	0	112	112	7 129	599,300	478,700
Agriculture	0	53	53	5 491	555,900	341,500
Federation of Vegetable Marketing Societies	0	1	1	26^	5,200	0
Federation of Pig Raising Societies	0	1	1	9^	56,000	0
Agricultural Credit	0	1	1	34	23,700	30,100
Farmers Irrigation	0	1	1	23	100	0
Pig Raising	0	8	8	387	404,400	27,400
Vegetable Marketing	0	28	28	3 915	47,300	168,600
Better Living	0	13	13	1 097	19,200	115,400
Fisheries	0	59	59	1 638	43,400	137,200
Federation of Fishermen Societies	0	4	4	31^	3,300	0
Fishermen Credit	0	39	39	519	7,600	137,200
Credit and Housing	0	1	1	12	100	0
Better Living	0	15	15	1 076	32,400	0
Others	0	69	69	3 687	289,700	1,890,700
Thrift and Loan	0	1	1	254	10,200	1,890,700
Building	0	52	52	920	92,000	0
Consumers	0	9	9	2 429	164,200	0
Workers	0	7	7	84	23,300	0
GRAND TOTAL	0	181	181	10 816	889,000	2,369,400

* Figures are rounded to the nearest hundreds.

^ It refers to the number of co-operative societies joining the Federation as members.

2016-17 (Figures as at end-February 2017)

Type	Year of establishment		Number of co-operative societies
	5 years or below	Over 5 years	
Agriculture and Fisheries	0	111	111
Agriculture	0	53	53
Federation of Vegetable Marketing Societies	0	1	1
Federation of Pig Raising Societies	0	1	1
Agricultural Credit	0	1	1
Farmers Irrigation	0	1	1
Pig Raising	0	8	8
Vegetable Marketing	0	28	28
Better Living	0	13	13
Fisheries	0	58	58
Federation of Fishermen Societies	0	4	4
Fishermen Credit	0	39	39
Credit and Housing	0	1	1
Better Living	0	14	14
Others	0	65	65
Thrift and Loan	0	1	1
Building	0	48	48
Consumers	0	9	9
Workers	0	7	7
GRAND TOTAL	0	176	176

Note: Information on the number of members, share capital and deposit for 2016-17 have not been provided by co-operative societies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)246

(Question Serial No. 6534)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) have come into operation. Please inform this Committee of the manpower, details of work, expenditure on salaries, and other expenses involved in the work of licensing and monitoring private breeders by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. 411)

Reply:

In 2017-18, a provision of \$16.4 million and 30 staff have been earmarked by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for managing the new licensing regime to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale. Major areas of work include:

- (a) processing applications for licences which would involve verification of information provided by applicants, inspecting the proposed premises concerned to ensure the facilities therein are in compliance with the required standards, and collecting relevant information for assessing the suitability of the applicants to hold the licence;
- (b) inspecting licensed animal trading and dog breeding premises to ensure compliance with the licensing requirements;
- (c) collecting samples from female dogs for breeding and offspring for DNA testing to verify the parentage and the source of dogs; and
- (d) carrying out investigations upon complaints or irregularities detected.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)247****(Question Serial No. 6536)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the creation of 22 new posts in 2017-18, which results in a rise of estimated salary expenditure by about \$45.5 million, please set out the post titles and job natures of the 22 newly created posts.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. 413)Reply:

Details of the 22 new posts are tabulated below:

Area of Work	Rank	Number of Posts
To enhance agriculture and fisheries support services	Veterinary Officer	1
	Field Officer I	1
	Field Officer II	1
	Fisheries Technical Officer II	1
	Workman II	1
To enhance nature conservation activities	Forestry Officer	1
	Field Officer I	2
	Field Officer II	2
To enhance animal welfare and animal management services	Field Officer II	4
	Field Assistant	2
	Motor Driver	1
To carry out enforcement work at boundary control points	Field Officer I	2
	Field Officer II	2
	Field Assistant	1
	Total:	22

Compared with the revised estimate for 2016-17, the increase in the provision for salaries by \$45.5 million for 2017-18 is mainly attributable to both the creation of the 22 new posts and the expected filling of existing vacancies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)248

(Question Serial No. 4491)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding animal welfare, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The number of reports on lost animals received by the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 5 years, with a breakdown by type of pet and percentage.
- (b) The number of animals reclaimed by their owners from the AMCs over the past 5 years, with a breakdown by type of pet and percentage.
- (c) Among the reported cases of lost dogs over the past 5 years, the number of those in which the owners were found according to the microchips implanted in the dogs.
- (d) The number of animals euthanised by AFCD over the past 5 years, with a breakdown by type of animal and percentage.
- (e) Does the Government have any plans of enacting legislation to require owners of cats to arrange for microchipping their cats and obtain licences for keeping the cats? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (Member Question No. 47)

Reply:

- (a) Information on the animals reported lost to the 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (AFCD) over the past 5 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of animals reported lost to AMCs / (Percentage by animal type)			Total
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	
2012	1 375 (49.6%)	1 345 (48.6%)	49 (1.8%)	2 769
2013	1 294 (51.3%)	1 179 (46.7%)	49 (2.0%)	2 522
2014	1 212 (53.3%)	1 015 (44.6%)	47 (2.1%)	2 274
2015	1 125 (51.4%)	998 (45.6%)	66 (3.0%)	2 189
2016	932 (54.9%)	707 (41.6%)	59 (3.5%)	1 698

* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, birds, etc.

(b) Information on the animals reclaimed from AFCD over the past 5 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of animals [#] reclaimed / (Percentage by animal type)			Total
	Dogs	Cats	Others**	
2012	1 292 (55.1%)	707 (30.1%)	348 (14.8%)	2 347
2013	1 379 (55.8%)	779 (31.5%)	315 (12.7%)	2 473
2014	1 235 (59.8%)	576 (27.9%)	253 (12.3%)	2 064
2015	774 (54.8%)	626 (44.4%)	11 (0.8%)	1 411
2016	637 (61.4%)	400 (38.5%)	1 (0.1%)	1 038

[#] Including all kinds of animals handled by AMCs such as stray animals caught, animals reported lost and animals given up by owners

** Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, birds, etc.

(c) AFCD does not keep statistics on the number of cases in which the owners of lost dogs were found based on the information of the microchips implanted in the dogs.

(d) Information on the animals euthanised by AFCD over the past 5 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of animals euthanised / (Percentage by animal type)			Total
	Dogs	Cats	Others [^]	
2012	5 675 (64.6%)	1 950 (22.2%)	1 160 (13.2%)	8 785

2013	5 353 (65.1%)	1 861 (22.6%)	1 015 (12.3%)	8 229
2014	3 868 (59.5%)	1 039 (16.0%)	1 594 (24.5%)	6 501
2015	2 421 (36.8%)	696 (10.5%)	3 469 (52.7%)	6 586
2016	1 814 (60.2%)	449 (15.0%)	748 (24.8%)	3 011

^ Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

- (e) Under the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A), dogs over the age of 5 months are required to be vaccinated against rabies, microchipped and licensed. This legal requirement stems from the public health angle, having regard to the higher chance for rabies-contracted pet dogs to spread the disease. Pet cats, on other hand, are mostly kept indoors and present a lower risk of contracting and spreading rabies in the community. While not legally required, cat owners may freely choose to have their cats microchipped and / or vaccinated by practising veterinary surgeons.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)249

(Question Serial No. 3900)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the follow-up actions on the implementation of the legislation to ban trawling and better regulate fishing activities in Hong Kong waters among the Matters Requiring Special Attention under the Programme, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Since the implementation of the legislation, what are the numbers of warnings issued, prosecutions instituted and conviction obtained against illegal trawling? What are the details on the penalties sentenced?
- (b) What is the law enforcement mechanism currently in place to combat illegal trawling (including the frequency of inspections conducted at sea, manpower deployed, reporting mechanism and the average time required to reach the subject fishing vessel)?
- (c) Is there any collaboration between the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and other law enforcement departments working at sea such as the Marine Police and the Marine Department to combat illegal trawling? If yes, please account for the details. If not, will consideration be made to enhance collaboration among various departments?
- (d) Since the implementation of the legislation till now, has there been any review conducted on the existing law enforcement mechanism, its effectiveness and the deterrent effect of the penalties? If yes, what are the findings of the review? If no review has been conducted, what are the reasons? Is there any plan as to when to conduct a review?
- (e) Over the past 12 months, what were the numbers of prosecutions instituted and warnings issued against Mainland fishermen trawling illegally within the waters of Hong Kong? Has the Government liaised with the relevant Mainland authorities and stepped up interception against such activities? If yes, please account for the details.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 51)

Reply:

- (a) The trawl ban in Hong Kong waters came into effect since 31 December 2012. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) would take prosecution action without warning if there is sufficient evidence of illegal fishing activities including trawling. As at end December 2016, there have been 29 successful prosecutions against trawling. The penalties handed down by the court range from a fine of \$2,000 to \$100,000 with individual offenders being sentenced to imprisonment ranging from 2 days to 1 month, and 1 to 2 months suspended for 1 to 2 years.
- (b) In enforcing the relevant legislation, AFCD conducts regular and targeted patrols in Hong Kong waters at random hours (including at nights and early mornings). In 2016, more than 1 500 patrols were conducted by AFCD. AFCD also collects intelligence from various sources, including fishermen groups, to help enhance effectiveness of targeted enforcement. At present, 5 law enforcement teams under AFCD (including the teams responsible for enforcing the provisions in fisheries-related legislation and the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476)) are deployed in different waters to carry out patrols. Upon receipt of reports on illegal fishing activities including trawling, the law enforcement teams will proceed to the scene as soon as possible. Depending on the location of the subject vessel, the prevailing weather condition and the state of the law enforcement team, the time required for reaching the scene varies. We do not keep such time records.
- (c) AFCD maintains close liaison with the Marine Regional Headquarters of the Hong Kong Police Force (MARPOL), the relevant MARPOL districts or divisions, and the Marine Department to exchange information and intelligence on illegal fishing activities including trawling; and conducts joint law enforcement operations as appropriate. AFCD and MARPOL will, in the light of the actual situation on the ground and the intelligence collected, adjust the enforcement strategies from time to time in order to effectively combat illegal fishing activities including trawling.
- (d) Since the implementation of the trawl ban, the operations of AFCD and other law enforcement departments have proved to be effective. Prosecutions have been successfully instituted on a number of occasions. It is a generally accepted view that the penalties imposed by the court carry sufficient deterrence. We do not consider it necessary to review the penalty levels at this stage but shall continue to monitor the situation closely.
- (e) AFCD will prosecute any fishermen (both local and non-local) involved in illegal fishing activities including trawling without warning if there is sufficient evidence. In 2016, no Mainland fishermen were apprehended and prosecuted on grounds of trawling in the Hong Kong waters. AFCD has maintained close liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities (including the Fisheries Authorities of Guangdong) as well as exchanged information with them as part of our concerted efforts to combat illegal fishing activities at the boundary of Hong Kong waters. AFCD, MARPOL and the Fisheries Authorities of Guangdong also carry out joint enforcement operations regularly to combat cross-boundary illegal fishing activities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)250

(Question Serial No. 3901)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the provision of infrastructural support to local farmers mentioned in this Programme, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The number of requests for assistance in identifying agricultural land or building agricultural structures received by the Department, and the number of cases referred to the Lands Department in 2016-17.
- (b) The number of cases of assistance successfully rendered in identifying agricultural land for rehabilitation, and the area of agricultural land for rehabilitation involved in 2016-17.
- (c) Was any statistical work on the area of agricultural land in each of 18 districts performed over the past year? If yes, what was the area of land for agricultural uses according to the Department's records, broken down by 18 districts?
- (d) If the work mentioned in (c) was not performed, will the Department perform such work in 2017-18? If yes, what are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 52)

Reply:

- (a) & (b) Farmers who wish to construct agricultural structures on leasehold agricultural land must apply to the Lands Department (LandsD) for a Letter of Approval for Agricultural Structures. To facilitate application by farmers, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) receives application forms on behalf of LandsD for conducting preliminary processing. In 2016, a total of 22

applications were received by AFCD and referred to LandsD for further processing.

Separately, AFCD operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (ALRS) through bringing owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out a rental agreement for leasing out the farmland. The relevant statistics of ALRS in 2016 are tabulated below:

Calendar Year	Number of new applications	Number of successful cases	Area of farmland leased out (hectare)
2016	65	29	4.0

- (c) The estimated area of agricultural land in active farming use by district in 2016 is tabulated below:

District	Area in active farming use (hectare)
North	280
Yuen Long	241
Tai Po	56
Tuen Mun	45
Islands	30
Sai Kung	21
Tsuen Wan	12
Sha Tin	7
Southern	4
Kwai Tsing	2
Total	698

- (d) The survey on agricultural land use forms part of the ongoing work of AFCD, and there is no separate breakdown on the estimated expenditure and manpower involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)251****(Question Serial No. 5351)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please set out the populations engaged in fisheries and agriculture industries by type over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 140)Reply:

The estimated number of people engaged in the agriculture and fisheries industries over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Calendar Year	Agriculture	Fisheries
2014	4 300	12 670
2015	4 260	13 770
2016	4 280	14 020

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)252****(Question Serial No. 5352)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

What were the respective percentages of locally produced fresh food accounted for in the local food consumption over the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 141)Reply:

The shares of locally produced fresh food in the local food consumption over the past 3 years are as follows:

Type	2014	2015	2016
Vegetables	1.9%	1.9%	1.7%
Fruits	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Live pigs	5.1%	5.1%	5.8%
Live chickens	81.6%	98.5%	99.2%
Fish [#]	31.9%	26.6%	24.8%

[#]Including live and chilled fish and shellfish.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)253****(Question Serial No. 5353)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

What were the numbers of active farms and sizes of active farmland in Hong Kong over the past 3 years? Please set out in tabular form the above information with a breakdown by District Council districts.

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 142)Reply:

It is estimated that there were about 2 400, 2 300 and 2 300 crop farms in the territory in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. These farms are mainly located in the North and Yuen Long Districts. The estimated areas of agricultural land in active farming use over the past 3 years are tabulated by district below:

Districts	Area in active farming use (hectare)		
	2014	2015	2016
North	266	277	280
Yuen Long	222	230	241
Tai Po	67	62	56
Tuen Mun	68	45	45
Islands	35	27	30
Sai Kung	20	21	21

Tsuen Wan	20	12	12
Sha Tin	7	5	7
Southern	4	4	4
Kwai Tsing	2	2	2
Total	711	685	698

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)254****(Question Serial No. 5858)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the total number of cats and dogs euthanised by the Government over the past 5 years. How much public fund in total was involved each year?

	Number of dogs euthanised by the Government	Number of cats euthanised by the Government	Amount of public fund
2016-17			
2015-16			
2014-15			
2013-14			
2012-13			

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 105)Reply:

The number of dogs and cats euthanised by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of animals euthanised	
	Dogs	Cats
2012	5 675	1 950
2013	5 353	1 861
2014	3 868	1 039
2015	2 421	696
2016	1 814	449

There is no breakdown for the cost of euthanasia for dogs and cats. The expenditure involved in the euthanasia of animals (including dogs, cats, small mammals, pigs/cattle, reptiles, poultry/birds, etc.) over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	1.5
2013-14	1.6
2014-15	1.4
2015-16	1.4
2016-17 (revised estimate)	1.0

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)255****(Question Serial No. 5691)**Head: (48) Government LaboratorySubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Statutory TestingControlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr SIN Wai-mei)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please provide the reasons for failure to complete examinations for food complaint cases within 25 working days in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2468)Reply:

The Government Laboratory (GL) has set performance measures in respect of the testing of food samples arising from food complaint cases. As shown in the table below, the performance target was more than fully met in the past 5 years.

Item	Year	Target	Actual
Testing of food complaint cases within 25 working days	2012	83%	85%
	2013	83%	85%
	2014	83%	88%
	2015	83%	89%
	2016	84%	85%

In setting the aforementioned targets, GL has taken into account the fact that more time may be needed for the testing and analysis of individual food complaint cases due to the number and type of samples involved as well as the number and complexity of the testing parameters, the overall workload, and the need to prioritise among different types of statutory testing. GL has been deploying its resources flexibly to complete the testing of food complaint cases within 25 working days as far as practicable.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)256

(Question Serial No. 5700)

Head: (48) Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr SIN Wai-mei)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide the relevant figures to explain why:

1. the Mandatory Provident Fund contribution decreases from \$850,000 as in the revised estimate of 2016-17 to \$808,000 as in the estimate of 2017-18.
2. the Civil Service Provident Fund contribution increases from \$14,455,000 as in the revised estimate of 2016-17 to \$18,045,000 as in the estimate of 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2477)

Reply:

1. & 2. The downward adjustment of the Government Laboratory's (GL) Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) contribution and upward adjustment of Civil Service Provident Fund (CSPF) contribution in the estimate of 2017-18 are mainly due to the anticipated increase in the number of officers who are eligible to enroll in CSPF after passing their probation period and appointed on new permanent terms. Upon enrollment of these officers in CSPF, they will leave the MPF Scheme, thereby causing a projected increase in GL's CSPF contribution and a projected decrease in GL's MPF contribution.

Besides the projected increase in the number of officers eligible for CSPF, other factors leading to the projected increase in the CSPF contribution include adopting higher CSPF contribution rates for eligible officers in accordance with their years of service; and making provision in anticipation of civil service pay adjustment and pay point increments for officers who have not yet reached the maximum point of their respective pay scales.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)257

(Question Serial No. 3335)

Head: (48) Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Statutory Testing, (2) Advisory and Investigative Services, (3) Forensic Science Services

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr SIN Wai-mei)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Does your department provide sign language interpretation services? If yes, what are the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 76)

Reply:

The Government Laboratory has not received any request for sign language interpretation services. Arrangement would be made for the provision of the services on a need basis.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)258

(Question Serial No. 3354)

Head: (48) Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr SIN Wai-mei)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding outsourcing of service in your department, please inform this Committee of the following in respect of the past 3 years:

1. the total number of outsourced service staff of your department and the percentage of outsourced service staff against the total number of staff with the same types of duties in your department;
2. the total expenditure on staff of your department; the total amount paid to outsourced service providers; and the percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers against the total expenditure on staff of your department; and
3. the nature of your department's outsourced services and the duration of the relevant contracts.

In addition, according to the Government's guidelines for tendering of outsourced services revised last year, if the procured service relies heavily on the deployment of non-skilled workers, and a marking scheme for assessing the tenders is adopted, the procuring department, when assessing the tenders, should include in the assessment criteria the evaluation of tenderers' proposed wage rates and working hours for non-skilled workers. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (i). the current number of outsourced service contracts involving a large number of non-skilled workers awarded by your department since implementation of the guidelines;
- (ii). the departments which have adjusted their assessment criteria in respect of wage rates and working hours for the outsourced service contracts involving a large number of non-skilled workers in the light of the new guidelines since their implementation; how your department has made adjustment; and if no relevant information is available, the reasons for it;
- (iii). whether there have been any rises in the average wage rates for workers in the contracts of outsourced services that rely heavily on deployment of non-skilled workers since the implementation of the guidelines; if yes, the number of contracts with rises in wage rates; if no relevant information is available, the reasons for it;

- (iv). your department's measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the new tendering guidelines;
- (v). whether your department is required to adopt the existing mechanism of two-envelope assessment of the technical and price aspects when evaluating tenders for contracts of outsourced service; if no, the number of contracts awarded without adopting the existing mechanism of two-envelope assessment of the technical and price aspects in the past 3 years;
- (vi). the annual numbers of cases of government service contractors breaching the service contracts, the Employment Ordinance or the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance as revealed by the inspections conducted by your department, and the annual numbers of complaints lodged by the outsourced service staff;
- (vii). the details of follow-up actions on the aforementioned non-compliance and complaint cases; and
- (viii). the number and details of cases involving contractors being punished for non-compliance or sustained complaints.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 99)

Reply:

(1) The Government Laboratory (GL) has outsourced some of the routine food testing work as well as supportive and miscellaneous services (including security, laundry, and cleaning services) to private service providers. Not each and every outsourced contract has to specify the total number of outsourced service staff to be deployed. We therefore do not have the total number of outsourced service staff involved.

(2) The total staffing expenditure of GL, total amount paid to outsourced service providers (which include but is not limited to the service providers' staffing expenses) and the percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers against the total staffing expenditure of GL (which is not a like-to-like comparison) are provided in the table below:

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (Estimated)
Total staffing expenditure of GL	\$273 million	\$296 million	\$321 million
Total amount paid to outsourced services providers	\$6.6 million	\$9.7 million	\$8.5 million
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers against the total staffing expenditure of GL	2.4 %	3.3%	2.7%

(3) The nature of services involved and duration of outsourced service contracts are summarised in the tables below:

Nature of services involved in the contracts	Number of contracts involved		
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Testing service	21	20	19
Security service	1	1	1
Laundry service	1	1	1
Cleaning service	0	0	1
Cleaning, security and horticultural services	1	1	1
Total number of contracts	24	23	23

Duration of contracts	Number of contracts involved		
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Below 0.5 year	13	9	6
0.5 year to 1 year	11	14	17
Total number of contracts	24	23	23

(i), (ii), (iv) & (v): The use of marking schemes in tender evaluation is not the only means to secure better quality for the goods and services procured. Setting clear and attainable quality-based tender specifications may achieve the same effect. GL has not adopted a marking scheme for assessing tenders in the procurement of services since 2015-16, given the uncomplicated nature and relatively low value of the service contracts.

(iii): Based on the information available to GL, during the past 3 years, the wage rates for workers under the service procurement contracts that required primarily non-skilled workers increased by about 8.4% on average.

(vi), (vii) & (viii): GL has not received any complaint related to the service procurement contracts in the past 3 years. Nor was there any case involving breach of any such contracts or the relevant legislation in the past 3 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)259****(Question Serial No. 5401)**Head: (48) Government LaboratorySubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Statutory TestingControlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr SIN Wai-mei)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

In respect of statutory testing, it is mentioned that the Government Laboratory will continue to provide professional advisory and analytical services in accordance with the relevant legislative requirements, and will “outsource some of the routine food testing work to the private sector to better utilise the Laboratory’s resources in developing and performing new tests regarding legislative amendments”. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the estimated operational and emolument expenses involved in the above work of the Laboratory in the past 3 years and in 2017-18, the manpower and expenditure involved in outsourcing food testing work, and supervising and spot-checking the outsourcing work; the number of samples outsourced/expected to be outsourced in each of the past 3 years and in 2017-18; the scope of testing involved; and the percentage of outsourced testing work among all testing work?

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 137)Reply:

The actual / estimated annual expenditure on statutory testing (which includes but is not limited to the testing of medicines and food) under the Government Laboratory (GL) from 2014-15 to 2017-18 are set out below:

	2014-15 (Actual)	2015-16 (Actual)	2016-17 (Revised estimate)	2017-18 (Estimate)
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Personal emoluments and related expenses	97	107	117	120
Operating expenses	57	59	58	58

The Outsourcing Management Section (OMS) under the GL was established in 2009-10 to perform outsourcing related activities including contract management and monitoring the performance of the contract laboratories. The OMS consists of 7 professional and

technical staff. The annual expenditure of the OMS and on outsourcing of food testing from 2014-15 to 2017-18 are tabulated below:

	2014-15 (Actual)	2015-16 (Actual)	2016-17 (Revised estimate)	2017-18 (Estimate)
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Expenditure of OMS	5.0	5.2	5.4	5.6
Expenditure on outsourcing of food testing	12.0	12.5	12.5	12.5

The scope and numbers of food samples outsourced in 2014-15, 2015-16 and the estimated numbers for 2016-17 and 2017-18 as well as the respective ratios of outsourced tests are tabulated below:

Financial year	Number of food tests (number of samples involved)	Ratio of outsourced food tests in Government Laboratory's routine food testing work	Scope of outsourced tests
2014-15 (Actual)	119 000 (14 200 samples)	70%	preservatives, sulphur dioxide, boric acid, propionic acid, nitrate and nitrite, colouring matters, trace metals, pesticide residues, veterinary drug residues and other food contaminants
2015-16 (Actual)	123 000 (15 100 samples)	70%	- ditto -
2016-17 (Estimate)	123 000 (14 900 samples)	70%	- ditto -
2017-18 (Estimate)	123 000 (14 700 samples)	70%	- ditto -

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)260

(Question Serial No. 5403)

Head: (48) Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Statutory Testing, (2) Advisory and Investigative Services, (3) Forensic Science Services

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr SIN Wai-mei)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The analysis of financial provision shows a decrease in the estimates of the Government Laboratory. However, as stated in the reply of the Controlling Officer (i.e., the Permanent Secretary for Food and Health) in the Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2016-17 by the Finance Committee of the previous term Legislative Council (Question Serial Number: 3136), the "Government Laboratory is currently in shortage of laboratory area. We need to review the facilities,...testing capacity...as well as...efficiency." Why does the financial provision for this year show a decreasing trend? In respect of its present utilisation of resources (including the outsourcing arrangement), will the testing work of the Government Laboratory be forced to rely on existing resources only and at the same time its ability for growth and the long-term development of a strong laboratory science team be undermined? Has the Government Laboratory taken its own long-term development into account when implementing work schedules, compiling estimates and planning for the establishment?

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 135)

Reply:

The Government Laboratory (GL) is currently in shortage of laboratory area. To enhance GL's testing capability and operational efficiency for tests relating to food safety, we are exploring the option of reprovision or expansion. Expansion of the facility in the Victoria Road and redevelopment at another site are among the options being explored. Details such as implementation timelines and budget estimates can only be ascertained when the site search and other related technical considerations are complete.

The estimated downward adjustment in the financial provision to the GL for 2017-18, as compared with the revised estimate for 2016-17, is mainly attributable to the projected decreased requirement for the procurement of equipment and specialist supplies in that financial year. The requirements of equipment and specialist supplies, either as

replacement or new items, vary from year to year according to the operational needs in meeting the service requirements of relevant client bureaux/departments. GL maintains close contact with client bureau/departments concerned in reviewing its work plans, the requirements for new/replacement equipment and its budget estimates.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)261****(Question Serial No. 4144)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise this Committee on the number of prosecutions instituted against unlicensed hawkers by the Hawker Control Teams, as well as the number of successful prosecution cases, in 2016-17. Please also advise on the operational expenses, manpower and full-year expenditure on salaries of the Hawker Control Teams for 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 78)Reply:

In 2016, the number of prosecutions against unlicensed hawkers and convictions were 15 310 and 14 372 respectively. The manpower and estimated expenditure of hawker management for 2017-18 is as follows -

Financial year	Estimated staff establishment	Estimated expenditure on hawker management (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure on salaries of hawker control teams (\$ million)
2017-18	2 264	1,067.6	725.4

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)262

(Question Serial No. 4196)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number and detailed addresses of existing unisex toilets in the territory, with a breakdown by the 18 districts. Please also advise whether the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has any plan to increase the number of unisex toilets.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 165)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has 357 public toilets with accessible unisex toilets (AUTs) provision and a breakdown by district is given at Annex. In planning for new public toilets, and reprovisioning or refurbishment of existing ones, the Department will, based on "The Design Manual on Barrier Free Access 2008", provide AUTs at these public toilets for use by persons of both sexes, access to which does not necessitate traversing an area reserved for one sex only, where circumstances permit.

- End -

Particulars of Public Toilets with Accessible Unisex Toilet

Name of Public Toilet	Location
Central / Western	
Murray Road Multi-storey Car Park Public Toilet	G/F of Murray Road Multi-storey Car Park
Star Ferry Multi-storey Car Park Public Toilet	Junction of Edinburgh Place and Connaught Road
Exchange Square Public Toilet	G/F of Exchange Square near Bus Terminus
Ice House Street Public Toilet	Opposite No.16, Ice House Street
Hong Kong Park Indoor Game Hall Public Toilet	At rear of Hong Kong Park Indoor Game Hall
Kennedy Road Public Toilet	Junction of Kennedy Road and Garden Road
Wing Wo Street Public Toilet	Opposite Nos. 23-27, Wing Wo Street
Hatton Road Public Toilet	Junction of Hatton Road and Harlech Road
Lan Kwai Fong Public Toilet	Lower level below Lan Kwan Fong Sitting-out Area
Macau Ferry Bus Terminus Public Toilet	At side of Macau Ferry Bus Terminus
Man Yiu Street Public Toilet	Man Yiu Street near No.7 Pier
Man Fai Street Public Toilet	Junction of Man Fai Street and Man Kwong Street
Lok Ku Road Public Toilet	Nos. 21-23, Lok Ku Road, Western
In Ku Lane Public Toilet	No. 8 In Ku Lane, Western
Belcher's Street Public Toilet	Behind Nos. 2-12, Belcher's Street, Western
Smithfield Municipal Services Building Public Toilet	Smithfield Municipal Services Building, G/F, No. 12K, Smithfield Road, Kennedy Town
Sai Ning Street Public Toilet	Junction of Victoria Road and Sai Ning Street, Western
Pound Lane Public Toilet and Bathhouse	Junction of Pound Lane and Tai Ping Shan Street, Western
Water Street Public Toilet and Bathhouse	Junction of Water Street and Pok Fu Lam Road, Western
Shek Tong Tsui Municipal Services Building Public Toilet	Shek Tong Tsui Municipal Services Building, No. 470, Queen's Road West, Shek Tong Tsui
Wanchai	
Bowen Road Public Toilet	Bowen Road near Wan Chai Gap Road
Sing Woo Road Public Toilet	Junction of Sing Woo Road and Yik Yam Street
Tai Hang Road Public Toilet	Junction of Tai Hang Road and Lai Tak Tsuen Road
Wan Chai Market Public Toilet	No. 258, Queen's Road East
Warren Street Public Toilet	Junction of Warren Street and Shepherd Street

Name of Public Toilet	Location
Moreton Terrace Public Toilet	Tung Lo Wan Drive (at side of Bus Terminus)
Wong Nai Chung Road Public Toilet	Opposite No. 95, Wong Nai Chung Road
Morrison Hill Road Public Toilet	Morrison Hill Road near Sports Road
Canal Road Public Toilet	Junction of Canal Road and Lockhart Road (next to Wan Chai Fire Station)
Cross Lane Public Toilet	Junction of Cross Lane and Bullock Lane
Southorn Centre Public Toilet	G/F, Southorn Centre, No. 130, Hennessy Road
Kat On Street Public Toilet	Junction of Kat On Street and Kennedy Street
Expo Drive East Public Toilet	Expo Drive East (next to Golden Bauhinia Square)
Wan Chai North Temporary Public Transport Interchange Public Toilet	Adjacent to Bus Terminus at Wan Chai Ferry Concourse
Amoy Street Public Toilet	G/F, The Avenue Phase 2, No. 200, Queen's Road East, Wan Chai
Wing Hing Street Public Toilet	No. 15, Wing Hing Street
Hing Fat Street Public Toilet	Hing Fat Street near the entrance of Victoria Park
Eastern	
Ning Foo Street Public Toilet	Ning Foo Street near Bus Terminus
Kam Wa Street Public Toilet	Junction of Kam Wa Street and Wang Wa Street
Nam On Street Public Toilet	No. 81, Nam On Street
Hoi Ning Street Public Toilet	Junction of Hoi Ning Street and Hing Man Street
Quarry Bay Market Public Toilet	No. 38, Quarry Bay Street
Java Road Public Toilet	Java Road outside North Point Vehicular Ferry Pier
Tong Shui Road Public Toilet	Junction of Tong Shui Road and Chun Yeung Street
Tung Hei Road Public Toilet and Bathhouse	No. 28, Tung Hei Road
Sheung On Street Public Toilet	Opposite New World Bus Depot Sheung On Street
North Point Ferry Pier Public Transport Interchange Public Toilet	North Point Ferry Pier Public Transport Interchange
Southern	
Pokfulam Road near Queen Mary Hospital Public Toilet	Pokfulam Road near Queen Mary Hospital
Aberdeen Main Road Public Toilet	No.16, Aberdeen Main Road, Aberdeen
Yip Fat Street Public Toilet	Near No.12, Yip Fat Street, Wong Chuk Hang
Repulse Bay Bus Terminus Public Toilet	Repulse Bay Road near Bus Terminus (opposite No. 109, Repulse Bay Road)
Repulse Bay Public Toilet	Near No.16, Repulse Bay Beach Road
Stanley Link Road Public Toilet	Stanley Link Road near Stanley Main Beach
Stanley Main Street Public Toilet	Stanley Pak Kan Village near Stanley Main Street

Name of Public Toilet	Location
Shek O Village Public Toilet	Shek O Village near Shek O Rocky Bay Beach Drainage Services Department Shek O Preliminary Treatment Works
Wu Nam Street Public Toilet	Wu Nam Street near Aberdeen Bus Terminus
Apleichau Municipal Services Building Public Toilet	Apleichau Municipal Services Building, No. 8, Hung Shing Street, Apleichau
Lee Lok Street Public Toilet	Junction of Lee Lok Street and Lee Wing Street, Apleichau
Stanley Municipal Services Building Public Toilet	Stanley Municipal Services Building, Stanley Market Road
Stanley Waterfront Public Toilet	Stanley Waterfront
Islands	
Chung Hing Back Street Public Toilet	Chung Hing Back Street, Cheung Chau
San Hing Back Street Public Toilet	San Hing Back Street, Cheung Chau
Pak She Street Public Toilet	Pak She Street, Cheung Chau
Peak Road Public Toilet cum Bathhouse	Peak Road, Cheung Chau
Yung Shue Wan Public Toilet	Yung Shue Wan Main Street, Yung Shue Wan, Lamma
Sok Kwu Wan Public Toilet	Sok Kwu Wan Ferry Pier, Lamma
Wing On Side Street Public Toilet	Wing On Side Street, Peng Chau
Ngong Ping Bus Terminus Public Toilet	Ngong Ping Bus Terminus, Lantau
Tai O Bus Terminus Public Toilet	Tai O Bus Terminus, Tai O, Lantau
Tai Ping Street Public Toilet	Tai Ping Street, Tai O, Lantau
Mui Wo Ferry Pier Public Toilet	Mui Wo Ferry Pier Road, Lantau
Shek Pik Public Toilet, Wang Pui Road	Shek Pik Wang Pui Road, Lantau
Ngong Ping Road Public Toilet	Ngong Ping Road, Lantau
Chung Hau Village Public Toilet	Chung Hau Village, Mui Wo
Sheung Ling Pei Public Toilet	Sheung Ling Pei, Tung Chung
Tat Tung Road Public Toilet	Tat Tung Road, Tung Chung
Ngong Ping Road Interchange Public Toilet	Ngong Ping Road Interchange, Ngong Ping, Lantau
Tung Chung Hau Wong Temple Public Toilet	Hau Wong Temple, Tung Chung
Tung Chung Waterfront Promenade Public Toilet	Tung Chung Waterfront Road, Lantau
Yau Tsim	
Yau Ma Tei Market Public Toilet	Yau Ma Tei Market, No. 20, Kansu Street
Gascoigne Road Public Toilet	At side of Astor Plaza, junction of Gascoigne Road and Nathan Road

Name of Public Toilet	Location
Battery Street Public Toilet	No. 42, Battery Street
Jordan Road Public Toilet	Inside King George V Park, Jordan.
Science Museum Road Public Toilet	Concordia Plaza, No. 1, Science Museum Road
Tsim Sha Tsui Ferry Concourse Public Toilet	Tsim Sha Tsui Ferry Concourse
Tsim Sha Tsui East Public Transport Interchange Public Toilet	Tsim Sha Tsui East (Mody Road) Bus Terminus
Mong Kok	
Sai Yee Street Garden Public Toilet	Sai Yee Street Garden
Sai Yee Street Public Toilet	No. 188, Sai Yee Street
Luen Wan Road Public Toilet	At side of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Kowloon Depot, Luen Wan Road
Mong Kok Road Public Toilet	No. 661B, Shanghai Street, junction of Shanghai Street and Mong Kok Road
Pok Man Street Public Toilet	No. 1, Sham Mong Road, Olympic Station
Portland Street Public Toilet	No. 193, Portland Street
Nelson Street Public Toilet	No. 1024, Canton Road
Anchor Street Playground Public Toilet	Anchor Street Playground
Larch Street Public Toilet	No. 105, Larch Street
Sham Shui Po	
Lai Chi Kok Government Offices Public Toilet	No. 19, Lai Wan Road
Mei Foo Sun Chuen Bus Terminus Public Toilet	Mei Foo Sun Chuen Bus Terminus
Cheung Shun Street Public Toilet	At side of No.22, Chueng Shun Street
Tonkin Street Public Toilet	Junction of Tonkin Street and Un Chau Street
Yen Chow Street Public Toilet	Junction of Yen Chow Street and Un Chau Street
Apliu Street Public Toilet	Junction of Apliu Street and Kweilin Street
Sai Chuen Road Public Toilet	Junction of Sai Chuen Road and Yen Chow Street
Tai Nan Street Public Toilet cum Bathhouse	Junction of Tai Nan Street and Boundary Street
Nam Cheong Street Public Toilet cum Bathhouse	Junction of Nam Cheong Street and Un Chau Street
Yee Kuk Street Public Toilet cum Bathhouse	No. 555, Yee Kuk Street
Kowloon City	
Dyer Avenue Public Toilet	No. 1, Dyer Avenue
Ma Tau Kok Road Public Toilet cum Bathhouse	No. 180, Kowloon City Road

Name of Public Toilet	Location
Kowloon City Road Public Toilet	No. 3, Kowloon City Road
San Ma Tau Street Public Toilet	No. 30, San Ma Tau Street
Gillies Avenue South Public Toilet	Junction of Gillies Avenue South and Station Lane
Baker Street Public Toilet	No.65, Baker Street
Hok Yuen Street Public Toilet	No.12A, Hok Yuen Street
New Hung Hom Ferry Pier Public Toilet	New Hung Hom Ferry Pier
Hung Hom Complex Public Toilet	Hung Hom Complex, No. 11, Ma Tau Wai Road
Shek Ku Lung Road Public Toilet	Junction of Shek Ku Lung Road and Carpenter Road
Tung Tsing Road Public Toilet	Tung Tsing Road at side of Carpenter Road Park
Lung Kong Road Public Toilet	Nos. 30-32, Lung Kong Road
Pui Ching Road Public Toilet	No. 5, Pui Ching Road
Kowloon City Complex Public Toilet	Kowloon City Complex, Hau Wong Road
Kowloon Tong Public Transport Interchange Public Toilet	Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong
Shing Fung Road Temporary Public Toilet	Shing Fung Road, Kai Tak Development Area, Kowloon City
Wong Tai Sin	
Hong Keung Street Public Toilet	Junction of Shung Ling Street and Hong Keung Street, San Po Kong
Ngau Chi Wan Village Public Toilet	No. 1, Lung Chi Path, Ngau Chi Wan
Lok Fu Public Toilet	Junction of Junction Road and Tung Tau Tsuen Road
Nga Tsin Wai Village Public Toilet	Tung Kwong Road, outside Nga Tsin Wai Village
Choi Hung Bus Terminus Public Toilet	Choi Hung Road Bus Terminus (opposite Choi Hung Estate)
Sheung Yuen Street Public Toilet	G/F, Plaza Hollywood, Sheung Yuen Street
Kwun Tong	
Chun Wah Road Public Toilet	Chun Wah Road Bus Terminus, Ngau Tau Kok
Shung Yan Street Public Toilet	At side of No. 39, Shung Yan Street, Kwun Tong
Lai Yip Street Public Toilet	At junction of Lai Yip Street and Wai Yip Street
Kei Yip Street Public Toilet	Near Kwun Tong Ferry Pier Bus Terminus at Kei Yip Lane, Kwun Tong
Hip Wo Street Interim Public Toilet	At side of Hip Wo Street Public Light Bus Terminus, Kwun Tong
Kwun Tong Road Public Toilet	Kwun Tong Road Bus Terminus
Lei Yue Mun (Ling Nam Sun Tsuen) Public Toilet	Lei Yue Mun Path, Lei Yue Mun

Name of Public Toilet	Location
Cha Kwo Ling Road Public Toilet cum Bathhouse	At side of No.90, Cha Kwo Ling Main Street
Ngau Tau Kok Public Toilet cum Bathhouse	No.1, Ting Fu Street, Ngau Tau Kok
Lei Yue Mun Ma Wan Public Toilet cum Bathhouse	At entrance of Ma Wan Village, Lei Yue Mun
Kwai Tsing	
Kwai Shun Street Public Toilet	Kwai Shun Street near Kwai Shun Cooked food Market
Cheung Tat Road Public Toilet	Near No.28, Cheung Tat Road
Cheung Ching Bus Terminus Public Toilet	Cheung Ching Bus Terminus
Cheung Fai Road Public Toilet	Near Cheung Fai Road Promenade
Tsing Yi New Ferry Terminus Public Toilet	Tsing Yi New Ferry Terminus
Tam Kon Shan Road (1) Public Toilet	Tam Kon Shan Road near lamp post no. FB0659
Tam Kon Shan Road (2) Public Toilet	Next to No. 89, Tam Kon Shan Road
Tai Yuen Street Public Toilet	Tai Yuen Street near Kwok Shui Road
Tai Lin Pai Road Public Toilet	Tai Lin Pai Road near Kung Yip Street
San Kwai Street Public Toilet	San Kwai Street near Training Centre Complex
Ta Chuen Ping Street Public Toilet	Ta Chuen Ping Street near Carpark
Kwai Hing Station Public Toilet	Near Kwai Hing Government Office Building
Kwai Fong Station Public Toilet	New Kwai Fong Garden
Lantau Link Viewing Platform Public Toilet	Lantau Link View Point Car Park, Tsing Yi
Shing Mun Road Public Toilet	Shing Mun Road, Kwai Chung
Tsuen Wan	
Tsuen Wan Multi-storey Carpark Building Public Toilet	G/F., Tsuen Wan Multi-storey Carpark Building, Sai Lau Kok Road, Tsuen Wan
Sham Tseng Public Toilet	Sham Tseng Tsuen Road, Sham Tseng
Wang Lung Street Public Toilet	At side of no. 98 Wang Lung Street, Tsuen Wan
Heung Che Street Public Toilet	At side of Heung Che Street Market, Tso Kung Square, Tsuen Wan
Tak Wah Park Public Toilet	Opposite Nos. 67-95, Tsuen Wan Market Street, Tsuen Wan
Chai Wan Kok Public Toilet	Junction of Chai Wan Kok Street and Hoi Shing Road, Tsuen Wan
Tsuen Wan 13.5 Miles Public Toilet	Castle Peak Road (13.5 Milestone)
Tai Ho Road Public Toilet	Opposite the entrance of Tsuen Wan West Rail Station, Tai Hoi Road, Tsuen Wan

Name of Public Toilet	Location
Sunny Bay Public Toilet	Sunny Bay Public Transport Interchange
Lo Wai Road Public Toilet	Lo Wai Road, Tsuen Wan
Lung Yue Road Public Toilet	Near Yuen Tun Village, Lung Yue Road, Tsing Lung Tau
Tuen Mun	
Kin Fung Circuit Public Toilet	Kin Fung Circuit, Tuen Mun (near Ho Tin Light Rail Train Station)
Hung Cheung Road Public Toilet	Hung Cheung Road, Tuen Mun (at side of public car park)
Tuen Mun Ferry Pier Public Toilet	Tuen Mun Ferry Pier, Tuen Mun
Tseng Tau Chung Tsuen Public Toilet	Tseng Tau Chung Tsuen, Tuen Mun
Kin Lung Street Public Toilet	Kin Lung Street, Tuen Mun (near Shek Pai Tau Playground)
Tsing Yeung Circuit Public Toilet	Tsing Yeung Circuit, Tuen Mun (at side of public car park)
Yeung Siu Hang Tsuen Public Toilet	Yeung King Road, Tuen Mun (at side of Wealthy Villa)
Lam Tei Market Public Toilet	Lam Tei Market
Wu Shan Road Public Toilet	Wu Shan Road
Yip Wong Road Public Toilet	Yip Wong Road
Wo Ping San Tsuen Public Toilet	Wo Ping San Tsuen
So Kwun Wat Chan Uk Tsuen Public Toilet	Chan Uk Tsuen, So Kwun Wat
Sun Fung Wai Public Toilet	Sun Fung Wai
Chung Wong Toi Public Toilet	Chung Wong Toi
Po Tong Ha Tsuen Public Toilet	Po Tong Ha Tsuen
Luen On San Tsuen Public Toilet	Luen On San Tsuen
Tin Hau Road Public Toilet	Tin Hau Road near Tin Hau Temple
Tin Hau Temple Plaza Public Toilet	Tin Hau Temple Plaza, Tin Hau Road
Lung Kwu Tan Public Toilet	Lung Kwu Tan near Lung Kwu Tan Village Office
Tuen Mun Road Bus-Bus Interchange Public Toilet (Tuen Mun Bound)	Tuen Mun Road (Tuen Mun bound)
Yuen Long	
Fung Cheung Road Public Toilet	Fung Cheung Road (near Fung Kwan Street Indoor Recreation Centre), Yuen Long
Hong King Street Public Toilet	Hong King Street (next to minibus station), Yuen Long
Kam Tin Bor Tei Public Toilet	Kam Tin Bor Tei Road, Kam Tin, Yuen Long

Name of Public Toilet	Location
Kam Tin Market Public Toilet	Kam Tin Shing Mun San Tsuen (next to Kam Tin Market), Kam Tin Road, Kam Tin, Yuen Long
Kuk Ting Street Public Toilet	Kuk Ting Street, Yuen Long
Light Rail Transit Terminus Public Toilet	Long Lok Road (Near Sun Yuen Long Centre), Yuen Long
Lo Uk Tsuen Public Toilet	Lo Uk Tsuen, Ping Ha Road, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long
Lok Ma Chau Control Point (South) Public Toilet	Lok Ma Chau Control Point (South)
Lok Ma Chau Control Point (North) Public Toilet	Lok Ma Chau Control Point (North)
Lok Ma Chau Lookout Public Toilet	Lok Ma Chau (Lookout)
Ping Shan Sun Tsuen Public Toilet	Ping Shan San Tsuen, Ping Yeung Lane, Ping Shan, Yuen Long
San Tin Public Toilet	Castle Peak Road, San Tin, Yuen Long
Tan Kwai Tsuen Road Public Toilet	Tan Kwai Tsuen Road Garden, Tan Kwai Tsuen Road, Hung Shui Kiu, Yuen Long
Sik Kong Tsuen Public Toilet	Sik Kong Tsuen, Ha Mei Road, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long
Wang Yip Street Public Toilet	Tung Tau Industrial Area, Wang Yip Street East, Yuen Long
Yuen Long West Bus Terminus Public Toilet	Kik Yeung Road (next to bus terminus), Yuen Long
Chuk Hang Tsuen Public Toilet	Fan Kam Road, Pat Heung (near Chuk Hang Tsuen village entrance), Yuen Long
Lau Fau Shan Roundabout Public Toilet	Lau Fau Shan Road, Lau Fau Shan, Yuen Long
Wang Yip Street South Public Toilet	Tung Tau Industrial Area, Wang Yip Street South, Yuen Long
Kam Sheung Road Public Toilet	Kam Sheung Road Public Transport Interchange, Tung Wui Road, Kam Tin, Yuen Long
Hung Shui Kiu Public Toilet cum Bathhouse	Tin Sam Road, Hung Shui Kiu, Yuen Long
Tai Tong Road Public Toilet cum Bathhouse	Sai Ching Street (near Manhattan Plaza), Yuen Long
Shan Pui Tsuen Public Toilet	Shan Pui Tsuen, Shan Pui Road, Yuen Long
Hang Mei Tsuen Public Toilet	Hang Mei Tsuen, Ping Ha Road, Ping Shan, Yuen Long
Nam Bin Wai Public Toilet	Nam Bin Wai, Yuen Long Kau Hui Road, Yuen Long
To Uk Tsuen Public Toilet	Nam Hing West Road, Pat Heung, Yuen Long
Tze Tong Tsuen Public Toilet	Tsz Tong Tsuen, Kam Sheung Road, Kam Tin, Yuen Long

Name of Public Toilet	Location
Shui Bin Tsuen Public Toilet	Shui Pin Tsuen, Castle Peak Road-Ping Shan, Yuen Long
Pak Hok Chau Public Toilet	Tam Kon Chau, Tam Kon Chau Road, Mai Po, Yuen Long
Lok Ma Chau Public Transport Interchange Public Toilet	San Sham Road, San Tin, Yuen Long
San Wai Public Toilet	San Wai, San Sik Road, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long
Tai Shu Ha Public Toilet	Tai Shu Ha Road West, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long
Ma Tin Tsuen Public Toilet	Ma Tin Tsuen, Ma Tin Road, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long
Tin Shui Wai Public Transport Interchange Public Toilet	Tin Yan Road, Tin Shui Wai
Shui Tsiu Lo Wai Public Toilet	Shui Tsiu Lo Wai, Tai Tong Road, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long
Tai Sang Wai (2) Public Toilet	Tai Sang Wai, Yuen Long
Shan Ha Tsuen (2) Public Toilet	Shan Ha Tsuen, Shan Ha Road, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long
Tin Sam Tsuen Public Toilet	Near the junction between Tin Ha Road and Hung Shui Kiu Tin Sam Road, Yuen Long
Ha Che West Public Toilet	Ha Che Tsuen, Fan Kam Road, Pat Heung, Yuen Long
Kam Hing Wai Public Toilet	Kam Hing Wai, Chi Ho Road, Kam Tin, Yuen Long
Pak Nai Public Toilet	Sheung Pak Nai, Nim Wan Road, Yuen Long
Ma Tin Pok Public Toilet	Ma Tin Pok, Kiu Hing Road, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long
Chung Pak Nai (1) Public Toilet	Nim Wan Road (near Ha Pak Nai), Lau Fau Shan
Ngau Tam Mei East Public Toilet	Ngau Tam Mei Road, Ngau Tam Mei, Yuen Long
Chung Pak Nai (2) Public Toilet	Ngau Hom Shek, Sheung Pak Nai, Nim Wan Road, Lau Fau Shan, Yuen Long
Shui Lau Tin Tsuen Public Toilet	Shui Lau Tin Tsuen, Pat Heung, Yuen Long
Shek Po Tsuen Public Toilet	Shek Po Tsuen, Shek Po Road, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long
Mei Po Lung Tsuen Public Toilet	Mai Po Lung Tsuen, Mai Po Lung Road, San Tin, Yuen Long
Lai Sau Tsuen Public Toilet	Fraser Village, Tai Tong Road, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long
Fung Kong Tsuen Public Toilet	Fung Kong Tsuen, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long
Fu Tso Tsuen Public Toilet	Deep Bay Road, Lau Fau Shan, Yuen Long
Tong Tau Po Tsuen Public Toilet	Tong Tau Po Tsuen, Tai Shu Ha Road East, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Name of Public Toilet	Location
Ku Miu Cheung Uk Tsuen Public Toilet	Cheung Uk Tsuen, Sheung Tsuen, Pat Heung, Yuen Long
San Sang Tsuen Public Toilet	San Sang Tsuen, Tin Ha Road, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long
Ha Tsuen Shi Public Toilet	Ha Tsuen Shi, Tin Ha Road (near Vegetable Market Office), Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long
Pang Ka Tsuen Public Toilet	Pang Ka Tsuen, Kam Tin Road, Yuen Long
Ng Ka Tsuen Public Toilet	Ng Ka Tsuen, Kam Sheung Road, Pat Heung, Yuen Long
Ki Lun Shan Public Toilet	Ki Lun Tsuen, San Tin, Yuen Long
Yuen Kong San Tsuen Public Toilet	Yuen Kong San Tsuen, Pat Heung Road, Pat Heung, Yuen Long
Wong Nai Tun (2) Public Toilet	Wong Nai Tun Tsuen, Shui Tsiu San Tsuen Road, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long
Siu Hom Tsuen Public Toilet	Siu Hum Tsuen, Ka Lung Road, San Tin, Yuen Long
Nga Yiu Tau Tsuen Public Toilet	Nga Yiu Tau Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long
Chau Tau Tsuen Public Toilet	Chau Tau Tsuen, Chau Tau West Road, Lok Ma Chau, Yuen Long
Tai Kei Leng Public Toilet	Tai Kei Leng, Tai Shu Ha Road East, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long
Ha Wan Tsuen Public Toilet	Ha Wan Tsuen, San Tin, Yuen Long
Small Traders New Village (1) Public Toilet	Siu Sheung San Tsuen, Tin Shing Wai, Yuen Long
Pak Sha Tsuen (1) Public Toilet	Pak Sha Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long
Public Toilet at Hong Kong Management Area at the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Western Corridor (I)	Hong Kong Management Area at the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Western Corridor (I)
Public Toilet at Hong Kong Management Area at the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Western Corridor (II)	Hong Kong Management Area at the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Western Corridor (II)
North	
Sheung Shui Tung Hing Road Public Toilet	Inside Sheung Shui Heung Sitting-out Area No. 9
Sheung Shui Tung Hing Road Carpark Public Toilet	Sheung Shui Tung Hing Road Carpark
So Kwun Po Tsuen Public Toilet	Junction of San Wan Road and Chi Cheong Road, Sheung Shui
Fan Leng Lau Public Toilet	At side of Fanling Lau Garden, Fanling Lau Road, Fanling
Shung Him Tong Public Toilet	Entrance to Shung Him Tong Tsuen, Fanling
Sheung Shui Wai Wai Noi Tsuen Public Toilet	At side of Sheung Shui Heung Village Office, Wai Noi Tsuen, Sheung Shui Wai

Name of Public Toilet	Location
Sheung Shui Wai Po Sheung Tsuen Public Toilet	At side of Sheung Shui Playground, Po Sheung Tsuen, Sheung Shui Wai
Fanling Wai Public Toilet	At side of Fan Ling Wai Playground, Fanling Wai
Shek Tsai Ling Public Toilet	Ho Sheung Heung Road near Bor Lau Road, Sheung Shui
Fanling Wai (South) Public Toilet	San Wan Raod in front of Nam Hing Tong, Fanling Wai (South)
On Lok Tsuen Temporary Wholesale Market Public Toilet	At side of On Lok Tsuen Temporary Wholesale Market, Fanling
Wo Hop Shek Tsuen Public Toilet	At side of carpark at Wo Hing Road, opposite Wo Hop Shek San Tsuen, Fanling
Wo Hing Tsuen Public Toilet	Carpark at side of Wo Hing Tsuen, Fanling
Fanling Station Road Public Toilet	At side of Fanling Station Sitting-Out Area
Ping Yeung Old Village Public Toilet	Ping Yeung Village Garden, Ping Yeung Old Village, Sha Tau Kok
Lung Wan Street Public Toilet	Near Landmark North Bus Terminus, Lung Wan Street, Sheung Shui
San Shing Avenue Public Toilet cum Bathhouse	At junction of San Shing Avenue and Fu Hing Street, Sheung Shui
Luen Cheong Street Public Toilet cum Bathhouse	Luen Cheong Street, Fanling
Che Ping Street Public Toilet cum Bathhouse	In front of Sha Tau Kok Market, Che Ping Street, Sha Tau Kok
Fung Wong Wu Public Toilet	Fung Wong Wu, Ta Kwu Ling
Kan Lung Wai Public Toilet	Kan Lung Wai, Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling
Hung Leng Public Toilet	Hung Leng Tsuen in front of House No. 13E, Sha Tau Kok Road
On Po Tsuen Public Toilet	On Po Tsuen Carpark, Sheung Shui
Ma Mei Ha Tsuen Public Toilet	Ma Mei Ha Tsuen, Sha Tau Kok Road
Ping Che Tsuen (2) Public Toilet	Junction of Ping Che Road and Ng Chau Road, Sha Tau Kok
Chow Tin (1) Public Toilet	Chow Tin Tsuen, Ta Kwu Ling
Shan Tsui Public Toilet	At side of Shan Tsui Tsuen Rest Garden, Sha Tau Kok
San Uk Ling Public Toilet	At side of House No. 18, Lane 1, San Uk Ling Tsuen, Sheung Shui
Tsung Pak Long (North) Public Toilet	Opposite Tsung Pak Long Village Office, Sheung Shui
San Uk Tsai Public Toilet	At side of San Uk Tsai (Greenland Garden), Sha Tau Kok Road

Name of Public Toilet	Location
Sha Ling, Cheung Po Tau Public Toilet	Man Kam To Road at entrance to Cheung Po Tau, Sha Ling
Hang Tau Road Public Toilet	Opposite No. 100, Hang Tau Road, Sheung Shui
Man Kam To Public Toilet	Man Kam To Vehicle Holding Area
Shek Wu San Tsuen Public Toilet	Shek Wu San Tsuen, Sheung Shui (near Ng Tung River)
Yuen Ha Tsuen Public Toilet	Yuen Ha Tsuen, Ta Kwu Ling
Ma Mei Ha Public Toilet	Ma Mei Ha Tsuen, Sha Tau Kok Road
Tsiu Keng Pang Uk Public Toilet	Tsiu Keng Pang Uk, Sheung Shui
Nam Chung (Lo Uk) Public Toilet	Nam Chung Lo Uk Tsuen, Sha Tau Kok
Kwu Tung (Tiu Yuen) Public Toilet	At rear of Kwu Tung Vegetable Marketing and Credit Co-operative Society, Sheung Shui
Ngar Yiu Public Toilet	Ngar Yiu, Ta Kwu Ling
Po Kak Tsai, Lau Shui Heung Public Toilet	Po Kak Tsai, Lau Shui Heung, Fanling
Sheung Ma Tseuk Leng Public Toilet	At side of Ma Tseuk Leng Children's Playground, Sha Tau Kok
Hang Tau (Ngai Yuen) Public Toilet	Hang Tau (Ngai Yuen), Sheung Shui
Ying Pun Tsuen Public Toilet	At side of House No. 15, Ying Pun Sheung Tsuen, Sheung Shui
Ng Uk Tsuen (Chung Chai Yuen) Public Toilet	Ng Uk Tsuen (Chung Chai Yuen), Sheung Shui
Shek Wu Hui Public Toilet	Sheung Shui Cycling Entry/Exit Hub, San Wan Road, Sheung Shui
Chuk Yuen Village Public Toilet	Chuk Yuen, Ta Kwu Ling
Tai Po	
Tai Po Centre Public Toilet	Blk. 20, Tai Po Centre, Tai Po
Tai Po Plaza Public Toilet	Tai Po Plaza, Tai Po
Tai Po Market MTR Station Public Toilet	Tai Po Market Station, Tai Po
Tai Po Old Market Public Toilet	Tai Po Old Market, Tai Po
Nam Hang Public Toilet	Nam Hang Village, Tai Po
Ma Wo Public Toilet	Ma Wo Village, Tai Po
Tai Mei Tuk Public Toilet	Tai Mei Tuk Village, Tai Po
Pak Shing Street Public Toilet cum Bathhouse	Pak Shing Street, Tai Po
Fong Ma Po Public Toilet	Fong Ma Po, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po
Chong San Road Public Toilet	Chong San Road, Tai Po
Fo Yin Road Public Toilet	Fo Yin Road, Tai Po

Name of Public Toilet	Location
Tung Ping Chau Public Toilet	Tung Ping Chau
Cheung Shue Tan Village (1) Public Toilet	Cheung Shu Tan Village, Tai Po
Kei Ling Ha Sun Wai Public Toilet	Kei Ling Ha Sun Wai
Nam Wah Po Public Toilet	Nam Wah Po, Tai Po (Near Tsung Tsin Church)
Tai Hang Public Toilet	Tai Hang Tsz Tong Tsuen, Tai Po
Tai Wo Village Public Toilet	Tai Wo Village
Sha Tin	
Shing Ho Road Public Toilet & Bathhouse	No. 31, Shing Ho Road, Tai Wai
30, Wo Liu Hang Road Public Toilet	No. 30, Wo Liu Hang Road, Fo Tan
Cheung Lek Mei Street Public Toilet	Near Fo Tan Nullah Cheung Lek Mei Street, Fo Tan
Shan Mei Street Public Toilet	Near Fo Tan Cooked Food Market, Shan Mei Street, Fo Tan
Kwei Tei Street Public Toilet	Nos. 10-14, Kwei Tei Street, Fo Tan
Ma Liu Shui off Tolo Highway Public Toilet	Near Ma Liu Shui Pier off Tolo Highway
Tin Sum Village Public Toilet	Tin Sum Village Car Park, Tin Sum Street
Kak Tin Street Public Toilet	Ha Kak Tin Village, Tai Wai
Hin Tin Street, Sheung Keng Hau Village Public Toilet	Hin Tin Street near Hin Keng Street
Fu Kin Street, Ha Keng Hau Village Public Toilet	At side of Ha Keng Hau Village Car Park, Fu Kin Street
Hin Kwai Lane, Hin Tin Village Public Toilet	Hin Kwai Lane near Hin Keng Street
Tsang Tai Uk Public Toilet	Tsang Tai Uk Village
Ngau Pei Sha Village Public Toilet	Junction of Sha Tin Wai Road and Ngau Pei Sha Street
Siu Lek Yuen Village Public Toilet	Siu Lek Yuen Village
Science Park Road Public Toilet	Science Park Road, Ma Liu Shui
Tai Wai PTI Public Toilet	Tai Wai Public Transport Interchange
Ma Liu Shui Public Toilet	Pak Shek Kok, Ma Liu Shui
University Station Public Toilet	University Station Cycling Entry / Exit Hub, Chak Cheung Street, Sha Tin
Sai Kung	
Yi Chun Street Public Toilet	Opposite Sai Kung Market, Yi Chun Street
Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate Public Toilet	Chun Yat Street, near lamp post no. EB6136
Yan King Road Bus Terminus Public Toilet	Metro City Plaza II Bus Terminus, Yan King Road

Name of Public Toilet	Location
Tai Au Mun Public Toilet	Near Tai Au Mun Car Park
Ho Chung Public Toilet	Near Ho Chung Car Park
Tseung Kwan O Village Public Toilet	Opposite lamp post no. EA 1064, Po Hong Road
Boon Kin Village Public Toilet	Tin Chau Road, near lamp post no. EA 1500
Clear Water Bay Second Beach Public Toilet	Near Clear Water Bay Second Beach Car Park
Hang Hau Public Transport Interchange Public Toilet	Inside the public transport interchange at Hang Hau MTR Station
Tseung Kwan O Public Transport Interchange Public Toilet	Inside the public transport interchange at Tseung Kwan O MTR Station
Tiu Keng Leng Public Transport Interchange Public Toilet	Inside the public transport interchange at Tiu Keng Leng MTR Station
Tui Min Hoi (Chui Tong) Public Toilet	Tui Min Hoi (Chui Tong)
Tsam Chuk Wan Public Toilet	Near the Memorial Monument for Sai Kung Martyrs, Tsam Chuk Wan
Nam Shan Village Public Toilet	At side of No. 27, Nam Shan Village
Pak Sha Wan Church Public Toilet	Pak Sha Wan Church
Sheung Sze Wan Public Toilet	Sheung Sze Wan Village
Tsak Yue Wu Village Public Toilet	Tsak Yue Wu Village, near lamp post no. EA 0897
Mang Kung Uk Lower Village Public Toilet	Mang Kung Uk Lower Village
Ta Ku Ling Sun Tsuen Public Toilet	No. 3A, Ta Ku Ling Sun Tsuen
Sheung Yeung Public Toilet	Sheung Yeung Tsuen
Tun Cheung Upper Village Public Toilet	Tun Cheung Upper Village, near lamp post no. VA4989-8
Luk Mei Tsuen Public Toilet	Luk Mei Tsuen, near lamp post no. N9103
Tai Wan Tsuen Public Toilet	Tai Mong Tsai Road, near lamp post no. 2555-7

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)263****(Question Serial No. 4197)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of yearly calendars, monthly calendars, Chinese New Year blessings, red packets, posters and pamphlets printed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, as well as the expenditure involved, in the past year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 166)Reply:

In 2016, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department printed about 3 172 000 copies of yearly calendars, Chinese New Year blessings, red packets, posters or leaflets. The expenditure incurred is about \$4.0 million. Details are as follows:

Items	Volume (copies)	Expenditure (\$ million)
Yearly calendars, Chinese New Year blessings and red packets for promotion of markets	887 000	0.4
Posters, leaflets and booklets for promotion of environmental hygiene and food safety	2 285 000	3.6
Total	3 172 000	4.0

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)264

(Question Serial No. 4114)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Given that foods in Hong Kong mainly rely on import, please advise on the expenditure, with details of appropriation, on inspection and quarantine of food imports in the past 3 years. Please also advise whether the Government will step up measures and increase expenditure on inspection and quarantine of imported foods in the wake of last year's food safety incidents; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is responsible for conducting inspection of food and food animals, including inspections at the import level. The total expenditure involved in the inspections of food and food animals at the import level in 2014-15 and 2015-16 was \$159.4 million and \$168.2 million respectively. The revised estimate for 2016-17 is \$189.6 million. The current resources are able to meet the operational requirements.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)265****(Question Serial No. 3629)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Given that the Government will implement a charging scheme for household waste (the scheme) in 2017-18, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the approximate total number of public litter containers placed on streets in the past 3 years;
- (b) whether the Department has any plan this year to reduce the number of public litter containers after the implementation of the scheme; and
- (c) whether the Department has earmarked any financial provision or manpower for the additional workload in this respect.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 107)Reply:

Design and management of litter containers contribute to waste management under the policy purview of the Environment Bureau. The information sought is given below.

- (a) The number of litter containers (LCs) placed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) on streets in the past 3 years is provided in the following table:

Year	Number of LCs
2014	21 257
2015	18 017
2016	16 215

- (b) Based on the provision of LCs in 2014, the Department has proposed to reduce the number of LCs by 40% by the time when the Municipal Solid Waste Charging Scheme is planned to take effect in 2019.
- (c) The expenditure and manpower required by the Department in 2017-18 in achieving the target reduction will be absorbed from within its existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)266

(Question Serial No. 3702)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

1. Please advise on the number of unlicensed hawkers arrested by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in each of the past 5 years;
2. Please advise on the number of unlicensed hawkers prosecuted by the Department in each of the past 5 years;
3. Please advise on the number of complaints against illegal hawking received by the Department in each of the past 5 years;
4. Please advise on the number of food poisoning cases reported as a result of patronising unlicensed cooked food hawkers in each of the past 5 years;
5. Please advise on the number of complaints about obstruction by unlicensed hawkers received by the Department in each of the past 5 years;
6. Please advise whether the Department will re-issue hawker licences in 2017-18 (if yes, the details and expenditure in this respect);
7. Please advise whether the Department will designate new hawker areas at suitable locations in the territory in 2017-18 (if yes, the details and expenditure in this respect); and
8. Please advise whether the Department will conduct studies on building new public markets at suitable locations in the territory in 2017-18 (if yes, the details and expenditure in this respect).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 532)

Reply:

1. The number of arrests taken out against unlicensed hawkers in each of the past 5 years is given at Annex I.

2. The number of prosecutions taken out against unlicensed hawkers in each of the past 5 years is given at Annex II.
3. The number of complaints against unlicensed hawking and obstruction in each of the past 5 years is given at Annex III.
4. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has over the years been taking stringent enforcement actions against unlicensed hawking activities involving the sale of cooked food. In the past 5 years, the Department has not received any reports of food poisoning cases as a result of patronising unlicensed cooked food hawkers.
5. Please refer to Annex III for the number of complaints against unlicensed hawking and obstruction. A further breakdown to show the number of the complaints about obstruction is not available.
6. In taking forward the Hawker Assistance Scheme implemented since June 2013 with a view to further reducing fire risks in 43 hawker areas, some hawker pitches were vacated as a result of surrender of licence for ex-gratia payment. On whether to re-issue new hawker licences to fill any vacant pitches in the relevant hawker areas, the Government would carefully consider the case, taking into account the circumstances of individual hawker areas, including their fire safety and environmental hygiene situations, the business environment, comments of relevant departments, as well as the views of the relevant District Council and local residents.
7. The Government is committed to implementing a hawker policy which can strike an optimal balance between allowing licensed hawking business to thrive on the one hand and addressing other legitimate concerns such as avoiding unreasonable nuisance to the local community in addition to ensuring food safety, environmental hygiene and public security on the other hand. We keep an open mind towards proposals for developing the hawker trade or the establishment of bazaars with local characteristics, so long as food safety and environmental hygiene are not compromised, public passageways are not obstructed and local community support is obtained. If suitable sites are identified, support from the relevant District Councils has been obtained and food safety and environmental hygiene are not compromised, the Department stands ready to facilitate liaison with relevant government departments. Existing resources will continue to be deployed to carry out the said facilitation work.
8. The Government has initially identified suitable sites in the east of Tung Chung New Town East Extension Area as well as in the southwest of Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area (NDA) to build sizable public markets. The markets are intended to serve not only Tung Chung New Town Extension Area and Hung Shui Kiu NDA but also the whole Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai areas. The projects will need to undergo technical feasibility studies (of which the project estimates would be worked out) and to seek necessary funding. The Government will continue to identify suitable sites in other NDAs.

- End -

**Number of arrests taken out against unlicensed hawkers
(2012-2016)**

Calendar Year	No. of arrests
2012	8 980
2013	8 953
2014	7 424
2015	6 945
2016	4 420

**Number of prosecutions taken out against unlicensed hawkers
(2012-2016)**

Calendar year	No. of prosecutions
2012	27 457
2013	29 243
2014	26 025
2015	23 054
2016	15 310

**Number of complaints against unlicensed hawking and obstruction
(2012-2016)**

Year	No. of complaints
2012	14 167
2013	15 797
2014	16 468
2015	13 428
2016	10 512

A further breakdown to show the number of the complaints against unlicensed hawking is not available

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)267

(Question Serial No. 3760)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Legislative Council is expected to complete the scrutiny of the Private Columbaria Bill within the current legislative session. With regard to the follow-up actions on the legislation, please advise this Committee of the following:

- a) whether the Department has formulated any work plan for following up the Private Columbaria Bill in 2017-18; if yes, the specific details of the work plan, as well as the timetable, manpower arrangement and the estimated expenditure for implementation of the plan concerned; if not, the reason(s);
- b) whether the Department has reserved resources and manpower for the preparatory work on the setting up of the Private Columbaria Licensing Board and for its initial operation in 2017-18; if yes, the estimated expenditure, manpower arrangement and details of the preparatory work; if not, the reason(s); and
- c) whether the Department has reserved resources for launching publicity and public education activities to promote the new Private Columbaria Ordinance in 2017-18; if yes, details of the work plan, the timetable and estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 125)

Reply:

- (a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will set up a dedicated office known as the Private Columbaria Affairs Office (PCAO) to deal with the preparatory work for taking forward the Private Columbaria Ordinance (the Ordinance) and for implementing the licensing scheme for private columbaria upon commencement of the legislation. The Private Columbaria Bill is being scrutinized by the Legislative Council, and we are working closely with the Council to facilitate

its early passage. If everything goes smoothly, the Ordinance could be enacted by as early as mid-2017. The new PCAO comprises the Licensing Board Secretariat, the Administration Unit, the Licensing Team and the Enforcement Team. About 50 staff and \$50 million have been earmarked for the operation of the PCAO in 2017-18.

- (b) The Licensing Board Secretariat of the PCAO will be responsible for the preparatory work in setting up the Private Columbaria Licensing Board (PCLB). Since the team will also perform other preparatory work and duties for the PCAO, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower resources involved in setting up the PCLB.
- (c) Upon enactment of the Ordinance, the Department will set up a dedicated website on the regulation of private columbaria to provide relevant information to consumers and operators respectively. The Department will also step up its publicity and public education efforts on the licensing scheme, including broadcasting new Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, broadcasting an animated video, placing advertisements on newspapers, distributing pamphlets through various channels and at various locations. Briefing sessions for various stakeholders will also be arranged to enhance their understanding of the relevant requirements. Staff of the PCAO, among other duties, will take forward the above work on publicity and public education. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved in such work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)268

(Question Serial No. 4210)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the refuse collection facilities under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) whether the Department will conduct a study in 2017-18 on the installation of recyclables collection facilities in some refuse collection points (RCPs) of a bigger size for collecting recyclable materials with relatively low economic value, so as to raise the waste recycling rate in Hong Kong; if yes, the work plan, work schedules and estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s); and
- (b) whether the Department will consider providing all RCPs with additional manpower to better combat the disposal of refuse outside RCPs; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 233)

Reply:

Promotion of recyclable collection facilities falls under the purview of the Environment Bureau.

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has commissioned a consultancy study which looks into, amongst others, incorporating the resource recovery function in future Refuse Collection Points (RCPs). The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will work closely with EPD to follow up the recommendations made by the consultant with a view to enhancing recycling work in the community. In fact, FEHD has been working in collaboration with EPD in past years to make available space in a few designated RCPs to support the trial of glass bottles recycling. The Government remains open on the proposal of making available space in RCPs for

collecting recyclable materials, on the premise that the efficiency and effectiveness of refuse collection service at RCPs is not affected.

- (b) In combating the disposal of refuse outside RCPs, apart from stepping up enforcement action, the Department has, with the consent of respective District Councils, extended the opening hours of some targeted RCPs with additional manpower provided to cater for the local demand at midnight or in the early morning. These 2 measures have brought about improvements to a certain extent.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)269****(Question Serial No. 4224)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

I have from time to time received complaints from the public against commercial tenants who repeatedly discarded a large amount of refuse on streets or in front of closed shops during late-night hours or holidays, affecting pedestrians or other tenants. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the number of complaints received by the District Environmental Hygiene Offices (DEHOs) against accumulation of refuse on streets or illegal deposit of large amount of refuse, the number of enforcement actions taken by the Department, as well as the number of warnings issued and prosecutions instituted, in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and DEHO;
- (b) whether the Department will consider deploying additional manpower to carry out inspections and enforcement actions at non-office hours, especially during late-night hours, in areas causing more complaints on illegal deposit of refuse; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s); and
- (c) whether the Department will consider formulating measures to facilitate the public in reporting illegal deposit of waste and producing evidence; if yes, the work plan and the estimated expenditure for 2017-18 in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 234)

Reply:

- (a) The number of complaints received regarding street cleansing in 2014, 2015 and 2016 was 35 771, 49 650 and 63 785 respectively. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not keep a separate breakdown on cases of accumulation of refuse or illegal deposit of refuse on streets. Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) against littering issued by the Department in the past 3 years are provided in the following table—

District	FPNs issued against littering		
	2014	2015	2016
Central and Western	998	1 102	1 287
Eastern	1 213	1 596	1 774
Southern	619	640	597
Wanchai	1 251	1 517	1 157
Islands	644	507	298
Kowloon City	802	851	912
Kwun Tong	804	588	556
Mong Kok	1 372	1 680	2 299
Shum Shui Po	535	776	1 034
Wong Tai Sin	502	397	459
Yau Tsim	1 487	1 666	1 849
Kwai Tsing	521	511	641
North	587	837	704
Sai Kung	502	513	505
Sha Tin	516	603	692
Tsuen Wan	383	523	675
Tuen Mun	784	652	688
Tai Po	522	670	627
Yuen Long	1 847	2 264	2 872
Cross-district [#]	12 929	13 177	14 595
Total	28 818	31 070	34 221

[#] Dedicated teams were deployed to various districts to issue FPNs.

- (b) Additional resources will be allocated in 2017-18 for deployment of dedicated enforcement teams to take enforcement action at the blackspots of illegal deposit of refuse at different hours to improve the hygiene conditions. Apart from stepping up enforcement action, the Department has, with the consent of respective District Councils, extended the opening hours of some targeted refuse collection points with additional manpower provided to cater for the local demand at midnight or in the early morning. This has brought about improvements to a certain extent.
- (c) The public can readily report cases of illegal deposit of waste to the 1823 Hotline, or the Department through e-mails, fax, phone calls, etc. The existing channels for reporting cases of illegal deposit of waste are considered adequate, convenient and effective.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)270

(Question Serial No. 4254)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the burial services provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the number of cases of using the Department's service of scattering of cremains in Gardens of Remembrance in each of the past 3 years;
- (b) the number of cases of using the Department's service of scattering of cremains at sea, as well as the utilisation rate of the service quota, in each of the past 3 years; whether the Department will continue to increase the service quota in 2017-18 (if yes, the details and the estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s));
- (c) whether the Department has drawn up any plan for continuing the publicity work on scattering of cremains in Gardens of Remembrance and at sea in 2017-18; if yes, details of the plan, including a breakdown of the estimated expenditure by publicity channel or event, as well as the timetable and estimated indicators for the events concerned; if not, the reason(s);
- (d) the number of webpages dedicated to the memory of the deceased in the "memorial.gov.hk" website managed by the Department; the number of new memorial webpages created in each of the past 3 years; the number of visitors of the website in each of the past 3 years;
- (e) the number of memorial webpages removed from the "memorial.gov.hk" website by the Department due to mischief or other reasons in each of the past 3 years; whether the Department will take follow-up actions against the creators of those improper or mischievous memorial webpages (if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s));
- (f) whether the Department will carry out publicity and promotion work for the "memorial.gov.hk" website in 2017-18; if yes, the details and timetable of the work, as well as the estimated expenditure in this respect; and

- (g) the manpower arrangement and estimated expenditure for the operation of the “memorial.gov.hk” website in 2017-18; whether the Department will consider reviewing the cost effectiveness of the website in 2017-18 and follow up the results and recommendations of the review (if yes, the work plan and timetable of the review; if not, the reason(s)).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 237)

Reply:

- (a) The number of applications for scattering cremated ashes in the Gardens of Remembrance managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the past 3 calendar years is as follows -

Year	Number of cases on scattering of ashes in Gardens of Remembrance
2014	2 697
2015	3 196
2016	4 004

- (b) Information on the number of applications received and the utilisation rate of the free ferry service provided by the Department for scattering cremated ashes at sea in the past 3 calendar years is given below –

Year	Service capacity	Number of applications received	Utilisation rate
2014	900	790	88%
2015	950	817	86%
2016	1 175	850	72%

Note: The utilisation rate is calculated by the number of applications received in that year divided by the total service capacity provided in the same year. As the total service capacity has been increased in the past few years to offer greater flexibility to the public, hence despite the increase in number of applications received, the utilisation rate has decreased.

The Department reviews the service capacity for the free ferry service from time to time, and will consider increasing the service level should demand for the service so warrant.

- (c) In 2017-18, the Department will continue with its efforts in promoting green burial, including scattering of cremated ashes in Gardens of Remembrance or at sea and the Internet Memorial Service (IMS). Plans are in hand to sustain publicity and public education through different channels, including Announcement in the Public Interest on television and radio, promotional videos, posters and banners, a mobile app,

collaboration with non-governmental organisations and promotional activities at Senior Exhibition, etc. The estimated amount of provision earmarked for promoting green burial in 2017-18 is about \$8 million.

While the total number of cases where ashes are scattered at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance has increased by 38% from 2014 to 2016, it takes time for the community at large to accept green burial as a sustainable form of handling cremated human ashes. We will continue to improve the green burial facilities and services while stepping up our promotion efforts.

- (d) As at 31 December 2016, there were 9 416 memorial webpages for the deceased created under the IMS website provided by the Department. Information on the number of newly created memorial webpages and hit count of such webpages in the past 3 calendar years is given below -

Year	Number of newly created memorial webpages	Hit count
2014	1 034	516 202
2015	1 048	440 990
2016	1 366	590 672

- (e) In the past 3 calendar years, the Department removed 1 memorial webpage in the IMS website due to its malicious use. The Department reserves its right as the website administrator to remove concerned webpage when the situation warrants.
- (f) Please refer to the answer in (c) above for the required information.
- (g) In 2017-18, the work of operating the IMS website will continue to be absorbed by the Department's existing staff. The estimated amount of provision earmarked for maintaining the service and developing a mobile app is about \$0.42 million. The Department keeps under review the cost effectiveness of the IMS and will seek improvements as appropriate to better meet the needs of the users.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)271

(Question Serial No. 4280)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the columbaria services of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the number of new niches available for interment of ashes of the deceased in the columbaria under the Department in 2017-18, with a breakdown by columbarium;
- (b) the number of cases currently on the waiting list for niches managed by the Department; the number of new applications for niches managed by the Department and the number of niches allocated by the Department in each of the past 3 years;
- (c) the average waiting time for interment of ashes in niches managed by the Department after cremations of the deceased in each of the past 3 years;
- (d) the number of niches vacated for re-allocation each year after the relaxation of the cap on the number of sets of ashes that may be stored in a niche; and
- (e) whether a work plan will be formulated to promote the placing of additional sets of ashes in a niche in 2017-18; if yes, the details and estimated expenditure of the plan concerned; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 238)

Reply:

- (a) In 2017-18, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will not have new niches for allocation to members of the public.
- (b) New niches are allocated by computer balloting. Waiting list applies only to the allocation of niches returned to the Department.

The information sought on allocation of new niches is as follows -

Year	New niches	
	No. of applications	No. of niches allocated
2014	16 321	12 053
2015	11 627	14 573
2016	178	5 239

Note: The year in which new niches are allocated may not be the same as that in which the applications are made.

In the past 3 years, on average about 270 niches per annum are returned to the Department. These niches are re-allocated according to the priority in the waiting list of the respective columbarium. The information sought is provided as follows -

Year	Re-allocated niches	
	No. of applications	No. of niches re-allocated
2014	5 554	193
2015	7 164	394
2016	6 923	271

- (c) There is no statistic on the average time from cremation to the deposition of cremated ashes into public niches.
- (d) The Department has since January 2014 removed the cap on the number of sets of cremated ashes that may be placed in a public niche. The annual number of niches vacated due to co-location of ashes in other public niches and returned to the Department for re-allocation in the past 3 years is as follows -

Year	Number of niches returned
2014	8
2015	12
2016	4

- (e) In 2017-18, the Department will continue to promote co-location of cremated ashes in public niches through broadcasting of Announcements in Public Interest on radio, distribution of posters, booklets, leaflets and collaboration with the funeral trade by posting up promotional posters and distributing educational leaflets at the premises of licensed funeral parlours and undertakers of burials. The estimated expenditure is about \$0.22 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)272

(Question Serial No. 6736)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the cremation services of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the annual service quota of the crematoria under the management of the Department, as well as the actual usage rates of the services and the related facilities, in the past 3 years;
- (b) the current average time for handling a dead body or a set of human remains by the crematoria under the management of the Department; whether additional resources will be allocated in 2017-18 to shorten the time required for handling a dead body or a set of human remains by the crematoria and to increase the service quota of crematoria (if yes, the details of the work plan and estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s)); and
- (c) whether the Department has any concrete plans for building new cremation facilities or extending the existing ones in 2017-18; if yes, details of the plans concerned and the estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 239)

Reply:

- (a) Information on the number of cremation sessions released, cremation sessions booked and the percentage of cremation sessions booked in public crematoria managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the past 3 calendar years is given below -

Name of Crematorium	2014			2015			2016		
	No. of cremation sessions released	No. of cremation sessions booked	Percentage of cremation sessions booked	No. of cremation sessions released	No. of cremation sessions booked	Percentage of cremation sessions booked	No. of cremation sessions released	No. of cremation sessions booked	Percentage of cremation sessions booked
Cape Collinson	7 798	7 789	99.9%	8 288	8 283	99.9%	15 111	12 945	85.7%
Diamond Hill	8 480	8 466	99.8%	7 896	7 887	99.9%	8 578	8 519	99.3%
Fu Shan	6 897	6 885	99.8%	6 960	6 949	99.8%	5 895	5 814	98.6%
Kwai Chung	7 331	7 325	99.9%	8 448	8 443	99.9%	6 560	6 494	99.0%
Cheung Chau	1 321	168	12.7%	1 308	195	14.9%	1 105	119	10.8%
Wo Hop Shek	10 635	10 611	99.8%	10 998	10 980	99.8%	10 629	9 665	90.9%
Total	42 462	41 244	97.1%	43 898	42 737	97.4%	47 878	43 556	91.0%

- (b) It is the pledge of the Department that an applicant can be offered a cremation session at one of the government crematoria within the next 15 days from the date an application is made. This performance pledge has been met over the 3 years ending 2016. We will keep in view the demand and supply situation in planning cremation services in the years ahead.
- (c) Reprovisioning of the Cape Collinson Crematorium to provide 10 new cremators and ancillary facilities was completed in December 2015. The overall cremation capacity of all public crematoria has increased from 44 600 to 52 800 sessions per annum, which is expected to meet the projected demand up to 2022. In light of the demand and supply situation, no additional public crematoria or cremators will be provided in 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)273

(Question Serial No. 6738)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise whether the Department has issued warnings, instituted prosecutions and launched raids against street performances over the past 3 years. If yes, please provide the types, number and effectiveness of the actions taken, with a breakdown by District Environmental Hygiene Office.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 230)

Reply:

There are no specific laws in Hong Kong that prohibit street performance. Unless the performance involves illegal hawking activities, contravention of regulations related to public cleansing or use of a place of public entertainment without a licence, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not normally take any action on street performance per se.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)274

(Question Serial No. 6740)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the operation of the licensed undertakers, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the number of licensed undertakers and the districts in which they were located in the past 3 years;
- (b) whether the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) conducted any inspections of the undertakers in the past 3 years; if yes, the number of inspections and the number of undertakers who were found to have breached the licensing conditions, each year as well as the details of the follow-up actions on non-compliance cases; if not, the reason(s); and
- (c) whether the Department will allocate resources in 2017-2018 for enhancing inspections of licensed undertakers to prevent over-storage or long-term storage of cremains by undertakers, lest their operation turn into that of columbaria causing crowds to gather to pay tribute to their ancestors; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 240)

Reply:

- (a) There were 112, 113 and 121 licensed undertakers of burials in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. The distribution of these licensed undertakers of burials by district is as follows -

District	No. of Licensed Undertakers of Burials		
	2014	2015	2016
Hong Kong			
Central & Western	5	5	6
Wan Chai	1	0	1
Eastern	1	1	2
Southern	0	0	0
Sub-total	7	6	9
Kowloon			
Yau Tsim	6	7	7
Mong Kok	10	11	15
Sham Shui Po	0	0	0
Kowloon City	59	58	58
Wong Tai Sin	4	4	4
Kwun Tung	0	0	0
Sub-total	79	80	84
New Territories			
Kwai Tsing	0	0	0
Tsuen Wan	0	0	0
Tuen Mun	5	6	6
Yuen Long	12	12	13
North	2	2	2
Tai Po	1	1	1
Sha Tin	1	1	1
Sai Kung	2	2	2
Islands	3	3	3
Sub-total	26	27	28
Total	112	113	121

- (b) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) conducts regular inspections to the premises of licensed undertakers of burials to ensure their compliance with licensing requirements and conditions as well as provisions in the Undertakers of Burials Regulation (Cap. 132CB). The number of inspections, nature of cases found to have breached licensing conditions, and the action taken against licensed undertakers of burials in the past 3 calendar years are as follows -

Year	No. of Inspections Conducted	Non-compliance detected		Follow-up Action	Remarks
		No.	Nature		
2014	340	62	The licensee or a manager nominated by the licensee was found not conducting the business in person at the licensed premises.	Verbal warning given	The irregularities were found rectified during follow-up inspections.
		25	Register of the deceased's particulars was found not updated or not available for inspection.	Verbal warning given	
		6	Licence was not available for inspection.	Verbal advice given	
		4	Inspection record was not available for inspection.	Verbal advice given	
2015	467	18	The licensee or a manager nominated by the licensee was found not conducting the business in person at the licensed premises.	Verbal warning given	The irregularities were found rectified during follow-up inspections.
		7	Register of the deceased's particulars was found not updated or not available for inspection.	Verbal warning given	
		1	Failure to display licence inside the premises.	Verbal warning given	
		17	Inspection record was not available for inspection.	Verbal warning given	
2016	431	31	The licensee or a manager nominated by the licensee was found not conducting the business in person at the licensed premises.	Verbal warning given	The irregularities were found rectified during

		2	Register of the deceased's particulars was found not updated or not available for inspection.	Verbal warning given	follow-up inspections.
		2	Failure to display licence inside the premises.	Verbal warning given	
		4	Inspection record was not available for inspection.	Verbal warning given	

- (c) In 2017-18, the Department will continue with its efforts to conduct inspection to licensed undertakers of burials to ensure their compliance with the licensing terms and conditions. Subject to the passage of the Private Columbaria Bill, a team of enforcement officers will be deployed to carry out inspection to premises suspected to be engaged in illegal private columbarium activities, and will take enforcement action when situation warrants.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)275

(Question Serial No. 6746)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the enforcement actions against hawkers, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the number of complaints received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) from the general public against hawkers suspected of non-compliance in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and District Environmental Hygiene Office;
- (b) the number of verbal and written warnings issued against, as well as summonses served on, non-compliant licensed hawkers by the Department, together with the number of licensed hawkers summonsed and the average amount of fines of each summons, in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and District Environmental Hygiene Office;
- (c) the number of summonses served on unlicensed hawkers, the number of unlicensed hawkers summonsed and the average amount of fines of each summons in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by District Environmental Hygiene Office; and
- (d) in 2017-18, whether the Department will coordinate and communicate with hawker associations, District Councils and residents' organisations in the community in an attempt to strike a balance between the spaces for hawkers to operate and the legitimate interests of pedestrians and residents (if yes, details of the work plan, if not, the reason(s)).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 241)

Reply:

- (a) The number of complaints against hawking received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the past 3 years broken down by year and district is provided at Annex I.

- (b) The number of summonses taken out against licensed hawkers in the past 3 years broken down by year and district is provided at Annex II. The average amount of fines in 2014, 2015 and 2016 were about \$510, \$550 and \$600 respectively. The Department does not keep separate statistics on the number of warnings issued, or the number of licensed hawkers issued with summonses.
- (c) The number of summonses taken out against unlicensed hawkers in the past 3 years broken down by year and district is provided at Annex III. The average amount of fines in 2014, 2015 and 2016 were about \$480, \$510 and \$580 respectively. The Department does not keep separate statistics on the number of unlicensed hawkers issued with summonses.
- (d) The Subcommittee on Hawker Policy (the Subcommittee) set up under the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene was briefed in March 2015 on the principles underpinning the Government's current policy on the management of hawkers. In gist, the Government seeks to formulate a hawker policy which can strike an optimal balance between allowing licensed hawking business to thrive on the one hand, and meeting other legitimate concerns to ensure food safety, environmental hygiene, and public security on the other. The Government adopts a positive attitude towards specific proposals put up by individuals / organisations in the community for organising bazaars. When suitable sites have been identified by the organisations concerned and support from local communities and respective District Councils have been obtained, provided that the bazaar proposals will not compromise public order and safety, food safety and environmental hygiene, and will not obstruct public passageways, the Government will facilitate liaison with the relevant bureau and departments. Depending on the specific details of bazaar proposals, the bureaux concerned will, according to the roles they play, give comments on matters related to their policy areas respectively. The departments concerned will process bazaar proposals according to their procedures and criteria.

- End -

Number of complaints against hawking

Calendar year District	Number of complaints		
	2014	2015	2016
Central & Western	384	358	381
Wan Chai	858	608	846
Eastern	2 812	1 648	841
Southern	105	82	127
Islands	121	134	103
Yau Tsim	423	468	273
Mong Kok	3 607	2 553	1 155
Sham Shui Po	1 455	2 172	3 045
Kowloon City	1 024	262	157
Wong Tai Sin	304	312	259
Kwun Tong	950	1 289	922
Kwai Tsing	515	447	157
Tsuen Wan	352	229	171
Tuen Mun	191	445	393
Yuen Long	460	771	506
North	2 158	757	532
Tai Po	131	136	123
Shatin	292	320	230
Sai Kung	98	176	115
Total	16 249	13 167	10 336

Number of summonses taken out against licensed hawkers

Calendar year District	Number of summonses		
	2014	2015	2016
Central & Western	488	381	272
Wan Chai	1 292	1 224	1 038
Eastern	471	381	267
Southern	11	3	0
Islands	0	0	0
Yau Tsim	115	53	120
Mong Kok	957	837	728
Sham Shui Po	778	645	522
Kowloon City	21	11	6
Wong Tai Sin	8	22	12
Kwun Tong	51	54	46
Kwai Tsing	3	5	4
Tsuen Wan	97	118	88
Tuen Mun	41	38	25
Yuen Long	180	206	211
North	228	159	200
Tai Po	17	14	20
Shatin	80	70	90
Sai Kung	2	1	0
Total	4 840	4 222	3 649

A further breakdown to show the number of licensed hawkers summoned and the average amount of fines of each summons is not available.

Number of summonses taken out against unlicensed hawkers

Calendar year District	Number of summonses		
	2014	2015	2016
Central & Western	802	806	551
Wan Chai	1 757	1 700	903
Eastern	2 965	1 590	513
Southern	527	472	371
Islands	55	25	10
Yau Tsim	100	129	227
Mong Kok	2 986	3 227	2 106
Sham Shui Po	1 734	1 074	632
Kowloon City	1 251	764	444
Wong Tai Sin	575	760	554
Kwun Tong	0	1	2
Kwai Tsing	1	0	21
Tsuen Wan	0	13	96
Tuen Mun	732	155	243
Yuen Long	777	1 283	1 211
North	151	245	162
Tai Po	1 048	542	120
Shatin	5	11	4
Sai Kung	135	47	6
Total	15 601	12 844	8 176

A further breakdown to show the number of unlicensed hawkers summoned and the average amount of fines of each summons is not available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)276

(Question Serial No. 6779)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the operation of public markets under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the number of vacant stalls and vacancy rates of public markets in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and public market;
- (b) the number of complaints against public market stalls about suspected breach of tenancy agreement received by the Department in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and public market;
- (c) the number of verbal and written warnings issued by the Department against public market stalls with irregularities, the number of re-possessed stalls with serious irregularities, and the number of stalls against which warnings were issued, in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and public market;
- (d) whether the Department will increase manpower in 2017-18 for handling complaints concerning public markets and matters in respect of illegal operation of stalls (if yes, the number of additional staff and the estimated expenditure in this respect; if no, the reason(s)); and
- (e) whether the Department has measures in place to reduce the vacancy rate of public markets in 2017-18 (if yes, the work plan and timetable of such measures; if no, the reason(s)).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 242)

Reply:

- (a) The information sought is provided at Annex.
- (b) The number of complaints in public markets for the past 3 years is given below -

Year	Number of complaints
2014	1 310
2015	2 122
2016	2 283

The above figures cover different sorts of complaints, including breach of tenancy agreements. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not keep a breakdown of the complaints against breach of tenancy agreement, or further breakdown by each of the public markets.

- (c) Statistics on enforcement action taken against public market stalls with irregularities for the past 3 years are given below:

Year	2014	2015	2016
Number of prosecutions	1 291	1 658	2 065
Number of verbal warnings	595	691	1 180
Number of warning letters	1 736	2 195	2 763
Number of notice of terminations	17	41	42
Number of stalls repossessed	16	28	35

Further breakdown by each of the public markets is not readily available.

- (d) The Department has created an additional 13 civil service Foreman posts in 2016-17 to strengthen the existing manpower in market management. We will review the manpower situation from time to time in the light of operational needs.
- (e) To enhance the patronage of existing public markets, as an on-going initiative, the Department conducts promotional activities. These include thematic exhibitions and workshops, festive celebration activities, display of multi-language recipes as well as publication of booklets and quarterly newsletters to provide updated market information. The Department will continue, as appropriate, to let out long-standing vacant stalls at reduced upset auction prices and introduce a greater variety of service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rate of public markets. Besides, we have been implementing various improvement works in public markets to improve the operating environment. The scope of works may include replacement of aged lifts and escalators, improvement of ventilation, lighting systems and fire services, refurbishment of external walls, refurbishment of toilets, etc.

- End -

Serial No.	Name of Market	No. of stalls			No. of Vacant Stalls (of which frozen#) as at 31 December			Vacancy rate* as at 31 December		
		2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
1	Aberdeen Market	335	335	335	4(0)	2(0)	4(0)	1%	1%	1%
2	Aldrich Bay Market	71	71	71	13(0)	11(0)	10(0)	18%	15%	14%
3	Apleichau Market	63	63	63	1(0)	1(0)	0(0)	2%	2%	0%
4	Bowrington Road Market	296	296	296	2(0)	2(0)	10(0)	1%	1%	3%
5	Causeway Bay Market	51	51	51	0(0)	1(0)	1(0)	0%	2%	2%
6	Centre Street Market	47	46	46	12(9)	7(5)	10(5)	26%	15%	22%
7	Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market	32	32	32	0(0)	2(2)	2(2)	0%	6%	6%
8	Chai Wan Market	173	173	173	6(0)	9(0)	9(0)	6%	5%	5%
9	Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market	17	17	17	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0%	0%	0%
10	Cheung Chau Market	237	237	240	1(0)	0(0)	5(0)	0%	0%	2%
11	Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	28	28	28	16(16)	16(16)	16(16)	57%	57%	57%
12	Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market	12	12	12	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0%	0%	0%
13	Choi Hung Road Market	116	116	116	25(25)	30(28)	36(36)	22%	26%	31%
14	Electric Road Market	99	99	99	2(0)	5(0)	3(0)	2%	5%	3%
15	Fa Yuen Street Market	180	180	180	3(0)	0(0)	0(0)	2%	0%	0%
16	Fo Tan (East) Cooked Food Market	24	24	24	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0%	0%	0%
17	Fo Tan (West) Cooked Food Market	15	15	15	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0%	0%	0%
18	Haiphong Road Temporary Market	88	88	88	30(30)	30(30)	30(30)	34%	34%	34%
19	Heung Che Street Market	223	223	223	2(2)	9(9)	10(8)	1%	4%	4%
20	Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market	11	11	11	0(0)	0(0)	1(0)	0%	0%	9%
21	Hung Hom Market	224	224	224	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0%	0%	0%
22	Hung Shui Kiu Market	215	215	174	133 (133)	135 (133)	44(38)	62%	63%	25%
23	Java Road Market	194	194	194	5(0)	7(0)	9(0)	3%	4%	5%
24	Ka Ting Cooked Food Market	16	16	16	3(0)	5(0)	6(0)	19%	31%	38%
25	Kam Tin Market	41	41	41	0(0)	0(0)	1(0)	0%	0%	2%
26	Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market	14	14	14	0(0)	1(0)	0(0)	0%	7%	0%
27	Kin Wing Cooked Food Market	20	17	17	3(3)	0(0)	0(0)	15%	0%	0%
28	Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market	14	14	14	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0%	0%	0%

Serial No.	Name of Market	No. of stalls			No. of Vacant Stalls (of which frozen#) as at 31 December			Vacancy rate* as at 31 December		
		2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
29	Kowloon City Market	581	581	581	12(0)	11(0)	1(0)	2%	2%	0%
30	Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	11	11	11	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0%	0%	0%
31	Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market	12	12	12	1(0)	1(0)	2(0)	8%	8%	17%
32	Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre	98	98	98	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)	1%	0%	0%
33	Kwun Chung Market	218	218	218	2(2)	3(2)	5(2)	1%	1%	2%
34	Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market	29	29	29	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0%	0%	0%
35	Lai Wan Market	42	42	42	1(0)	1(0)	1(0)	2%	2%	2%
36	Lam Tei Market	7	7	7	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)	14%	0%	0%
37	Lau Fau Shan Market	25	25	25	3(3)	3(3)	3(3)	12%	12%	12%
38	Lei Yue Mun Market	20	20	20	0(0)	2(0)	0(0)	0%	10%	0%
39	Lockhart Road Market	166	166	166	18(0)	28(0)	34(0)	11%	17%	20%
40	Luen Wo Hui Market	338	338	338	9(0)	2(0)	3(0)	3%	1%	1%
41	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	14	14	14	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0%	0%	0%
42	Mui Wo Cooked Food Market	20	20	20	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0%	0%	0%
43	Mui Wo Market	35	35	35	0(0)	1(0)	1(0)	0%	3%	3%
44	Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market	28	28	28	3(3)	3(3)	4(3)	11%	11%	14%
45	Ngau Chi Wan Market	402	402	402	22(0)	27(0)	30(0)	5%	7%	7%
46	Ngau Tau Kok Market	466	466	466	58(57)	64(58)	59(58)	12%	14%	13%
47	North Kwai Chung Market	222	222	222	6(0)	4(0)	1(0)	3%	2%	0%
48	North Point Market	42	42	42	4(0)	1(0)	0(0)	10%	2%	0%
49	On Ching Road Flower Market	13	13	13	0(0)	0(0)	1(0)	0%	0%	8%
50	Pei Ho Street Market	227	227	227	0(0)	0(0)	4(0)	0%	0%	2%
51	Peng Chau Market	18	18	18	2(0)	1(0)	0(0)	11%	6%	0%
52	Plover Cove Road Market	244	244	244	3(0)	7(0)	10(0)	1%	3%	4%
53	Po On Road Market	449	449	449	26(0)	16(0)	31(1)	6%	4%	7%
54	Quarry Bay Market	113	113	113	8(0)	9(0)	20(0)	7%	8%	18%
55	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	11	11	11	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)	9%	0%	0%

Serial No.	Name of Market	No. of stalls			No. of Vacant Stalls (of which frozen#) as at 31 December			Vacancy rate* as at 31 December		
		2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
56	Sai Kung Market	209	209	209	1(0)	2(0)	2(0)	0%	1%	1%
57	Sai Wan Ho Market	274	274	274	6(0)	4(0)	7(0)	2%	1%	3%
58	Sai Ying Pun Market	102	102	102	12(7)	11(7)	11(7)	12%	11%	11%
59	San Hui Market	324	324	324	2(0)	0(0)	3(0)	1%	0%	1%
60	Sha Tau Kok Market	66	66	66	0(0)	0(0)	1(0)	0%	0%	2%
61	Sha Tin Market	172	172	172	0(0)	0(0)	3(0)	0%	0%	2%
62	Sham Tseng Temporary Market	29	29	29	0(0)	0(0)	3(3)	0%	0%	10%
63	Shaukeiwan Market	82	82	82	36(36)	36(36)	36(36)	44%	44%	44%
64	Shek Tong Tsui Market	151	151	151	5(0)	9(0)	3(0)	3%	6%	2%
65	Shek Wu Hui Market	392	392	392	0(0)	1(0)	0(0)	0%	0%	0%
66	Sheung Fung Street Market	71	71	71	0(0)	1(0)	0(0)	0%	1%	0%
67	Sheung Wan Market	222	222	222	5(0)	3(0)	1(0)	2%	1%	0%
68	Shui Wo Street Market	302	302	302	3(0)	2(0)	0(0)	1%	1%	0%
69	Smithfield Market	216	216	216	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0%	0%	0%
70	Stanley Waterfront Mart	20	20	20	1(0)	2(0)	1(0)	5%	10%	5%
71	Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market	17	17	17	2(0)	2(0)	0(0)	12%	12%	0%
72	Tai Kiu Market	379	379	379	9(0)	8(0)	3(0)	2%	2%	1%
73	Tai Kok Tsui Market	135	135	135	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)	1%	0%	0%
74	Tai O Market	26	26	26	4(0)	3(0)	0(0)	15%	12%	0%
75	Tai Po Hui Market	313	313	313	1(0)	2(0)	2(0)	0%	1%	1%
76	Tai Shing Street Market	446	446	442	27(17)	21(16)	23(22)	6%	5%	5%
77	Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market	18	18	18	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0%	0%	0%
78	Tai Wai Market	195	195	195	20(20)	22(22)	23(23)	10%	11%	12%
79	Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	20	20	20	0(0)	4(0)	9(3)	0%	20%	45%
80	Tang Lung Chau Market	34	34	34	1(1)	1(1)	2(1)	3%	3%	6%
81	Tin Wan Market	180	180	180	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0%	0%	0%
82	Tokwawan Market	267	267	267	2(1)	2(1)	5(1)	1%	1%	2%
83	Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market	18	18	18	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)	2%	0%	0%

Serial No.		No. of stalls			No. of Vacant Stalls (of which frozen#) as at 31 December			Vacancy rate* as at 31 December		
		2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
84	Tsing Yi Market	76	76	76	7(0)	7(0)	0(0)	9%	9%	0%
85	Tsuen King Circuit Market	241	241	241	182 (182)	190 (190)	194 (194)	76%	79%	80%
86	Tsuen Wan Market	381	381	381	14(14)	25 (25)	27 (25)	4%	7%	7%
87	Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market	56	56	56	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0%	0%	0%
88	Tui Min Hoi Market	34	34	34	0(0)	0(0)	5(0)	0%	0%	15%
89	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	359	359	359	179 (177)	178 (177)	212 (212)	50%	50%	59%
90	Tung Yick Market	446	446	446	258 (258)	259 (258)	262 (258)	58%	58%	59%
91	Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	8	8	8	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0%	0%	0%
92	Wanchai Market	50	50	50	0(0)	0(0)	2(0)	0%	0%	4%
93	Wing Fong Street Market	112	112	112	8(0)	8(0)	9(0)	7%	7%	8%
94	Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market	18	18	18	1(0)	1(0)	0(0)	6%	6%	0%
95	Wong Nai Chung Market	69	69	69	1(0)	2(0)	1(0)	1%	3%	1%
96	Yan Oi Market	108	108	108	1(0)	2(0)	3(0)	1%	2%	3%
97	Yau Ma Tei Market	144	144	144	2(0)	2(0)	6(0)	1%	1%	4%
98	Yee On Street Market	65	65	65	1(0)	3(0)	1(0)	2%	5%	2%
99	Yeung Uk Road Market	318	318	318	5(5)	7(7)	8(8)	2%	2%	3%
100	Yue Kwong Road Market	197	197	197	3(0)	0(0)	3(0)	2%	0%	2%
101	Yue Wan Market	374	374	374	22(0)	13(0)	22(0)	6%	3%	6%

Remarks:

Including the number of vacant stalls that are frozen for reasons such as forthcoming improvement works.

* Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)277

(Question Serial No. 6782)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the hawker permitted areas, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of stalls, the number of vacant stalls and vacancy rate in each of the hawker permitted areas;
- (b) the number of hawker licences surrendered to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and hawker permitted area; whether the licences surrendered have been re-allocated to new stall operators (if not, the number of stalls which are not re-allocated and the reason(s));
- (c) the number of applications received by the Department for allocation of pitches in hawker permitted areas, as well as the number of applicants who were registered hawker assistants, in each of the past 3 years; and
- (d) with regard to the hawker permitted areas of a high vacancy rate or low patronage, whether the Department will consider reviewing the demand for these hawker permitted areas and arranging the stall tenants concerned to relocate or apply for compensation (if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s)).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 243)

Reply:

- (a) Information on the number of licensed on-street hawker pitches, vacant hawker pitches and vacancy rates of hawker permitted places is provided at Annex I.
- (b) Information on the number of hawker licences surrendered to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) under the 5-year Hawker Assistance Scheme (the Scheme) in the past 3 years is provided at Annex II.

The Scheme aims to provide one-off financial assistance to the hawkers in the hawker areas for stall reconstruction and relocation in order to expedite the work of reducing fire risks in those areas. We have made good progress in implementing the scheme since its launch in June 2013. All 499 hawkers whose stalls were located directly in front of staircase discharge points of adjacent building, or obstructing the operation of fire engines or other emergency vehicular access have vacated their pitches. As at 28 February 2017, among the 4 326 hawkers in the 43 hawker areas, 721 have applied for voluntary surrender of licence for ex-gratia payment, 2 833 have applied for reconstruction grant, and 772 have yet to apply for financial assistance under the Scheme. The Department would continue to follow up with the remaining hawker stalls and encourage hawkers to reconstruct their stall structures to meet the required specifications before the Scheme expires in June 2018. On whether to re-issue new hawker licences to fill any vacant pitches in some hawker areas, the Department would carefully consider the case, taking into account the circumstances of individual hawker areas, including their fire safety and environmental hygiene situations, the business environment, comments of relevant departments, as well as the views of the relevant District Council and local residents.

- (c) The Department does not keep separate statistics on the number of applications for allocation of pitches in hawker permitted areas or the number of applicants who were registered hawker assistants.
- (d) The Department has no plan to close any of the hawker permitted places. In the course of administering the Scheme, the Department has identified areas which can bring about enhancement to the hawking environment. These include rationalising the overall layout of hawker stalls where circumstances permit, enhancing safety of the fixed electrical installations for hawker stalls, etc., which may contribute to the vibrancy of the fixed-pitch hawker areas.

- End -

**Hawker fixed pitches
in hawker permitted places
(as at December 2016)**

District	Serial No.	Hawker Permitted Place	Year of Commencement	Number of fixed pitches		Vacancy rate (b) / ((a)+(b))
				Licensed [#] (a)	Vacant* (b)	
Eastern	1	Kam Wa Street / Aldrich Street	1981	66	3	4.3%
	2	Mong Lung Street	1981	3	0	0%
	3	Tai Tak Street	1981	0	1	100%
Sub-total				69	4	5.5%
Wanchai	4	Gresson Street	1980	4	0	0%
	5	Tai Yuen Street	1980	71	0	0%
	6	Cross Street / Sam Pan Street	1991	10	1	9.1%
Sub-total				85	1	1.2%
Central and Western	7	Findlay Road	1999	6	0	0%
	8	Chiu Lung Street (East)	1999	9	0	0%
	9	Gilman's Bazaar	1985	4	0	0%
	10	Graham Street	1980	15	6	28.6%
	11	MacDonnell Road	1980	1	0	0%
	12	Peel Street	1980	2	5	71.4%
	13	Staunton Street	1980	0	0	0%
	14	Wing Kut Street	1980	2	0	0%
	15	Wing On Street	1980	3	0	0%
Sub-total				42	11	20.8%
Southern	16	Waterfall Bay Park	1980	11	0	0%
Sub-total				11	0	0%
Yau Tsim	17	Reclamation Street	1981	31	5	13.9%
	18	Pak Hoi Street	1981	6	3	33.3%
	19	Temple Street	1981	259	14	5.1%
	20	Canton Road	1993	2	2	50.0%
	21	Pitt Street	1994	0	0	0%
Sub-total				298	24	7.5%

District	Serial No.	Hawker Permitted Place	Year of Commencement	Number of fixed pitches		Vacancy rate (b) / ((a)+(b))
				Licensed [#] (a)	Vacant [*] (b)	
Sham Shui Po	22	Wing Lung Street	1975	39	20	33.9%
	23	Fat Tseung Street	1975	14	4	22.2%
	24	Cheung Fat Street	1975	9	1	10.0%
	25	Apliu Street	1978	42	0	0%
	26	Fuk Wing Street	1993	38	1	2.6%
	27	Kweilin Street	1993	58	0	0%
	28	Ki Lung Street	1993	90	2	2.2%
	29	Pei Ho Street	1993	29	0	0%
	30	Tai Nan Street	1993	59	0	0%
Sub-total				378	28	6.9%
Mong Kok	31	Tung Choi Street	1979	584	34	5.5%
	32	Cheung Wong Road	1979	2	0	0%
	33	Nelson Street	1979	51	11	17.7%
	34	Nam Tau Street	1979	1	0	0%
Sub-total				638	45	6.6%
Total				1521	113	6.9%

Note : [#] All licensed fixed pitches along the subject streets are counted.

^{*} The figure represents the number of pitches vacated as a result of voluntary surrender of hawker licences under the Hawker Assistance Scheme. The figure does not include pitches located outside building staircase discharge points / emergency vehicular access, earmarked to accommodate stalls that require relocation due to fire safety considerations, and absorbed in the course of rationalisation of the overall layout of hawker areas, etc. Fixed-pitches vacated for other reasons and reserved for various purposes such as resite commitments are also excluded.

Hawker fixed pitches in hawker permitted places

District	Serial No.	Hawker Permitted Place	Number of fixed pitches (as at 31.12.2014)		Number of fixed pitches (as at 31.12.2015)		Number of fixed pitches (as at 31.12.2016)	
			Licence surrendered ¹	Vacant ²	Licence surrendered ¹	Vacant ²	Licence surrendered ¹	Vacant ²
Eastern	1	Kam Wa Street / Aldrich Street	10	8	12	2	16	3
	2	Mong Lung Street	5	5	6	0	7	0
	3	Tai Tak Street	1	1	1	0	2	1
Sub-total			16	14	19	2	25	4
Wanchai	4	Gresson Street	1	1	1	1	1	0
	5	Tai Yuen Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
	6	Cross Street / Sam Pan Street	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sub-total			2	2	2	2	2	1
Central and Western	7	Findlay Road	0	0	0	0	0	0
	8	Chiu Lung Street (East)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	9	Gilman's Bazaar	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10	Graham Street	3	3	3	3	6	6
	11	MacDonnell Road	0	0	0	0	0	0
	12	Peel Street	3	3	4	4	5	5
	13	Staunton Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
	14	Wing Kut Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15	Wing On Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total			6	6	7	7	11	11
Southern	16	Waterfall Bay Park	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total			0	0	0	0	0	0

Annex II

(Page 2 of 3)

District	Serial No.	Hawker Permitted Place	Number of fixed pitches (as at 31.12.2014)		Number of fixed pitches (as at 31.12.2015)		Number of fixed pitches (as at 31.12.2016)	
			Licence surrendered ¹	Vacant ²	Licence surrendered ¹	Vacant ²	Licence surrendered ¹	Vacant ²
Yau Tsim	17	Reclamation Street	10	8	11	8	13	5
	18	Pak Hoi Street	3	3	3	3	3	3
	19	Temple Street	8	8	17	16	28	14
	20	Canton Road	2	2	2	2	2	2
	21	Pitt Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total			23	21	33	29	46	24
Sham Shui Po	22	Wing Lung Street	17	17	22	22	27	20
	23	Fat Tseung Street	4	3	6	5	6	4
	24	Cheung Fat Street	2	1	2	1	2	1
	25	Apliu Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
	26	Fuk Wing Street	0	0	1	1	1	1
	27	Kweilin Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
	28	Ki Lung Street	3	2	4	2	4	2
	29	Pei Ho Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
	30	Tai Nan Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total			26	23	35	31	40	28
Mong Kok	31	Tung Choi Street	34	34	64	64	109	34
	32	Cheung Wong Road	0	0	0	0	0	0
	33	Nelson Street	7	7	11	10	12	11
	34	Nam Tau Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total			41	41	75	74	121	45
Total			114	107	171	145	245	113

Note:

¹ The figure represents the cumulative number of hawker licences surrendered under the Hawker Assistance Scheme (the Scheme).

² The figure represents the number of pitches vacated as a result of voluntary surrender of hawker licences under the Scheme. The figure does not include pitches located outside building staircase discharge points / emergency vehicular access, earmarked to accommodate stalls that require relocation due to fire safety considerations, and absorbed in the course of rationalisation of the overall layout of hawker areas, etc.. Fixed-pitches vacated for other reasons and reserved for various purposes such as resite commitments are also excluded.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)278

(Question Serial No. 6850)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please list the locations of all newly built, refurbished or redeveloped public toilets in the territory over the past 5 years, as well as the construction costs of the projects concerned.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 33)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department built 7 new public toilets, refurbished 57 public toilets and reprovisioned 5 public toilets from 2012-13 to 2016-17. The information sought is given at the Annex.

- End -

Newly Built / Refurbished/ Reprovisioned Public Toilets (PTs) in 2012-13 to 2016-17

	District	Name of Public Toilet	Project Cost (\$ million)	Nature of Works
2012-13 (7 Public Toilets)				
1	Tsuen Wan	Chai Wan Kok Public Toilet	3.060	Refurbished PT
2	North	Luen Cheong Street Public Toilet	4.780	Refurbished PT
3	Kowloon City	Hung Hom Complex Public Toilet	1.948	Refurbished PT
4	Sham Shui Po	Apliu Street Public Toilet	6.720	Refurbished PT
5	Central and Western	Hospital Road Public Toilet	0.390	Refurbished PT
6	Kwai Tsing	Kwai Hing Station Bus Terminus Public Toilet	4.824	Refurbished PT
7	Yuen Long	San Tin Public Toilet	0.932	Refurbished PT
2013-14 (15 Public Toilets)				
8	Tuen Mun	Tin Hau Temple Plaza Public Toilet	Project cost of the PTs is subsumed under the Tuen Mun River Area Revitalization Project of the Home Affairs Department at a total project cost of \$13.5 million. Cost breakdown for the PTs is not available.	Newly Built PT
9	Tuen Mun	Tin Hau Road Public Toilet		Reprovisioned PT
10	Tai Po	Nam Wah Po Public Toilet	3.000	Reprovisioned PT
11	North	Lung Wan Street Public Toilet	2.440	Refurbished PT
12	Sham Shui Po	Sai Chuen Road Public Toilet	4.264	Refurbished PT
13	Kwun Tong	Lai Yip Street Public Toilet	5.000	Refurbished PT
14	Tai Po	Tai Mei Tuk Public Toilet	2.341	Refurbished PT
15	North	Ping Yeung Old Village Public Toilet	0.855	Refurbished PT
16	Mong Kok	Sai Yee Street Garden Public Toilet	15.000	Refurbished PT
17	Islands	Shek Pik Public Toilet, Wang Pui Road, Lantau	4.000	Refurbished PT
18	Kwun Tong	Ngau Tau Kok Public Toilet	4.500	Refurbished PT
19	Kowloon City	Baker Street Public Toilet	4.000	Refurbished PT
20	Mong Kok	Mong Kok Road Public Toilet	10.000	Refurbished PT

	District	Name of Public Toilet	Project Cost (\$ million)	Nature of Works
21	Sha Tin	Wo Liu Hang Road Public Toilet	5.000	Refurbished PT
22	North	Fung Wong Wu Public Toilet	0.739	Refurbished PT
2014-15 (17 Public Toilets)				
23	Tai Po	Tai Hang Public Toilet	3.250	Newly Built PT
24	North	Shek Wu Hui Public Toilet	2.000	Newly Built PT
25	Sha Tin	University Station Public Toilet	3.000	Newly Built PT
26	North	Chuk Yuen Village Public Toilet	0.916	Reprovisioned PT
27	Wanchai	Cross Lane Public Toilet	8.500	Refurbished PT
28	Wong Tai Sin	Sheung Yuen Street Public Toilet	4.000	Refurbished PT
29	Southern	Wu Nam Street Public Toilet	2.750	Refurbished PT
30	Wong Tai Sin	Ngau Chi Wan Village Public Toilet	4.700	Refurbished PT
31	Western	Wing Lok Street Public Toilet	3.700	Refurbished PT
32	Southern	Sham Wan Road Public Toilet	4.200	Refurbished PT
33	Central and Western	Mee Lun Street Public Toilet	4.260	Refurbished PT
34	Southern	Pokfulam Village Public Toilet (Block C)	3.600	Refurbished PT
35	Eastern	Ning Foo Street Public Toilet	4.700	Refurbished PT
36	Eastern	Tong Shui Road Public Toilet	4.700	Refurbished PT
37	Wan Chai	Lin Fa Kung Public Toilet	4.700	Refurbished PT
38	Wong Tai Sin	Hong Keung Street Public Toilet	9.900	Refurbished PT
39	Kowloon City	Gillies Avenue South Public Toilet	7.232	Refurbished PT
2015-16 (20 Public Toilets)				
40	Islands	Tung Chung Waterfront Promenade Public Toilet	4.940	Newly Built PT
41	Islands	Pak Ngan Heung Public Toilet	4.080	Refurbished PT
42	Central and Western	Star Ferry Multi-storey Car Park Public Toilet	3.638	Refurbished PT
43	Islands	Po Chu Tam Public Toilet, Lantau	7.170	Refurbished PT
44	Southern	Pokfulam Village Public Toilet (Block B)	1.964	Refurbished PT

	District	Name of Public Toilet	Project Cost (\$ million)	Nature of Works
45	Sai Kung	Hang Hau PTI Public Toilet	5.660	Refurbished PT
46	Islands	Tai Tei Tong Public Toilet	5.970	Refurbished PT
47	Islands	Tai O Tai Ping Street Public Toilet	2.616	Refurbished PT
48	Sham Shui Po	Cheung Shun Street Public Toilet	6.400	Refurbished PT
49	Tai Po	Pan Chung Public Toilet	0.230	Refurbished PT
50	Sha Tin	Ma Liu Shui off Tolo Highway Public Toilet	5.000	Refurbished PT
51	Kowloon City	Hok Yuen Street Public Toilet	7.000	Refurbished PT
52	Kowloon City	Kowloon City Complex Public Toilet	4.500	Refurbished PT
53	Kowloon City	Kowloon City Road Public Toilet	5.416	Refurbished PT
54	Kwun Tong	Shung Yan Street Public Toilet	5.000	Refurbished PT
55	Wong Tai Sin	Choi Hung Bus Terminus Public Toilet	6.500	Refurbished PT
56	Sai Kung	Tseung Kwan O Public Transport Interchange Public Toilet	4.428	Refurbished PT
57	Tsuen Wan	Tsuen Wan (13.5 Miles) Public Toilet	3.700	Refurbished PT
58	Tsuen Wan	Yi Pei Chun Village Public Toilet	4.023	Refurbished PT
59	Central and Western	Glenealy Public Toilet	0.490	Refurbished PT

2016-17* (10 Public Toilets)

60	Tuen Mun	Tuen Mun Road Bus-Bus Interchange (Tuen Mun Bound) Public Toilet	7.800	Newly Built PT
61	Tuen Mun	Lung Kwu Tan Public Toilet	8.200	Newly Built PT
62	Eastern	North Point Ferry Pier Public Transport Interchange Public Toilet	8.700	Reprovisioned PT
63	Wan Chai	Amoy Street Public Toilet	6.000	Reprovisioned PT
64	Sha Tin	Wong Nai Tau Village Public Toilet	5.000	Refurbished PT
65	Sha Tin	Fu Kin Street Public Toilet	5.000	Refurbished PT

	District	Name of Public Toilet	Project Cost (\$ million)	Nature of Works
66	Sai Kung	Clear Water Bay Second Beach Carpark Public Toilet	5.000	Refurbished PT
67	Wan Chai	Canal Road Public Toilet	4.500	Refurbished PT
68	North	Fanling Station Road Public Toilet	1.484	Refurbished PT
69	Tuen Mun	Fu Tei Sheung Tsuen Public Toilet	1.700	Refurbished PT

* Up to 1 March 2017

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)279

(Question Serial No. 5505)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide details of the work of “conducting risk assessment on pests affecting public health” in the 18 districts. Please also set out in tabular form the pest black spots, as well as the estimated figures in respect of pests affecting public health, in the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 6102)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has been conducting the following risk assessment programmes to monitor the situation of mosquitoes and rodents with a view to assessing the local risk of vector-borne diseases –

- (a) the dengue vector surveillance programme for monitoring the distribution of *Aedes albopictus* at selected areas and major port areas. As *Aedes albopictus* can also transmit Zika virus infection, the surveillance programme can also assess the risk of local Zika virus infection transmission. Surveys are conducted at a regular interval and samples collected are tested for the presence of virus;
- (b) the Japanese encephalitis vector surveillance programme covering areas with history of local cases and areas that are considered to be risky in transmission of the disease. Surveys are conducted at a regular interval and samples collected are tested for the presence of virus; and
- (c) the surveillance programme on rodents covering areas or places likely to have rodent problems, in particular those bustling with human activities. Surveys are conducted at a regular interval to gauge the general situation of rodent infestation in individual districts.

Survey results will be used as the basis for drawing up appropriate prevention and control measures and for assessing the overall efficacy of such work.

The Department has not conducted any study to estimate the number of pests in individual districts as pest problems are very dynamic in nature. Instead of estimating the absolute number of pests, surveillance programmes have been put in place to monitor the changes in the relative density of pests for timely adjustment of prevention and control strategies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)280****(Question Serial No. 5506)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please set out in tabular form the quantities of “import of live food animals” in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 6103)Reply:

The numbers of live food animals imported into Hong Kong in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	Quantity (Head/Number) Imported into Hong Kong				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Live cattle	26 032	19 153	18 602	17 911	17 493
Live goats	8 946	6 472	5 371	4 381	3 396
Live pigs	1 540 756	1 575 810	1 624 926	1 583 398	1 439 568
Live chickens	2 470 800	2 301 900	912 300 [@]	61 300 [#]	32 000 ^{&}
Other live poultry	1 069 341	959 878	327 056	465 305	590 598

Remark: [@] There was no import of live chickens from 28 January to 5 September 2014.

[#] Import of live chickens from the Mainland was suspended as from 31 December 2014 due to the temporary closure of the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market (CSWTWPM) after the detection of a H7 avian influenza positive consignment of imported live poultry. Trading of live poultry at CSWTWPM resumed on 22 January 2015. There was no import of live poultry until 10 February 2015 and the import quantity has since been significantly reduced compared to the average in the past.

[&] There was no import of live chickens from the Mainland since 17 February 2016.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)281****(Question Serial No. 5507)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

As regards "import of live food animals" in the past 5 years, please set out in tabular form the respective quantities and places of origin.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 6104)Reply:

The numbers of live food animals imported into Hong Kong in the past 5 years and their places of origin are tabulated as follows:

	Quantity (head/number) imported into Hong Kong					Place of origin
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Live cattle	26 032	19 153	18 602	17 911	17 493	Mainland
Live goats	8 946	6 472	5 371	4 381	3 396	Mainland
Live pigs	1 540 756	1 575 810	1 624 926	1 583 398	1 439 568	Mainland
Live chickens	2 470 800	2 301 900	912 300 [@]	61 300 [#]	32 000 ^{&}	Mainland
Other live poultry	1 069 341	959 878	327 056	465 305	590 598	Mainland

Remark: [@] There was no import of live chickens from 28 January to 5 September 2014.
[#] Import of live chickens from the Mainland was suspended as from 31 December 2014 due to the temporary closure of the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market (CSWTWPM) after the detection of a H7 avian influenza positive consignment of imported live poultry. Trading of live poultry at CSWTWPM resumed on 22 January 2015. There was no import of

live poultry until 10 February 2015 and the import quantity has since been significantly reduced compared to the average in the past.
& There was no import of live chickens from the Mainland since 17 February 2016.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)282****(Question Serial No. 5508)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the expenditure on “public cleansing services” for the 18 districts over the past 5 years, including the number and salaries of staff on the establishment of the Department and outsourced service contractors, as well as the number and salaries of outsourced workers.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 6105)Reply:

The expenditure incurred and manpower deployed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the provision of public cleansing services in the past 5 years is provided below –

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Expenditure (\$ million)	1,993.2	2,102.7	2,213.8	2,333.7	2,540.0 (Estimated)
No. of in-house staff	3 090	3 010	3 020	3 020	2 880
No. of staff hired by outsourced service contractors	7 410	7 650	7 920	7 740	7 660

The Department does not keep a breakdown of the expenditure on in-house and outsourced public cleansing services and staff salaries involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)283

(Question Serial No. 5510)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out in tabular form the number of “hawker blackspots” in the 18 districts and advise on the definition of “hawker blackspot”.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 6107)

Reply:

The number of hawker blackspots in 18 districts is provided at Annex. Hawker blackspots are locations where unlicensed hawkers congregate. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department conducts surveys quarterly to identify and update the list of hawker blackspots. Whether a certain location is classified as a hawker blackspot or not depends on the number of unlicensed hawkers trading at the location at any one time of the day during the surveys.

- End -

Number of hawker blackspots in 18 districts

District	Number
Central and Western	3
Wan Chai	2
Eastern	7
Southern	1
Islands	2
Yau Tsim Mong	6
Sham Shui Po	3
Kowloon City	1
Wong Tai Sin	6
Kwun Tong	4
Kwai Tsing	1
Tuen Mun	3
Yuen Long	1
North	2
Sha Tin	3
Sai Kung	0
Tai Po	
Tsuen Wan	

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)284

(Question Serial No. 5511)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out in tabular form the estimated number of “unlicensed hawkers” in 18 districts over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 6108)

Reply:

The information sought is provided at Annex.

- End -

Estimated number of unlicensed hawkers
Broken down by district in the past 5 years

District	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Central and Western	158	148	148	143	143
Wan Chai	140	36	27	26	16
Eastern	128	131	130	55	48
Southern	28	44	41	49	42
Islands	29	20	15	15	16
Yau Tsim Mong	355	256	302	281	295
Sham Shui Po	279	248	281	411	388
Kowloon City	61	62	63	64	64
Wong Tai Sin	23	21	36	35	49
Kwun Tong	131	119	56	100	79
Kwai Tsing	87	75	69	68	63
Tsuen Wan	21	18	9	7	6
Tuen Mun	51	50	54	51	51
Yuen Long	33	27	40	26	22
North	79	78	79	72	72
Tai Po	22	20	33	35	29
Shatin	24	57	47	42	31
Sai Kung	24	13	10	8	16
Inside Housing Estates*	18	40	40	106	24
Total	1 691	1 463	1 480	1 594	1 454

*Note : Figures provided by Housing Department. No further breakdown by district is available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)285

(Question Serial No. 5512)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the manpower establishment, number of staff and salaries of the Hawker Control Teams, with a breakdown by the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 6109)

Reply:

Information on the establishment and strength of hawker control officer grade, and the salaries of the hawker control team broken down by rank are provided at Annex I and Annex II respectively.

- End -

**Establishment and Strength on Hawker Control Officer Grade
(as at 1.3.2017)**

		Hong Kong and Islands Districts					Kowloon Districts						New Territories Districts										Other offices *	Total
		Eastern	Southern	Wan Chai	Central & Western	Islands	Kwun Tong	Mong Kok	Sham Shui Po	Kowloon City	Wong Tai Sin	Yau Tsim	Tsuen Wan	Kwai Tsing	North	Tai Po	Sai Kung	Shatin	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long				
Principal Hawker Control Officer	Establishment	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	21		
	Strength #	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	4	15		
Chief Hawker Control Officer	Establishment	2	2	2	4	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	10	49		
	Strength #	1	2	1	2	1	0	3	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	6	34		
Senior Hawker Control Officer	Establishment	18	5	13	15	7	10	18	15	10	8	14	7	8	7	7	8	9	8	11	38	236		
	Strength #	8	3	7	11	5	8	12	9	8	7	7	8	4	6	4	8	5	6	7	38	171		
Hawker Control Officer	Establishment	19	7	14	18	9	11	19	17	13	10	15	11	10	9	9	10	11	10	14	90	326		
	Strength	27	5	18	18	9	13	21	19	13	10	18	10	13	9	10	8	14	9	17	66	327		
Assistant Hawker Control Officer	Establishment	118	43	84	107	45	70	116	106	79	57	99	55	52	50	48	52	63	54	76	259	1 633		
	Strength #	108	40	78	104	45	60	109	94	76	53	88	54	51	48	46	50	54	50	70	282	1 560		
Total	Establishment	158	57	114	145	62	94	156	141	105	78	131	76	73	69	67	73	86	75	104	401	2 265		
	Strength #	145	50	105	135	60	82	145	123	99	72	116	74	70	65	62	69	75	67	97	396	2 107		

Note:

* "Other offices" includes Hawker Control Task Force, Intelligence Unit, Hawker Assistance Scheme Team, Grade Management Section and Training Section.

Strength figures may be greater than establishment figures due to the inclusion of officers on pre-retirement leave and acting appointments in the strength figures.

Salaries of hawker control officer grade broken down by rank

Rank	Salary (\$) (with effect from 1.4.2016)
Principal Hawker Control Officer	51,780 – 56,755
Chief Hawker Control Officer	41,200 - 49,445
Senior Hawker Control Officer	34,085 - 39,350
Hawker Control Officer	28,040 - 32,470
Assistant Hawker Control Officer	18,840 - 26,700

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)286

(Question Serial No. 5513)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide information on the details, arrangements and progress regarding the work of “continuing to improve the management and upgrade the facilities of public markets”.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 6110)

Reply:

The Consultant commissioned by the Food and Health Bureau selected 6 representative markets for detailed study and put forward specific improvement recommendations. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is following up the specific improvement proposals in phases in consultation with the Market Management Consultative Committees of these markets. In 2017-18, the Department plans to commence improvement works for Lockhart Road Market. The scope of improvement works for Sheung Fung Street Market is also being finalized in consultation with relevant departments.

The Consultant also suggested implementing some non-physical improvement measures relating to the management, hygiene, as well as marketing and promotion of public markets. On the management of public markets, the Department agrees with the Consultant and has given priority to tackling inactive stalls and keeping markets clean and tidy in general. On marketing and promotion, the Department has been organising various promotional activities in public markets, including festive promotions, games booths, cooking demonstrations and distribution of souvenirs. The Department will sustain its promotional efforts with a view to increasing customer flows in public markets and improving business viability. In 2017-18, the estimated expenditure for market promotional activities is \$7 million. 13 additional civil service foreman posts have been created in 2016 to strengthen the manpower in market management. The Department will from time to time review the existing manpower situation so as to enhance the operational efficiency.

From 2015-16 to 2017-18, we have earmarked \$292 million to replace 84 escalators and 33 lifts in 23 markets. In 2017-18, in addition to regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Department will carry out improvement works in Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (East), Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (West), Tsuen Wan Market, San Hui Market, Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market, Kwun Chung Market, Lockhart Road Market, Sai Ying Pun Market and Sai Wan Ho Market. The scope of works includes installation of a goods lift, improvement of ventilation, electricity and fire services, refurbishment of external walls and toilets, etc. as appropriate.

As an on-going initiative, the Department will continue to conduct promotional activities to enhance the patronage of existing public markets. These include festive celebrations, thematic activities, display of multi-language recipes, publication of booklets to provide updated market information as well as other promotional activities that could help attract members of the public to visit the public markets. In addition, the Department will continue, as appropriate, to let out long-standing vacant stalls at reduced upset auction prices and introduce a greater variety of service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rate of public markets.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)287

(Question Serial No. 5536)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the expenditure and manpower for the provision of street cleansing services over the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and District Council district.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 5092)

Reply:

The actual/estimated expenditure of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in providing street cleansing services in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 was \$1,749.2 million, \$1,830.4 million and \$1,971.1 million respectively. The Department does not keep a breakdown by district of the manpower involved in the provision of street cleansing services.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)288

(Question Serial No. 5561)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to food safety tests in the past year, please provide information on the following:

- 1) the number of food samples taken for testing and, among them, the number of those from the Mainland; if there is no such classification of samples, the reason(s);
- 2) the number of fruit and vegetable samples found to be unsatisfactory and, among them, the number of those from the Mainland;
- 3) the number of prosecutions instituted pertaining to the fruits and vegetables in question, as well as the maximum and minimum penalties imposed; and
- 4) whether there will be an increase in the manpower and expenditure in 2017-18, as well as the details of the post(s) to be created; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 4552)

Reply:

- 1) About 65 500 food samples were taken for testing by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in 2016 (not including the about 73 700 samples taken from imported Japanese food for testing of radiation levels in 2016). There is no specific breakdown on the number of samples in terms of places of origin. Source tracing was only conducted for unsatisfactory samples.
- 2) In 2016, a total of 30 800 samples of fruit/fruit products and vegetable/vegetable products were tested. 73 of them were found to be unsatisfactory, of which 56 came from the Mainland. In interpreting this figure, it is important to note that the Mainland remained the main source of food supply for Hong Kong in 2016, and over 90% of the vegetables imported to Hong Kong came from the Mainland. From a risk assessment perspective, Hong Kong's overall food safety standards remain high and

normal consumption of the foods concerned would unlikely pose adverse health effects.

- 3) There were 12 prosecution cases against unsatisfactory fruit/fruit products and vegetable/vegetable products in 2016. The level of penalties ranged from \$1,800 to \$8,000.
- 4) The Food Import and Export Section and the Food Surveillance and Complaint Section of the CFS are responsible for carrying out food surveillance work, including collection of food samples for testing at the import, wholesale and retail levels. With an estimated establishment of 376 staff members in 2017-18, the estimated expenditure of the two Sections in 2017-18 is about \$255 million. Apart from food surveillance, both Sections are involved in other duties. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditures incurred by the two Sections on food surveillance. The current manpower and resources are able to meet the operational requirements.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)289****(Question Serial No. 5667)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please provide information on the following:

- (1) the number of joint departmental operations conducted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) against illegal hawking, as well as the departments involved, in each of the past 5 years; and
- (2) the criteria adopted by the Department in deciding whether the raids were conducted in the form of joint operation and what departments were involved.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 4023)Reply:

Hawker management and enforcement duties are undertaken by the Hawker Control Team of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. Other government departments, such as the Hong Kong Police Force and the Housing Department, may be invited to assist in some of the operations. Whether the raids are conducted in the form of joint operation and whether other departments are involved depend on circumstances specific to each operation, including whether there is real or potential threat to law and order, and whether the operation involves illegal hawkers operating inside public housing estates, etc.

The number of joint operations against illegal hawking in the past 5 years is set out in the table below:

Year	Number of inter-departmental operation
2012	1 614
2013	1 867
2014	1 830
2015	1 984
2016	2 009

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)290

(Question Serial No. 5668)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide information on the following:

- (1) the number of convicted prosecution cases against unlicensed hawkers in each of the past 2 years; and
- (2) the number of convicted prosecution cases against unlicensed hawkers between January and March 2017.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 4052)

Reply:

- (1) The number of convictions against unlicensed hawkers is 23 473 and 14 372 in 2015 and 2016 respectively.
- (2) The number of convictions against unlicensed hawkers between January and February 2017 is 1 400.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)291

(Question Serial No. 5669)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide information on the following:

- (1) the resources and manpower allocated by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) for taking forward and promoting the new hawker policy, as well as the routine duties involved;
- (2) whether the Department has reviewed the effectiveness of the new hawker policy since its implementation, including striking a balance among the interests of District Councils, residents, tourists and hawkers; and whether the Department will take the initiative to mediate in stakeholders' disputes (if not, the reason(s));
- (3) the number of disputes or conflicts between law enforcement officers and hawkers or public members during raiding and joint operations in each of the past 5 years; and whether there were any injuries during the operations (if yes, the number); and
- (4) whether the Department has reviewed the approaches adopted by law enforcement officers in the raiding and joint operations (if not, the reason(s)).

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 4054)

Reply:

- (1) Hawker management and control is carried out by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) involving a revised estimate of expenditure of about \$1,076 million in 2016-17. The Department does not keep separate breakdown on expenditure for specific duties relating to the management and control of hawkers.
- (2) The Subcommittee on Hawker Policy (the Subcommittee) set up under the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene was briefed in March 2015 on the principles underpinning the Government's current policy on the management of hawkers. In gist, the Government seeks to formulate a hawker policy which can strike an optimal

balance between allowing licensed hawking business to thrive on the one hand, and meeting other legitimate concerns to ensure food safety, environmental hygiene, and public security on the other.

The Government adopts a positive attitude towards specific proposals put up by individuals / organisations in the community for organising bazaars. When suitable sites have been identified by the organisations concerned (i.e. the venue owners have no in-principle objection to the proposed bazaars being held at their venues at the proposed time slots) and support from local communities and respective District Councils have been obtained, provided that the bazaar proposals will not compromise public order and safety, food safety and environmental hygiene, and will not obstruct public passageways, the Government will facilitate liaison with the relevant bureau and departments regarding the use of the sites. Depending on the specific details of bazaar proposals, the bureaux concerned will, according to the roles they play, give comments on matters related to their policy areas respectively. The departments concerned will process bazaar proposals according to their procedures and criteria.

- (3) The Department does not keep statistics on the number of disputes or conflicts between hawker control officers and hawkers or members of the public during raiding and joint operations. The number of hawker control team staff injured whilst on duty in the past 5 years is as follows -

Year	No. of hawker control team staff injured
2012	53
2013	56
2014	36
2015	40
2016	44

- (4) To ensure that hawker management operations are effectively carried out, the Department has issued operational guidelines and provided regular refresher training courses to its staff covering issues such as safety consideration during raiding operations, arrest and prosecution procedures. The guidelines also state clearly that the safety of hawkers, passers-by and hawker control officers is of primary importance. These guidelines are reviewed from time to time in view of changes in operational requirements and feedback from staff.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)292****(Question Serial No. 5670)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the inspections of registered vegetable farms on the Mainland supplying vegetables to Hong Kong in the past year, please provide information on the following:

- 1) the number of registered vegetable farms supplying vegetables to Hong Kong in each province;
- 2) the number of inspections conducted by the Department; whether any targets have been set for the number of inspections; if not, the reason(s); and
- 3) whether there will be an increase in the manpower and expenditure in the coming year, as well as the details of the post(s) to be created; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 4055)Reply:

- 1) The number of registered vegetable farms in the Mainland which may supply vegetables to Hong Kong in 2016, with a breakdown by province/city/autonomous region, is tabulated as follows –

Province/ City / Autonomous Region	No. of Registered Vegetable Farms
Guangdong	113
Shenzhen	2
Zhuhai	1
Anhui	2
Beijing	4

Province/ City / Autonomous Region	No. of Registered Vegetable Farms
Chongqing	5
Fujian	4
Gansu	5
Guangxi	5
Guizhou	3
Hainan	11
Hebei	16
Henan	14
Hubei	13
Hunan	32
Jiangsu	12
Jiangxi	9
Liaoning	5
Ningxia	23
Shandong	84
Shanghai	13
Sichuan	3
Tianjin	1
Xiamen	5
Yunnan	41
Zhejiang	16
Total	442

- 2) The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) inspected 9 Mainland registered vegetable farms in 2016. It plans to inspect up to 20 vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong in 2017.
- 3) CFS does not plan to increase the manpower establishment in 2017-18 for the purpose of inspecting registered vegetable farms in the Mainland. It will handle the workload by means of its existing manpower.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)293

(Question Serial No. 5975)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the temporary storage service for cremains provided by the Department, please advise on the number of cases with storage period longer than two months, the longest storage period and the total amount of fees collected in the past 5 years. Please also advise whether there will be an increase in the expenditure for providing the service; if yes, the amount of the increase, the number of additional temporary storage facilities as planned and their storage capacity.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1125)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) provides service for temporary storage of cremains in all its crematoria free of charge in the first 2 months following cremation. The duration may be extended upon application at a monthly fee of \$80. In the past 5 calendar years, there were altogether 275 cases in which the duration of temporary storage exceeded 2 months. Among these cases, the longest storage time was 47 months. The total revenue collected in the past 5 calendar years in respect of this service was \$208,540.

The Department at present has a total of about 23 000 temporary urn storage spaces at the Kwai Chung Crematorium and Wo Hop Shek Columbarium (Phase III & Phase V). An additional 42 000 temporary urn storage spaces will be made available at the vacant staff quarters at Cape Collision Crematorium and Hong Kong Cemetery, the old Kwai Chung Crematorium, Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phase V and the vacant store rooms at Fu Shan Columbarium and Cape Collision Columbarium by stages from Q1 2017 to Q1 2018. In other words, the total number of temporary urn storage spaces will be increased to about 65 000 in the coming 2 years. We are exploring the feasibility of increasing temporary storage spaces in other venues.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)294****(Question Serial No. 5979)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of new public columbarium facilities, their locations and the number of new niches provided, as well as the expenditure incurred, in the past 5 years. Please also advise on the estimated expenditure for constructing public columbarium facilities, as well as the number and locations of the new niches to be provided, in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1126)Reply:

The information sought in respect of public columbarium facilities completed from 2012-13 to 2016-17 is provided below -

Location	Number of Niches	Year of Completion	Expenditure (\$ million)
Diamond Hill Columbarium	1 540	2012-13	0.51
Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road Columbarium Phase V	43 710	2012-13	629.50
Cheung Chau Cemetery	1 000	2013-14	2.70

A number of public columbaria are under construction and scheduled for completion from 2017 to 2019. Details are provided below -

Location	Number of Niches	Anticipated Year of Completion	Estimated Expenditure (\$ million)
Peng Chau Columbarium Extension	360	2017	1.20
Cheung Chau Columbarium Extension	1 250	2018	5.10
Hong Kong Cemeteries and Crematoria Office (part) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department at Wong Nai Chung Road, Wan Chai	855	2018	7.25
Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun	160 000	2019	2,874.30
Wo Hop Shek Cemetery (Phase 1), Fanling	44 000	2019	945.60

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)295

(Question Serial No. 6308)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the measures taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to monitor the compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance by cleansing service contractors. Please also advise whether regular or blitz inspections have been conducted or visits paid to workers; if yes, the respective numbers of regular inspections, blitz inspections and visits paid to workers in the past 5 years, as well as the ranks of staff who performed the duties.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1526)

Reply:

In the tender document for each cleansing service contract and the signed contract, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) specifies that the contractor shall provide necessary training on occupational safety, protective equipment and ancillary tools, and comply with all the legislation in relation to the execution of the service contracts, including the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509) (the Ordinance). It is incumbent upon contractors to ensure their employees' safety and health at work. Staff of the Department carry out regular and surprise inspections to check the contractors' performance and ensure their compliance with the contract requirements. If the Department finds a suspected breach of the Ordinance by a contractor in a reported case on injury at work, the case will be referred to the Labour Department for investigation. Any breach of contractual obligations by the contractors may lead to the issuance of verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices as well as reduction in monthly payment of service charge. The Department does not keep separate breakdown on the number of regular and surprise inspections conducted in this respect. The inspections are conducted by officers at the rank of Senior Health Inspector, Health Inspector, Overseer, Senior Foreman, Foreman, Senior Hawker Control Officer or Assistant Hawker Control Officer.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)296

(Question Serial No. 6310)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Further to my previous question, please advise on the number of suspected non-compliance cases, with a breakdown by type. Please also advise on the actions taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to handle cases of suspected non-compliance with the Occupational and Health Ordinance upon detection, as well as the penalties imposed on the contractors concerned.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1527)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) did not come across any case of non-compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509) on the part of the Department's public cleansing services contractors in the past 3 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)297

(Question Serial No. 6311)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise whether the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has specified in the tender document for each cleansing service contract and the signed contract the minimum staffing requirement in each work shift for each service item; if yes, the details, as well as the measures taken to monitor the service contractors' compliance with the requirement. If the requirement has not been specified, please give reason(s) and advise whether a review or study will be conducted in future.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1529)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has generally adopted an "outcome-based" approach in outsourcing cleansing services. Clear and precise performance-based service requirements including the scope of the services required, level of cleanliness expected, response time for rectification of unsatisfactory performance, etc. are incorporated in the tender document. Minimum requirements relating to manpower, work shift, and cleansing frequency may be stipulated in the tender document based on operational needs. The tenderers are required to apply their expertise and experience in devising the staff deployment plan and the mode of operation to provide cleansing services up to the performance standard as required by the Department. Tender proposals are binding once the relevant tender is accepted and will form the basis for monitoring the contractor's performance.

The Department carries out regular and surprise inspections to check the contractor's performance and confirm whether the services have been completed as scheduled in accordance with the contract requirements, approved work plans and staff attendance record (where manpower requirement has been specified due to specific operational needs). If non-compliance with contract requirement is found, the Department will take appropriate actions including the issuance of verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices as well as deducting monthly payment of service charge.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)298

(Question Serial No. 6312)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise whether the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has specified in the tender document for each cleansing service contract and the signed contract that the contractor shall provide training on occupational safety, protective equipment in the required quantities, ancillary tools, changing facilities and refreshment; if yes, the details, as well as the measures taken to monitor the service contractors' compliance with the requirement. Please also advise whether any inspection will be carried out and the rank(s) of the staff responsible for the inspection(s). If the requirement has not been specified, please give reason(s) and advise whether a review or study will be conducted in future.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1530)

Reply:

In the tender document for each cleansing service contracts and the signed contract, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) specifies that the contractor shall provide necessary training on occupational safety, sufficient protective equipment, ancillary tools and provision of potable water as well as comply with all the legislation in relation to the execution of the service contracts, including the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509). It is incumbent upon contractors to ensure their employees' safety and health at work. There is no specific requirement on the provision of changing facilities and refreshment. Nevertheless, many venues of the Department with contractors engaged have resting/changing facilities which can be used by employees of the contractors. Staff of the Department carry out regular and surprise inspections to check the contractor's performance and to ensure their compliance with the contract requirements. Any breach of contractual obligations by the contractors will lead to the issuance of verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices as well as deducting monthly payment of service charge. The inspections may be performed by staff at the rank of Senior Health Inspector, Health Inspector, Overseer, Senior Foreman, Foreman, Senior Hawker Control Officer and Assistant Hawker Control Officer.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)299

(Question Serial No. 6314)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of cases of cleansing service contractors' non-compliance with contract requirements that were received and detected upon inspection by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by type of non-compliance and penalty imposed.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1531)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) carries out regular and surprise inspections to check the performance of public cleansing services contractors and ensure their compliance with the contract requirements. If the Department finds a breach of contract requirements by a contractor, the contractor will be issued with verbal warning, written warning or default notice as well as deduction of monthly payment of service charge as appropriate.

The numbers of verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices issued by the Department to public cleansing service contractors, as well as deduction of monthly payments of service charge are provided in the following table –

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (as at 28 February 2017)
No. of verbal warnings issued	772	1 213	2 422	2 116	2 387
No. of written warnings issued	143	270	260	118	839
No. of default notices issued	701	1 053	1 316	1 228	679
Amount of service charge payments deducted (\$ million)	2.272	2.778	2.608	2.718	3.723

The Department does not keep separate breakdown on the number of reported non-compliance cases and non-compliance cases detected upon inspection by the Department, as well as that on the penalty by type of non-compliance.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)300

(Question Serial No. 6318)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the prosecutions instituted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department against environmental hygiene related offences, please provide the number of convicted cases and the amount of fines imposed in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by type of hawkers (licensed hawkers, unlicensed hawkers, market stalls, ...).

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1990)

Reply:

Information on the number of convictions and the amount of fines imposed on licensed and unlicensed hawkers, and market stalls in public markets for the past 5 years (from 2012 to 2016) is provided at Annex.

- End -

**Number of convictions and amount of fines imposed on licensed
and unlicensed hawkers, and market stalls in public markets
(2012 – 2016)**

Year	Hawker				Market stall	
	Licensed hawker		Unlicensed hawker			
	Number of convictions	Fines (\$)	Number of convictions	Fines (\$)	Number of convictions	Fines (\$)
2012	5 256	3,326,245	25 234	13,667,904	1 287	511,463
2013	5 064	3,041,490	26 294	13,084,154	1 257	488,558
2014	5 805	2,987,995	28 206	13,411,955	1 214	487,514
2015	5 622	3,103,230	23 473	11,862,082	1 523	763,359
2016	3 431	2,066,941	14 372	8,274,950	1 911	1,091,258

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)301

(Question Serial No. 6320)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of inspections conducted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in relation to unlicensed hawkers, the number of prosecutions instituted, the number of convicted cases, as well as the manpower and administrative charges involved, in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1991)

Reply:

The number of prosecutions and convictions against unlicensed hawkers, and the manpower and expenditure of hawker control for the past 5 years (from 2012 to 2016) are provided at Annex. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not compile statistics on the number of inspections made to unlicensed hawkers.

- End -

**Number of prosecutions and convictions against unlicensed hawkers
(2012-2016)**

Year	Number of prosecutions against unlicensed hawkers	Number of convictions against unlicensed hawkers
2012	27 457	25 234
2013	29 243	26 294
2014	26 025	28 206
2015	23 054	23 473
2016	15 310	14 372

**Manpower and expenditure in hawker control
(2012-2016)**

Year	Manpower	Total Expenditure* (\$ million)
2012-13	2 204	850.2
2013-14	2 204	912.1
2014-15	2 209	951.8
2015-16	2 210	1,025.2
2016-17 (revised estimate)	2 243	1,076.0

*Enforcement against unlicensed hawker is only part of the duties of hawker control staff. Further breakdown of the manpower and expenditure on enforcement action is not available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)302

(Question Serial No. 6321)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of inspections conducted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in relation to hawkers, pitches and market stalls, the number of prosecutions instituted, the number of convicted cases, as well as the manpower and administrative charges involved, in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1994)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not separately keep statistics on the number of inspections to licensed hawker stalls and public market stalls. Information on the number of prosecutions and convictions against licensed hawkers or public market tenants, as well as the manpower and expenditure incurred in hawker control and management of public markets in the past 5 years is provided at Annex.

Taking out enforcement action is part of the duties of the Department's hawker control and market management staff. Further breakdown on the manpower and expenditure on prosecution is not available.

- End -

Enforcement action
against licensed hawkers and public market tenants

Calendar year	Licensed hawkers		Public market tenants	
	Number of prosecutions	Number of convictions	Number of prosecutions	Number of convictions
2012	6 088	5 256	1 307	1 287
2013	4 798	5 064	1 265	1 257
2014	5 183	5 805	1 291	1 214
2015	4 493	5 622	1 658	1 523
2016	3 787	3 431	2 065	1 911

Note : Prosecutions instituted in a year may be convicted in the following year.

Manpower and expenditure incurred in
hawker control and management of public markets

Financial Year	Licensed Hawkers		Public Markets	
	Number of staff	Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of staff	Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	2 204	850.2	382	628.8
2013-14	2 204	912.1	383	648.7
2014-15	2 209	951.8	384	741.0
2015-16	2 210	1,025.2	376	720.4
2016-17	2 243	1,076.0 (revised estimate)	390	843.0 (revised estimate)

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)303

(Question Serial No. 6322)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the estimated number of unlicensed hawkers in each of the past 5 years, with a breakdown by district.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1998)

Reply:

The information sought is provided at Annex.

- End -

**Estimated number of unlicensed hawkers broken down
by district in the past 5 years**

DEHO	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Central & Western	158	148	148	143	143
Wan Chai	140	36	27	26	16
Eastern	128	131	130	55	48
Southern	28	44	41	49	42
Islands	29	20	15	15	16
Yau Tsim	243	136	213	192	196
Mong Kok	112	120	89	89	99
Sham Shui Po	279	248	281	411	388
Kowloon City	61	62	63	64	64
Wong Tai Sin	23	21	36	35	49
Kwun Tong	131	119	56	100	79
Kwai Tsing	87	75	69	68	63
Tsuen Wan	21	18	9	7	6
Tuen Mun	51	50	54	51	51
Yuen Long	33	27	40	26	22
North	79	78	79	72	72
Tai Po	22	20	33	35	29
Shatin	24	57	47	42	31
Sai Kung	24	13	10	8	16
Inside Housing Estates*	18	40	40	106	24
Total	1 691	1 463	1 480	1 594	1 454

*Note : Figures provided by Housing Department. No further breakdown is available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)304

(Question Serial No. 6325)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the raids conducted by the Hawker Control Teams during the first 5 days of the Chinese New Year, please advise on the number of raids conducted in each of the past 5 years. Please also advise on the average number of in-house staff and the expenditure involved in each operation.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2008)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not separately keep statistics on the number of raids, or the manpower and expenditure involved in hawker control operations during the Lunar New Year period.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)305

(Question Serial No. 6326)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the joint departmental operations conducted by the Department against illegal hawking during the first 5 days of the Chinese New Year, please advise on the number of raids conducted in each of the past 5 years. Please also advise on the average number of in-house staff and the expenditure involved in each operation.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2009)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not separately keep statistics on the number of joint operations against illegal hawking with other departments, or the manpower and expenditure involved in hawker control operations during the Lunar New Year period.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)306

(Question Serial No. 6327)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the “Keep Clean 2015@Hong Kong: Our Home” Campaign launched by the Government, please advise on the expenditure involved. Please also advise whether any action has been taken during the Campaign to clear the spots occupied by street sleepers and provide the relevant information.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2202)

Reply:

The Government launched in August to September 2015 the “Keep Clean 2015 @ Hong Kong: Our Home” campaign (the Campaign) to promote cross-sector partnership and community involvement in keeping Hong Kong clean. During the Campaign, the relevant bureaux and departments have made use of their existing resources and mobilised support from different sectors to enhance cleansing and publicity work under their purview, in collaboration with each other. The Government received referrals on more than 200 hygiene blackspots during the Campaign and acted on them. One of these blackspots was occupied by street sleepers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)307****(Question Serial No. 6328)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of clearance operations undertaken by the Department against street sleepers (at spots occupied by street sleepers), as well as the number of in-house staff and expenditure involved, in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2206)Reply:

Cases of street sleepers involve street management issues that cut across the responsibilities of a number of government departments. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) participates in the joint operations coordinated by District Offices of the Home Affairs Department to remove abandoned articles and provide cleansing services out of environmental hygiene considerations. The number of joint operations in which FEHD took part in the past 5 years is as follows –

Year	No. of joint operations
2012-13	651
2013-14	610
2014-15	520
2015-16	481
2016-17 (up to 28 February 2017)	420

FEHD does not keep separate statistics on the number of staff involved and expenditure incurred in these joint operations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)308****(Question Serial No. 6585)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the raids conducted by the Hawker Control Teams, please advise on the estimated expenditure involved and the number of raids conducted in each of the past 5 years. Please also advise on the average number of in-house staff involved in each operation.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2002)Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not keep separate statistics on the manpower involved in each hawker control operation, which depends on the circumstances specific to each case. The number of raids and the expenditure on hawker management in the past 5 years is given below -

Calendar year	No. of raids	Financial year	Expenditure on hawker management (\$ million)
2012	119 712	2012-13	850.2
2013	118 894	2013-14	912.1
2014	124 684	2014-15	951.8
2015	116 702	2015-16	1,025.2
2016	117 045	2016-17	1,076.0 (revised estimate)

There is no further breakdown of the expenditure involved in conducting raids.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)309****(Question Serial No. 6600)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the joint departmental operations conducted against illegal hawking, please advise on the estimated expenditure involved and the number of raids conducted in each of the past 5 years. Please also advise on the average number of in-house staff involved in each operation.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2005)Reply:

Hawker management and enforcement duties are undertaken by the Hawker Control Team of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department). The Department does not separately keep statistics on the number of staff involved in each joint departmental operation against illegal hawking, which depends on the circumstances specific to each case. The estimated expenditure on hawker management is \$1,068 million in 2017-18. There is no further breakdown on the expenditure on joint departmental operations against illegal hawking. The number of joint departmental operations conducted in the past 5 years is given below -

Calendar year	No. of joint operations against illegal hawking
2012	1 614
2013	1 867
2014	1 830
2015	1 984
2016	2 009

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)310****(Question Serial No. 6605)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to actions against hawker blackspots, please advise on the estimated expenditure involved and the number of operations conducted in each of the past 5 years. Please also advise on the average number of in-house staff involved in each operation.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2007)Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not separately keep statistics on the manpower involved in each operation against hawker blackspots, which depends on the circumstances specific to each case. The number of raids and the expenditure on hawker management in the past 5 years is given below –

Calendar year	No. of raids	Financial year	Expenditure on hawker management (\$ million)
2012	119 712	2012-13	850.2
2013	118 894	2013-14	912.1
2014	124 684	2014-15	951.8
2015	116 702	2015-16	1,025.2
2016	117 045	2016-17	1,076.0 (revised estimate)

There is no further breakdown of the expenditure on action against hawker blackspots.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)311****(Question Serial No. 7076)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to injury at work of cleansing workers employed under cleansing service contracts, please advise on the number of reported cases received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in each of the past 5 years, parts of body involved, as well as the reason(s) for the injuries. Please also provide details of the follow-up actions taken by the Department regarding the reported cases of injury at work. If no follow-up actions have been taken, please give reason(s). If figures relating to the reported cases are not available, please give reason(s) and advise whether the figures will be available in future.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1525)Reply:

The contracts signed between the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and its service contractors stipulate that in the event of any of the contractors' employees suffering from any injury or death in the course of or arising out of the contract (whether or not a claim for compensation is involved), the contractor shall, within 7 clear working days, give notice in writing of such injury or death to FEHD. The contractors are also required to comply with all the legislation in relation to the execution of the service contracts, including the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509) (the Ordinance). The number of reported cases received by FEHD on injury at work of cleansing workers employed under the cleansing service contracts in the past 5 years is given below –

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (up to 28.2.2017)
No. of reported cases on injury at work	78	53	89	94	61

The injuries sustained by cleansing workers at work in the reported cases were mainly sprains, strains, bruises, cuts and wounds in different parts of the body. Unintended collisions (with, for instance, a bicycle or a hand cart), slips, trips or falls on same level and lifting were common causes of injuries. If FEHD suspects a breach of the Ordinance in a reported case, the case will be referred to the Labour Department (LD) for investigation. If it is confirmed that the contractor has committed an offence under the Ordinance, LD will take appropriate action including instituting prosecution against the contractor. FEHD will also take action in accordance with the contract terms, including the issuance of verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices as well as withholding/deducting monthly payment of service charge.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)312****(Question Serial No. 7077)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of employees hired by the cleansing service contractors of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in 2016 and their job types or occupations. Please also provide the average daily wage rates, monthly salaries, working hours and average number of leave days of the employees concerned, with a breakdown by job type or occupation.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1528)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

Job Type	No. of Employees Hired by Cleansing Service Contractors (as at 31.12.2016)	Average Daily Wage Rate	Monthly Salaries	Working Hour	Average No. of Leave Days
Cleansing Workman	7 972	The Department does not keep information on the items being asked. As long as all relevant legislation and contract requirements are complied with, the contractors may make their own arrangements for employing the workers to provide the services.			
Toilet Attendant	855				
Supervisor	933				
Driver / Coxswain	459				

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)313****(Question Serial No. 4257)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of samples taken from various fresh food wholesale markets for testing in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by food type and market, as well as the number of samples with test results exceeding the safety levels and the testing items (e.g. heavy metals, pesticide residues) involving exceedances.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 30)Reply:

The number of food samples taken from fresh food wholesale markets from 2014 to 2016 with breakdown as requested is as follows:

Wholesale food market	Food category	Number of food samples taken		
		2014	2015	2016
North District Temporary Wholesale Market for Agricultural Products	vegetable	2	2	1
Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market	vegetable	753	820	883
	poultry egg	202	160	171
	aquatic product	10	15	53
Western Wholesale Food Market	vegetable	566	758	790
	fruit	955	1 055	1 050
	poultry egg	175	159	166
	aquatic product	8	11	17
Cheung Sha Wan Vegetable Marketing Organisation	vegetable	138	41	122
Total		2 809	3 021	3 253

In 2014 and 2015, a total of 6 and 4 samples of vegetables respectively taken from the Cheung Sha Wan Vegetable Marketing Organisation were found to have pesticide residues not meeting the relevant food safety standards. In 2016, a total of 4 samples of aquatic products taken from the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market were found to have veterinary drugs not meeting the relevant food safety standards.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)314

(Question Serial No. 4258)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the regime of the Liquor Licensing Board, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the expenditure and manpower for handling the work of the Liquor Licensing Board in 2017-18;
- (b) the number of existing liquor licences in the territory, the locations of liquor-licensed premises and the types of buildings (residential, commercial or composite commercial / residential buildings) in which these premises are located;
- (c) the total number of liquor licence applications received in the past 3 years; among them, the number of applications granted and refused, the number of appeals lodged and the success rate of appeals; and
- (d) the details of and the follow-up actions on the measures to enhance the liquor licensing regime.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 31)

Reply:

- (a) A total of 40 staff in the 3 licensing offices in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) handle liquor and club liquor licence applications as part of their licensing-related duties. There is no separate breakdown for the expenditure involved in handling liquor licence applications and appeals. In addition, 9 staff are deployed for providing secretariat support to the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB). The estimated expenditure involved in manning the LLB Secretariat in 2017-18 is \$6 million.

- (b) The number of liquor licences in the territory (broken down by district) as at end-2016 is provided in the table below. There is no separate breakdown on the type of buildings in which the licensed premises are located.

District	No. of Liquor Licences (as at end-2016)		Total
	Liquor Licences	Club Liquor Licences	
Central and Western	978	73	1 051
Eastern	329	11	340
Southern	122	27	149
Wanchai	1 121	103	1 224
Islands	251	18	269
Yau Tsim Mong	1 751	93	1 844
Sham Shui Po	291	9	300
Kowloon City	412	18	430
Wong Tai Sin	173	2	175
Kwun Tong	285	10	295
Tsuen Wan	242	9	251
Kwai Tsing	133	4	137
North	94	7	101
Tai Po	163	3	166
Sai Kung	196	9	205
Shatin	248	10	258
Tuen Mun	174	5	179
Yuen Long	308	14	322
Total	7 271	425	7 696

- (c) Relevant statistics are provided as follows -

	2014	2015	2016
Total number of liquor licence applications received (with the number of applications for new licence in brackets)	8 630 (1 116)	8 936 (1 236)	6 520 ¹ (1 032)
Total number of liquor licences granted by LLB ²	8 156	8 646	6 987
Total number of applications refused by LLB ²	67	40	34
Total number of appeals lodged with Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB)	32	28	22
Success rate of appeals (i.e. appeals allowed by MSAB) ³	58%	63%	76%

¹ The decrease in the number of cases in 2016 was due to the rolling out of the 2-year liquor licences since August 2015.

² Applications for liquor licences received in 1 year may be carried forward with the processing completed in the subsequent year.

³ Only appeal cases with MSAB's decisions issued before the end of a calendar year are taken into account for calculating the success rate of appeals in that year.

- (d) The Government conducted a public consultation in 2011 and implemented a number of administrative measures subsequently to improve the liquor licensing regime. In May 2013, the LLB revamped its procedures for dealing with applications for the renewal or transfer of liquor licence, thereby allowing more sensitive handling of views from the neighbourhood. The LLB published in December 2013 a set of guidelines on the factors that should be taken into account when assessing liquor licence applications, the scrutiny on applications from upstairs bars, as well as the more stringent conditions that the LLB may impose including those relating to capacity limit and measures to abate noise nuisance for premises etc. Separately, the LLB has since June 2014 added express provisions in the licensing conditions stipulating that restaurant licensees must comply with fire safety requirements at all times (such that minor breaches, if repeatedly not attended to promptly, would render them liable to suspension/cancellation of licence). In addition, documentary evidence of continuous compliance with fire safety requirements (namely that the fire safety related certificates issued by registered specialist contractors remain valid at the material time) must be adduced when the Department processes applications for licence renewal. An overwhelming majority of liquor-licensed premises have restaurant licences.

Apart from the administrative measures that have been implemented, the Dutiable Commodities (Liquor) (Amendment) Regulation 2015 came into operation on 3 August 2015. It extends the maximum validity period of a liquor licence from 1 year to 2 years, and facilitates electronic submission of applications for the issue or renewal of liquor licence.

In addition, the LLB has allowed the trade an additional option, other than a digital certificate, to use a password assigned or approved by the Board to submit renewal and amendment applications since July 2016 and new and transfer applications since October 2016.

To minimise disruption to the liquor selling business due to sudden departure of the licensee, the LLB would implement in late March 2017 a reserve licensee mechanism under which identification and nomination of a suitable person as a reserve licensee to take over the role of the licensee at an early stage is allowed.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)315

(Question Serial No. 4259)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to environmental hygiene and related services, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the Department's estimated expenditure and manpower resources for the provision of cleansing services in 2017-18 (including the expenditure on various cleansing services as well as the number of contractors, in-house staff and contractor staff), with a breakdown by type of services; and the changes in expenditure and manpower over the past 3 years; and
- (b) given that the hygiene problem in Hong Kong has become increasingly serious in recent years, whether the Department has explored ways to eliminate the potential hygiene hazards, such as allocating additional resources, recruiting more staff, enhancing training for frontline cleansing workers, increasing the frequency of street sweeping by cleansing workers and mechanical street sweepers, as well as placing more litter containers on streets and increasing the frequency of refuse collection per day.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 32)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The estimated expenditure of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in providing public cleansing services in 2017-18 is \$2,691 million. A total of 10 480 staff are involved in providing these services, including 2 990 in-house staff and 7 490 staff employed by 14 contractors. Comparing the expenditure on a year-on-year basis, there is an increase of about 5.4% in 2015-16, 8.8% in 2016-17 and 5.9% in 2017-18 respectively. In terms of headcount, the level of manpower provision on a year-on-year basis is maintained at a similar level during this period.

- (b) The Department will continue to work with the respective District Councils to closely monitor the cleanliness and hygiene condition of the hygiene blackspots, enhance public education and publicity and step up law enforcement actions, as necessary. In 2017-18, the Department will deploy additional resources to enhance street washing, central road divider cleansing, evening and midnight street sweeping, pest control, and public education and publicity; implement a pilot scheme on installation of Internet Protocol cameras at hygiene blackspots; and increase manpower in the management of public cleansing contracts and law enforcement.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)316****(Question Serial No. 4261)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

In respect of monitoring the safety of food supplied to Hong Kong, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of Mainland production farms approved for exporting food to Hong Kong, with a breakdown by province and type of food exported, such as vegetables, fruits, live pigs, live cattle, live chickens, freshwater fish and hairy crabs;
- (b) the number of inspections conducted by the Department to these production farms in each of the past 3 years; and
- (c) whether any policy has been examined to encourage farms to become production farms approved for exporting food to Hong Kong so as to increase the sources of food supply.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 34)Reply:

- (a) Information on the types and number of registered Mainland farms eligible for exporting foods to Hong Kong by province/city/autonomous region as at 31 December 2016 is given below –

Province/ City / Autonomous Region	Vegetable Farms	Orchard	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms
Guangdong	113	93	24	90	2		80
Shenzhen	2	1		1			

Province/ City / Autonomous Region	Vegetable Farms	Orchard	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms
Zhuhai	1		9	5			4
Anhui	2	6		1	1		14
Beijing	4	1			5		
Chongqing	5	5		1			
Fujian	4	48		1			
Gansu	5	202			3		
Guangxi	5	51		5	1		1
Guizhou	3	11			1		
Hainan	11	30	1	2			
Hebei	16	186			3		
Heilongjiang		11			1		
Henan	14	9		17			
Hubei	13	15		14	2		23
Hunan	32	51		39			10
Jiangsu	12	2					28
Jiangxi	9	43		25	1		10
Jilin		2		2	1		
Liaoning	5	214					7
Neimongol					5		
Ningxia	23	1					
Ningbo		8					
Qinghai					1		
Shaanxi		431			5		
Shandong	84	565					
Shanxi		91			3		
Shanghai	13	1		7			2
Sichuan	3	41					
Tianjin	1				1		1
Xiamen	5	243					
Xinjiang		183					
Yunnan	41	369				1	
Zhejiang	16	64		3			11
Total no. of registered farms	442	2 978	34	213	36	1	191

- (b) Information on the types and number of Mainland farms inspected in the past 3 years is given below—

Calendar Year	Vegetable Farms	Orchards	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms	Total
2014	17	3	29	8	5	0	7	69
2015	13	3	22	14	6	0	9	67
2016	9	3	25	19	3	1	5	65

- (c) The Government is committed to ensuring an adequate and stable food supply to Hong Kong. In this connection, the Government has been working closely with the Mainland authorities to maintain the stability, quality and safety of food products supplied to Hong Kong. We will continue with our efforts on this front.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)317

(Question Serial No. 4263)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to food surveillance, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the financial provision and manpower for food surveillance by the Centre for Food Safety in 2017-18;
- (b) the total number of food samples taken for testing in various projects under the Food Surveillance Programme in 2016-17 (including routine food surveillance, targeted food surveillance and seasonal food surveillance) and the satisfactory rates;
- (c) the work progress regarding continued study on the regulation of cooked meat as mentioned under Programme (1); and
- (d) given that the Department will follow up proposals to introduce a pre-market safety assessment scheme for genetically modified food as mentioned under Programme (1), the details of the scheme and its progress.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (a) The Food Import and Export Section and the Food Surveillance and Complaint Section of the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) are responsible for carrying out food surveillance work, including collection of food samples for testing at the import, wholesale and retail levels. With an estimated establishment of 376 staff members in 2017-18, the estimated expenditure of the 2 Sections in 2017-18 is about \$255 million. Apart from food surveillance, both Sections are involved in other duties. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditures incurred by the 2 Sections on food surveillance. The current manpower and resources are able to meet the operational requirements.

- (b) The statistics on food surveillance are kept on a calendar year basis. About 59 200, 4 900 and 1 300 food samples were taken for testing under the routine food surveillance, targeted food surveillance and seasonal food surveillance respectively in 2016. The overall satisfactory rate was 99.8%.
- (c) The Government will continue to study the regulation of cooked meat, including looking into international practices. Also, the Government will continue to monitor the safety of meat products, conduct risk assessment on the safety of cooked meat, and take samples for testing in 2017.

In 2016, the CFS has taken 851 samples of meat products (including dried meat, meat sausage, Chinese sausage, red sausage, meatball, shredded meat, ham, bacon, BBQ pork, luncheon meat, etc.) for testing. Test results were satisfactory except 2 pre-packaged cold cut samples and 1 roasted pork sample which were found to be contaminated with pathogens.

- (d) According to the World Health Organisation, genetically modified (GM) food currently available on the international market has passed the safety assessments of the respective food safety regulatory authorities and is not likely to be harmful to human health.

GM food is treated like any other food and is covered in the regular Food Surveillance Programme of CFS. The CFS takes food samples at the import, wholesale and retail (including online retailers) levels and adopts a risk-based principle in determining the types of samples to be collected, the frequency and number of samples taken for testing, and types of laboratory analysis to be conducted. The CFS releases the test results to the public through various channels.

The CFS has issued the “Guidelines on Voluntary Labelling of Genetically Modified Food” which sets out the principles underlying recommended labelling approaches for GM food, and provides reference for the trade to make truthful and informative labels in a consumer-friendly manner. The CFS will continue to promote the voluntary labelling regime to traders, provide the public with information on GM food and address food safety issues related to GM food, while keeping in view international development in GM technology and GM food labelling standards.

The Government has been considering introducing a mandatory pre-market safety assessment scheme, with a view to providing additional safeguard to consumers on GM food being sold in Hong Kong. In this regard, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and the CFS/FEHD have been keeping in view international developments on the regulation of GM foods and the local circumstances with a view to coming up with a proposal for public consultation. We need more time to formulate the proposal, and are not ready to come up with a timetable for the public consultation exercise at this stage. The aforementioned preparatory work has been and will continue to be undertaken by the existing manpower and resources in FHB and CFS/FEHD.

– End –

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)318

(Question Serial No. 4265)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Government has outsourced a large number of public cleansing services for direct delivery by contractors in recent years. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) information about the outsourcing of various types of public cleansing services (including street sweeping and washing, collection of household waste and management of public cleansing facilities), as well as the manpower and expenditure involved;
- (b) details of the tendering criteria and mechanism for selecting contractors to provide the outsourced public cleansing services;
- (c) a brief description of the mechanism for monitoring contractors providing various types of outsourced public cleansing services and the related non-compliance; and
- (d) Last year, the Government amended its guidelines on the tendering of service contracts. When a service contract relies heavily on deployment of non-skilled workers and is assessed with a marking scheme, the relevant government department is required to include in its assessment criteria the evaluation of the tenderers' proposed wage rates and working hours for non-skilled workers during tender evaluation. Please advise on the estimated number of outsourced cleansing workers who will benefit from the amendment, and the increase in the average wage rate of the outsourced workers.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 38)

Reply

The information sought is provided below -

(a)

Types of public cleansing services	Total no. of contracts (as at 31.12.2016)	Total no. of contractors' staff (as at 31.12.2016)	Total contract value HK\$ (Million) (as at 31.12.2016)
Street cleansing	30	6 973	1,950.3
Waste collection	18	323	1,010.3
Others ^(Note)	9	194	222.5

Note : Other public cleansing services include animal carcass collection services, cleansing and waste removal services for special sites/areas, desludging and mid-night conservancy services, mechanical gully cleansing services, mechanical street sweeping services, portable toilet service and recyclables collection services.

- (b) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) awards its public cleansing service contracts by open tender according to the procurement requirements and procedures of the Government. We evaluate the tenders using a marking scheme. Under the marking scheme, the relative weightings of technical score and price score are 30% and 70% respectively. The assessment is carried out in two phases. The first phase involves an assessment of the technical aspects of the tenders including whether the tenders have met mandatory technical requirements. The assessment criteria for technical score comprise the quality of the proposed implementation plans submitted by the tenderer, the proposed wage level and daily maximum working hours of the cleansing workers employed for executing the contract as well as the contractors' experience/performance track record for relevant government contracts. By established rules, the price proposed should not be looked at at this stage. The second phase involves assessing the prices of all tenders which have met the mandatory technical requirement. The tender with the highest overall score will be accepted by the Government.
- (c) The Department has put in place a contract management mechanism. The service requirements that must be met by the contractor are clearly set out in the contracts. The frontline contract management staff of the Department conducts daily site inspection at random to check the contractor's performance and confirm whether the services have been completed as scheduled in accordance with the contract requirements, and approved work plan including staff attendance. If the Department finds a contractor in breach of contract provisions, it will take appropriate actions including the issuance of verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices as well as withholding/deducting monthly payment of service charge.
- (d) As regards the revised guidelines promulgated by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau in 2016 requiring procuring departments to include in its assessment

criteria the evaluation of the tenderers' proposed wage rates and working hours for non-skilled workers during tender evaluation, the Department has in fact already included these criteria in the marking scheme for evaluating tenders involving non-skilled workers before the announcement of the revised guidelines. The average wages of non-skilled workers before and after the promulgation of the revised guidelines have no significant difference.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)319****(Question Serial No. 4266)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to public niches, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of deaths (Hong Kong residents) and the means of disposal of the dead (by burial or cremation) in the past 3 years; and
- (b) the number of applications for public niches in Hong Kong, the number of niches allocated, the total number of applicants on the waiting list for public niches and the average waiting time for a public niche in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 39)Reply:

- (a) The information sought is provided as follows -

Year	No. of Deaths	No. of Burials	No. of Cremations
2014	45 710	3 477	41 244
2015	46 757	3 355	42 737
2016	46 662	3 253	43 556

- (b) New niches are allocated by computer balloting. Waiting list applies only to the allocation of niches returned to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department).

The information sought on allocation of new niches is as follows -

Year	New niches	
	No. of applications	No. of niches allocated
2014	16 321	12 053
2015	11 627	14 573
2016	178	5 239

Note: The year in which new niches are allocated may not be the same as that in which the applications are made.

In the past 3 years, on average about 270 niches per annum are returned to the Department. These niches are re-allocated according to the priority in the waiting list of the respective columbarium. The information sought is provided as follows -

Year	Re-allocated niches			
	No. of applications	No. of niches re-allocated	No. of applications on the waiting list	Average waiting time (months)
2014	5 554	193	23 235	54
2015	7 164	394	21 048	45
2016	6 923	271	24 280	42

Note: The average waiting time is dependent on the number of niches that are returned to the Department for re-allocation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)320****(Question Serial No. 4267)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Under section 31(1)(d) of the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X), any person who carries on any food business which involves the sale of fresh, chilled or frozen beef, mutton, pork, reptiles, fish or poultry must obtain a fresh provision shop licence. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of fresh provision shop licences in force in Hong Kong in 2016-17, with a breakdown by licence type (fresh, chilled and frozen); and
- (b) the number of inspections conducted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to licensed fresh provision shops in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by licence type (fresh, chilled and frozen); the number and nature of cases of irregularities detected; and the number of prosecutions instituted.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 40)Reply:

- (a) The information sought is given below, showing the position as at end-2016:

Type of Commodities Permitted to be Sold	Number of fresh provision shops (FPS)
Fresh commodities	896
Chilled commodities	101
Frozen commodities	294
Fresh and chilled commodities	151
Fresh and frozen commodities	122
Chilled and frozen commodities	372
Fresh, chilled and frozen commodities	700
Total	2 636

- (b) In general, inspections of licensed FPS are conducted once every 4, 10 or 20 weeks according to the risk type of individual premises as assessed under the “Risk-based Inspection System” (the System). The licence type (fresh, chilled and frozen) is only one of the design criteria under the System. Criteria such as the track record of the licensees and the risks inherent in the products sold are also relevant. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department keeps statistics on the overall number of inspections pertaining to licensed food premises. A separate breakdown of inspections for licensed FPS or by licence type is not available. A breakdown on prosecution statistics in 2015 and 2016 by nature of irregularities for licensed FPS is at Annex. Similar breakdown for 2014 is not available.

- End -

**Breakdown of Prosecutions Instituted Against
Licensed Fresh Provision Shops in 2015 and 2016**

Nature of irregularities	Number of prosecutions	
	2015	2016
Dirty food premises / presence of vermins, live birds or animals	2	0
Dirty equipment and utensils	2	0
Food not protected from risk of contamination	5	4
Sub-standard fish tank water	3	0
Use of open space for scullery / food preparation / storage of food utensils	2	1
Dirty food room / improper repair of food room	5	2
Alteration of premises or fittings	1	0
Alteration to the approved layout of the premises	5	5
Sale of restricted food without permission	4	6
Extension of food business beyond licensed area	64	38
Obstruction of public places	183	176
Other irregularities such as smoking in food room, sale of fresh and chilled meat at the same premises, sale of food which was not of the nature, substance or quality demanded by the purchaser, conducting other type of food business without licence/permission, fresh meat containing preservative, etc.	8	18
Total	284	250

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)321

(Question Serial No. 4268)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the management of public markets, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the expenditure on subsidising public market management in the past 3 years;
- (b) the number of vacant stalls in public markets and the vacancy rate at present; the average and longest vacancy period; the total rental receivable (in terms of open market rental) from all vacant stalls in 2016-17 as compared with the expenditure on subsidising public market management;
- (c) the number of in-house staff involved in the management of public markets;
- (d) the number of contractors engaged, the manpower they deploy, the types of services they provide and the expenditure involved in the various aspects of market management; and
- (e) given the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's plan to close under-utilised public markets as stated under the Programme, the list of markets planned to be closed and details of the plans concerned.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 41)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (a) For 2014-15 and 2015-16, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) recorded deficits of \$327.8 million and \$293.7 million respectively in the management of public markets. The deficit for 2016-17 (revised estimate) is \$414.1 million.

- (b) “Vacant” stalls refer to stalls that have not been let out. Degree of activity of let-out stalls varies. As at 31 December 2016, 1 310 stalls out of a total 14 397 stalls in public markets were not let out; this represented 9.1% of the total number of stalls. The figure has included those stalls being frozen for various purposes, such as stalls in markets undergoing improvement works or stalls that may be needed for housing tenants from public markets being planned for closure. Information on the average and longest period of vacancy is not readily available. As these stalls cannot be let out for various reasons, we have not assessed the amount of rental that is otherwise receivable.
- (c) As at 31 December 2016, 207 in-house staff including Non-civil Service Contract staff were involved in the management of public markets.
- (d) As at 31 December 2016, a total of 13 contractors and about 1 500 contractors’ staff were engaged to support the operation of public markets, including venue management, cleansing, pest control and security guard services. The estimated total expenditure involved for 2016-17 is about \$233.5 million.
- (e) As a result of demographic changes, new development/redevelopment projects and competition from other fresh provision outlets, the appeal of some public markets has been diminishing over time thus leading to reduced patronage and high vacancy rates. When considering whether an under-utilised public market is to be closed, we will take into account a host of factors, including vacancy rate, prospects for improvement, availability of alternative sources of fresh provision outlets in the vicinity, and the likely cost-effectiveness of upgrading works and the views of the relevant District Councils, etc. The Department plans to close Shau Kei Wan Market and Tsuen King Circuit Market in 2017-18, the vacancy rates¹ of which were 44% and 80% respectively as at 31 December 2016. Noteworthy is that a sizable portion of the occupied (i.e. leased) stalls are not in active operation, e.g. for the Shau Kei Wan Market, of the 46 occupied stalls, only 19 stalls are actively in operation.

- End -

¹ Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)322

(Question Serial No.4269)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number, nature and causes of local food poisoning incidents in the past three years, the seasons when these incidents took place, the condition of the affected persons and the pertinence to restaurants and the food business (i.e. food poisoning arising from dining out or home cooking).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 42)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department received from the Department of Health 216, 256 and 201 referrals of food poisoning cases related to food consumed in restaurants/food purchased from retail outlets in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. Bacteria were the leading group of causative agents for food poisoning cases. The commonly identified contributing factors included contamination through raw food, improper holding temperature and inadequate cooking. Food poisoning cases were more commonly reported during summer months. Mild symptoms were observed in the majority of the affected persons.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)323

(Question Serial No. 4270)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under this Programme, it is stated that the Department will “continue to take stringent enforcement actions against unlicensed food premises and food premises which pose immediate health hazards or with illegal extension of food business area”. Please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of enforcement actions taken against unlicensed food premises in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by district; and
- (b) the number of enforcement actions taken and prosecutions instituted against illegal extension of food business area in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by district.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 43)

Reply:

The information sought is provided at Annex.

- End -

- (a) The number of prosecutions against unlicensed food premises broken down by district in the past 3 years is provided below -

District	2014	2015	2016
Central and Western	167	265	262
Wan Chai	263	138	190
Eastern	329	388	307 (1)*
Southern	23	39	69
Islands	79	47	29
Yau Tsim	135	90	141
Mong Kok	302	259	145
Sham Shui Po	198	155	156
Kowloon City	236	216	102
Wong Tai Sin	106	161	131
Kwun Tong	225	135	93
Kwai Tsing	340 (1)*	173	234
Tsuen Wan	475	335	140
Tuen Mun	765	389	236
Yuen Long	421 (2)*	184	184
North	22	31	27
Tai Po	165	141	103
Sha Tin	822 (2)*	352	354
Sai Kung	45	45	56
Total	5 118	3 543	2 959

* The number in brackets denotes the number of Closure Order granted by the Court to close the unlicensed food premises.

- (b) The number of prosecutions and other sanctions instituted against illegal extension of food business area broken down by district in the past 3 years is provided below –

District	2014			2015			2016		
	No. of prosecutions	No. of licence suspensions	No. of licence cancellations	No. of prosecutions	No. of licence suspensions	No. of licence cancellations	No. of prosecutions	No. of licence suspensions	No. of licence cancellations
Central and Western	62	1	0	73	6	0	93	1	0
Wan Chai	186	10	1	99	2	0	125	3	1
Eastern	87	27	0	132	29	0	44	19	0
Southern	8	1	0	9	0	0	14	0	0
Islands	24	0	0	29	5	0	36	0	0
Yau Tsim	61	5	1	56	1	0	50	0	0
Mong Kok	198	8	1	174	9	2	164	3	0
Sham Shui Po	71	9	2	113	15	0	103	21	1
Kowloon City	34	6	1	38	8	0	31	3	2
Wong Tai Sin	65	12	0	83	9	0	79	3	0
Kwun Tong	67	6	0	69	4	0	68	1	0
Kwai Tsing	206	3	0	30	1	1	34	1	0
Tsuen Wan	162	7	4	131	0	1	89	1	0
Tuen Mun	701	20	3	374	13	1	194	7	2

District	2014			2015			2016		
	No. of prosecutions	No. of licence suspensions	No. of licence cancellations	No. of prosecutions	No. of licence suspensions	No. of licence cancellations	No. of prosecutions	No. of licence suspensions	No. of licence cancellations
Yuen Long	645	40	4	282	25	2	188	14	1
North	43	3	0	42	2	0	50	2	0
Tai Po	103	7	0	40	7	0	52	1	0
Sha Tin	699	10	3	130	12	1	171	1	1
Sai Kung	76	0	0	99	0	0	97	1	0
Total #	3 498	175	20	2 003	148	8	1 682	82	8

The decrease in the number of prosecutions and other sanctions instituted against illegal extension of food business area in the past 3 years was mainly attributable to our implementation of enhanced control measures against illegal extension of food business area since mid-2013.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)324

(Question Serial No. 4271)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the efforts against illegal hawking of unlicensed hawkers, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of warnings issued and prosecutions instituted against illegal hawking of unlicensed hawkers, the locations involved, as well as the nature of these cases, in 2016-17;
- (b) whether new measures will be put in place or additional manpower or resources be allocated to deal with illegal hawking at unlicensed hawker blackspots; and
- (c) whether new measures will be put in place or additional manpower or resources be allocated to deal with illegal hawking during festive periods when unlicensed hawkers are active.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 44)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) In 2016, there were 15 310 prosecutions against illegal hawking activities, including street obstruction, illegal hawking and sale of cooked food / restricted food. Further detailed breakdown is not readily available. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not keep statistics on the number of warnings issued.
- (b) Being itinerant, unlicensed hawking is best deterred by mobile patrolling and raiding through strategic and flexible staff deployment. In 2017-18, the Department will continue to do so through redeployment of its existing manpower resources. In addition, the Department's Hawker Control Team (HCT) staff will continue to regularly patrol blackspots to deter illegal hawking activities and to prevent unlicensed

hawkers from taking root at these locations. If the hawkers persist in trading and do not disperse, arrest action would follow. To enhance deterrence, HCT staff also mount raiding operations at blackspots to arrest unlicensed hawkers and seize their goods and equipment.

- (c) To deter the illegal activities of cooked food hawkers during festive periods, the Department will consider enhancing publicity at strategic locations through mounting roadside banners, handing out notices and broadcasting by a mobile van in the run up to festive periods. The Department will take into account the actual situations on the ground and flexibly deploy existing manpower resources to combat illegal hawking during the festive periods.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)325****(Question Serial No. 4272)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of food complaints received in the past 3 years, the types and nature of these complaints, as well as their examination results and outcome.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 45)Reply:

The number of food complaints received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is provided in the following table –

Nature of complaints	2014	2015	2016
Unwholesome food	2 335	2 682	2 984
Foreign substances in food	964	1 265	1 461
Chemicals in food	301	405	318
Labelling issues	526	402	456
Fake/counterfeit food	50	29	18
Others	420	253	304
Total number of cases	4 596	5 036	5 541
Number of warnings issued	817	741	835
Number of prosecutions	315	145	171

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)326****(Question Serial No. 4273)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the inspections to food premises by the Department in the past 3 years, please advise on the number of inspections conducted, the number and nature of cases of irregularities detected, the types of premises involved and the districts in which these premises were located, as well as the number of warnings issued and prosecutions instituted.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 46)Reply:

The required statistics, provided on a calendar-year basis, are given below –

	2014	2015	2016
(a) Number of inspections to licensed food premises	208 380	204 349	213 812
(b) Number of prosecutions instituted against licensed food premises	2 599	2 313	2 024
(c) Number of warnings issued under the licensing regime for breach of licensing requirements/conditions	1 223	1 376	1 289

The breakdown by nature of irregularities is at Annex. There are no separate statistics on the types and locations of premises involved.

- End -

**Prosecutions Instituted Against Licensed Food Premises
in 2014, 2015 and 2016**

Nature of Irregularities	No. of Prosecutions		
	2014	2015	2016
Dirty food premises / presence of vermins, live birds or animals	6	13	14
Dirty equipment and utensils	13	23	12
Food not protected from risk of contamination	3	7	7
Sub-standard fish tank water	0	3	1
Improper storage of open food	93	121	116
Use of open space for scullery / food preparation / storage of food utensils	144	150	93
Dirty food room / improper repair of food room	38	61	50
Dirty toilet	0	3	2
Alteration of premises or fittings	4	12	10
Alteration to the approved layout of the premises	207	157	118
Sale of restricted food without permission	10	8	16
Operating other types of unlicensed food business	24	34	111
Extension of food business beyond licensed area	610	495	302
Obstruction of public places	1 410	1 171	1 136
Other irregularities such as smoking in food room; sale of fresh and chilled meat at the same premises; sale of food unfit for human consumption; sale of food which was not of the nature, substance or quality demanded by the purchaser; and fresh meat containing preservative etc.	37	55	36
Total	2 599	2 313	2 024

Note: The number of prosecutions against licensed food premises dropped from 2 599 in 2014 to 2 024 in 2016. This was attributable mainly to the significant drop in the number of cases involving illegal extension of food business area and obstruction of public places by licensed food premises in 2015 and 2016, relative to 2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)327

(Question Serial No. 4554)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (001) Salaries

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the actual expenditure on salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Director in 2016-17, as well as the estimate for salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Director in 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 32)

Reply:

The expenditure on salaries for the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene in 2016-17 is \$2.865 million and the same provision has been reserved in 2017-18. We have not incurred any expenditure on regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowances for the above officer in 2016-17 and no provisions for such have been reserved in 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE) 328

(Question Serial No. 4638)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under the co-operation agreement between the Department and the Shenzhen Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau, frozen meat imported into Hong Kong from overseas are allowed to be stored temporarily in Qianhaiwan Bonded Port Area (QBPA) in Shenzhen. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (1) the items of expenditure and amounts incurred for implementing the agreement in 2016-2017, and the estimated expenditure for 2017-2018;
- (2) details on inspections of frozen meat by the Department at the control point, including the rate of sampling and number of tests conducted;
- (3) whether the Department plans to monitor the implementation of the agreement at Qianhai; whether measures will be taken for continued surveillance of the operation of cold stores in QBPA (if yes, the details); and whether surprise checks will be considered (if yes, the estimated expenditure);
- (4) the Department's hygiene requirements for cold stores in QBPA; whether the requirements on temperature control, facilities standards, etc. are identical with the existing statutory requirements for cold stores in Hong Kong (if not, the difference(s) and the reason(s)); and
- (5) tabulated information on the names of approved and unapproved cold stores in QBPA, including their respective sizes and operators, and the reason(s) for rejection.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 142)

Reply:

- (1) The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is responsible for carrying out food import control measures, including frozen meat imported under the co-operation agreement (the Agreement) between FEHD and the Shenzhen Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau. There is no breakdown of expenditure for implementing the work related to frozen meat imported under the Agreement.
- (2) – (4) Under the Agreement, frozen meat imported from overseas into Hong Kong may be stored temporarily in Qianhaiwan Bonded Port Area (QBPA) for subsequent delivery into Hong Kong in batches. The Mainland authorities are responsible for the inspection and quarantine of frozen meat transhipped through QBPA, including monitoring the facilities and temperatures of cold stores in which the frozen meat is kept, to ensure hygiene and food safety. The requirements of storage in QBPA are consistent with Hong Kong's licensing requirements for cold stores, including among others requiring frozen meat to be kept at a temperature of -18°C or below.

Lorries transporting the frozen meat cargoes from QBPA must enter Hong Kong via Man Kam To Control Point for inspection by CFS. Every consignment of frozen meat that has been stored in QBPA, upon entry into Hong Kong, must be accompanied by a health certificate and a transhipment certificate issued by the relevant authorities, certifying that the frozen meat was properly imported into QBPA and did not suffer any spoilage or deterioration during its stay there. CFS adopts a risk-based approach in conducting food surveillance, where samples are taken for testing as required.

- (5) At present, there is 1 registered cold store for temporary storage of frozen meat in QBPA under the Agreement. The cold store is operated by China Merchants International Cold Chain (Shenzhen) Co. Ltd. and has a floor area of about 1 750 square metres.

– End –

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)329

(Question Serial No. 4649)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Last year, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) already stated that it would close public markets which were under-utilised. Given the indication by the Department that the same actions will be taken in the coming year, please advise on the following:

1. the number of public markets closed last year as a result of under-utilisation;
2. the public markets which the Department is planning to close (including their names, locations and occupancy rates set out in tabular form); and
3. the measures to improve the letting percentage of market stalls.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 153)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

3. As a result of demographic changes, new development/redevelopment projects and competition from other fresh provision outlets, the appeal of some public markets has been diminishing over time thus leading to reduced patronage and high vacancy rates. When considering whether an under-utilised market is to be closed, we will take into account a host of factors, including vacancy rate, prospects for improvement, availability of alternative sources of fresh provision outlets in the vicinity, and the likely cost-effectiveness of upgrading works and the views of the relevant District Councils, etc. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) did not close any public market last year.
4. The following public markets are planned to be closed in 2017-18:

Name of Market	Location	Occupancy rate * (as at 31 December 2016)
Shau Kei Wan Market	Shau Kei Wan, Eastern District	56%
Tsuen King Circuit Market	Tsuen King Circuit, Tsuen Wan	20%

*Occupancy rate is the percentage of let-out stalls versus the total number of stalls in the market. A sizable portion of the occupied (i.e. leased) stalls are not in active operation, e.g. for the Shau Kei Wan Market, of the 46 occupied stalls, only 19 stalls are actively in operation.

3. As an on-going initiative, the Department has been taking forward measures to improve the operating environment of public markets, including replacement of aged lifts and escalators, improvement of ventilation, lighting systems and fire services, refurbishment of external walls, refurbishment of toilets, etc. as appropriate. Promotional activities are also conducted to enhance the patronage of public markets. These include thematic exhibitions and workshops, festive celebration activities, display of multi-languages recipes as well as publication of booklets and quarterly newsletters to provide updated market information. In addition, the Department will continue, as appropriate, to let out long-standing vacant stalls at reduced upset auction prices and introduce a greater variety of service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rate of public markets.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)330****(Question Serial No. 4650)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

In 2014, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department commissioned a consultancy study on ways to improve the operating environment of public markets. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. the progress of implementation of the recommendations concerned;
2. the implementation of improvement measures in the 6 selected markets in the past 3 years; and
3. the occupancy rate and vacancy rate of the 6 selected markets in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 154)Reply:

The Consultant commissioned by the Food and Health Bureau selected 6 representative markets for detailed study and put forward specific improvement recommendations. These 6 markets are Lockhart Road Market, Sheung Fung Street Market, Yau Ma Tei Market, Wing Fong Street Market, Tsuen Wan Market and Ngau Chi Wan Market. The Government is following up the specific improvement proposals for these markets in phases including gauging their feasibility and acceptability to the tenants. The experience gained and the improvement recommendations taken forward will serve as a reference for pursuing improvements to other similar markets in the future. The progress of the 6 selected markets is provided at the Annex. Their occupancy rate and vacancy rate in the past 3 years are set out as follows -

Name of Market	Occupancy Rate * as at 31 December			Vacancy Rate # as at 31 December		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
Lockhart Road Market	89%	83%	80%	11%	17%	20%

Sheung Fung Street Market	100%	99%	100%	0%	1%	0%
Yau Ma Tei Market	99%	99%	96%	1%	1%	4%
Wing Fong Street Market	93%	93%	92%	7%	7%	8%
Tsuen Wan Market	96%	93%	93%	4%	7%	7%
Ngau Chi Wan Market	95%	93%	93%	5%	7%	7%

* Occupancy rate is the percentage of let-out stalls versus the total number of stalls in a market. Degree of activity of let-out stalls varies.

Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.

The Consultant also suggested implementing some non-physical improvement measures relating to the management, hygiene, as well as marketing and promotion of public markets. On the management of public markets, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) agrees with the Consultant and has given priority to tackling inactive stalls and keeping markets clean and tidy in general. On marketing and promotion, the Department has been organising various promotional activities in public markets, including festive promotions, games booths, cooking demonstrations and distribution of souvenirs. The Department will sustain its promotional efforts with a view to increasing customer flows in public markets and improving business viability. In 2017-18, the estimated expenditure for market promotional activities is \$7 million.

- End -

Name of Market	Progress
Lockhart Road Market	<p>The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has consulted the Market Management Consultative Committees (MMCCs) of these 2 markets. The MMCCs expressed support for some of the proposals that do not require temporary closure of stalls or suspension of business. Rejection of those that necessitate temporary closure/business suspension implies that the scope of improvement will be significantly less than that envisaged in the Consultancy Report. The improvement works for Lockhart Road Market will include beautification of the façade and upgrading market external wall facing the major road, enhancement of the ventilating system, upgrading of market toilets, loading bay facilities, fire service installation, barrier free access and lightings, provision of Closed-circuit Television System and a new TV broadcast system, replacement of directional signboards and floor tiles, and conversion of former poultry stalls into trading stalls. The improvement works will commence in the second quarter of 2017 for completion in the fourth quarter of 2019, at an estimated cost of \$21.2 million.</p> <p>For Sheung Fung Street Market, the scope of improvement works is being finalised in consultation with relevant departments.</p>
Sheung Fung Street Market	
Yau Ma Tei Market	<p>The MMCCs of these 2 markets were consulted in the fourth quarter of 2016. The MMCCs expressed support for some of the proposals that do not require temporary closure of stalls or suspension of business. Rejection of those that necessitate temporary closure/business suspension implies that the scope of improvement will be significantly less than that envisaged in the Consultancy Report. The Department is carefully considering their views and will conduct feasibility studies and seek funding approval according to the established mechanism for taking forward the improvement works.</p>
Wing Fong Street Market	
Tsuen Wan Market	<p>The Department is now following up on the Consultant's recommended improvements for these 2 markets. Recent surveys indicated that Tsuen Wan Market has attained the 80% threshold support rate for the installation of air-conditioning system. This will be taken into account in conducting the technical feasibility studies and further consultation with the MMCC.</p>
Ngau Chi Wan Market	

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)331****(Question Serial No. 4651)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of cases where actions were taken against non-compliant tenants in public markets in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 155)Reply:

The information sought is provided below-

Calendar year	Number of prosecutions against public market tenants	Number of convictions
2012	1 307	1 287
2013	1 265	1 257
2014	1 291	1 214
2015	1 658	1 523
2016	2 065	1 911

Note : Prosecutions instituted in a year may be convicted in the following year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)332

(Question Serial No. 4652)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The new legislation against shop front extensions by a fixed penalty of \$1,500 came into effect in September 2016. In this connection, please advise on the total number of fixed penalty notices and warnings issued against non-compliance as at February 2017.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 156)

Reply:

Between the commencement of the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) on 24 September 2016 and 31 December 2016, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) issued a total of 2 090 Fixed Penalty Notices against shop front extensions. The Department does not keep separate statistics on the number of warnings issued.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)333****(Question Serial No. 4653)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is responsible for the management of public markets. Please advise on the following:

1. the Department's expenditure and manpower on the management of public markets in the past 3 years; and
2. the Department's estimated expenditure and manpower on the management of public markets in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 157)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Expenditure on market management (\$ million)	741.0	720.4	843.0 (Revised estimate)	853.5 (Estimate)
Manpower	384	376	390	390

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)334

(Question Serial No. 4654)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out in tabular form the public markets in each district of the territory, as well as their names and addresses, and the number of shops, occupancy rate, vacancy rate and expenditure on management involved.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 158)

Reply:

The information sought is provided at Annex.

There is no breakdown on the expenditure on market management for each of the public markets. The total expenditure on management of public markets as a whole in 2016-17 (revised estimate) is \$843 million.

- End -

Serial No.	Name of Market	As at 31 December 2016		
		No. of stalls	Occupancy rate*	Vacancy rate#
1	Aberdeen Market	335	99%	1%
2	Aldrich Bay Market	71	86%	14%
3	Ap Lei Chau Market	63	100%	0%
4	Bowrington Road Market	296	97%	3%
5	Causeway Bay Market	51	98%	2%
6	Centre Street Market	46	78%	22%
7	Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market	32	94%	6%
8	Chai Wan Market	173	95%	5%
9	Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market	17	100%	0%
10	Cheung Chau Market	240	98%	2%
11	Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	28	43%	57%
12	Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market	12	100%	0%
13	Choi Hung Road Market	116	69%	31%
14	Electric Road Market	99	97%	3%
15	Fa Yuen Street Market	180	100%	0%
16	Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (East)	24	100%	0%
17	Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (West)	15	100%	0%
18	Haiphong Road Temporary Market	88	66%	34%
19	Heung Che Street Market	223	96%	4%
20	Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market	11	91%	9%
21	Hung Hom Market	224	100%	0%
22	Hung Shui Kiu Temporary Market	174	75%	25%
23	Java Road Market	194	95%	5%
24	Ka Ting Cooked Food Market	16	62%	38%
25	Kam Tin Market	41	98%	2%
26	Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market	14	100%	0%
27	Kin Wing Cooked Food Market	17	100%	0%
28	Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market	14	100%	0%
29	Kowloon City Market	581	100%	0%
30	Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	11	100%	0%
31	Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market	12	83%	17%
32	Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre	98	100%	0%
33	Kwun Chung Market	218	98%	2%
34	Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market	29	100%	0%
35	Lai Wan Market	42	98%	2%
36	Lam Tei Market	7	100%	0%
37	Lau Fau Shan Market	25	88%	12%
38	Lei Yue Mun Market	20	100%	0%
39	Lockhart Road Market	166	80%	20%
40	Luen Wo Hui Market	338	99%	1%
41	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	14	100%	0%

Serial No.	Name of Market	As at 31 December 2016		
		No. of stalls	Occupancy rate*	Vacancy rate#
42	Mui Wo Cooked Food Market	20	100%	0%
43	Mui Wo Market	35	97%	3%
44	Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market	28	86%	14%
45	Ngau Chi Wan Market	402	93%	7%
46	Ngau Tau Kok Market	466	87%	13%
47	North Kwai Chung Market	222	100%	0%
48	North Point Market	42	100%	0%
49	On Ching Road Flower Market	13	92%	8%
50	Pei Ho Street Market	227	98%	2%
51	Peng Chau Market	18	100%	0%
52	Plover Cove Road Market	244	96%	4%
53	Po On Road Market	449	93%	7%
54	Quarry Bay Market	113	82%	18%
55	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	11	100%	0%
56	Sai Kung Market	209	99%	1%
57	Sai Wan Ho Market	274	97%	3%
58	Sai Ying Pun Market	102	89%	11%
59	San Hui Market	324	99%	1%
60	Sha Tau Kok Market	66	98%	2%
61	Sha Tin Market	172	98%	2%
62	Sham Tseng Temporary Market	29	90%	10%
63	Shau Kei Wan Market	82	56%	44%
64	Shek Tong Tsui Market	151	98%	2%
65	Shek Wu Hui Market	392	100%	0%
66	Sheung Fung Street Market	71	100%	0%
67	Sheung Wan Market	222	100%	0%
68	Shui Wo Street Market	302	100%	0%
69	Smithfield Market	216	100%	0%
70	Stanley Waterfront Mart	20	95%	5%
71	Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market	17	100%	0%
72	Tai Kiu Market	379	99%	1%
73	Tai Kok Tsui Market	135	100%	0%
74	Tai O Market	26	100%	0%
75	Tai Po Hui Market	313	99%	1%
76	Tai Shing Street Market	442	95%	5%
77	Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market	18	100%	0%
78	Tai Wai Market	195	88%	12%
79	Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	20	55%	45%
80	Tang Lung Chau Market	34	94%	6%
81	Tin Wan Market	180	100%	0%
82	To Kwa Wan Market	267	98%	2%
83	Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market	18	100%	0%
84	Tsing Yi Market	76	100%	0%
85	Tsuen King Circuit Market	241	20%	80%
86	Tsuen Wan Market	381	93%	7%

Serial No.	Name of Market	As at 31 December 2016		
		No. of stalls	Occupancy rate*	Vacancy rate#
87	Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market	56	100%	0%
88	Tui Min Hoi Market	34	85%	15%
89	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	359	41%	59%
90	Tung Yick Market	446	41%	59%
91	Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	8	100%	0%
92	Wan Chai Market	50	96%	4%
93	Wing Fong Street Market	112	92%	8%
94	Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market	18	100%	0%
95	Wong Nai Chung Market	69	99%	1%
96	Yan Oi Market	108	97%	3%
97	Yau Ma Tei Market	144	96%	4%
98	Yee On Street Market	65	98%	2%
99	Yeung Uk Road Market	318	97%	3%
100	Yue Kwong Road Market	197	98%	2%
101	Yue Wan Market	374	94%	6%

* Occupancy rate is the percentage of let-out stalls versus the total number of stalls in a market. Degree of activity of let-out stalls varies.

Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)335

(Question Serial No. 4655)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Government has indicated on various occasions that it keeps an open mind towards the setting-up of bazaars by the community. With regard to the handling of issues relating to bazaars, please advise on the following:

1. the expenditure, manpower and respective ranks involved in the past 3 years; and
2. the estimated expenditure, manpower and respective ranks involved in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 159)

Reply:

Staff of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) involved in liaison with the relevant bureaux and departments regarding the use of sites for bazaars and the processing of applications for holding activities which require a Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licence and/or Temporary Food Factory Licence are also involved in other duties. The Department does not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure, manpower and respective ranks involved in bazaar-related work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)336

(Question Serial No. 4656)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is the duty of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) to handle applications for organising bazaars and exercise hawker control. In this connection, please advise this Council on the following:

1. details of the application procedures, licence(s) to be applied, approval criteria as well as the time required for issuing the licence(s) for organising bazaars; and
2. the policy adopted by the Department in promoting the development of bazaars in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 160)

Reply:

The Government adopts a positive attitude towards specific proposals for organising bazaars. As long as they will not compromise public order and safety, food safety and environmental hygiene, and will not obstruct public passageways, when suitable sites have been identified by the proponents concerned and support from local communities and respective District Councils have been obtained, the Government will facilitate liaison with the relevant bureaux and departments.

Depending on the specific details of bazaar proposals, the bureaux concerned will, according to the roles they play, give comments on matters related to their policy areas respectively. The departments concerned will process bazaar proposals according to their procedures and criteria. Generally speaking, upon receipt of a specific application, the department concerned will consider the nature, form, operation mode, date and time of the proposed activity to determine whether or not it is suitable to be held at the proposed venue, and whether there are other matters requiring attention in connection with the proposed activity or venue. As to a bazaar activity, the proponent should give details about his/her specific proposal in the application for the use of the venue. During the process, other relevant departments will have the opportunity to give their views on matters that concern

them. The department in charge of the venue will consider and process each application on its own merits in accordance with their vetting criteria and the details of the case. The proponents concerned should also apply for the relevant licences required from the respective departments/licensing authorities separately.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)337****(Question Serial No. 4657)**

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is the duty of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) to process applications for organising bazaars and exercise hawker control. With regard to the work of promoting bazaar development, please set out (in tabular form) the number of enquiries about and applications for organising bazaars, as well as the number of bazaars successfully organised under the existing policy, in the past 3 years; whether the Bureau has reviewed the bazaar policy.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 161)

Reply:

The project proponent of a bazaar proposal should provide details of his/her specific proposal in the application for permission to use the venue. If the owner/department in charge of the venue gives consent, the project proponent would need to apply for the relevant licence/permission required from the respective departments separately. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not have a breakdown of the number of enquiries about organising bazaars, or the number of organisations which submitted applications for holding bazaars, or the number of bazaars successfully held in the past 3 years. In the proposals received by the Government since November 2015, the proposed locations of holding bazaars include Sham Shui Po, Islands District, North District, Eastern District, Yuen Long and Central and Western District. Thus far, bazaars have already been successfully held in some of these districts.

The Government adopts a positive attitude towards specific proposals for organising bazaars. As long as they will not compromise public order and safety, food safety and environmental hygiene and obstruct public passageways, when suitable sites have been identified by the proponents concerned and support from local communities and respective District Councils have been obtained, the Government will facilitate liaison with relevant bureaux/departments. The Department has its established mechanisms for liaison with the relevant bureaux and departments regarding the use of sites for bazaars and for processing applications for holding activities which require a Temporary Places of Public

Entertainment Licence and/or Temporary Food Factory Licence. The arrangements would be kept under review as and when necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)338

(Question Serial No. 4658)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Department has stated that food safety and environmental hygiene messages would be promoted via social media. In this regard, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. whether there are publicity programmes and activities for promotion on social media; and
2. the manpower, estimated expenditure and objectives involved in the promotion of relevant messages on social media.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 162)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has been making use of social media for strengthening the dissemination of food safety and environmental hygiene messages to the public, and extending our reach to different sectors of the community through the online platforms. The Facebook pages of the “Centre for Food Safety” and “Hong Kong’s Action on Salt and Sugar Reduction” were introduced in 2013 and 2015 respectively. The Department also launched a Facebook page for the “Keep Clean Ambassador Ah Tak” in June 2016. These Facebook pages mainly provide various information on food safety and environmental hygiene with a variety of posts, photographs, videos, animation or interactive games. The Facebook pages also share information about related activities to encourage community participation and support in promoting food safety and keeping the environment clean. In addition, the Department has uploaded related television Announcements in the Public Interest and publicity videos to the YouTube to facilitate public viewing.

The Facebook page of the “Keep Clean Ambassador Ah Tak” is designed and updated by a contract service provider under supervision of the Department. The estimated expenditure on the service contract in 2017-18 is around \$500,000. The maintenance of the 2 Facebook pages on food safety and other promotion work through social media are

performed by in-house staff. There is no separate breakdown on the resources so deployed.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)339****(Question Serial No. 4711)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Given that Tsuen King Circuit Market under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) was found having a low occupancy rate by the Audit Commission, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. the number of shops, occupancy rate, vacancy rate and expenditure on management of Tsuen King Circuit Market in the past 5 years; and
2. whether the Department has taken any measures to improve the occupancy rate (if not, the reason(s)).

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 224)Reply:

1. There is no breakdown on the expenditure on market management for each of the public markets. The number of stalls, occupancy rate and vacancy rate of Tsuen King Circuit Market for the past 5 years are provided as follows -

No. of stalls					Occupancy rate* as at 31 December					Vacancy rate [#] as at 31 December				
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
241	241	241	241	241	34%	31%	24%	21%	20%	66%	69%	76%	79%	80%

* Occupancy rate is the percentage of let-out stalls versus the total number of stalls in a market. Degree of activity of let-out stalls varies.

Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.

2. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department plans to close Tsuen King Circuit Market in 2017-18 in the light of the consistently high vacancy rates and inactive operation of stalls there.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)340

(Question Serial No. 4713)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is proposed that a public market will be built in Tung Chung and the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area respectively. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. the progress of the preparatory work for the provision of the 2 public markets and the manpower involved; and
2. the resources allocated by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in the coming year for the construction/design of the said public markets and their exact locations.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 228)

Reply:

The Government has initially identified suitable sites in the east of Tung Chung New Town East Extension Area as well as in the southwest of Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area (NDA) to build sizable public markets. The 2 identified sites are easily accessible to residents in the region, well connected with public transport network and close to mass transit railway stations and public transport interchanges. The markets are intended to serve not only Tung Chung New Town Extension Area and Hung Shui Kiu NDA but also the whole Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai areas. The 2 proposed new markets are an integral part of the new town development of the Tung Chung and Hung Shui Kiu areas. The project estimates could be ascertained only after completion of the preparatory work, such as feasibility studies and infrastructure planning. Insofar as the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is concerned, the preparatory work for the provision of the 2 public markets will be undertaken by staff who are also involved in other aspects of work relating to public markets. Hence, no breakdown for the manpower involved in the preparatory work for these 2 markets is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)341****(Question Serial No. 4788)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the outsourced service contractors of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, please provide the following information:

	2016-17	Percentage of increase over the previous year
Number of outsourced service contracts		
Number of workers engaged by outsourced service providers		
Types of services provided by outsourced service providers (including but not limited to services for construction and engineering works, property and facility management, mechanical plant and equipment maintenance, information management and information system, environmental hygiene, security, etc.)		
Average monthly salary of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30,001 or above • \$15,001 - \$30,000 • \$10,001 - \$15,000 • \$8,001 - \$10,000 • \$6,760 - \$8,000 • below \$6,760 		

Average length of service of outsourced workers		
Percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff in the Department		
Number of outsourced workers working: 5 days a week 6 days a week		
Weekly working hours of outsourced workers Weekly maximum working hours Average weekly working hours		
Number of workers with / amount of severance payments or long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF		

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 318)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

	2016-17 (as at 31.12.2016)	Percentage of change over the previous year ^{Note 1}
Number of outsourced service contracts	153	+4.08%
Number of workers engaged by outsourced service providers	11 694	-1.59%
Types of services provided by outsourced service providers (including but not limited to services for construction and engineering works, property and facility management, mechanical plant and equipment maintenance, information management and information system, environmental hygiene, security, etc.)	Please see Note 2	
Average monthly salary of outsourced workers • \$30,001 or above	-	-

• \$15,001 - \$30,000	37	+131.25%
• \$10,001 - \$15,000	803	+46.53%
• \$8,001 - \$10,000	10 854	-4.11%
• \$6,760 - \$8,000	-	-
• below \$6,760	-	-
Average length of service of outsourced workers	Note 3	Note 3
Ratio of number of contractor staff to number of staff of the Department	102.5%	-1.4%
Number of outsourced workers working: 5 days a week 6 days a week	Note 4	Note 4
Weekly working hours of outsourced workers Weekly maximum working hours Average weekly working hours	Note 4	Note 4
Number of workers with / amount of severance payments or long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	Note 4	Note 4

Note 1: The percentage of change as compared with the same period in 2015-16.

Note 2: Types of services provided by outsourced service providers include public cleansing, cleansing services for cemeteries and crematoria/hawker bazaars/public toilets, recyclable collection, pest control, public market management, security guard, vehicle maintenance, etc.

Note 3: The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not keep information on the length of service of outsourced workers. As long as the contract requirements are complied with, the contractor may arrange any qualified staff to provide the services.

Note 4: The Department does not keep information on the information being sought.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)342****(Question Serial No. 4504)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to licensees of non-compliant food factories, please advise on the following:

- (1) the number of verbal advice issued and prosecutions instituted in each of the past 5 years, and the number of the licensees concerned who were prosecuted more than once in the same year;
- (2) the number of verbal advice issued and prosecutions instituted in each month of the past year, and the number of the licensees concerned who were prosecuted more than once in the same month; and
- (3) given that recently there were media reports about a number of chain stores breaching food factory licensing conditions by illegally occupying public space in shopping malls, the progress of prosecutions instituted, and the reason(s) for failing to detect the irregularities in question for years before the media reports.

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 3135)Reply:

- (1)&(2) The information sought on prosecutions instituted against licensed food factory in the past 5 years is provided as follows –

Year	Number of prosecutions
2012	825
2013	726
2014	531
2015	476
2016	384

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not compile separate statistics on the number of prosecutions by month for the years before 2016. The breakdown for 2016 is provided below -

Month	Number of prosecutions
January	38
February	18
March	38
April	43
May	27
June	38
July	15
August	23
September	29
October	32
November	40
December	43
Total	384

The Department does not compile statistics on the number of verbal advice issued to licensed food premises, nor the number of licensee being prosecuted more than once in the same year or same month.

- (3) As at end of December 2016, there were about 25 000 food establishments holding full food business licences. All licensed food premises are subject to regular inspections by the Department to ensure that they are operating in accordance with the licensing requirements and conditions and in compliance with relevant legislation. In addition, the Department will inspect the licensed food premises upon receipt of complaints from members of the public or the media as well as referrals from other government departments. Upon detection of any irregularities at the time of inspection, staff of the Department will issue warning or take out enforcement actions against the licensees concerned, if situation warrants. Any licensed food premises carrying on food business at or beyond the confines of the food premises as delineated in the approved plan without the permission in writing of the Department, or conducting other class of food business at the food premises not in accordance with the licence issued by the Department will be subject to prosecution. The Department is taking follow-up action in the light of a recent media report on the operation of some licensed food factories in shopping arcades. Appropriate enforcement actions will be taken against the licensees should irregularities be detected.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)343****(Question Serial No. 4530)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the “joint operations against illegal hawking with other departments”, please advise this Committee on the following information in each of the past 5 years:

- (1) the number of joint operations conducted with the Hong Kong Police Force;
- (2) the number of joint operations conducted with the Housing Department; and
- (3) the number of joint operations conducted with other departments, with a breakdown by department.

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 3137)Reply:

Hawker management and enforcement duties are undertaken by the Hawker Control Team of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. Other government departments, such as the Hong Kong Police Force and the Housing Department, may be invited to assist in some of the operations. Whether the raids are conducted in the form of joint operation and whether other departments are involved depend on circumstances specific to each operation, including whether there is real or potential threat to law and order, and whether the operation involves illegal hawkers operating inside public housing estates, etc.

The number of joint operations against illegal hawking in the past 5 years is set out in the table below:

Year	Number of inter-departmental operations
2012	1 614
2013	1 867
2014	1 830
2015	1 984
2016	2 009

Further breakdown on the number of joint operations conducted with individual department is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)344****(Question Serial No. 4831)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the inspections of registered vegetable farms on the Mainland supplying vegetables to Hong Kong in the past year, please provide information on the following:

- (1) the number of registered vegetable farms supplying vegetables to Hong Kong in each province; and
- (2) the number of inspections conducted by the Department, and the provinces and municipalities involved.

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 3141)Reply:

- (1) The number of registered vegetable farms in the Mainland which may supply vegetables to Hong Kong with a breakdown by province/city/autonomous region in 2016 is tabulated as follows –

Province / City / Autonomous Region	Number of registered vegetable farms
Guangdong	113
Shenzhen	2
Zhuhai	1
Anhui	2
Beijing	4
Chongqing	5
Fujian	4

Province / City / Autonomous Region	Number of registered vegetable farms
Gansu	5
Guangxi	5
Guizhou	3
Hainan	11
Hebei	16
Henan	14
Hubei	13
Hunan	32
Jiangsu	12
Jiangxi	9
Liaoning	5
Ningxia	23
Shandong	84
Shanghai	13
Sichuan	3
Tianjin	1
Xiamen	5
Yunnan	41
Zhejiang	16
Total	442

- (2) In 2016, the Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department inspected 9 registered vegetable farms in the Mainland, including 4 in Guangdong, 2 in Gansu, 2 in Hebei and 1 in Tianjin.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)345

(Question Serial No. 4832)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to food safety tests in the past year, please provide information on the following:

- (1) the number of food samples taken for testing and, among them, the number of those from the Mainland;
- (2) the number of fruit and vegetable samples found to be unsatisfactory and, among them, the number of those from the Mainland; and
- (3) the number of prosecutions instituted pertaining to the fruits and vegetables in question.

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 3142)

Reply:

- 1) About 65 500 food samples were taken for testing by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in 2016 (not including the about 73 700 samples taken from imported Japanese food for testing of radiation levels in 2016). There is no specific breakdown on the number of samples in terms of places of origin. Source tracing was only conducted for unsatisfactory samples.
- 2) In 2016, a total of 30 800 samples of fruit/fruit products and vegetable/vegetable products were tested. 73 of them were found to be unsatisfactory, of which 56 came from the Mainland. In interpreting this figure, it is important to note that the Mainland remained the main source of food supply for Hong Kong in 2016, and over 90% of the vegetables imported to Hong Kong came from the Mainland. From a risk assessment perspective, Hong Kong's overall food safety standards remain high and normal consumption of the foods concerned would unlikely pose adverse health effects.

- 3) There were 12 prosecution cases against unsatisfactory fruit/fruit products and vegetable/vegetable products in 2016. The level of penalties ranged from \$1,800 to \$8,000.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)346

(Question Serial No. 3472)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The number of food complaints handled has increased for 2 consecutive years. In this connection, please advise whether sufficient resources, including manpower, have been earmarked to meet the demand in the current year; if yes, the details of the manpower and resources involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 71)

Reply:

Food complaints are handled by a dedicated team of staff in the Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department). The manpower establishment of the team was 21 in 2015-16 and is/will be 23 in both 2016-17 and 2017-18. The Department will ensure that there will continue to be sufficient manpower to handle food complaints.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)347

(Question Serial No. 3473)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The number of food samples collected for testing has kept on rising. Please advise whether the Department has earmarked adequate resources, including manpower, to meet the demand in 2017; if yes, the details of the manpower and resources required; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 72)

Reply:

The Food Import and Export Section and the Food Surveillance and Complaint Section of the Centre for Food Safety under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are responsible for carrying out food surveillance work, including collection of food samples for testing at the import, wholesale and retail levels. With an estimated establishment of 376 staff members in 2017-18, the estimated expenditure of the two Sections in 2017-18 is about \$255 million. Apart from food surveillance, both Sections are involved in other duties. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditures incurred by the two Sections on food surveillance. The current manpower and resources are able to meet the operational requirements.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)348

(Question Serial No. 3474)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention, it is mentioned that the Department will continue to study the regulation of cooked meat. Please advise on the work progress in 2016 and the specific work plan and timetable for 2017, including the estimated manpower and resources required.

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 73)

Reply:

The Government will continue to study the regulation of cooked meat, including looking into international practices. Also, the Government will continue to monitor the safety of meat products, conducting risk assessment on the safety of cooked meat, and taking samples for testing in 2017. The required manpower and expenditure will be absorbed from within existing resources.

In 2016, the Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has taken 851 samples of meat products (including dried meat, meat sausage, Chinese sausage, red sausage, meatball, shredded meat, ham, bacon, BBQ pork, luncheon meat, etc.) for testing. Test results were satisfactory except 2 pre-packaged cold cut samples and 1 roasted pork sample which were found to be contaminated with pathogens.

– End –

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)349

(Question Serial No. 3475)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The number of inspections to food premises has increased for 2 consecutive years, notably with an increase of 8 121 inspections in 2016. Please advise whether the Department has earmarked adequate resources, including manpower, to meet the demand in 2017. If yes, please provide details including the manpower and resources required; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 74)

Reply:

At present, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) deploys about 290 health inspectors to 19 district environmental hygiene offices across the territory to handle various environmental hygiene issues including, inter alia, the inspection and regulatory control of licensed food premises. The Department will keep under review the service requirements and suitably deploy manpower and resources to meet relevant operational needs. The Department does not keep separate statistics on the manpower and resources involved in the inspection of food premises.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)350****(Question Serial No. 5014)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the staff establishment and operational expenses for market management and hawker control under Programme (3), please provide information on the following:

1. the expenses on staff salaries, allowances and job-related allowances respectively, as well as the personnel related expenses;
2. among the 3 705 staff, the number of staff on Directorate Pay Scale and their ranks;
3. the expenses pertaining to directorate civil servants in respect of each of the items mentioned in Point (1), and their percentage; and
4. the amount of departmental expenses and non-recurrent expenditures (if any) for this programme.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 527)Reply:

1. The estimated provision for staff salaries, allowances and job-related allowances as well as the personnel related expenses under Programme (3) for 2017-18 is as follows:

	\$ million
Salaries	1,039.3
Allowances and job-related allowances	18.9
Personnel related expenses (i.e. Mandatory Provident Fund and Civil Service Provident Fund contributions)	50.8
Total	1,109.0

2. The establishment of 3 705 staff for Programme (3) includes its share of 1 D3 officer and 3 D2 officers whose major duties relate to both Programmes (2) and (3), as well as other relevant directorate officers in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department who are responsible for indirect supervision or support functions for the programme.
3. The share of the salaries of the 4 directorate officers in question is \$2.4 million in 2017-18 which represents 0.23% of the total provision for salaries under Programme (3). The share of the relevant expenses of other directorate officers under the programme is not readily available.
4. The estimated provision for departmental expenses and capital/non-recurrent expenditure is \$681.5 million and \$130.6 million respectively for this programme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)351****(Question Serial No. 5025)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please provide information on the total weight of vegetables imported from other regions and countries, the total weight of samples taken for testing and the number of test cases, as well as the number of cases not meeting the food safety standards, in the past 5 years (i.e. from 2012-13 to 2016-17).

Year	Total weight of imported vegetables	Total weight of vegetable samples taken for testing and number of test cases	Number of cases not meeting food safety standards
2012			
2013			
2014			
2015			
2016			

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 541)Reply:

Information on the total weight of imported vegetables, the total number of samples taken for testing, and the total number of samples not meeting the food safety standards, by calendar year from 2012 to 2016, is set out in the following table.

Year	Total weight of imported vegetables* (tonnes)	Total number of vegetable samples taken for testing**	Number of vegetable samples** not meeting food safety standards (or good agricultural practice standards for samples taken prior to the implementation of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation)
2012	836 811	19 668	17
2013	826 107	20 275	7
2014	819 198	20 064	40#
2015	829 530	22 239	97
2016	852 913	22 521	65

Remarks:

* Based on statistics provided by the Census and Statistics Department.

** The records are kept in terms of the number of samples, rather than in terms of weight.

The Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation came into effect in August 2014. The caseload of 2014 does not reflect the full-year effect of the implementation of the Regulation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)352

(Question Serial No. 5027)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (603) Plant, vehicles and equipment

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In view of the rampant outbreaks of influenza in recent years, members of the public are more concerned about the cleanliness of streets. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has stepped up the cleansing of environmental hygiene blackspots. Yet, there are complaints about the severe shortage of street washing vehicles. Therefore, I have all along requested increasing the number of street washing vehicles and gully cesspit emptiers.

Nonetheless, there are no estimates on the breakdown of expenditure under Subhead 603 Plant, vehicles and equipment in this year's Estimates of Expenditure. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (1) whether the Department considers the number of vehicles procured last year sufficient;
- (2) the number of street washing vehicles added last year and the total number of street washing vehicles at present;
- (3) whether there is any increase in the frequency of street washing at the blackspots after procurement of additional street washing vehicles last year; and
- (4) the changes taken place in the areas, locations and frequency for cleansing by street washing vehicles after procurement of additional street washing vehicles last year.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 544)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (1)&(2) As at 28 February 2017, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has 141 street washing teams (SWTs), each team comprising 1 street washing vehicle, 1 supervisor-cum-driver and 3 workmen, under its deployment. Of these, 28 SWTs are provided by the Department and 113

SWTs are provided by its contractors under street cleansing contracts. A total of 10 additional SWTs have been deployed to enhance street washing services in 2016-17.

- (3)&(4) Most streets are washed at a frequency of up to twice per week, depending on the actual situations on the ground. For specific locations such as hygiene black spots or areas with conglomeration of wild birds, the Department will conduct street washing up to once daily. The Department will closely monitor the cleanliness and hygiene condition of public places including hygiene black spots and adjust the frequency of street washing services provided thereto as and when necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)353

(Question Serial No. 5028)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide in tabular form information on the following in respect of the years from 2012-13 to 2016-17:

1. the number of Workman II (WM II) in the Department, the types of services provided and the number of WM II engaged in each type of services;
2. the year-on-year percentage change of the number of WM II;
3. the reason(s) for the year-on-year decrease in the number of WM II, if any, as well as the reason(s) for not filling the vacancies concerned; and
4. whether the Department has set a target for the minimum manpower requirement of WM II; if yes, whether the Department's target for WM II is met; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 546)

Reply:

The number of Workman II (WM II) in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), the types of services provided and the number of WM II engaged in each type of services as well as the year-on-year percentage change are tabulated as follows –

Types of Services provided by WM II	Number of WM II				
	2012-13 (as at 31.3.2013)	2013-14 (as at 31.3.2014)	2014-15 (as at 31.3.2015)	2015-16 (as at 31.3.2016)	2016-17 (as at 28.2.2017)
Public Cleansing	2 101	2 096	2 021	2 093	2 007
Pest Control in public place	424	406	398	412	391
Other services (e.g. removal/disposal of dead bodies, cemeteries/crematoria related services, support services to food safety, slaughterhouses, depots and markets etc.)	381	388	381	386	375
Total (Year-on-year % change)	2 906	2 890 (-0.6%)	2 800 (-3.1%)	2 891 (+3.3%)	2 773 (-4.1%)

While the Department has not set a minimum manpower requirement for WM II for each type of services, we consider it appropriate to maintain a core workforce of about 3 000 civil servant WM II currently. Recruitment exercises are conducted from time to time to fill vacancies arising from natural wastage, with one currently in progress. The strength of WM II has remained steady throughout the years and the number of WM II in 2017-18 is expected to remain at a similar level as in previous years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)354****(Question Serial No. 5029)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please provide in tabular form information on the following in respect of the years from 2012-13 to 2016-17:

1. the number of outsourced security guards in the Department and the services provided;
2. the total expenditure on outsourced security services;
3. the percentage of the Department's security services outsourced; and
4. the percentage of change of each of the above items.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 547)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Number of outsourced security guards in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) (Note)	508 (+1.8%)	495 (-2.6%)	559 (+12.9%)	550 (-1.6%)	554 (+0.7%)
Services provided	Security guard services include the provision of security guards, electronic checkpoint systems and walkie-talkies for various venues including public markets, municipal services buildings, depots and public cemeteries and crematoria.				

Total expenditure on outsourced security services	\$54.6 million (+15.2%)	\$63.9 million (+17.0%)	\$68.3 million (+6.9%)	\$70.2 million (+2.8%)	\$75.8 million (Revised Estimate) (+8.0%)
Percentage of the Department's security services outsourced	100% (-)	100% (-)	100% (-)	100% (-)	100% (-)

Figures in () denote percentage change as compared with the previous year.

Note: The figure reflects the position as of 31 March of the financial year, except for 2016-17 where the figure reflects the position as of 31.12.2016.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)355****(Question Serial No. 5030)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the outsourced public cleansing services, please provide information as per the table below:

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Expenditure on / number of staff involved in outsourced street cleansing			
Percentage of change / percentage of outsourced service			
Expenditure on / number of staff involved in outsourced waste collection			
Percentage of change / percentage of outsourced service			
Expenditure on / number of staff involved in outsourced mechanical gully emptying			
Percentage of change / percentage of outsourced service			
Expenditure on / number of staff involved in other outsourced services (please specify)			
Percentage of change / percentage of outsourced services			
Total expenditure on / total number of staff involved in outsourced services			
Percentage of change			

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 548)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

	2014-15 as at 31.3.2015 (Actual)	2015-16 as at 31.3.2016 (Actual)	2016-17 as at 28.2.2017 (Revised Estimate)
Expenditure on / number of staff involved in outsourced street cleansing (<i>Note 1</i>)	\$881.7 million / 7 197	\$926.1 million / 6 995	\$953.0 million / 6 973
Percentage change (<i>Note 2</i>) in - (a) expenditure (b) number of staff Percentage of outsourced street cleansing service (<i>Note 3</i>)	+5.7 % -1.5% 77%	+5.0% -2.8% 77%	+2.9% -0.3% 77%
Expenditure on / number of staff involved in outsourced waste collection	\$147.0 million / 291	\$172.5 million / 292	\$205.8 million / 323
Percentage change (<i>Note 2</i>) in - (a) expenditure (b) number of staff Percentage of outsourced waste collection service (<i>Note 4</i>)	+4.1 % +0.7% 73%	+17.3% +0.3% 75%	+19.3% +10.6% 73%
Expenditure on / number of staff involved in outsourced mechanical gully emptying	\$6.5 million / 17	\$7.5 million / 17	\$7.5 million / 17
Percentage change (<i>Note 2</i>) in - (a) expenditure (b) number of staff Percentage of outsourced mechanical gully emptying service (<i>Note 5</i>)	+3.2 % ±0% 81%	+15.4% ±0% 89%	±0% ±0% 89%
Expenditure on / number of staff involved in other outsourced services	\$55.2 million / 233	\$57.7 million / 176	\$57.4 million / 177
Percentage change (<i>Note 2</i>) in - (a) expenditure	+16.0 %	+4.5%	-0.5%

(b) number of staff	6.4%	-24.5%	+0.6%
Percentage of other outsourced services (<i>Note 6</i>)	100%	100%	100%
Total expenditure on / total number of staff involved in outsourced services	\$1,090.4 million / 7 738	\$1,163.8 million / 7 480	\$1,223.7 million / 7 490
Percentage change (<i>Note 2</i>) in -			
(a) total expenditure	+6.0 %	+6.7%	+5.1%
(b) total number of staff	-1.2%	-3.3%	+0.1%

Note

1. “Number of staff” refers to the number of contractors’ staff involved in providing the outsourced street cleansing services.
2. “Percentage change in expenditure and number of staff” refers to the percentage change as compared to the previous year.
3. “Percentage of outsourced street cleansing service” represents the percentage of the total number of street sweeping workers employed by the contractors against the total number of street sweeping workers (i.e. contractors’ staff and in-house staff) providing the service.
4. “Percentage of outsourced waste collection service” represents the percentage of the total waste yield handled by the contractors against the total waste yield handled by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department).
5. “Percentage of outsourced mechanical gully emptying service” represents the percentage of the total number of gullies handled by the contractors against the total number of gullies that require mechanical gully emptying service of the Department.
6. “Other outsourced cleansing services” include mechanical street sweeping service, animal carcasses collection service, cleansing and waste removal services for special sites or areas, desludging and mid-night conservancy service, portable toilet service, recyclables collection service and lavatory hygiene service.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)356****(Question Serial No. 5031)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (-) Not specifiedControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please provide in tabular form information on the following:

1. the number of outsourced workers (including cleansing workers and security guards) and contract staff in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department with salaries currently calculated on the basis of "net working hours", i.e. no payment for meal breaks, as well as their job types; and
2. the additional staff cost in respect of the job types mentioned above if the outsourced workers / contract staff concerned can receive payments for meal breaks (estimated on the basis of their median hourly wages).

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 549)Reply:

1. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not keep information on the number of outsourced workers with or without paid meal breaks. As for non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff without paid meal breaks, their respective types of duties are as follows -

Type of Duties	Number (as at 31.12.2016)
Handling water seepage and other environmental hygiene related complaints	64
Undertaking market management duties	66
Providing support services in cemeteries	8

Providing food safety support services	3
Undertaking cleansing and other support services	11
Total:	152

2. The remuneration offered to NCSC staff is an all-inclusive pay package which has taken into account a host of considerations, such as condition of the employment market, recruitment results and cost of living, etc., to ensure that the pay is set at a rate which is competitive in the market, thus enabling the Department to recruit and retain suitable NCSC staff. Given the "all-inclusive" nature of the pay package, information on individual elements, whether being covered by the pay package or not, cannot be provided separately.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)357****(Question Serial No. 5037)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the staff establishment and operational expenses under Programme (2), please provide information on the following:

1. the expenses on staff salaries, allowances and job-related allowances respectively, as well as the personnel related expenses;
2. among the 5 694 staff, the number of staff on Directorate Pay Scale and their ranks;
3. the expenses pertaining to directorate civil servants in respect of each of the items mentioned in Point (1), and their percentage; and
4. the amount of departmental expenses and non-recurrent expenditures (if any) for this programme.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 555)Reply:

1. The estimated provision for staff salaries, allowances and job-related allowances as well as the personnel related expenses under Programme (2) for 2017-18 is as follows:

	\$ million
Salaries	1,492.2
Allowances and job-related allowances	69.9
Personnel related expenses (i.e. Mandatory Provident Fund and Civil Service Provident Fund contributions)	101.1
Total	1,663.2

2. The establishment of 5 694 staff in Programme (2) includes its share of 1 D3 officer and 3 D2 officers whose major duties are related to both Programmes (2) and (3), as well as its share of other relevant directorate officers in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department who are responsible for indirect supervision or support functions for the programme.
3. The share of the salaries of the 4 directorate officers in question is \$5.0 million in 2017-18 which represents 0.34% of the total provision for salaries under Programme (2). The share of the relevant expenses of other directorate officers under the programme is not readily available.
4. The estimated provision for departmental expenses and capital/non-recurrent expenditure is \$1,986.6 million and \$23.2 million respectively for this programme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)358****(Question Serial No. 6966)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

The high vacancy rate, poor environment and improper management of public markets and cooked food stalls have all along been subject to criticism. In recent years, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has allocated resources to upgrade these facilities and enhance their competitiveness. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) works and measures that, apart from retrofitting air-conditioning systems, the Department has carried out to improve the hardware and software of public markets and cooked food stalls;
- (b) whether the Department has conducted any evaluation (such as a questionnaire survey on patronage and business volume) to assess the effectiveness of the improvement works (if yes, the details); and
- (c) details on the operation of public markets and cooked food stalls (in the table below):

	Expenditure (\$ million)	Revenue (\$ million)	Surplus/Deficit (\$ million)	Expenditure on market improvement works (\$ million)	Vacancy rate (%)
2012-13					
2013-14					
2014-15					
2015-16					
2016-17					

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 545)

Reply:

As an on-going initiative, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will continue to conduct promotional activities to enhance the patronage of existing public markets. These include festive celebrations, thematic activities, display of multi-language recipes, publication of booklets to provide updated market information as well as other promotional activities that could help attract members of the public to visit the public markets. In addition, the Department will continue, as appropriate, to let out long-standing vacant stalls at reduced upset auction prices and introduce a greater variety of service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rate of public markets. The estimated expenditure for market promotional activities in 2017-18 is \$7 million.

The Consultant commissioned by the Food and Health Bureau selected 6 representative markets for detailed study and put forward specific improvement recommendations. The Department is following up the specific improvement proposals in phases in consultation with the Market Management Consultative Committees of these markets. In 2017-18, the Department plans to commence improvement works for Lockhart Road Market at an estimated project cost of \$21.2 million. The scope of improvement works for Sheung Fung Street Market is being finalised in consultation with relevant department.

In 2017-18, in addition to regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Department will carry out improvement works in Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (East), Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (West), Tsuen Wan Market, San Hui Market, Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market, Kwun Chung Market, Lockhart Road Market, Sai Ying Pun Market and Sai Wan Ho Market. The estimated cost of these improvement works is \$56.2 million. The scope of works includes installation of a goods lift, improvement of ventilation, electricity and fire services, refurbishment of external walls and toilets, etc, as appropriate.

In addition, to ensure smooth operation of escalators and lifts in the public markets, we have plans to replace by phases the aged escalators and lifts. From 2015-16 to 2017-18, we have earmarked \$292 million to replace 84 escalators and 33 lifts in 23 markets.

Details on the operation of public markets and cooked food stalls are tabulated as follows -

	Expenditure (\$ million)	Revenue (\$ million)	Surplus/Deficit (\$ million)	Expenditure on market improvement works # (\$ million)	Vacancy rate * (%) (as at 31 December)
2012-13	628.8	408.7	220.1	5.1	10.5
2013-14	648.7	411.4	237.3	22.2	9.6
2014-15	741.0	413.2	327.8	9.5	8.8
2015-16	720.4	426.7	293.7	11.2	8.9
2016-17	843.0 (Revised estimate)	428.9 (Revised estimate)	414.1	58.2	9.1

- # Market improvement projects are funded by the block votes managed by the Architectural Services Department. They do not include the replacement projects of aged lifts and escalators.
- * Vacancy rate is the percentage of stalls not leased versus the total number of stalls in a market.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)359

(Question Serial No. 3336)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Does your Department provide sign language interpretation services? If yes, what are the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 77)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has not received any request for sign language interpretation services. Arrangements would be made for the provision of the services on a need basis.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)360

(Question Serial No. 3355)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the outsourcing of services by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), please inform this Committee of:

1. the total number of outsourced workers, as well as the percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff with the same types of duties in the Department, in the past 3 years;
2. the total staff cost of the Department and the total amount paid to outsourced service providers, as well as the percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers in the total departmental staff cost, in the past 3 years; and
3. the nature of outsourced services and the length of the service contracts of the Department in the past 3 years.

In addition, the Government amended its guidelines on the tendering of service contracts last year. As such, when a service contract relies heavily on deployment of non-skilled workers and is assessed with a marking scheme, the procuring department is required to include in its assessment criteria the evaluation of the tenderers' proposed wage rates and working hours for non-skilled workers during tender evaluation. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. the number of outsourced service contracts relying heavily on deployment of non-skilled workers which have been awarded by the Department since the implementation of the guidelines;
2. after the implementation of the guidelines, those departments which have, in accordance with the new guidelines, adjusted their assessment criteria regarding wage rates and working hours for outsourced service contracts relying heavily on deployment of non-skilled workers, and the details of the adjustments thus made by the Department; if no relevant information is available, the reason(s);
3. after the implementation of the guidelines, whether there has been a rise in the average wage rate in respect of outsourced service contracts relying heavily on deployment of

non-skilled workers; if yes, the number of contracts involving a wage rise; if no relevant information is available, the reason(s);

4. the measures which have been taken by the Department to assess the effectiveness of the new tendering guidelines;
5. whether the Department has adopted the existing two-envelope mechanism for assessing the technical and price aspects of the tenders of the outsourced service contracts; if not, the number of contracts awarded by the Department without evaluation under the existing two-envelope mechanism for assessing the technical and price aspects of the tenders in the past 3 years;
6. the respective numbers of cases in which the outsourced service contractors were found to have breached the service contracts, the Employment Ordinance, the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance during inspections by the Department, as well as the number of complaints received from outsourced workers, each year;
7. details of follow-up actions on the breaches and complaints; and
8. the number and details of cases in which the outsourced service contractors were penalised due to the breaches and the substantiation of the complaints against them.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 100)

Reply:

The information sought on outsourcing of services by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is provided as follows -

1.

	2014-15 (as at 31.3.2015)	2015-16 (as at 31.3.2016)	2016-17 (as at 31.12.2016)
Number of outsourced staff	11 498	11 691	11 694
Number of staff in the Department with same / similar type of duties	5 026	5 069	5 008
Percentage of outsourced staff to number of staff in the Department with same / similar duties	228.8%	230.6%	233.5%

2.

	2014-15 (as at 31.3.2015)	2015-16 (as at 31.3.2016)	2016-17 (as at 31.12.2016)
Total departmental staff cost	\$3,098.2 million	\$3,267.7 million	\$3,482.1 million ^(Note)
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	\$1,766.2 million	\$1,867.1 million	\$1,945.4 million ^(Note)
Percentage of total amount paid to outsourced service providers in total departmental staff cost	57.0%	57.1%	55.9%

Note: Revised Estimate for 2016-17.

3.

Contract period	Number of Contracts			Nature of contracts
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (as at 31.12.2016)	
Below 1 year	1	1	2	Illumination and power supply in Lunar New Year Fairs
1 year	0	1	0	Hiring of vehicle service
2 years	127	126	129	Public cleansing, government building cleansing, market management and cleansing, pest control, security guard and hiring of vehicle services
3 years	2	2	2	Portable toilet and waste collection services by automatic refuse collection systems
5 years	18	18	20	Waste collection, mechanized cleansing and vehicle maintenance services
Total Number of contracts	148	148	153	

The information sought on issues relating to amendment to guidelines on the tendering of service contracts in 2016 is provided as follows -

1. Since the promulgation of the revised guidelines up to end of January 2017, the Department has awarded 11 service contracts engaged heavily with non-skilled workers involving 8 street cleansing service contracts and 3 security guard service contracts respectively.
- 2-4. The revised guidelines promulgated by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau in 2016 require procuring departments to include in its assessment criteria the evaluation of the tenderers' proposed wage rates and working hours for non-skilled workers during tender evaluation if a marking scheme is adopted. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has adopted such criteria before announcement of the revised guidelines. The average wages of non-skilled workers before and after the promulgation of the revised guidelines have no significant difference.
5. In the past 3 years, the two-envelope mechanism and the marking scheme had not been adopted for 35 tenders. Most of them did not involve non-skilled workers and are simple in nature.
- 6-8. The Department carries out regular and surprise inspections to check the contractor's performance and to confirm whether the services have been completed as scheduled in accordance with the contract requirements, approved work plans and staff attendance record. If non-compliance with contract requirement is found, the Department will take appropriate actions including the issuance of verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices as well as deducting monthly payment of service charge.

Upon receipt of employment-related complaints and/or when irregularities were detected, the Department would conduct audit and employment-related inspections to check the relevant documents, including Standard Employment Contracts, wage records, attendance records, etc. and to interview the contractors' staff concerned to see if there were any breaches of the contract requirements and/or the relevant labour legislation. Where appropriate, the cases would be referred to the Labour Department, Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority, etc. for necessary follow-up actions. In 2016-17, 3 cases of non-compliance of employment-related contract requirements were substantiated. They were related to exceeding the maximum daily working hours. Further investigation confirmed that the breaches were not intentional and malicious. Warning letters were issued to the 3 contractors concerned.

In 2016-17, the Department has received 6 complaints lodged by contractor staff. Upon investigation, only one case was substantiated. Default notice was issued to the contractor subsequently. In 2016-17, a total of about 1 100 default notices were issued to outsourced service contractors for default in performance under the service contracts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)361****(Question Serial No. 4859)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Joint Office set up by the Buildings Department and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department commenced in 2014, a pilot scheme for property management companies to assist in handling water seepage cases in residential buildings. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

1. of the number of housing estates participating in the scheme as at the end of February 2017;
2. of the number of cases handled under the scheme and the results of investigation.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 15)

Reply:

1. To tackle the problem of water seepage, the Joint Office (JO) formed by the Buildings Department (BD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has implemented a "Scheme of participation by property management agents in tackling water seepage in residential building" (the Scheme) in certain private estates since 2012 to invite participation from respective property management agents (PMAs) in handling complaints on water seepage. Up to February 2017, a total of 9 private estates (6 in Shatin, 1 each in Sai Kung, Tsuen Wan and Sham Shui Po) are participating in the Scheme.
2. Between March 2012 and February 2017, a total of 4 015 seepage cases had been handled under the Scheme. Out of these cases, 3 792 cases were handled solely by PMAs through mediation and were settled without JO's intervention. The JO does not compile statistics on the results of the remaining cases referred to JO for handling.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)362****(Question Serial No. 6299)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of applications for access to information under the Code on Access to Information received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in the past 3 years, as well as the details of the applications and expenditure involved, as per the table below:

Year	Date of Application	Date of Reply	Details of Application	Application succeeded or not	Reason(s) for success/failure	No. of case handling officers	Expenditure involved

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 71)Reply:

For the years 2014 to 2016, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) concluded 1 153 requests for information made under the Code on Access to Information (the Code). The information requested is mainly related to the number and details of certain licensed businesses, nutrition labelling and legislation on food safety, management of outsourced waste collection services, tender documents for procurement of services, auction of stalls in Lunar New Year Fairs, etc. A summary of the requests is provided below –

Year	No. of requests					
	Received	Concluded*	Met in full	Met in part	Withdrawn or not under FEHD's purview	Refused
2014	388	343	286	3	51	3
2015	414	350	293	5	52	0
2016	529	460	398	3	56	3

* Requests received in a year may not be concluded in the same year.

The Department had provided the information as requested unless there were specific reasons for not doing so as set out in the Code, such as disclosure of the information would harm or prejudice the administration of justice, the conduct of legal proceedings, the enforcement of public safety as well as the proper and efficient operations of the Department; the information relates to incomplete analysis, research or statistics where disclosure could be misleading or deprive the department or any other person of priority of publication or commercial value; the information was held for a third party under an explicit or implicit understanding that it would not be further disclosed; and the information would infringe the privacy of an individual.

All requests were dealt with according to the time frame stipulated in the Code. As required by the Code, information should be provided within 10 calendar days from date of receipt of the request by the department. If that is not possible, the time frame may be extended to 21 days and be further extended up to 51 days from date of receipt of the request.

The number of handling officers varied from case to case depending on the types and nature of information requested. The Department does not keep a separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)363

(Question Serial No. 4354)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the prosecutions instituted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department against environmental hygiene related offences, please provide the number of convicted cases and the amount of fines imposed in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by type of hawkers (licensed hawkers, unlicensed hawkers, market stalls, ...).

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. 88)

Reply:

Information on the number of convicted prosecution cases and the amount of fines imposed on licensed and unlicensed hawkers, and market stalls in public markets for the past 5 years (from 2012 to 2016) is provided at Annex.

- End -

**Number of convictions and amount of fines imposed on licensed
and unlicensed hawkers, and market stalls in public markets
(2012 – 2016)**

Year	Hawker				Market Stall	
	Licensed Hawker		Unlicensed Hawker			
	Number of convictions	Fines (\$)	Number of convictions	Fines (\$)	Number of convictions	Fines (\$)
2012	5 256	3,326,245	25 234	13,667,904	1 287	511,463
2013	5 064	3,041,490	26 294	13,084,154	1 257	488,558
2014	5 805	2,987,995	28 206	13,411,955	1 214	487,514
2015	5 622	3,103,230	23 473	11,862,082	1 523	763,359
2016	3 431	2,066,941	14 372	8,274,950	1 911	1,091,258

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)364

(Question Serial No. 4355)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of inspections conducted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in relation to unlicensed hawkers, the number of prosecutions instituted, the number of convicted cases, as well as the manpower and administrative charges involved, in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. 89)

Reply:

Information on the number of prosecutions and convictions against unlicensed hawkers, and the manpower and expenditure for hawker control in the past 5 years is provided at Annex. Taking out enforcement action against unlicensed hawkers is part of the duties of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's hawker control staff. Further breakdown of the manpower and expenditure on enforcement action is not available.

- End -

Number of prosecutions and convictions against unlicensed hawkers

Calendar year	Number of prosecutions	Number of convictions
2012	27 457	25 234
2013	29 243	26 294
2014	26 025	28 206
2015	23 054	23 473
2016	15 310	14 372

Note : Prosecutions instituted in a year may be convicted in the following year.

Manpower and expenditure incurred in hawker control

Financial year	Number of staff	Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	2 204	850.2
2013-14	2 204	912.1
2014-15	2 209	951.8
2015-16	2 210	1,025.2
2016-17 (revised estimate)	2 243	1,076.0

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)365

(Question Serial No. 4356)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of inspections conducted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in relation to hawkers, pitches and market stalls, the number of prosecutions instituted, the number of convicted cases, as well as the manpower and administrative charges involved, in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. 90)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not separately keep statistics on the number of inspections to licensed hawker stalls and public market stalls. Information on the number of prosecutions and convictions against licensed hawkers or public market tenants, as well as the manpower and expenditure incurred in hawker control and management of public markets in the past 5 years is provided at Annex.

Taking out enforcement action is part of the duties of the Department's hawker control and market management staff. Further breakdown on the manpower and expenditure on enforcement action is not available.

- End -

Enforcement action
against licensed hawkers and public market tenants

	Licensed Hawkers		Public Market Tenants	
Calendar Year	Number of prosecutions	Number of convictions	Number of prosecutions	Number of convictions
2012	6 088	5 256	1 307	1 287
2013	4 798	5 064	1 265	1 257
2014	5 183	5 805	1 291	1 214
2015	4 493	5 622	1 658	1 523
2016	3 787	3 431	2 065	1 911

Note : Prosecutions instituted in a year may be convicted in the following year.

Manpower and expenditure incurred in
hawker control and management of public markets

	Licensed Hawkers		Public Markets	
Financial Year	Number of staff	Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of staff	Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	2 204	850.2	382	628.8
2013-14	2 204	912.1	383	648.7
2014-15	2 209	951.8	384	741.0
2015-16	2 210	1,025.2	376	720.4
2016-17	2 243	1,076.0 (revised estimate)	390	843.0 (revised estimate)

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)366

(Question Serial No. 4357)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the estimated number of unlicensed hawkers in each of the past 5 years, with a breakdown by district.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. 91)

Reply:

The information sought is provided at Annex.

- End -

**Estimated number of unlicensed hawkers
broken down by district in the past 5 years**

District Environmental Hygiene Office	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Central and Western	158	148	148	143	143
Wan Chai	140	36	27	26	16
Eastern	128	131	130	55	48
Southern	28	44	41	49	42
Islands	29	20	15	15	16
Yau Tsim	243	136	213	192	196
Mong Kok	112	120	89	89	99
Sham Shui Po	279	248	281	411	388
Kowloon City	61	62	63	64	64
Wong Tai Sin	23	21	36	35	49
Kwun Tong	131	119	56	100	79
Kwai Tsing	87	75	69	68	63
Tsuen Wan	21	18	9	7	6
Tuen Mun	51	50	54	51	51
Yuen Long	33	27	40	26	22
North	79	78	79	72	72
Tai Po	22	20	33	35	29
Shatin	24	57	47	42	31
Sai Kung	24	13	10	8	16
Inside Housing Estates*	18	40	40	106	24
Total	1 691	1 463	1 480	1 594	1 454

*Note : Figures provided by Housing Department. No further breakdown by district is available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)367****(Question Serial No. 4358)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the raids conducted by the Hawker Control Teams, please advise on the estimated expenditure involved and the number of raids conducted in each of the past 5 years. Please also advise on the average number of in-house staff involved in each operation.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. 92)Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not keep statistics on the manpower involved in each hawker control operation, which depends on the circumstances specific to each case. The number of raids and the expenditure on hawker management in the past 5 years is given below -

Calendar year	No. of raid	Financial year	Expenditure on hawker management (\$ million)
2012	119 712	2012-13	850.2
2013	118 894	2013-14	912.1
2014	124 684	2014-15	951.8
2015	116 702	2015-16	1,025.2
2016	117 045	2016-17	1,076.0 (revised estimate)

There is no further breakdown of the expenditure involved in conducting raids.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)368****(Question Serial No. 4359)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the joint departmental operations conducted by the Department against illegal hawking, please advise on the estimated expenditure involved and the number of raids conducted in each of the past 5 years. Please also advise on the average number of in-house staff involved in each operation.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. 93)Reply:

Hawker management and enforcement duties are undertaken by the Hawker Control Team of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department). The Department does not separately keep statistics on the number of staff involved in each joint departmental operation against illegal hawking, which depends on the circumstances specific to each case. The estimated expenditure on hawker management is \$1,068 million in 2017-18. There is no further breakdown on the expenditure on joint departmental operations against illegal hawking. The number of joint departmental operations conducted in the past 5 years is given below -

Calendar year	No. of joint operations against illegal hawking
2012	1 614
2013	1 867
2014	1 830
2015	1 984
2016	2 009

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)369****(Question Serial No. 4360)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

With regard to the Department's action against hawker blackspots, please advise on the estimated expenditure involved and the number of operations conducted in each of the past 5 years. Please also advise on the average number of in-house staff involved in each operation.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. 94)Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not separately keep statistics on the manpower involved in each operation against hawker blackspots, which depends on the circumstances specific to each case. The number of raids and the expenditure on hawker management in the past 5 years is given below –

Calendar year	No. of raids	Financial year	Expenditure on hawker management (\$ million)
2012	119 712	2012-13	850.2
2013	118 894	2013-14	912.1
2014	124 684	2014-15	951.8
2015	116 702	2015-16	1,025.2
2016	117 045	2016-17	1,076.0 (revised estimate)

There is no further breakdown of the expenditure on action against hawker blackspots.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)370****(Question Serial No. 4361)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please provide information on the number of markets, public markets and stalls involved across the territory, as well as the annual total rental income, in each of the past 10 years.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. 95)Reply:

The information on the number of public markets and public market stalls managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) for the past 5 years is provided below –

Financial Year	Number of public markets	Number of public market stalls (as at 31 December)	Rental income (\$ million)
2012-13	102	14 443	408.7
2013-14	101	14 445	411.4
2014-15	101	14 443	413.2
2015-16	101	14 439	426.7
2016-17	101	14 397	428.9 (Revised estimate)

The Department does not keep information on markets other than public markets under its management.

– End –

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)371****(Question Serial No. 4362)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of stalls in public markets over the territory, as well as the median rent, in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by rental (0-\$1,000, \$1,001-\$5,000, \$5,001-\$10,000, \$10,001-\$50,000, \$50,001 or above).

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. 96)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

(a)

Monthly rental*	Number of let-out stalls in the past 5 years				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
0-\$1,000	3 125	3 125	3 105	3 059	2 972
\$1,001-\$5,000	7 933	8 048	8 143	8 128	8 119
\$5,001-\$10,000	1 440	1 443	1 475	1 495	1 515
\$10,001-\$50,000	430	440	450	460	469
\$50,001 or above	4	5	5	7	12
Total	12 932	13 061	13 178	13 149	13 087

(b)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Median monthly rental*	\$1,830	\$1,849	\$1,881	\$1,900	\$1,923

Note : *Include air-conditioning charges for public markets provided with air-conditioning system.

– End –

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)372****(Question Serial No. 4363)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of stalls in public markets over the territory, as well as the median rent per square foot, in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by rental per square foot (0-\$10, \$11-\$30, \$31-\$50, \$51-\$100, \$101 or above).

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. 97)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

(a)

Monthly rental* (per square foot)	Number of let-out stalls in the past 5 years				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
\$0-\$10	1 259	1 229	1 222	1 171	1 113
\$11-\$30	5 847	5 919	5 938	5 894	5 810
\$31-\$50	3 378	3 411	3 447	3 441	3 444
\$51-\$100	2 130	2 170	2 210	2 257	2 304
\$101 or above	318	332	361	386	416
Total	12 932	13 061	13 178	13 149	13 087

(b)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Median monthly rental* (per square foot)	\$27	\$28	\$28	\$28	\$29

Note *Includes air-conditioning charges for public markets provided with air-conditioning system.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)373****(Question Serial No. 4364)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of clearance operations undertaken by the Department against street sleepers (at spots occupied by street sleepers), as well as the number of in-house staff and expenditure involved, in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. 98)Reply:

Cases involving street sleepers involve street management issues that cut across the responsibilities of a number of government departments. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) participates in the joint operations coordinated by District Offices of the Home Affairs Department to remove abandoned articles and provide cleansing services out of environmental hygiene considerations. The number of joint operations in which FEHD took part in the past 5 years is as follows –

Year	No. of joint operations
2012-13	651
2013-14	610
2014-15	520
2015-16	481
2016-17 (up to 28.2.2017)	420

FEHD does not keep separate statistics on the number of staff involved and expenditure incurred in these joint operations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)374

(Question Serial No. 4459)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide information on the following:

- (1) the locations proposed to be used for holding bazaar activities, as well as the number of relevant applications received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), in various districts in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (with a breakdown by month with records); and
- (2) the locations and number of applications approved by the Department for holding bazaar activities in various districts in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (with a breakdown by month with records).

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. 216)

Reply:

The project proponent of a bazaar proposal would provide details of his/her specific proposal in the application for permission to use the venue. If the owner/department in charge of the venue gives consent, the project proponent would need to apply for the relevant licence/permission required from the respective departments separately. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not have a breakdown of the numbers and locations of applications for holding bazaars in the past 3 years.

In the proposals received by the Government since November 2015, the proposed locations of holding bazaars include Sham Shui Po, Islands District, North District, Eastern District, Yuen Long and Central and Western District. Thus far, bazaars have already been successfully held in some of these districts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)375

(Question Serial No. 3927)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the enforcement against shop front extensions (SFE), please advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) the number of complaints received and prosecutions instituted by the Department in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and the 18 districts in the territory;
- 2) the manpower and expenditure involved in the Department's action against SFE in each of the past 3 years; and
- 3) given the implementation of the Fixed Penalty System, the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued in 2016-17 as well as the estimated manpower and expenditure for 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 94)

Reply:

1. The number of complaints received and prosecutions instituted against shop front extensions (SFEs) by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and district is provided at Annex.
2. For 2014-15, the manpower and expenditure involved in actions against SFEs was absorbed by the then available resources of the Department. In 2015-16, the Department set up 3 task force teams to combat SFEs at blackspots by creating 39 civil service posts. In 2016-17, the Department set up 2 additional task force teams with the creation of 26 civil service posts, to further strengthen enforcement against SFEs across the territory which included the issue of fixed penalty notices under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570). The expenditure involved in creating the above posts in 2015-16 and 2016-17 was about \$17.2 million.

3. Between the commencement of the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap.570) on 24 September 2016 and 31 December 2016, the Department issued a total of 2 090 Fixed Penalty Notices against SFEs. The fixed penalty system provides an additional tool for tackling SFE problems. Any work involved would be taken as part of the Department's overall enforcement work in this respect and there is no specific estimated manpower and expenditure on this for 2017-18.

- End -

**Number of Complaints Received and Prosecutions by the Department
on Shop Front Extensions**

District	Number of Complaints			Number of Prosecutions		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
Central & Western	631	563	756	660	780	670
Wan Chai	700	688	888	1 403	1 470	889
Eastern	2 655	1 615	1 399	2 841	1 657	721
Southern	155	282	299	633	593	431
Islands	94	125	129	28	30	36
Yau Tsim	944	767	809	140	140	184
Mong Kok	1 108	1 777	1 847	2 112	2 298	1 522
Sham Shui Po	2 401	2 204	2 910	2 307	2 156	1 813
Kowloon City	1 234	1 152	934	1 330	891	613
Wong Tai Sin	456	377	334	675	869	624
Kwun Tong	651	409	859	488	242	269
Kwai Tsing	410	290	489	417	338	359
Tsuen Wan	921	893	931	1 597	1 739	2 463
Tuen Mun	386	373	346	1 484	684	546
Yuen Long	4 087	1 517	1 483	3 738	2 878	1 946
North	710	468	554	189	328	233
Tai Po	622	340	585	1 185	755	280
Sha Tin	436	333	380	1 056	690	590
Sai Kung	250	201	232	211	166	118
Total	18 851	14 374	16 164	22 494	18 704	14 307

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)376

(Question Serial No. 3928)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the work of continuing to enhance the viability of public markets by improving the management and upgrading the facilities of public markets, please advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) details of the work on providing “a more flexible” mix of trade, and of the promotional activities carried out by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the past year;
- 2) given that the Government planned to increase the Department’s manpower to enhance the management of markets last year, details of the manpower for market management and its change in each of the past 3 years and in the coming year;
- 3) whether the Department has reviewed the current average staffing expenses for managing markets of different sizes; whether there is any plan to enhance the efficiency of management; and
- 4) with regard to the work of developing proposals for improving the operating environment of public markets, taking into account the recommendations of the consultancy study conducted in 2014, the details as well as the manpower and expenditure in this respect in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 95)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (1) In early years, public markets were built by the 2 former Municipal Councils to resite on-street hawkers so as to improve environmental hygiene. The trade mix of resitees was a major factor affecting the commodities to be sold in public markets from the outset. Generally speaking, in considering the appropriate trade mix, we aim to cover

key categories of daily provisions that the community would normally procure from public markets such as vegetables, fruits, fish, meat and poultry, etc. To provide a more flexible mix of trade, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) introduced a greater variety of service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rates of public markets. In 2016-17, we successfully let out stalls for conducting service trades such as Chinese medicine practitioners / bone-setters' clinics, computer-related services, beauty / manicure / massage parlours, laundry delivery services, etc. in a number of public markets. In parallel, FEHD continued with promotional activities to enhance the patronage of public markets. These include festive celebrations, thematic activities, display of multi-language recipes, publication of booklets to provide updated market information as well as other promotional activities that could help attract members of the public to visit the public markets.

- (2) Information on the manpower deployed for market management in the past 3 years and in the coming year is given below-

Manpower	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (Estimate)
Civil Servant	115	115	128	128
Non-civil Service Contract Staff	81	81	79	79
Contractors' Staff	188	180	183	183
Total	384	376	390	390

- (3) Deployment of market staff is district-based. In determining the number of management and cleansing staff in each district, FEHD will consider factors including the number and size of markets, number of market stalls, facilities available in the markets and market conditions. We have been monitoring the expenditure for managing markets closely, and will continue to explore possible ways to further enhance efficiency.
- (4) The Consultant commissioned by the Food and Health Bureau selected 6 representative markets for detailed study and put forward specific improvement recommendations. FEHD is following up the improvement proposals in phases in consultation with the Market Management Consultative Committees of these markets. In 2017-18, FEHD plans to commence improvement works for Lockhart Road Market at an estimated project cost of \$21.2 million. For Sheung Fung Street Market, the scope of improved works is being finalized in consultation with relevant departments.

The Consultant also suggested implementing some non-physical improvement measures relating to the management, hygiene, as well as marketing and promotion of public markets. On the management of public markets, FEHD agrees to the suggestions of the Consultant and has given priority to tackling inactive stalls and keeping markets clean and tidy in general. On marketing and promotion, FEHD has been organising various promotional activities in public markets, including festive promotions, games booths, cooking demonstrations and distribution of souvenirs. FEHD will sustain its promotional efforts with a view to increasing customer flows in

public markets and improving business viability. In 2017-18, the estimated expenditure for market promotional activities is \$7 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)377

(Question Serial No. 3929)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the collection of household waste and management of refuse collection points (RCPs) under this programme, please advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) the location and area of each RCP installed with a mobile refuse compactor, as well as the daily average amount of refuse handled by the compactor, as at 31 December 2016;
- 2) whether there is any plan to install mobile refuse compactors in the other RCPs in 2017-18; if yes, the details and the expenditure in this respect; and
- 3) whether the newly built RCPs will require space to be reserved for installing mobile refuse compactors.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 96)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- 1) As at 31 December 2016, there are 44 permanent off-street refuse collection points (RCPs) managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) which are provided with mobile refuse compactors. The location and area of these RCPs as well as the estimated daily amount of refuse handled are given at Annex I.
- 2) The Department plans to install mobile refuse compactors in another 10 permanent off-street RCPs in Islands, Mong Kok, Sham Shui Po and Yau Tsim districts in 2017-18 and they are set out at Annex II. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure for provision of mobile refuse compactors.

- 3) The Department will consider the provision of mobile refuse compactor in individual RCPs, including those under planning, on the basis of operational needs and where the site situation permits.

- End -

**List of permanent off-street public refuse collection points
provided with mobile refuse compactors**

Name	Location	Area (square metres)	Estimated daily amount of refuse handled (tonnes)
Shek Tong Tsui RCP	Shek Tong Tsui Municipal Services Building, No. 470, Queen's Road West	430	19
In Ku Lane RCP	No.8, In Ku Lane, Sheung Wan	364	12
Man Kat Street RCP	Junction of Man Kat Street and Connaught Road Central	360	35
Lan Kwai Fong RCP	At side of Lan Kwai Fong Sitting-out Area	312	30
Tanner Road RCP	No. 63, Tanner Road	435	6
Java Road RCP	No. 94, Java Road (G/F of Java Road Market)	170	20
Tung Hei Road RCP	At side of No. 28, Tung Hei Road	389	7
Hing Man Street RCP	Junction of Hing Man Street and Oi Yee Street	364	14
Sing Woo Road RCP	Junction of Sing Woo Road and Yik Yam Street	304	14
Luard Road RCP	Junction of Luard Road and Johnston Road	224	25
Gloucester Road RCP	Opposite No. 250, Gloucester Road	104	27
Ma Tau Kok Road RCP	Ma Tau Kok Road	430	15
Kowloon City Complex RCP	Hau Wong Road (Kowloon City Municipal Service Building)	184	17
Baker Street RCP	No.65, Baker Street	170	21
Anchor Street RCP	No. 55, Anchor Street	212	13
Dundas Street RCP	Junction of Dundas Street and Tung Choi Street	170	46

Name	Location	Area (square metres)	Estimated daily amount of refuse handled (tonnes)
Nullah Road RCP	Opposite Nos. 3-13, Nullah Street	158	16
Yu Chau Street RCP	Opposite No. 47, Yu Chau Street	131	23
Cheung Wah Street RCP	360 Shun Ning Road	420	21
Un Chau Street RCP	Nos. 59 – 63, Un Chau Street	410	24
Yi Lun Street RCP	G/F, San Po Kong Plaza, No. 33, Shung Ling Street, San Po Kong	220	20
Parkes Street RCP	No. 107, Parkes Street, Jordan	372	40
Market Street RCP	No. 1, Market Street, Yau Ma Tei	280	14
Kwun Chung Street RCP	No. 17, Bowring Street, Jordan	162	20
Minden Row RCP	Opposite No.3, Minden Row, Tsim Sha Tsui	127	15
Fu Hing Street RCP	At side of No. 16, Fu Hing Street, Sheung Shui	298	22
Luen Fat Street RCP	Opposite No.18, Luen Fat Street, Fanling	246	13
Yi Chun Street RCP	Yi Chun Street (opposite Sai Kung Market)	195	10
Fuk Man Road RCP	Fuk Man Road (at side of Sai Kung Tang Shiu Kin Sports Ground)	150	6
Chik Fai Street Tai Wai RCP	Chik Fai Street, Tai Wai	55	4
Tsing Hoi Circuit RCP (Area 37B)	Area 37B, Tsing Hoi Circuit	170	9
Tseng Choi Street RCP (Area 4B)	Area 4B, Tseng Choi Street	170	7
Kai Fat Path RCP (Area 10A)	Kai Fat Path, Yan Ching Street	146	12

Name	Location	Area (square metres)	Estimated daily amount of refuse handled (tonnes)
Yan Hing St. RCP	Yan Hing Street	165	17
Kwong Fuk Square RCP	Kwong Fuk Square	100	15
Luen Yan Street RCP	No. 10, Luen Yan Street	183	19
Tsuen Wan Market Street RCP	Tsuen Wan Market Street (Opposite No. 150)	170	20
Heung Che Street RCP	Heung Che Street (at side of Heung Che Street Market)	168	19
Yan Lok Square RCP	At side of Chung Sing Path Playground, Yan Lok Square	170	17
Tai Tong Road RCP	Junction of Tai Tong Road and Hop Yick Road	170	14
Tai Kiu RCP	At side of Tai Kiu Market, Kiu Lok Square	170	11
Kam Cheung Square RCP	Junction of Kam Cheung Square and Sai Yu Street	170	14
Tung Tai Street RCP	Junction of Tung Tai Street and On Lok Road	125	11
Fung Kwan Street RCP	Fung Kwan Street near Car Park (Open space)	120	12

**List of permanent off-street public refuse collection points
to be provided with mobile refuse compactors in 2017-18**

1. Hong Kong- Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities Refuse Collection Point
2. Mong Kok Road Refuse Collection Point
3. Nelson Street Refuse Collection Point
4. Portland Street Refuse Collection Point
5. Sai Yee Street Refuse Collection Point
6. Pei Ho Street Refuse Collection Point
7. Yee Kuk Street Refuse Collection Point
8. Auto Plaza Refuse Collection Point
9. Kimberley Street Refuse Collection Point
10. Man Cheong Street Refuse Collection Point

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)378****(Question Serial No. 5854)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please provide information on the utilisation rates of the crematoria and cremators in the past 3 years. Please also advise whether additional crematoria and cremators will be provided in the next 3 years in view of the aging population; if yes, the number of additional facilities to be provided; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 101)Reply:

Information on the number of cremation sessions released, cremation sessions booked and the percentage of cremation sessions booked in public crematoria managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in the past 3 calendar years is given below -

Name of Crematorium	2014			2015			2016		
	No. of cremation sessions released	No. of cremation sessions booked	Percentage of cremation sessions booked	No. of cremation sessions released	No. of cremation sessions booked	Percentage of cremation sessions booked	No. of cremation sessions released	No. of cremation sessions booked	Percentage of cremation sessions booked
Cape Collinson	7 798	7 789	99.9%	8 288	8 283	99.9%	15 111	12 945	85.7%
Diamond Hill	8 480	8 466	99.8%	7 896	7 887	99.9%	8 578	8 519	99.3%
Fu Shan	6 897	6 885	99.8%	6 960	6 949	99.8%	5 895	5 814	98.6%
Kwai Chung	7 331	7 325	99.9%	8 448	8 443	99.9%	6 560	6 494	99.0%
Cheung Chau	1 321	168	12.7%	1 308	195	14.9%	1 105	119	10.8%
Wo Hop Shek	10 635	10 611	99.8%	10 998	10 980	99.8%	10 629	9 665	90.9%
Total	42 462	41 244	97.1%	43 898	42 737	97.4%	47 878	43 556	91.0%

Reprovisioning of the Cape Collinson Crematorium to provide 10 new cremators and ancillary facilities was completed in December 2015. The overall cremation capacity of all public crematoria has increased from 44 600 to 52 800 sessions per annum, which is

expected to meet the projected demand up to 2022. In light of the demand and supply situation, no additional public crematoria or cremators will be provided in the next 3 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)379****(Question Serial No. 5855)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the cremation fees charged in the past 3 years. Will the fees be adjusted or reduced in the next 3 years in view of the aging population? If yes, how much will be the adjustment or reduction?

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 102)Reply:

The cremation fees in the past 3 calendar years (2014 to 2016) are as follows -

Service item	Cremation fee
Cremation of a person of 12 years of age or over	\$1,220
Cremation of a person below the age of 12 years	\$650
Cremation of the skeletal remains of a person	\$90

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is reviewing the fees of the above services and will submit proposals, if any, to the Legislative Council as and when ready.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)380

(Question Serial No. 7182)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

According to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines ("HKPSG"), the Government has specific requirements for the ratio between population size and provision of leisure, cultural and sports facilities, including 1 library for every 20 000 persons, 1 badminton court for every 8 000 persons and 1 multi-purpose sports stadium for every 50 000 persons. According to the Projections of Population Distribution 2013-2021 compiled by the Planning Department, Sha Tin currently has a population of about 650 000, which is expected to increase to about 710 000 by 2021. It is stated in the Estimates that the policy and resources allocation on community development work will continue to be overseen. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. whether the community facilities (such as markets) currently available in different areas in Sha Tin meet the standards prescribed by HKPSG; among those areas which fail to meet the HKPSG standards, their respective shortfalls, as well as whether there are plans to make up the shortfalls by providing additional facilities (if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s)); and
2. given that the population of Tai Wai alone already stands at 180 000, whether the feasibility of building a multi-purpose market complex therein has been reviewed.

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (Member Question No. 52)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

1. The Food and Health Bureau conducted a policy review on public markets in 2007-08, which concluded that the future provision of new public markets should be considered on a case-by-case basis to ensure efficient use of public resources. Apart from the population of the area in question, other relevant factors that should be considered include the demographic mix, community needs, the presence of market facilities nearby, the number of fresh provision retail outlets available in the vicinity, and public

sentiment towards the preservation of hawker areas in the particular locality. The Government consulted the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council and all District Councils on the review findings in 2008. As a result of the policy review, those parts concerning public markets in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) were amended in April 2009 and have remained in force since then. The revised HKPSG is based on a more holistic consideration of relevant factors, rather than just the size of the population, in the planning of public markets. When preparing or reviewing town plans, the Planning Department will consult the relevant policy bureaux and departments, so as to ascertain whether there is a need to reserve land for public markets. We will, in the light of developments and the actual situation on the ground, assess the need to review the planning guidelines for public markets as and when appropriate.

Our focus is on facilitating convenient access for the public to retail outlets in their vicinity for meeting their daily needs on fresh food. Currently, there exists a variety of channels for the public to purchase fresh food. Apart from public markets, many members of the public when purchasing fresh food may choose to patronise markets, supermarkets and various types of retail outlets operated by other public and private entities.

Customer preference for different shopping venues in purchasing fresh food may evolve in tandem with changes in socio-economic circumstances, lifestyles, purchasing power and various other factors. Providing a new public market requires the use of Government land and entails public financial commitment. Therefore, in considering whether a public market should be built, we have to duly assess the need for the market and cost-effectiveness in order to ensure that public resources are put to proper use. In fact, in the face of fierce competition, changing circumstances in individual communities and changes in the purchasing habits of members of the public, some public markets are facing relatively high vacancy rates and low customer flows. Also, the Audit Commission has in previous reports pointed out that, given the high cost of constructing a new public market, the relevant principles should be strictly adhered to.

2. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department currently has no plan to build new public market or municipal services building in Tai Wai, but we would, taking into account the considerations outlined above, keep the situation under review.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)381****(Question Serial No. 4165)**Head: (31) Customs and Excise DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-)Programme: (5) Trade ControlsControlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Roy TANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

In connection with the amount of administrative penalties imposed by the Customs and Excise Department in relation to import and export declarations in 2016:

1. Please list the number of cases in which a fine was imposed for contravention of the Import and Export (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2013 (commonly known as the "export control on powdered formula") broken down by month in 2016 as well as the total amount of fines involved;
2. Regarding the cases in which a fine was imposed, how many of them ended up in default of fine payment in 2016? What was the total amount of fines in default?
3. Regarding the cases of fines in default, which types of document of identity (e.g. Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card, multiple-entry endorsements, etc.) did the defendants hold?
4. Normally, how does the Government handle cases of default of fine payment? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 124)Reply:

1. In 2016, there were 3 379 cases in which a fine was imposed by the Court for contravening the Import and Export (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2013 and the total amount of fines involved was \$12.7 million. Details are as follows:

Month Imposed	Number of Cases	Amount of Fines
January	281	\$1,107,400

February	200	\$734,700
March	302	\$1,321,500
April	246	\$961,000
May	273	\$1,107,300
June	284	\$1,030,300
July	249	\$909,600
August	294	\$1,059,800
September	312	\$1,104,300
October	313	\$1,092,900
November	314	\$1,195,500
December	311	\$1,076,500
Whole Year	3 379	\$12,700,800

2. & 3. The Judiciary does not have the relevant breakdown figures.

4. A magistrate may issue a summons or a warrant of arrest to any person who fails to pay a fine. However, it is difficult to separately quantify the expenditure for handling such cases.

- End -