



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

---

[ English Translation ]

Miss Josephine SO  
Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Road  
Central  
Hong Kong  
(Fax: 2509 9055)

20 January 2017

Dear Miss SO,

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**  
**Motions Passed at the Meeting of 13 Dec 2016**

You wrote to us on 15 Dec 2016 regarding the captioned. After consulting the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”), the Home Affairs Department (Sham Shui Po) (“HAD”) and the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”), the consolidated response to the major issues mentioned in the motions is as follows:

**Relocation Arrangement**

We thank the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (“Panel”) for providing us with its views, and shall give due consideration to those views. At the same time, based on the views

expressed in the relevant motions and at the Panel meeting of 13 Dec 2016, we consider a need to make some clarifications.

First, we must stress that the current relocation exercise definitely will not eradicate the cloth bazaar. As the opposite, releasing the original site at Yen Chow Street will greatly reduce the potential fire risks therein. The more sizable cloth bazaar at Tung Chau Street can also create space with a major aim to improve, expand and revitalise the cloth market in order to facilitate the long-term development of the cloth market.

As for the 17 unregistered unlicensed cloth hawkers, as we emphasized at the said meeting, while these hawkers had claimed bona fide long-period independent operation, the truth is the stalls claimed to be operated by them overlap completely with those operated by the licensed or registered unlicensed hawkers. In other words, other hawkers are already operating at those stalls. As those relevant licensees or registered unlicensed hawkers are already entitled to exit arrangement, it is hard for the Government to admit more than one operator for the same stall, or in plain words, “double/multi benefit”. Those 17 unregistered unlicensed hawkers are merely in a joint venture or assist in the operation in the capacity of family members, relatives or assistants.

Third, the living of those family members, relatives or assistants should not be affected by the relocation. They can continue to assist the stall operators in their capacity of family members, relatives or assistants. If they wish to maintain operation, they can participate in the open auction of the vacant stalls at the Tung Chau Street cloth market.

From the principle of public policy, we should not confuse the identities of the cloth hawkers being the business operation units, assistants being the employees and families of the hawkers being personal relatives. The registration conducted for the relocation the cloth bazaar was for independent business operation units only. Public policy, especially decisions that involve rights and benefits and the allocation of public resources, must be fair and just. It must not be affected by the promotional activities organised by certain parties (especially the relevant beneficiaries). Otherwise, an unjust precedent would be set.

As for the timetable of the relocation, we will proceed according to the original schedule. We expect the eligible operators to move to the new cloth bazaar and continue their operation after Lunar New Year in 2017.

### **Street Sleepers around Tung Chau Street**

HAD has coordinated the setting up of a District Task Force to handle the street sleepers matters outside Tung Chau Street Temporary Market. Membership includes representatives from FEHD, SWD, the Police and Lands Department. The Task Force is now formulating the directions of operations and details of the plan, and will meet with the street sleepers and relevant organisations when appropriate, with a view to further understanding the street sleepers' situation and concerns.

In Sham Shui Po, there are a certain number of street sleepers, especially in the vicinity of Tung Chau Street Temporary Market. The reasons for street-sleeping varies, and the difficulties faced by these street sleepers are different. There are no quick solutions. Relevant Government departments and non-governmental organisations will continue to cooperate and enhance support to street sleepers in quitting street-sleeping. Separately, with the support of the District Council, HAD allocated additional resources under the District-led Actions Scheme to increase street sleepers' service teams since October 2016. The needs of the street sleepers will be followed up through counseling by social workers and medical assistance. They will be encouraged and assisted in quitting street-sleeping and make a living themselves.

### **Development of the New Cloth Bazaar**

In order to turn the future cloth bazaar at the Tung Chau Street into a cloth market with thematic features, apart from relocating the existing eligible cloth hawkers to the site, space will be reserved for persons who are interested in joining the fabric/ fashion design/ clothing and related industries with a view to developing the new Tung Chau Street cloth market collaboratively. In this regard, we have started contacting universities and fashion design schools of tertiary institutions to listen to their views. Individual institutions have already indicated interest.

At present, FEHD has vacated the stalls in Blocks 1 to 3 of the Tung Chau Street Market and arranged with the Architectural Services Department to commence the improvement works, in order to allow eligible cloth hawkers of the cloth bazaar to move in and continue their business in a venue where the overall facilities are better and compliant with fire safety requirements. Meanwhile, those who are interested in participating in the development of the new cloth market can also start their business therein through open bidding. In addition, FEHD has started working on the exit arrangement for the tenants of Blocks 4 and 5 to cater for further development of the cloth market.

[ signed ]  
( Irene CHEUNG )  
for Secretary for Food and Health

Copy to:

FEHD

(Attn: Assistant Director (Operations)2) 2530 1368

(Attn: District Environmental Hygiene Supt(Sham Shui Po)) 2748 6937