

# **立法會**

## ***Legislative Council***

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

#### **Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 13 March 2018**

#### **Telecommunications system for Hawker Control Teams**

According to information available on the website of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD"), to control hawking activities, a total of 190 squads of Hawker Control Teams ("HCTs")<sup>1</sup> are deployed at district and division levels<sup>2</sup>. HCTs are responsible for both the management of licensed hawkers and control of unlicensed hawkers. The staff establishment of the hawker control officer grade in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (position as at 1 April of the relevant year) was 2 209, 2 210 and 2 243 respectively.

2. In accordance with FEHD's enforcement strategies against hawking activities<sup>3</sup>, officers of HCTs undertake the following major duties:

- (a) inspecting licensed fixed-pitch hawker stalls regularly;
- (b) regulating the operation of itinerant hawkers to ensure that they do not cause street obstruction; and
- (c) conducting sector patrols and raids at hawker black-spots.

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<sup>1</sup> There are 124 squads in Hong Kong and Kowloon, and 66 squads in the New Territories.

<sup>2</sup> 26 squads of HCTs, i.e. the Divisional Task Force, are deployed at the division level (15 squads in Hong Kong and Kowloon divisions and 11 squads in the New Territories division).

<sup>3</sup> FEHD's current enforcement strategies against hawking activities include (a) HCTs continue to take stringent enforcement action against unlicensed hawkers selling prohibited/restricted food or cooked food; (b) HCTs maintain hawker-free situation in major thoroughfares, areas of high pedestrian flow and places under repeated complaints of hawking activities; and (c) provided that food and environmental hygiene would not be compromised, HCTs will issue verbal warning to licensed hawkers or unlicensed hawkers (selling non-food dry goods) if and when they cause obstruction or are subject of complaint. If the verbal warning is not heeded, HCTs will take the normal course of enforcement and seizure action.

3. According to the information provided by the Administration to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the Panel") in May 2015, FEHD has put in place a radio telecommunications system for HCTs to provide a speedy means of communication between different levels of operation. Between 2008 and 2011, enhancement works (including reconfiguration of base station equipment, relocation of existing base stations and installation of additional base stations etc.) were carried out with a view to improving the performance of the system. To supplement the radio telecommunications system, mobile phones are also provided to HCT staff for making local calls. To ensure that HCT operations are underpinned by effective and efficient communications system, FEHD has conducted a review and considered actively proposals to upgrade the equipment provided to HCTs.

4. The Administration plans to submit a funding proposal for the replacement of the telecommunications system for HCTs for consideration of the Panel at the meeting on 13 March 2018.

Council Business Division 2  
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