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### Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Session No. : 13

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-FHB(FE)001**

**(Question Serial No.: S017)**

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 (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Follow-up question to Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)090:

With regard to the measures and expenditure on the management of public markets, temporary markets and cooked food markets, please provide further information for the past 3 financial years on:

- a. the respective numbers of vacant stalls and stalls that were frozen in each public market and cooked food market;
- b. whether the above stalls have been let out under short-term tenancies; if yes, the number of stalls let out through short-term tenancies in each market; if no, the reason(s);
- c. whether the above stalls have been let out at concessionary rent; if yes, the average amount of concessionary rent with a breakdown by name of markets; if no, the reason(s);
- d. the overall expenditure on management (including but not limited to daily management, cleansing, security and minor repairs services for the market as well as advising on the trade mix in the market) and related manpower involved in respect of Kam Tin Market, Lai Wan Market and North Point Market.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pierre

Reply:

- a. The information sought is provided at Annex I.
- b&c. Having regard to operational needs, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department needs to reserve some vacant stalls as appropriate for use by stall operators affected by improvement works in public markets and the Market Modernisation Programme. Besides, some market stalls may be frozen and withheld from letting out due to market consolidation programmes. The Department also needs to freeze some vacant public market stalls to tie in with the plan of closing under-utilised public markets. The Department is actively

exploring arrangements for handling vacant stalls in a more flexible manner. The relevant details will be announced as soon as they are finalised.

- d. The Department does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure on management and related manpower for individual public markets.

**Number of vacant and frozen stalls in markets**

Serial number	Name of market	Number of vacant stalls (of which frozen <sup>a</sup> ) (As at 31 December 2020)		
		2018	2019	2020
1	Aberdeen Market *	13(13)	14(14)	18(18)
2	Aldrich Bay Market *	6(0)	9(0)	9(0)
3	Ap Lei Chau Market *	2(0)	4(0)	4(0)
4	Bowrington Road Market *	21(21)	24(24)	26(26)
5	Causeway Bay Market	2(2)	4(4)	4(4)
6	Centre Street Market *	11(5)	12(5)	12(5)
7	Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market	4(4)	6(6)	7(7)
8	Chai Wan Market *	14(0)	14(0)	16(0)
9	Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
10	Cheung Chau Market	5(3)	9(0)	12(0)
11	Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
12	Choi Hung Road Market *	40(40)	47(47)	48(48)
13	Electric Road Market *	19(0)	19(0)	23(0)
14	Fa Yuen Street Market *	15(3)	20(5)	22(5)
15	FEHD Skylight Market <sup>b</sup>	N/A	N/A	0(0)
16	Fo Tan (East) Cooked Food Market	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
17	Fo Tan (West) Cooked Food Market	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
18	Haiphong Road Temporary Market	27(14)	29(14)	30(16)
19	Heung Che Street Market *	11(11)	19(19)	25(25)
20	Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market	1(0)	1(0)	3(0)
21	Hung Hom Market *	4(2)	6(3)	11(3)
22	Hung Shui Kiu Temporary Market	48(22)	60(22)	62(22)
23	Java Road Market *	12(0)	19(0)	20(0)
24	Ka Ting Cooked Food Market	6(6)	6(6)	6(6)
25	Kam Tin Market *	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)

Serial number	Name of market	Number of vacant stalls (of which frozen <sup>a</sup> ) (As at 31 December 2020)		
		2018	2019	2020
26	Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
27	Kin Wing Cooked Food Market	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
28	Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
29	Kowloon City Market *	31(31)	59(59)	69(69)
30	Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	0(0)	0(0)	1(0)
31	Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market	1(1)	1(1)	1(1)
32	Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre *	0(0)	2(0)	3(0)
33	Kwun Chung Market *	33(33)	59(59)	78(78)
34	Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market	1(1)	1(1)	2(2)
35	Lai Wan Market	1(1)	2(2)	2(2)
36	Lam Tei Market	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
37	Lau Fau Shan Market	3(3)	7(3)	7(3)
38	Lei Yue Mun Market	1(1)	1(1)	1(1)
39	Lockhart Road Market *	43(43)	43(43)	43(43)
40	Luen Wo Hui Market *	2(0)	4(0)	6(0)
41	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
42	Mui Wo Cooked Food Market	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
43	Mui Wo Market	3(0)	3(0)	3(0)
44	Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market	5(5)	5(5)	5(5)
45	Ngau Chi Wan Market *	54(54)	65(65)	70(70)
46	Ngau Tau Kok Market *	65(60)	68(60)	75(62)
47	North Kwai Chung Market	20(0)	29(0)	30(0)
48	North Point Market	7(0)	7(0)	8(0)
49	On Ching Road Flower Market	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
50	Pei Ho Street Market *	3(3)	6(6)	8(8)
51	Peng Chau Market	0(0)	1(0)	2(0)
52	Plover Cove Road Market	44(44)	53(53)	56(56)
53	Po On Road Market *	50(50)	59(59)	71(71)

Serial number	Name of market	Number of vacant stalls (of which frozen <sup>a</sup> ) (As at 31 December 2020)		
		2018	2019	2020
54	Quarry Bay Market *	35(34)	36(34)	38(35)
55	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
56	Sai Kung Market	18(18)	24(24)	29(29)
57	Sai Wan Ho Market *	6(0)	12(0)	13(0)
58	Sai Ying Pun Market	13(9)	5(0)	8(0)
59	San Hui Market	7(0)	14(0)	19(0)
60	Sha Tau Kok Market *	0(0)	0(0)	2(0)
61	Sha Tin Market	2(0)	5(5)	5(0)
62	Sham Tseng Temporary Market *	3(3)	4(4)	4(4)
63	Shek Tong Tsui Market *	13(13)	18(18)	19(0)
64	Shek Wu Hui Market *	1(0)	3(0)	6(0)
65	Sheung Fung Street Market	1(0)	2(0)	2(0)
66	Sheung Wan Market *	4(0)	8(0)	11(0)
67	Shui Wo Street Market *	7(1)	8(1)	9(1)
68	Smithfield Market *	2(0)	2(0)	6(0)
69	Stanley Waterfront Mart	3(0)	7(0)	8(0)
70	Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market	3(3)	3(3)	3(3)
71	Tai Kiu Market	11(0)	19(0)	26(0)
72	Tai Kok Tsui Market *	4(0)	4(0)	5(0)
73	Tai O Market	3(0)	4(0)	5(0)
74	Tai Po Hui Market *	1(0)	2(0)	4(0)
75	Tai Shing Street Market *	31(31)	37(37)	37(37)
76	Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
77	Tai Wai Market	29(5)	17(17)	23(0)
78	Tang Lung Chau Market	2(2)	3(3)	3(3)
79	Tin Wan Market *	8(0)	9(0)	14(0)
80	To Kwa Wan Market *	8(8)	17(17)	20(20)
81	Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)

Serial number	Name of market	Number of vacant stalls (of which frozen <sup>a</sup> ) (As at 31 December 2020)		
		2018	2019	2020
82	Tsing Yi Market	1(0)	5(0)	5(0)
83	Tsuen Wan Market	42(42)	47(47)	51(51)
84	Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market	4(4)	4(4)	5(5)
85	Tui Min Hoi Market <sup>c</sup>	15(15)	15(15)	19(19)
86	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	243(243)	234(234)	133(133)
87	Tung Yick Market	265(265)	267(267)	267(267)
88	Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
89	Wan Chai Market	0(0)	1(1)	2(2)
90	Wing Fong Street Market	17(0)	27(0)	33(0)
91	Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market	0(0)	0(0)	2(0)
92	Wong Nai Chung Market *	3(3)	3(3)	5(5)
93	Yan Oi Market	7(0)	7(0)	7(0)
94	Yau Ma Tei Market	14(12)	16(14)	19(17)
95	Yee On Street Market	5(5)	24(24)	28(28)
96	Yeung Uk Road Market	13(13)	17(17)	22(22)
97	Yue Kwong Road Market *	25(0)	32(0)	33(0)
98	Yue Wan Market *	21(0)	24(0)	26(0)

Note:

- <sup>a</sup> Including the number of vacant stalls that are frozen for reasons such as forthcoming improvement works.
- <sup>b</sup> FEHD Skylight Market in Tin Shui Wai was commissioned in December 2020.
- <sup>c</sup> Tui Min Hoi Market was closed in January 2021.
- \* Public market with cooked food centre.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-FHB(FE)002**

**(Question Serial No. S013)**

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 (Ms Irene YOUNG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Follow-up question to Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)122:

Given that the stall operators who collected their licences in 2019 had no business at all in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, can the 7-year period of their licences be extended? As those who have yet to collect their licences can extend the time for collection of new licences so as to tide over the pandemic, why are the stall operators who have collected the licences given no assistance to extend their licence period?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department launched the scheme of Re-allocation of Fixed Hawker Pitches and Issue of New Licences in September 2019. Under the scheme, the vacated fixed hawker pitches were opened for application by persons who were interested in the hawking business. Except for applicants who are originally holders of Fixed-Pitch (Newspaper) Hawker Licence or Itinerant Hawker Licence, the licence operation validity period of applicants under other categories is 7 years. The arrangement is to promote the turnover of hawker licences, facilitate the turnover of hawker pitches and create opportunity for anyone interested in joining the trade.

According to the requirements of the scheme, eligible applicants can collect the hawker licence within 3 months from the issue of a notification letter by the Department. Some applicants were unable to complete the construction of stall within the specified time limit due to the COVID-19 epidemic which affected the fabrication of component parts of stall in early 2020. Therefore, the Department exercised its discretion to allow short-term extension of time for licence collection by these applicants. As for the licence holders who have collected the hawker licence under the scheme, more than 80% of them have completed construction of stalls and started operation amid the epidemic. Extending the operation validity period for the remaining licence holders is unfair to those who have complied with the requirements of the scheme. In fact, the Government has waived the



fees for a hawker licence in 2 consecutive years (2020-21 and 2021-22) to alleviate the impact of the epidemic on the trade.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-FHB(FE)003**

**(Question Serial No. S014)**

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 (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Follow-up question to Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)128:

The first round of the subsidy scheme for the promotion of contactless payment in public markets ended on 21 December 2020, and the second round will soon be launched. If resources are still available, will hawker bazaars and hawker stalls be included in the scheme to promote electronic payment and allow hawkers to benefit from the use of consumption vouchers in future as well as offer more choices to customers?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

To reduce the risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 or other diseases by operators and patrons in public markets through physical touch of cash, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and Hong Kong Housing Authority plan to launch a second-round subsidy scheme for the promotion of contactless payment in public markets under the Anti-epidemic Fund on 30 April 2021 and, at the same time, expand the target beneficiaries to include holders of a valid hawker licence issued by FEHD. The financial implications of the related measures will be absorbed by the Anti-epidemic Fund, which does not form part of the Appropriation Bill or the estimates of the General Revenue Account.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SV-FHB(FE)001**

**(Question Serial No. SV010)**

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 (Ms Irene YOUNG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is set out in “A Guide on Compliance with the Requirement on Air Change/Air Purifiers in Seating Areas of Dine-in Catering Premises under Cap. 599F” that catering business operators have to submit to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department a certificate filled in and signed by a registered specialist contractor (ventilation works category) (RSC(V)) in respect of their catering premises to certify compliance with the latest requirements of the Government. Please explain the duties and responsibilities of the RSC(V) in this aspect of work.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent

Reply:

On 17 March 2021, the Secretary for Food and Health stipulated a requirement on air change or air purifiers to be complied with in dine-in restaurants in the directions in relation to catering business under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F). Catering premises operators are required to register on the designated webpage of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department on or before 30 April 2021, registering that the seating area(s) of the respective catering premises have a minimum of 6 air changes per hour (ACH), or that air purifiers meeting the specified specifications have been installed in the seating area(s) according to the on-the-ground situation (including the site conditions) and the manufacturer manual. A certificate issued by a registered specialist contractor (ventilation category) (RSC(V)) should be submitted with the registration. The RSC(V) has to work out whether the ACH in the seating area(s) is at 6 or above by referring to the plans of the catering premises, or calculate the number of air purifiers required for the seating area(s) and determine their placement having regard to the on-the-ground situation and the manufacturer manual.

On 11 April 2021, the Working Group established for the smooth implementation of the requirement promulgated “A Guide on Compliance with the Requirement on Air Change/Air Purifiers in Seating Areas of Dine-in Catering Premises”. The Guide has been uploaded to the Department's website ([https://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/licensing/guide\\_general\\_reference/guide\\_on\\_compliance](https://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/licensing/guide_general_reference/guide_on_compliance)

[with requirement on air change.html](#)) for reference by catering premises operators and registered contractors.

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