

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

FHB(FE)063

Question Serial No.

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

1223

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In 2009-10, how much resources will be allocated to identify markets with consistently high vacancy rates and deficits for closure? Please advise on the details of the work plan and when the work will be completed.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

We will employ 76 temporary staff to conduct utilization and patron opinion surveys on public markets by batches in 2009-10 at an estimated expenditure of \$8 million. The surveys are intended to collect patronage information on individual markets, as well as tenants' and customers' views on possible market improvement measures. The surveys will also assist in identifying markets with consistently high vacancy rates and deficits and with low patronage that may be considered for closure. They will commence in March 2009. We will present the findings of the surveys to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in mid-2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ W H CHEUK

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 17.3.2009