

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

FHB(FE)128

Question Serial No.

2186

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

With regard to the operation of Hawker Control Teams (HCT) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, please advise:

- a. on the number of permanent posts in the HCT out of the 11 140 permanent posts under the current establishment of the Department, and the number of contract staff, if any;
- b. on the annual expenditure of the HCT over the past 5 years (i.e. from 2004-05 to 2008-09);
- c. if the operational target to be accomplished by the HCT is based on the number of arrests; and
- d. if the Department will review the role and functions of the HCT, and whether the operational targets of the HCT will be revised to include "facilitating the effective operation of licensed hawkers" in addition to conducting "raids" and making "arrests".

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) As at 1.2.2009, the Hawker Control Teams (HCT) have an establishment of 2 042 Hawker Control Officer Grade staff and 360 Workman I. There is no contract staff in the HCT.

- (b) The annual expenditure on hawker control, management and licensing work in the past five years are as follows:
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 2004-05 Actual | \$789.9 million |
| 2005-06 Actual | \$737.8 million |
| 2006-07 Actual | \$717.7 million |
| 2007-08 Actual | \$738.3 million |
| 2008-09 Revised Estimate | \$773.7 million |
- (c) The number of arrests made is not an operational target for HCT staff.
- (d) In the programme area of Hawker Control, our objectives are to regulate licensed hawking activities to maintain environmental hygiene and ensure main thoroughfares are free from obstruction; and to take enforcement action against unlicensed hawking. These functions arise from our role as the licensing authority for hawkers and the vesting of the statutory enforcement powers with the Department. Efforts to ensure the orderly conduct of hawking activities also help facilitate the operation of licensed hawkers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ W H CHEUK

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 17.3.2009