

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

FHB(FE)146

Question Serial No.

Head: 49 Foods and Environmental Hygiene Department

2646

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 :

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10, it is stated that the Department will identify markets with consistently high vacancy rate and deficits for closure, and consider further extending the scheme on contracting out market management to other districts. Are there changes in manpower (i.e. government employees including contract staff) and expenditure involved in these two targets reflected in the Estimates? If yes, what are the actual figures?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

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 will, among others, assist in identifying markets that may be considered for closure, namely those with consistently low patronage and high vacancy rates and deficits.

Regarding the outsourcing of market management work, in 2009-10 we will contract out the management of eight markets in total in Tai Po District and Islands District in July and October respectively. After contracting out these eight markets, there will be a total of 65 public markets managed by contractors in the private sector. We are not able to provide details on the expenditure involved as the tender exercise has yet to commence and the tender price is not known. A total of 17 in-house staff will be affected and be gainfully redeployed within the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ W H CHEUK

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 17.3.2009