

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)092

(Question Serial No. 1265)

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 (Donald NG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the number of itinerant hawker licences, please advise on the following:

1. The number of itinerant hawker licences in 2024 was 37 less than that in 2023, and the estimated number for this year is only 200. Please set out in tabular form the number of valid itinerant hawker licences by type of goods hawked (as at February 2025).
2. Further to the above question, please provide the median age of holders of valid itinerant hawker licences at present, the number of times they were prosecuted by summons and had their handcarts confiscated in the past year, as well as the total amount of fines involved.
3. How often is the information on hawker blackspots updated? Does the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department update the relevant information for itinerant hawkers in a timely manner? Apart from the website information, what measures has the Department taken to disseminate the relevant information to elderly people?

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

1. The number of itinerant hawker licences by type of goods hawked is provided in Annex.
2. As at 28 February 2025, the median age of itinerant hawker licensees is 78. In 2024, there were 593 cases in which licensed itinerant hawkers were prosecuted by summons. The cases mainly involved obstruction caused by hawker pitches but no handcarts of licensed itinerant hawkers were confiscated. 563 of these cases have prosecution procedures completed and the total amount of fines was about \$360,000.
3. Hawker blackspots refer to locations where unlicensed hawkers congregate. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department conducts quarterly surveys to review and update the list of hawker blackspots according to the actual situation in various districts, and uploads the information to its website for public reference. In general, if the Department's staff find a licensed itinerant hawker or an elderly hawker hawking at a hawker blackspot, they will issue a verbal warning first. Law enforcement actions will be taken only if the verbal warning is not heeded.

Number of itinerant hawker licences
(as at 28 February 2025)

District Type of goods hawked	Hong Kong Island and Kowloon	New Territories and Islands
Frozen confectionery	18	23
Mobile van	8	6
Newspaper	1	0
Other classes	70	106
Total	97	135

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