

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)108**

**(Question Serial No. 0926)**

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:

In this Programme, the matters requiring special attention of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in 2025-26 include: continuing to plan new public market facilities at suitable locations and take forward the proposed projects; continuing to implement and keep under review the new management model and improvement measures introduced in new and overhauled public markets; continuing to implement the Market Modernisation Programme to improve facilities of existing public markets; and taking action to close public markets which are under-utilised. What was the expenditure on the management and planning of new public markets in the past year? How many markets were closed? What are the work plans in 2025-26 and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

Planning and implementation of new public market projects are mainly undertaken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) with the assistance of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD). The relevant recurrent expenditures are included in the Estimates of Expenditure of the 2 departments under Head 49 and Head 25. The Market Development Division (MDD) under FEHD, which takes forward the planning and implementation of new public market projects, is also responsible for other duties relating to public market development (e.g. the Market Modernisation Programme (MMP), enhancement of market management and market consolidation/closure, etc.), while the relevant team of ArchSD is also responsible for taking forward new market and MMP projects, hence we do not keep a breakdown of the expenditures involved in planning and taking forward new public market projects. In 2024-25, the relevant manpower expenditures (revised estimate) of the MDD under FEHD and ArchSD were about \$34.97 million and \$27.15 million respectively. In 2025-26, the corresponding estimated expenditures are about \$33.64 million and \$27.71 million respectively.

At present, there are 96 public markets (including cooked food centres) under FEHD. In 2024-25, the overall expenditure (revised estimate) of FEHD on the management of public

markets is \$1.1363 billion. FEHD does not keep a breakdown of the management expenditure of individual public markets. In 2024-25, FEHD did not close any market/cooked food market (CFM).

In 2025-26, the MDD under FEHD will continue to take forward new public market projects, implement the new management model and improvement measures introduced in new and overhauled public markets, implement the MMP and take action to close public markets which are under-utilised.

Regarding new public market projects, FEHD is taking forward a number of new market projects that are at different planning stages. Among them, the construction of new public markets in Tin Shui Wai, Area 67 of Tseung Kwan O and Kwu Tung North New Development Area (KTN NDA) has commenced, and the works are expected to be completed in 2027 (Tin Shui Wai) and 2028 (Area 67 of Tseung Kwan O and KTN NDA) respectively.

Under the MMP, FEHD is implementing projects of various scales at suitable venues, including overhaul or redevelopment, stall enhancement, as well as minor refurbishment or improvement works.

Regarding overhaul or redevelopment projects, Aberdeen Market and Lai Wan Market officially re-opened in May 2023 and March 2024 respectively after overhaul works. FEHD will continue to take forward the overhaul projects for Ngau Tau Kok Market and Kowloon City Market, etc..

As for stall enhancement projects, the first project Queen Street CFM resumed full operation in September 2024. At present, its daily average footfall is about 1 600, which has increased by about 20% as compared with that before the works. Stall tenants indicated that the enhancement works have improved the operating environment. Many members of the public have also expressed that the enhanced CFM offers a contemporary feel and a clean and comfortable dining environment. In view of the effectiveness of the stall enhancement project in Queen Street CFM and the positive feedbacks from stall tenants and the public, FEHD will continue to identify other suitable venues for stall enhancement works.

With regard to minor refurbishment or improvement works, FEHD has taken forward the relevant works in 16 markets. As at 31 January 2025, the works in 15 markets have been completed, while those in the remaining Nam Long Shan Road CFM are expected to be completed in 2025.

As regards the closure of markets, FEHD will continue to follow up on the preparatory and consultation work for the closure or consolidation of public markets/CFMs which are under-utilised (e.g. Centre Street Market and Kwun Chung Market). The actual dates of closure are to be confirmed.