

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)112

(Question Serial No. 0225)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Donald NG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to enforce against shop front extension (SFE) under the steer of the Task Force on District Governance. Please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved in the relevant work?
2. In view of the Government's fiscal position and the significant improvement in SFE situations, will the Department consider reducing the relevant manpower to achieve savings? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. Taking enforcement actions against shop front extension (SFE) is part of the duties of the Hawker Control Officers (HCO) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. In 2024-25, the staff establishment of the HCO grade is 2 306 and the estimated expenditure is \$878 million. The Department does not maintain a separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure for the enforcement actions against SFE.
2. Taking enforcement actions against SFE is part of the duties of the Hawkers Section of the Department, the staff of which are also responsible for the licensing and daily management of licensed hawkers, combating unlicensed hawkers, managing hawker permitted places, taking law enforcement actions against those who have committed cleanliness offences, etc. The Department will allocate manpower flexibly to ensure proper use of public resources. In order to maintain the sustainability of public finances, the Government has strictly controlled the civil service establishment since 2021-22 to maintain the target of zero-growth in the civil service establishment, with the aim of containing the establishment at a level not exceeding that as at end-March 2021. New policies and initiatives are taken forward through re-prioritisation, internal redeployment, streamlining of work processes and enhanced efficiency of the Department. In addition, there are time-limited posts deleted every year upon expiry of the duration for which the posts are created or upon completion of the jobs concerned. Posts which no longer have operational needs would

also be deleted by the Department after review of the departmental civil service establishment.

- End -