

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)119**

**(Question Serial No. 3289)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme: (-) Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

As shown under Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision, due to increased provision for operating expenses, the estimated provision on Programme (1) Food Safety and Public Health, (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services and (3) Market Management and Hawker Control were all increased for 2025-26. Please advise this Committee of:

- (a) the specific number of permanent posts and supernumerary posts out of the 63 posts decreased under Programmes (1) to (3), as well as their ranks and salary ranges;
- (b) the estimated savings in expenditure achieved from the decrease of posts in the year;
- (c) the reasons of a decrease in staffing but an increase in estimated provision, and the priorities in respect of the provision; and
- (d) whether a review of the staff establishment and an adjustment to the number of posts based on the actual operational needs will be conducted to strike a balance between resource allocation and service demands in the future.

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

The increase in estimated provision is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent and capital account items. In order to optimise the use of civil service manpower resources and maintain the sustainability of our public finance, the Government has maintained zero-growth in the overall civil service establishment since 2021-22, with the overall establishment controlled at a level not exceeding that as at end-March 2021. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has, through management measures and digitalisation, re-prioritised and internally re-deployed resources, streamlined work processes and capitalised on technology solutions to enhance efficiency.

In 2025-26, the Department plans to create 5 posts and delete 68 posts under Programmes (1) to (3), resulting in a net decrease of 63 posts. The information on the 68 posts planned to be deleted is as follows:

Type of posts planned to be deleted	Grade	Number of posts to be deleted	Monthly salary range	Total annual salary involved (Notional annual mid-point salary cost)
Time-limited supernumerary directorate post <sup>Note</sup>	Administrative Officer	1	\$194,825 - \$247,200 (Directorate Pay Scale Point 2-3)	\$5.36 million
	Executive Officer	1		
Permanent post	Administrative Officer	2	\$36,850 - \$147,125 (Master Pay Scale Point 16-49)	\$16.45 million
	Health Inspector	1		
	Personal Secretary I	1		
	Workman II	62	\$15,175 - \$17,880 (Model Scale I Pay Scale Point 0-8)	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>		<b>\$21.81 million</b>

Note: The civil service establishment includes posts on the permanent establishment and those on the non-permanent establishment (i.e. time-limited posts). Time-limited directorate posts are referred to as “supernumerary directorate posts”, which are time-limited posts on the non-permanent establishment. It does not mean they are not counted towards the establishment.

- End -