

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)165

(Question Serial No. 3957)

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:

- (a) There are views that the Food Truck Pilot Scheme introduced in the past was not a friendly means to help the general public start their business because the threshold was too high. To encourage young people to start their businesses and pass on our unique culinary culture, will the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department introduce measures, and re-issue itinerant hawker licences to food and beverage stalls that have been recognised, through assessment, as representative of our community creativity and Hong Kong's characteristics?
- (b) Will the Department consider introducing related measures to support the development of food and beverage stalls and lower their operational costs?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

- (a) Members of public have different views about hawkers and hawking activities. Some find on-street trading by itinerant hawkers convenient, while many consider that on-street trading activities are prone to causing obstruction, environmental nuisance or even health hazards. Under the prevailing policy, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will not issue new itinerant hawker licences. Operating a food and beverage stall at venues such as bazaars does not require an itinerant hawker licence. Operators may apply to the Department for a temporary food factory licence (TFFL).
- (b) The Department provides one-stop services to applicants for food business licences (including TFFLs) by coordinating with the relevant departments to process the applications in parallel, thereby shortening the processing time required. At present, the Department usually completes the processing of a TFFL within 12 working days. In addition, the Department will exercise the greatest flexibility in processing the applications for TFFLs. Stalls only need to fulfil some basic requirements for safeguarding food safety and public health to obtain a licence. The Department will also explain the licensing requirements in detail to the stall owners as necessary to facilitate their accurate understanding of the relevant information.

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