

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 0342)

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:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has revised the stalls let (%) in the key performance measures to 85% since 2025. However, the actual figures as regards stall-letting in the past 2 years failed to reach the target. What measures does the Department have to increase the occupancy rate so as to meet the target?

Asked by: Hon FONG Kwok-shan, Christine (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

Apart from putting up vacant stalls for open auction on a regular basis, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has a number of measures to increase the occupancy rate of public markets and put long-standing vacant market stalls to better use:

- (1) Since May 2024, FEHD has restored the previous arrangement of putting up long-standing vacant stalls that could not be let out in public markets for open auction at reduced upset prices. The upset prices for the stalls in an open auction will be initially set at 80% of the open market rent if the stalls have been vacant for over 6 months, and at 60% if the vacant period is over 8 months.
- (2) Following the pilot scheme in the fourth quarter of 2024, FEHD implemented, in April 2025, the arrangement where stalls which have not been let out in open auctions are made available for renting by members of the public at their upset prices on a first-come, first-served basis.
- (3) Making reference to the experience of Yue Man Hawker Bazaar in Kwun Tong, FEHD is considering launching a scheme in Aberdeen Market which allows young people to operate the stalls. FEHD is identifying suitable partners for the scheme. It will take into account the implementation of the scheme in Aberdeen Market and further explore ways to make better use of vacant stalls.

In addition, FEHD maintains active communication with various stakeholders (including tenants, local community, hawker associations and logistics service

providers) to increase the occupancy rate. Measures include adjusting the trade mix in the markets to better meet the needs of stall operators and the public. Tenants may also submit applications or suggestions for changing the types of commodities sold. FEHD will, in consultation with the Market Management Consultative Committees, determine whether to adjust the distribution of the types of commodities sold based on factors such as vacancy period of the stalls, compatibility of the proposed commodities with those sold by nearby stalls, public interest, and proper market management. In Aberdeen Market, for example, FEHD has introduced various trades and types of commodities into existing vacant stalls, such as ready-to-eat food, mobile phones/electronic parts, pet supplies/food, hardware, as well as services like haircut, manicure, beauty treatment and Chinese medicine practitioners. To diversify market services, FEHD also collaborates with the Environmental Protection Department to set up GREEN@COMMUNITY recycling stores in some vacant stalls. Moreover, considering that some stall operators have expressed their wish for relaxing restrictions on stall size and height, FEHD will consolidate and merge some of the vacant stalls to form larger ones, with a view to providing stall operators with more options.

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