

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)085**

**(Question Serial No. 0306)**

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:

The Government plans to grant permission to the first batch of restaurants that allow dogs to enter in mid-2026. With regard to the expenditure arising from the policy, please advise this Committee of:

- (a) the administrative and law enforcement resources and expenditure earmarked in the 2026-27 Estimates for processing applications from restaurants, inspecting eligible restaurants, handling related public complaints and reviewing the effectiveness of the measures, as well as the relevant manpower deployment; and
- (b) the plans in hand to give policy explanation so as to ensure restaurant operators and dog owners clearly understand their own responsibilities, and the estimated expenditure and manpower to be involved.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

- (a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will form dedicated teams in various districts through resource allocation to handle the work related to allowing dogs to enter permitted restaurants. The staff concerned are also tasked with other regulatory duties pertaining to food premises. Therefore, the Department does not keep a breakdown of the resources specifically for handling the work related to allowing dogs to enter permitted restaurants.
- (b) The Government will disseminate the information and conduct publicity through various channels to ensure restaurant operators and dog owners understand the relevant requirements and their own responsibilities, while allowing society to adapt to the new measures gradually. The relevant work includes the following:
  - (1) To facilitate interested restaurants in preparing their applications and operations, the Department will organise briefing sessions for the trade before the application period commences. The Institute of Shopping Centre Management, the Hong

Kong Federation of Insurers and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will be invited to participate in the briefing sessions to share their experience in managing pet-friendly malls, as well as matters requiring attention in relation to insurance and knowledge of interacting with animals. The Department will also upload the content of the briefing sessions to its dedicated webpage and social media platforms.

- (2) Before the measure takes effect, the Department will deploy staff to visit restaurants where dogs will be allowed to enter and explain to the operators the legal requirements, licensing conditions and other related matters. During the initial period after the measure takes effect, the Department will also deploy staff to such restaurants to facilitate operators' compliance.
- (3) The Department will compile and publish a set of guidelines on good practices and behaviour and frequently asked questions, etc. for reference by restaurant operators, customers bringing dogs and members of the public.
- (4) The Department will produce Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, and conduct publicity through various platforms, such as social media and newspapers, to inform the public of the arrangements.
- (5) The Department will consolidate and disseminate the information on its dedicated webpage, including the list of permitted restaurants, to facilitate the public in accessing the information and making an informed choice.

The Department will keep on reviewing the effectiveness of its publicity efforts and make appropriate adjustments as necessary. As the relevant work is part of its overall publicity efforts, the Department does not keep a breakdown of the resources specifically for handling the work related to allowing dogs to enter permitted restaurants.

- End -