

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)097

(Question Serial No. 3071)

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:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026-27 that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to implement the Market Modernisation Programme (MMP). How much manpower and estimated expenditure will be allocated for implementing the MMP? How does the estimated expenditure for this year compare with that for last year? What indicators will be used to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the MMP?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Fu-yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

The Market Modernisation Programme (MMP) is mainly implemented by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) with the assistance of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD). The relevant staff establishments and recurrent expenditures are included in the Estimates of Expenditure of the 2 departments under Head 49 and Head 25. The Market Development Division (MDD) under FEHD which takes forward the MMP is also responsible for other duties relating to public market development (e.g. new public market development projects, enhancements to market management and market consolidation/closure, etc.), while the relevant team of ArchSD is responsible for new public market projects as well as MMP projects. Therefore, we do not have a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure specifically for the MMP.

As at 31 March 2026, the staff establishment of the entire MDD under FEHD includes 24 civil servants and 10 non-civil service/post-retirement service contract staff, while that of the relevant team of ArchSD includes 17 civil servants and 9 non-civil service/post-retirement service contract staff. In 2025-26, the relevant manpower expenditures (revised estimate) of MDD under FEHD and ArchSD were about \$33 million and \$26.8 million respectively. In 2026-27, the corresponding estimated expenditures are about \$33.9 million and \$22.2 million respectively.

Regarding project expenditure, in 2025-26, FEHD commenced stall enhancement works in Ap Lei Chau Market Cooked Food Centre, Luen Wo Hui Market Cooked Food Centre and

Yue Wan Market Cooked Food Centre at a total cost of about \$61.5 million. FEHD will continue to identify other suitable markets for stall enhancement works. The project costs for 2026-27 are yet to be confirmed.

FEHD has been closely monitoring the changes in patronage and occupancy rates of public markets, so as to assess the effectiveness of the MMP. Regarding overhaul or redevelopment projects, Aberdeen Market and Lai Wan Market officially re-opened in May 2023 and March 2024 respectively after overhaul works. They have been operating smoothly since re-opening. The daily average patronage of Aberdeen Market from the date of resumption of operation to the end of February 2026 was about 12 000, an increase of about 15% from that before the overhaul works. The patronage of Lai Wan Market after resumption of operation has remained at an average of over 8 000 per day, an increase of over 13% from that before the overhaul works. During the same period, the occupancy rates of Aberdeen Market and Lai Wan Market were 85% and 97% respectively. Queen Street Cooked Food Market, the first stall enhancement project, resumed full operation in September 2024. The market had a daily average patronage of about 1 400 from the date of resumption of operation to the end of February 2026, an increase of about 5% from that before the enhancement works. Its occupancy rate during the same period was 100%.

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