

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)105**

**(Question Serial No. 0842)**

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:

On improving the facilities and operating environment of public markets, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) Please set out the expenditures of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department on the repair and maintenance of public markets in Sha Tin District and Tai Po District in each of the past 3 financial years (2023-24 to 2025-26), as well as the relevant estimated expenditure for 2026-27.
- (2) What is the overall estimated expenditure of the Department on refurbishment and improvement of facilities and operating environment of public markets in 2026-27? What is the rate of increase/decrease as compared with the revised estimate for 2025-26?
- (3) Which markets are scheduled for refurbishment or improvement of facilities and operating environment in 2026-27? Are there plans to overhaul Tai Wai Market, Sha Tin Market, Tai Po Hui Market and Plover Cove Road Market? If yes, what are the details and relevant estimated cost? If no, when does the Department plan to overhaul these 4 markets?
- (4) Has provision been earmarked in 2026-27 for incorporating modernised facilities into market overhaul projects, including:
  - (i) a comprehensive electronic payment system (such as one that supports Octopus, QR codes and credit cards, etc.);
  - (ii) a central air-conditioning and ventilation system; and
  - (iii) smart facilities for monitoring hygiene condition (such as sensor-activated cleaning equipment, indoor air quality monitoring devices, etc.)?If yes, what are the additional estimated expenditure involved and specific arrangements?
- (5) During the refurbishment of a market, what interim arrangements does the Department have to assist the affected stall tenants in continuing their business, including providing them with another stall in the interim or rental concessions? If such arrangements are available, what is the relevant estimated expenditure for 2026-27?

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

- (1) The expenditures of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department on the repair and maintenance of public markets in Sha Tin District and Tai Po District in the past 3 financial years and in 2026-27 are tabulated below:

Expenditure on repair and maintenance of public markets				
Financial year	2023-24 (\$ million)	2024-25 (\$ million)	2025-26 (Revised estimate) (\$ million)	2026-27 (Estimate) (\$ million)
Sha Tin District	2.52	4.66	3.66	3.55
Tai Po District	7.94	8.40	8.39	8.42

- (2) The Department has implemented various ongoing measures to improve the environment of public markets, including carrying out repair, maintenance and upgrading of facilities, strengthening cleansing services, stepping up publicity, and adjusting the types of commodities sold in the stalls. The Department does not keep a breakdown of the expenditure on the above work as it is subsumed under the expenditure on public market operation. The overall expenditures on public markets in 2025-26 and 2026-27 are tabulated below:

Financial year	2025-26 (Revised estimate) (\$ billion)	2026-27 (Estimate) (\$ billion)	Rate of increase/decrease
Overall expenditure	1.138	1.195	+5%

- (3) In 2026-27, the Department plans to carry out refurbishment works for the toilets on the first floor of Sha Tin Market and the toilets on the ground floor of Tai Po Hui Market. The works are scheduled to commence in the first half of 2026, and the estimated costs are about \$2.46 million and \$2 million respectively. Toilet refurbishment works are also planned for Plover Cove Road Market. Details of the project and the estimated cost are to be confirmed. The Department will continue to monitor the situation of Tai Wai Market, and plan and arrange for refurbishment works as necessary.
- (4) Starting from the end of 2020, stall tenants of new public markets and overhauled public markets under the Market Modernisation Programme (MMP) (i.e. FEHD Skylight Market in Tin Shui Wai, Sunlight Market in Tung Chung, Aberdeen Market, and Lai Wan Market) are required to provide at least 1 type of contactless payment facility according to the terms and conditions of the tenancy agreement. Besides, for new tenancies commencing on or after 1 January 2026, and for renewed tenancies in respect of the stalls in the 4 aforementioned markets, stall tenants are required to, under the terms and conditions of the tenancy agreement, provide at least 2 types of contactless payment facilities, one for tap-to-pay and the other for e-wallet payment. As the relevant work is part of the overall initiative on public market management, the Department does not keep a separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure.

The Department takes proactive actions to enhance public market services and will, depending on the circumstances and needs, improve the ventilation facilities of individual markets. Examples include replacing exhaust air-ducts, installing mechanical fans and air-coolers, and using suitable smart facilities. Where feasible,

air-conditioning systems and ancillary equipment will be installed when the Department is taking forward projects under the MMP.

In addition, the Department also pays close attention to technologies or facilities available on the market that are fit for use in public markets, and will allocate resources as necessary to carry out studies or testing.

- (5) When carrying out refurbishment/improvement works in public markets, the Government will take into account all factors, including the nature and duration of the works, as well as the operational difficulties on the part of stall tenants that may arise from the works (including any temporary resiting arrangement), to determine the concessionary arrangement for the affected tenants on a project-by-project basis. Such arrangement takes the form of rental waiver/reduction and no expenditure will be incurred.

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