

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**HWFB(FE)13
8**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1906

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

One of the matters requiring special attention in 2007-08 under this programme is the continuation of the streamlining of the food business licensing regime. Please advise on the following:

As this issue was included as a matter requiring special attention in 2006-07, what improvements have been made and what results have been achieved so far? Please provide the number of completed cases on food business licences in 2005-06 and 2006-07 as well as the average time required for processing the applications.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

Trade facilitation measures introduced include issue of Letter of Requirements to the applicant prior to the Application Vetting Panel (AVP) meeting to facilitate discussion; involving the applicant's consultant and / or contractor at the AVP meeting to ensure all persons concerned have a clear understanding of the licensing requirements and conditions; deleting the requirement for movable appliances, facilities and furniture not of a substantial and permanent nature to be shown on the layout plan of food premises; lowering or cancelling the licensing requirements and conditions with minimal hygiene impact; and allowing operators of restaurants and food factories to conduct take-away food service and food delivery service without prior approval from this Department provided that they observe a set of additional conditions to ensure food hygiene when conducting such services. In addition, the Department will continue to work on the proposed composite licence to cover the sale of various types of ready-to-eat food for consumption off the premises.

In 2005, 2 117 restaurant licences and 1 730 other food licences were issued. In 2006, the numbers were 1 881 and 1 529 respectively. This Department has no ready information on the average time required for processing these applications.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ EDDY CHAN _____

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 15.3.2007 _____