

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

FHB(FE)032

Question Serial No.

0255

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

What is the respective number of appeal cases against the suspension of food business licences in 2006 and 2007, and how many cases were allowed? Of the appeal cases against licence suspension, what is the average duration of suspension? What is the longest and shortest duration of licence suspension in each of those two years?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

In 2006, there were nine appeal cases against food business licence suspension. The Licensing Appeals Board (LIAB) allowed the appeal in one case, shortened the suspension period in another, and upheld the suspension decision in the remaining seven cases. For these appeal cases, the average suspension period after appeal was 7.6 days. Taking the appeal outcome into account, the longest licence suspension in that year was 14 days and the shortest was five.

In 2007, there were 10 appeal cases against food business licence suspension. Nine cases were heard and one is pending hearing. Of the cases heard, LIAB shortened the suspension period in three cases, upheld the suspension decision in four and has yet to rule on the remaining two. For the seven cases already ruled by LIAB, the average suspension period after appeal was 6.7 days. Taking into account the appeal outcome as known to date, the longest licence suspension in that year was 14 days and the shortest was two.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **W H CHEUK** _____

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 19.3.2008 _____