

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)125**

Question Serial No.

1964

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:

Please provide information on the following in respect of liquor-licensed premises:

- (a) the manpower and expenditure involved in processing liquor licence applications by the Liquor Licensing Board in 2013-14;
- (b) the total number of complaints against liquor-licensed premises received in 2010, 2011 and 2012, the districts in which these premises were located, the type and nature of the complaints and their investigation results;
- (c) the number of inspections to liquor-licensed premises in 2010, 2011 and 2012 and the districts for inspection; and
- (d) the number of liquor licences revoked in 2010, 2011 and 2012 and the reasons for revocation.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) In the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), there are 34 staff, including contract staff, in three licensing offices handling liquor and club liquor licence applications as part of their licensing-related duties. Besides, four staff are deployed for providing secretariat service to the Liquor Licensing Board. There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved in the handling of liquor licence applications and appeals.
- (b) The Department handles environmental hygiene related complaints against licensed food premises, including those issued with liquor licences, whereas the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) handles complaints about non-compliance with liquor licensing conditions. In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the number of substantiated complaints concerning environmental hygiene and obstruction of passageway against liquor-licensed food premises lodged with the Department was 1 122, 1 259 and 1 473 respectively, and the breakdown is at Annex. Statistics on complaints received by the Police against liquor-licensed premises are not readily available.
- (c) The Department does not keep separate inspection figures for liquor-licensed premises. In principle, inspections of restaurants holding liquor licences are conducted once every four, ten or 20 weeks according to the risk type of individual restaurants as assessed under the "Risk-based Inspection System" whereas inspections of clubs with catering facilities, including those holding club liquor licences, are conducted once every ten weeks. In each of 2010 and 2011, the Police conducted over 18 000 inspections to liquor-licensed premises whereas in 2012, the Police conducted over 19 000 such inspections.

- (d) The number of liquor licences (including club liquor licences) revoked in 2010, 2011 and 2012 with breakdown by reasons is provided in the table below.

Reasons for revocation of liquor licence	Number of liquor licence revoked		
	2010	2011	2012
Cessation of business	16	19	9
Licensee leaving without transferring the licence	4	1	0
Death of licensee	0	1	0
Breach of licensing condition	7	6	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

**Number of Substantiated Complaints against Liquor-Licensed Food Premises  
in 2010, 2011 and 2012**

District	Environmental Hygiene			Obstruction		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Central and Western	3	7	3	0	10	23
Eastern	3	3	41	23	19	12
Southern	5	3	2	1	3	0
Wan Chai	39	52	28	3	2	41
Islands	2	3	0	10	12	14
Yau Tsim Mong	84	63	110	165	181	385
Sham Shui Po	42	49	23	70	24	13
Kowloon City	2	4	7	16	23	15
Wong Tai Sin	24	27	32	61	59	53
Kwun Tong	35	32	9	33	30	21
Tsuen Wan	5	5	12	50	62	66
Kwai Tsing	15	24	13	10	6	39
North	0	0	33	5	17	60
Tai Po	0	0	15	110	113	40
Sai Kung	0	0	43	2	16	143
Sha Tin	37	39	22	121	210	23
Tuen Mun	0	0	16	11	18	25
Yuen Long	87	93	14	48	50	77
Total	383	404	423	739	855	1 050