

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)079****(Question Serial No. 0001)**

**Head:** (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

**Subhead (No. & title):** (-) Not Specified

**Programme:** (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

**Controlling Officer:** Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

**Director of Bureau:** Secretary for Food and Health

**This question originates from:** Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 251 (if applicable)

**Question (Member Question No. 1):**

Please advise on the number of liquor licence applications received and appeals lodged, the average time taken for processing an application and listing an appeal for hearing, the success rate of appeals, as well as the number of liquor licences revoked (with a breakdown by reasons for revocation) in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively.

**Asked by:** Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

**Reply:**

The statistics sought are given below -

<b>Year</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Total number of liquor licence applications <sup>1</sup>	7 274 (930)	7 789 (1 077)	8 179 (1 087)
Average time taken for processing an application for liquor licence	33 days	35 days	42 days <sup>2</sup>
Number of appeals lodged with Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB)	29	48	55
Average time taken for listing an appeal for hearing <sup>3</sup>	67 days	106 days	84 days
Success rate of appeals (i.e. appeals allowed by MSAB) <sup>4</sup>	47%	51%	49%

<sup>1</sup> The figures in bracket denotes the number of applications for new liquor licence.

<sup>2</sup> Under the new consultation mechanism which took effect from May 2013, the District Councillor of the relevant geographical constituency will be consulted on liquor licence renewal / transfer applications for premises which are recorded with objection to the previous licence application or implicated with complaints in the past 12 months. Also, since November 2012, liquor licence applications are required to be put on the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) website for 14 days before LLB considers them. These new arrangements might have contributed to the increase in the average processing time.

<sup>3</sup> Counting from the date of MSAB receiving the appeal application to the date of hearing of the case concerned.

<sup>4</sup> Only appeal cases with MSAB's decisions issued before the end of a year are taken into account for calculating the success rate of appeals in that year.

The number of liquor licences (including club liquor licences) revoked in 2011, 2012 and 2013 with breakdown by reasons is provided in the table below.

<b>Reasons for revocation of liquor licence</b>	<b>Number of liquor licence revoked</b>		
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Cessation of business	19	9	20
Licensee leaving without transferring the licence	1	0	2
Death of licensee	1	0	0
Breach of licensing condition	6	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27</b>