

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)081****(Question Serial No. 0003)**

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. 4):

Please set out in tabular form the number of applications by restaurant licensees for outside seating accommodation and the average time for processing an application in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. Please also list the respective number of applications rejected (with a breakdown by reasons for rejection), appeals lodged and applications withdrawn in each of the above three years. Besides, please also advise on the manpower and expenditure involved for each of these years.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

Year	2011	2012	2013
Number of applications for outside seating accommodation	76	104	117
Average time taken for processing an application	14 months	10 months	15 months
Number of applications approved	23	17	23
Number of applications rejected	19	13	39
Number of applications withdrawn/abandoned	41	68	48
Number of appeals lodged	0	0	0

(Note: The processing time for an application is contingent upon the time spent by the applicant in complying with the relevant licensing requirements, settling objections raised by the public or other departments concerned and addressing relevant land issues, if any. It varies from case to case.)

Information about the number of applications rejected in 2013 (with a breakdown by reasons for rejection) is provided as follows (the breakdown for cases rejected in the previous years is not available) -

Reason of Rejection	No. of Rejected Applications
Objection(s) raised by the concerned department(s)	32
Objection(s) raised by the public	4
Objection(s) raised by the concerned department(s) and the public	3

Under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, 116 staff in three licensing offices are responsible for handling applications for food business and other trade licences as well as applications for outside seating accommodation, etc. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved in the handling of applications for outside seating accommodation.