

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)108**

**(Question Serial No. 0875)**

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 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 13):

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 2014-15;
- (b) the total number of complaints against liquor-licensed premises received from 2011-12 to 2013-14, the districts in which these premises were located, the type and nature of the complaints and their investigation results; and
- (c) the number of liquor licences revoked from 2011-12 to 2013-14 and the reasons for revocation.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) In the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), 37 staff (including contract staff) in three licensing offices are responsible for handling liquor and club liquor licence applications as part of their licensing-related duties. There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved in the handling of liquor licence applications and appeals. Besides, nine staff (including contract staff) are deployed for providing secretariat service to the Liquor Licensing Board as their main duties. The estimated expenditure involved in manning the LLB Secretariat in 2014-15 is \$5.3 million.
- (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 2011, 2012 and 2013, the number of substantiated complaints concerning environmental hygiene and obstruction of passageway against liquor-licensed food premises lodged with the Department was 1 259, 1 473 and 1 703 respectively, and the breakdown is at Annex. Statistics on complaints received by the Police against liquor-licensed premises are not readily available.

- (c) 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.

| Reasons for revocation of liquor licence          | Number of liquor licence revoked |           |           |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|   | 2011                             | 2012      | 2013      |
| 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> |

**Number of Substantiated Complaints against Liquor-Licensed Food Premises  
in 2011, 2012 and 2013**

| District            | Environmental Hygiene |      |      | Obstruction |       |       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------|------|-------------|-------|-------|
|                     | 2011                  | 2012 | 2013 | 2011        | 2012  | 2013  |
| Central and Western | 7                     | 3    | 41   | 10          | 23    | 33    |
| Eastern             | 3                     | 41   | 10   | 19          | 12    | 14    |
| Southern            | 3                     | 2    | 15   | 3           | 0     | 34    |
| Wan Chai            | 52                    | 28   | 9    | 2           | 41    | 33    |
| Islands             | 3                     | 0    | 5    | 12          | 14    | 16    |
| Yau Tsim Mong       | 63                    | 110  | 66   | 181         | 385   | 232   |
| Sham Shui Po        | 49                    | 23   | 6    | 24          | 13    | 24    |
| Kowloon City        | 4                     | 7    | 42   | 23          | 15    | 61    |
| Wong Tai Sin        | 27                    | 32   | 47   | 59          | 53    | 72    |
| Kwun Tong           | 32                    | 9    | 4    | 30          | 21    | 4     |
| Tsuen Wan           | 5                     | 12   | 15   | 62          | 66    | 46    |
| Kwai Tsing          | 24                    | 13   | 31   | 6           | 39    | 15    |
| North               | 0                     | 33   | 16   | 17          | 60    | 36    |
| Tai Po              | 0                     | 15   | 81   | 113         | 40    | 131   |
| Sai Kung            | 0                     | 43   | 8    | 16          | 143   | 40    |
| Sha Tin             | 39                    | 22   | 70   | 210         | 23    | 293   |
| Tuen Mun            | 0                     | 16   | 3    | 18          | 25    | 6     |
| Yuen Long           | 93                    | 14   | 30   | 50          | 77    | 114   |
| Total               | 404                   | 423  | 499  | 855         | 1 050 | 1 204 |