

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)094

(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

Question:

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 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

The statistics sought are given below -

| Year | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|--|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Total number of liquor licence applications received ¹ | 7 789 (1 077) | 8 179 (1 087) | 8 630 (1 116) |
| Average time taken for processing an application for liquor licence | 35 days | 42 days ² | 37 days |
| Number of appeals lodged with Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB) | 48 | 55 | 32 |
| Average time taken for listing an appeal for hearing ³ | 106 days | 84 days | 74 days |
| Successful rate of appeals (i.e. appeals allowed by MSAB) ⁴ | 51% | 49% | 58% |

¹ The figures in bracket denote the number of applications for new liquor licence.

² 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 on top of requiring the applicants to place advertisement in local newspaper(s) to notify members of the public of the applications. Also, under the new consultation mechanism which took effect in May 2013, in respect of 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, the District Councillor of the relevant geographical constituency will be consulted as a matter of course. We believe these new arrangements have contributed to the increase in the average processing time in 2013, relative to 2012. The average processing time has dropped in 2014, relative to 2013. We believe that this is attributed to the fact that there were fewer contested cases in 2014.

- 3 Counting from the date of MSAB receiving the appeal application to the date of the case being heard.
- 4 Only appeal cases with MSAB's decision 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 revoked in 2012, 2013 and 2014 with breakdown by reasons is provided in the table below.

| Reasons for revocation of liquor licence | Number of liquor licence revoked | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Cessation of business | 9 | 20 | 12 |
| Licensee leaving without transferring the licence | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Breach of licensing condition | 5 | 5 | 1 |
| Contravention of legislation | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 14 | 27 | 15 |

- End -