

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)158**

**(Question Serial No. 0659)**

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:

It is stated that the Administration will “follow through the implementation of measures to improve the operation of the liquor licensing regime”. Please advise on the following:

- the number of liquor licences granted by the Liquor Licensing Board and the expenditure involved in each of the past five years (from 2010 to 2014);
- the estimated expenditure to be involved if the maximum validity period of a liquor licence is to be extended from one year to two years as proposed by the Administration;
- the number of liquor licence applications which drew objections and were subsequently refused in each of the past five years (from 2010 to 2014).

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (Member Question No. 41)

Reply:

The number of liquor licences granted, and applications for new issue and renewal of licence refused by the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) in each of the past five years is provided as follows -

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total number of liquor licences granted (including newly issued and renewed licences)	6 424	6 395	6 781	6 807	7 488
Total number of applications (for new issue and renewal of liquor licence) refused	27	36	34	42	28

40 staff in the three licensing offices in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are responsible for handling 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. In addition, nine staff are deployed for providing secretariat support to the LLB. The expenditure involved in manning the LLB Secretariat in 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 (revised estimate) was \$3.9 million, \$4.5 million, \$4.9 million, \$5.1 million and \$5.6 million respectively.

The estimated expenditure for 2015-16 is \$5.7 million. There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure to be incurred in implementing the legislative amendments, to extend the maximum validity period of a liquor licence from one year to two years.

- End -