

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3296)

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 set out the locations suitable for alfresco dining operation in Hong Kong, and advise whether a certain proportion of spaces in these locations will be offered to young people and the elderly for priority applications so as to avoid monopoly of the industry.

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 32)

Reply:

At present, if a restaurant licensee/licence applicant intends to use any open space adjoining the restaurant for alfresco dining, he/she is required to obtain approval for outside seating accommodation (OSA) from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department). The major assessment considerations include the legal right to use the land concerned, compliance with the statutory planning restriction, building safety, fire safety, traffic requirements, views of the local community and hygiene requirements, such as provision of adequate food preparation area and sanitary facilities, etc. These regulatory considerations apply to all applicants alike. Therefore, applications for OSA are all made by existing restaurant licensees or those who are concurrently applying for restaurant licences. The Government does not have a designated list of locations suitable for alfresco dining.

As at 31 December 2014, 274 restaurants have obtained OSA permission from the Department. Their distribution is as follows –

District	No. of restaurants with OSA permission
Central / Western	12
Eastern	4
Southern	15
Wan Chai	16
Islands	6

Yau Tsim	43
Mong Kok	6
Sham Shui Po	0
Kowloon City	2
Wong Tai Sin	18
Kwun Tong	1
Tsuen Wan	24
Kwai Tsing	2
North	4
Tai Po	12
Sai Kung	34
Sha Tin	26
Tuen Mun	22
Yuen Long	27
Total	274

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