

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)155**

**(Question Serial No. 0002)**

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 in tabular form the number of applications by restaurant licensees for outside seating accommodation and the average time for processing an application in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively. Please also list the number of applications rejected (with a breakdown by reasons for rejection), appeals lodged and applications withdrawn in each of the above three years.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 advise on the manpower and expenditure involved for each of these years.

Asked by: Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Number of applications for outside seating accommodation	117	121	88
Average time taken for processing an application <sup>Note</sup>	15 months	13 months	15 months
Number of applications approved	23	25	27
Number of applications rejected	39	34	12
Number of applications withdrawn/abandoned	48	43	34
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, 2014 and 2015 (with a breakdown by reasons for rejection) is provided as follows –

<b>Reason of Rejection</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Objection(s) raised by the concerned department(s)	32	32	9
Objection(s) raised by the public	4	1	3
Objection(s) raised by the concerned department(s) and the public	3	1	0

Under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, 115 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.

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