

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)167

(Question Serial No. 0014)

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 usage rate of the on-line Licence Application Tracking Facility (ATF) in respect of food business licences, as well as the usage rate of the on-line licence application service for liquor licences, food business licences and other relevant endorsements, in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2013 to 2015). Please provide details on the publicity work, the manpower arrangement and the expenditure required in promoting the service.

Asked by: Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan (Member Question No. 14)

Reply:

In 2013, 2014 and 2015, 51%, 48%¹ and 50% respectively of the applicants for food business licences or their authorised persons made use of the on-line Licence Application Tracking Facility (ATF) system to monitor the progress of their applications. In 2013, 2014 and 2015, 37%, 41% and 43% respectively of the applicants for liquor licence (including club liquor licence) or their authorised persons made use of the Liquor Licence Processing System.

Starting from 1 January 2013, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) accepts online submission of applications for food business licences and permits. In 2013, 2014 and 2015, 9% of the applicants (i.e. 589 out of 6 616), 8% (557 out of 6 666) and 12% (816 out of 7 018) made use of the service respectively. To encourage wider use of the on-line service, the Department has issued promotional flyers to the applicants; displayed promotional posters in the SME One Centre of the Hong Kong

¹ Effective from 31 March 2014, a new email notification function was added to the ATF system. With the new function, applicants for food business licences who have registered their email addresses with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will be informed of the progress of their application via email notifications automatically without having to log into the ATF system. These email notifications are not counted in the ATF usage rate.

Productivity Council, the 19 district environmental hygiene offices and the three licensing offices of the Department; and conducted briefings for the trade at meetings organised by the Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit and the bi-monthly seminars on restaurant licensing. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved in the promotion work.

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