

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(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 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

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

Reply:

The statistics sought are given below -

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	
Total number of liquor licence applications received (with the number of applications for new licence given in brackets)	8 630 (1 116)	8 936 (1 236)	6 520 (1 032)	
Average time taken for processing an application for liquor licence	37 days	37 days	1-year liquor licence	2-year liquor licence <sup>2</sup>
			43 days <sup>1</sup>	37 days
Number of appeals lodged with Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB)	32	28	22	
Average time taken for listing an appeal for hearing <sup>3</sup>	74 days	97 days	74 days	
Success rate of appeals (i.e. appeals allowed by MSAB) <sup>4</sup>	58%	63%	76%	

<sup>1</sup> Majority of the 1-year liquor licence in 2016 were contested cases and hence required a longer processing time.

- 2 The maximum validity period of a liquor licence was extended from 1 year to 2 years with effect from August 2015 via the Dutiable Commodities (Liquor) (Amendment) Regulation 2015.
- 3 This is counted 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 2014, 2015 and 2016 with breakdown by reasons is provided in the table below.

<b>Reasons for revocation of liquor licence</b>	<b>Number of liquor licence revoked</b>		
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Cessation of business	12	15	7
Breach of licensing condition	1	0	0
Contravention of legislation	2	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>

- End -