

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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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 2014 to 2016). Please provide details on the publicity work, the manpower arrangement and the expenditure required in promoting the service.

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

Reply:

In 2014, 2015 and 2016, 48%, 50% and 57% 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 2014, 2015 and 2016, 41%, 43% and 74% respectively of the applicants for liquor licence (including club liquor licence) or their authorized 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 2014, 2015 and 2016, 8% of the applicants (i.e. 557 out of 6 666), 12% (816 out of 7 018) and 13% (910 out of 7 247) 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 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.