

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)127**

**(Question Serial No. 1799)**

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:

Given that the indicator for “applications for restricted food permits” increased from 785 in 2015 to 1 190 in 2016, which was attributed to the introduction of restricted food permits for online selling of restricted foods on 22 February 2016, please provide information on the following:

1. the number of restricted food permits for online selling of restricted foods among the 1 190 permits;
2. the number of food permits for online selling of restricted foods with a breakdown by food type; and
3. the number of complaints received for online food sale and the types of food involved, as well as the number of prosecutions instituted and convictions recorded, in the past 3 years (i.e. from 2014 to 2016).

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

1. Since the launch of the permit regime for online sale of restricted foods on 22 February 2016 and up to 31 December 2016, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department received a total of 284 applications for those permits. 151 permits were issued.
2. In 2016, the number of permits for online sale of restricted foods, with breakdown by types of restricted food, is provided below –

<b>Types of restricted food</b>	<b>Number of permits issued</b>
Meat	35
Shellfish	31
Sushi and sashimi	23
Oyster to be eaten in raw state	16
Poultry	16

Fish	15
Frozen confection	9
Milk and milk beverage	3
Siu mei and lo mei	2
Games	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>

3. The number of complaints, prosecutions and convictions related to online sale of foods without licence/permit is provided in the following table –

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
No. of complaints received	8	34	41
No. of prosecutions	9 (9)*	24 (24)*	26 (14)*

\* The number in bracket denotes the number of convictions out of the prosecutions taken. 12 out of the 26 prosecutions in 2016 are pending hearing result.

There is no separate breakdown by type of foods involved in complaints related to online sale of foods without licence/permit.

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