

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)165****(Question Serial No. 2731)**

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 granted in each of the past 5 years. For those unsuccessful applications, please give reasons for the rejection.

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (Member Question No. 39)

Reply:

The number of liquor licence applications received and liquor licences issued in each of the past 5 years is provided in the table below –

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total number of liquor licence applications received (including new issue, renewal, transfer and amendment applications)	7 789	8 179	8 630	8 936	6 520
Total number of liquor licences granted (including newly issued and renewed licences)	6 781	6 807	7 488	7 743	6 331

The decrease in the number of cases in 2016 was due to the rolling out of the 2-year liquor licences since August 2015. There were 2 427 and 1 838 applications for 2-year licences in 2015 and 2016 respectively, and 1 827 and 1 949 such licences were issued in these two years respectively. It is noteworthy that applications for liquor licence received in one year may be carried forward with the processing completed in the subsequent year.

For the unsuccessful applications, the reasons of rejection are mainly (a) the applicant was not a fit and proper person to hold the licence; (b) the premises to which the application related were not suitable for selling or supplying intoxicating liquor, having regard to the location and structure of the premises, and the fire safety and hygienic conditions in the premises; and (c) the grant of licence would be contrary to public interest.