

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)147**

**(Question Serial No. 3523)**

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:

With regard to the regime of the Liquor Licensing Board, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the expenditure and manpower for handling the work of the Liquor Licensing Board in 2018-19;
- (b) the number of existing liquor licences in the territory, the locations of liquor-licensed premises and the types of buildings (residential, commercial or composite commercial/residential buildings) in which these premises are located;
- (c) the total number of liquor licence applications received in the past 3 years; among them, the number of applications granted and refused, the number of appeals lodged and the success rate of appeal; and
- (d) given that the Government has announced earlier its proposal concerning substantial increase in the fees for various liquor licensing services, the latest progress of the proposal, as well as the expected impact on the trade and revenue of the Government after its implementation.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 68)

Reply:

- (a) A total of 40 staff in the 3 licensing offices in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are responsible for handling liquor and club liquor licence applications as part of their licensing-related duties. There is no separate breakdown for the expenditure involved in handling liquor licence applications and appeals. In addition, 9 staff are deployed for providing secretariat support to the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB). The estimated expenditure involved in manning the LLB Secretariat in 2018-19 is \$6.4 million.

- (b) The number of liquor licences in the territory (broken down by district) as at end-2017 is provided in the table below. There is no separate breakdown on the type of buildings in which the licensed premises are located.

District	No. of Liquor Licences (as at end-2017)		Total
	Liquor Licences	Club Liquor Licences	
Central and Western	1 000	65	1 065
Eastern	363	11	374
Southern	125	27	152
Wanchai	1 138	104	1 242
Islands	264	16	280
Yau Tsim Mong	1 802	94	1 896
Sham Shui Po	308	8	316
Kowloon City	430	17	447
Wong Tai Sin	179	2	181
Kwun Tong	305	10	315
Tsuen Wan	266	11	277
Kwai Tsing	149	4	153
North	105	7	112
Tai Po	184	4	188
Sai Kung	215	8	223
Shatin	274	12	286
Tuen Mun	201	5	206
Yuen Long	348	14	362
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 656</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>8 075</b>

- (c) The information sought is provided as follows –

	2015	2016	2017
Total number of liquor licence applications received (with the number of applications for new licence in brackets)	8 936 (1 236)	6 520 <sup>1</sup> (1 032)	6 324 (1 181)
Total number of applications granted by LLB <sup>2</sup>	8 646	6 987	7 081
Total number of applications refused by LLB <sup>2</sup>	40	34	41
Total number of appeals lodged with Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB)	28	22	25
Success rate of appeals (i.e. appeals allowed by MSAB) <sup>3</sup>	63%	76%	86%

<sup>1</sup> The decrease in the number of cases since 2016 was due to the rolling out of the 2-year liquor licences since August 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Applications for liquor licences received in a year may be carried forward with the processing completed in the subsequent year.

<sup>3</sup> Only appeal cases with MSAB's decisions issued before the end of a calendar year are taken into account for calculating the success rate of appeals in that year.

- (d) The Government briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (the Panel) in July 2017 on its initial views on how the fees for liquor licences should be reviewed as the current fee levels have not been adjusted for about two decades.

The Government consulted the stakeholders in August 2017 at forums/liaison meetings with the trade, and attended a special meeting of the Panel with deputations in September 2017 to receive views from the public.

The Government is currently considering the views received and will report the latest position to the Panel when ready.

- End -