

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)164****(Question Serial No. 0445)**

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:

Regarding the indicator “applications for new restricted food permits”, the online sale of restricted food permit was introduced on 22 February 2016. In this respect, please provide information on the following:

- the respective number of applications for online sale of restricted food permits in 2016 and 2017;
- the respective number of online sale of restricted food permits in 2016 and 2017 by food type; and
- the number of complaints received for online sale of food, the types of food involved, the number of prosecutions instituted and the number of convictions recorded in the past 3 years (i.e. from 2015 to 2017).

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 39)

Reply:

The number of applications received, and the number of permits issued, by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department since the launch of the regulatory regime for online sale of restricted foods on 22 February 2016 are as below -

	<b>2016</b> <b>(from 22 February 2016)</b>	<b>2017</b>
Number of applications received	284	189
Number of permits issued	151	146

In 2016 and 2017, the number of permits for online sale of restricted foods, with breakdown by type of restricted food, is provided below –

<b>Type of Restricted food</b>	<b>Number of permits issued for online sale</b>	
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Meat	35	33
Shellfish	31	33
Sushi and sashimi	23	17
Oyster to be eaten in raw state	16	12
Poultry	16	20
Fish	15	15
Frozen confection	9	10
Milk and milk beverage	3	3
Siu mei and lo mei	2	0
Games	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>146</b>

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

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
No. of complaints received	34	41	89
No. of prosecutions	24	26	36
No. of convictions	24	25 <sup>1</sup>	26 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 prosecution instituted in 2016 was withdrawn due to insufficient evidence.

<sup>2</sup> The hearing results of 10 out of the 36 prosecutions in 2017 are pending.

There is no separate breakdown by type of foods involved in complaints related to online sale of foods.

- End -