

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)339****(Question Serial No. 3785)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please set out the following in tabular form:

- (1) the total number of liquor licence applications received in the past 5 years; among them, the number of refused applications and the reasons for refusal;
- (2) the number of liquor licence renewal applications processed by the Liquor Licensing Board in the past 5 years in private and public sessions respectively; among them, the number of applications with liquor licence issued and the number of refused applications; and
- (3) the number of applications received in the past 5 years from previous non-compliant restaurants or licensees who have sold liquor without a licence; among them, the number of liquor licences issued.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 83)Reply:

- (1) The number of liquor licences applications received and liquor licences applications refused in each of the past 5 years is provided in the table below –

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total number of liquor licence applications received (including new issue, renewal, transfer and amendment applications)	8 179	8 630	8 936	6 520	6 324
Total number of liquor licences applications refused (including new issue, renewal, transfer and amendment applications)	69	67	40	34	41

The decrease in the number of liquor licence applications since 2016 was due to the rolling out of the 2-year liquor licences since August 2015.

For the unsuccessful applications, the reasons of rejection are mainly that (a) the applicant was not a fit and proper person to hold the licence; (b) the premises to which the application relates 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.

(2) Statistics sought for renewal applications of liquor licence processed at closed door meeting and open hearing are given below –

	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Closed door meeting <sup>2</sup>	Open hearing <sup>3</sup>	Closed door meeting <sup>2</sup>	Open hearing <sup>3</sup>	Closed door meeting <sup>2</sup>	Open hearing <sup>3</sup>	Closed door meeting <sup>2</sup>	Open hearing <sup>3</sup>	Closed door meeting <sup>2</sup>	Open hearing <sup>3</sup>
Total number of renewal applications of liquor licence processed	621	246	804	221	969	175	872	97	1 010	84
Total number of liquor licences renewed <sup>1</sup>	621 (0)	226 (1)	800 (4)	208 (0)	969 (0)	166 (0)	871 (1)	90 (0)	1 010 (0)	73 (0)
Total number of applications refused	0	19	0	13	0	9	0	7	0	11

<sup>1</sup> Figure in brackets indicates the number of applications abandoned by the applicants.

<sup>2</sup> When the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) received adverse comment(s) in relation to the liquor licence application from members of the public or from the relevant Government departments, but there is no objection to the application, cases will be deliberated at closed door meeting.

<sup>3</sup> When LLB received objection(s) in relation to the liquor licence application from members of the public or from the relevant Government departments, the Board will conduct an open hearing to listen to representations from the applicant, the objector(s) and the relevant Government departments.

(3) The information sought is given below –

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total number of liquor licence applications received from restaurants or licensees with record of selling liquor without a licence	0 (0)	6 (6)	4 (3)	2 (1)	5 (5)

Note: Figure in brackets indicates the number of liquor licences issued.

- End -