

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)355****(Question Serial No. 6104)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (-) Not specifiedControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of applications for access to information under the Code on Access to Information received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in the past 3 years, as well as the details of the applications and expenditure involved, as per the table below:

Year	Date of application	Date of reply	Details of application	Application succeeded or not	Reason(s) for success/failure	No. of case handling officers	Expenditure involved

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 95)Reply:

For the years 2015 to 2017, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) concluded 1 425 requests for information made under the Code on Access to Information (the Code). The information requested is mainly related to the number and details of certain licensed businesses, nutrition labelling and legislation on food safety, management of public markets and outsourced waste collection services, tender documents for procurement of services, auction of stalls in Lunar New Year Fairs, etc. A summary of the requests is provided below –

Year	No. of requests					
	Received	Concluded*	Met in full	Met in part	Withdrawn or not under FEHD's purview	Refused
2015	414	350	293	5	52	0
2016	529	460	398	3	56	3
2017	698	615	555	4	53	3

* Requests received in a year may not be concluded in the same year.

The Department had provided the information as requested unless there were specific reasons for not doing so as set out in the Code, such as when disclosure of the information would harm or prejudice the administration of justice, the conduct of legal proceedings, the enforcement of public safety as well as the management of the public service; the information relates to incomplete analysis, research or statistics where disclosure could be misleading or deprive the department or any other person of priority of publication or commercial value; the information would inhibit the frankness and candour of discussion within the Government and advice given to the Government; the information was held for a third party under an explicit or implicit understanding that it would not be further disclosed; and the information would infringe the privacy of an individual.

All requests were dealt with according to the time frame stipulated in the Code. As required by the Code, information should be provided within 10 calendar days from date of receipt of the request by the department. If that is not possible, the time frame may be extended to 21 days and be further extended up to 51 days from date of receipt of the request.

The number of handling officers varied from case to case depending on the types and nature of information requested. The Department does not keep a separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

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