

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)110****(Question Serial No. 0030)**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 advise on the number of liquor licence applications received and appeals lodged, the average time taken for processing an application and listing an appeal for hearing, the success rate of appeals, as well as the number of liquor licences revoked (with a breakdown by reasons for revocation), in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively. After the implementation of the Reserve Licensee Mechanism in March 2017, what are the number of applications for nomination of a reserve licensee and the number of applications approved in 2017-18 and 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

	2016		2017		2018	
Total number of liquor licence applications received (with number of applications for new licences in brackets)	6 520 (1 032)		6 324 (1 181)		6 865 (1 131)	
Average time taken for processing an application for liquor licence	1-year licence	2-year licence ²	1-year licence	2-year licence ²	1-year licence	2-year licence ²
	43 days ¹	37 days	36 days ¹	34 days	34 days ¹	32 days
Number of appeals lodged with Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB)	22		25		11	
Average time taken for listing an appeal for hearing ³	74 days		83 days		82 days	

Success rate of appeals (i.e. appeals allowed by MSAB) ⁴	76%	86%	73%
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¹ The majority of the one-year liquor licences were contested cases and hence required a longer processing time.

² Introduced since August 2015.

³ This is counted from the date of MSAB receiving the appeal application to the date of the case being heard.

⁴ Only appeal cases with MSAB's decision issued before the end of a year are taken into account for calculating the success rate of appeals in that year.

The number of liquor licences revoked in 2016, 2017 and 2018 with breakdown by reasons is provided as follows -

Reasons for revocation of liquor licences	Number of liquor licences revoked		
	2016	2017	2018
Cessation of business	7	20	12
Breach of licensing condition	0	0	1
Contravention of legislation	0	1	4
Total	7	21	17

The number of applications for nomination of a reserve licensee and the number of applications approved in 2017-18 and 2018-19 are provided as follows -

Nomination of Reserve Licensee ⁵	2017-18	2018-19 ⁶
Number of applications received	2 411	1 375
Number of applications approved ⁷	1 490	1 534

⁵ Introduced since 28 March 2017.

⁶ As at 28 February 2019.

⁷ Applications approved include those lodged in the previous year.

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