

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)112****(Question Serial No. 0032)**

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:

Please set out in tabular form the number of applications by restaurant licensees for outside seating accommodation and the average time for processing an application in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively. Please also list the number of applications rejected (with a breakdown by reasons for rejection), appeals lodged and applications withdrawn in each of the above three years. Besides, please advise on the manpower and expenditure involved for each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2016, 2017 and 2018) and the estimated expenditure and manpower required for 2019.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Number of applications for outside seating accommodation	98	92	100
Average time taken for processing an application <sup>Note</sup>	15 months	15 months	14 months
Number of applications approved	18	31	31
Number of applications rejected	4	4	3
Number of applications withdrawn/abandoned	58	62	75
Number of appeals lodged	0	0	0

Note: The processing time for an application is contingent upon the time spent by the applicant in complying with the relevant licensing requirements; settling objections raised by the public or other departments concerned; and addressing relevant land issues, if any. It varies from case to case.

The applications rejected in 2016, 2017 and 2018 were due to objections raised by the departments concerned.

Under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, 114 staff in 3 licensing offices are responsible for handling applications for food business and other trade licences as well as applications for outside seating accommodation, etc. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved in the handling of applications for outside seating accommodation.

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