

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 0035)

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 advise on the usage rate of the on-line Licence Application Tracking Facility in respect of food business licences, as well as the usage rate of the on-line licence application service for liquor licences, food business licences and other relevant endorsements, in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2016 to 2018). Please provide details of the publicity work, manpower arrangement and expenditure required in promoting the service.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

In 2016, 2017 and 2018, 57%, 57% and 59% respectively of the applicants for food business licences or their authorised persons made use of the online Licence Application Tracking Facility to monitor the progress of their applications. In 2016, 2017 and 2018, 74%, 59% and 65% respectively of the applicants for liquor licences (including club liquor licences) or their authorised persons made use of the Liquor Licence Processing System.

Starting from 1 January 2013, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) accepts online submission of applications for food business licences and permits. In 2016, 2017 and 2018, 13% of the applicants (i.e. 910 out of 7 247), 13% (i.e. 1 011 out of 8 047) and 12% (i.e. 1 039 out of 8 762) made use of the service respectively. To encourage wider use of the online service, the Department has displayed promotional posters in the SME One Centre of the Hong Kong Productivity Council, the 19 district environmental hygiene offices and the 3 licensing offices; and conducted briefings for the trade at meetings organised by the Efficiency Office and the bi-monthly seminars on restaurant licensing. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved in the promotion work.

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