

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)117****(Question Serial No. 0037)**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:

How many applications for permits for online sale of restricted foods were received and what was the average time for processing an application in each of the years from 2016 to 2018? Please set out the number of applications rejected (with a breakdown by reasons for rejection), appeals lodged and applications withdrawn. Please also advise on the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)Reply:

Statistics related to the processing of applications for permits for online sale of restricted foods are as follows –

	<b>2016<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Number of applications received	284	189	323
Average time for processing an application	55 days	61 days	62 days
Number of permits issued <sup>2</sup>	151	146	203
Number of applications which required no further processing <sup>3</sup>	75	32	78
Number of applications rejected	0	0	0
Number of appeals lodged	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) started receiving applications on 22 February 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Applications received in a year may be carried forward with the processing completed in the subsequent year. As at 31 December 2018, of the cumulative number of 500 permits issued, 395 of them were valid and listed on the website of the Department.

- <sup>3</sup> Applications required no further processing due to withdrawal by the applicants or other factors, such as the businesses under application did not involve the sale of restricted foods, or the premises concerned were covered by relevant licences.

Staff of the Department who process applications for permits for online sale of restricted foods are also responsible for processing applications for other types of licences/permits. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved in processing applications for permits for online sale of restricted foods.

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