

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)136**

**(Question Serial No. 1144)**

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:

With regard to the regime of the Liquor Licensing Board, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the expenditure and manpower for handling the work of the Liquor Licensing Board in 2019-20;
- (b) the number of existing liquor licences in the territory, the locations of liquor-licensed premises and the types of buildings (residential, commercial or composite commercial/residential buildings) in which these premises are located;
- (c) the total number of liquor licence applications received in the past 3 years; among them, the number of applications granted and refused, the number of appeals lodged and the success rate of appeal.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

- (a) A total of 40 staff in the 3 licensing offices in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are responsible for handling liquor and club liquor licence applications as part of their licensing-related duties. There is no separate breakdown for the expenditure involved in handling liquor licence applications and appeals. In addition, 9 staff are deployed for providing secretariat support to the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB), involving an estimated expenditure of \$6.7 million.

- (b) The number of liquor licences in the territory (broken down by district) as at end-2018 is provided in the table below. There is no separate breakdown on the type of buildings in which the licensed premises are located.

District	No. of Liquor Licences (as at end-2018)		Total
	Liquor Licences	Club Liquor Licences	
Central and Western	1 065	67	1 132
Eastern	363	11	374
Southern	124	27	151
Wanchai	1 163	102	1 265
Islands	265	19	284
Yau Tsim Mong	1 904	89	1 993
Sham Shui Po	332	8	340
Kowloon City	436	17	453
Wong Tai Sin	180	3	183
Kwun Tong	323	9	332
Tsuen Wan	270	13	283
Kwai Tsing	163	4	167
North	105	7	112
Tai Po	185	5	190
Sai Kung	213	9	222
Shatin	304	12	316
Tuen Mun	206	6	212
Yuen Long	376	14	390
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 977</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>8 399</b>

- (c) The information sought is provided as follows –

	2016	2017	2018
Total number of liquor licence applications received (with the number of applications for new licence in brackets)	6 520 (1 032)	6 324 (1 181)	6 865 (1 131)
Total number of applications granted by LLB <sup>1</sup>	6 987	7 081	7 239
Total number of applications refused by LLB <sup>1</sup>	34	41	22
Total number of appeals lodged with Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB)	22	25	11
Success rate of appeals (i.e. appeals allowed by MSAB) <sup>2</sup>	76%	86%	73%

<sup>1</sup> Applications for liquor licences received in a year may be carried forward for processing in the subsequent year.

<sup>2</sup> Only appeal cases with MSAB's decisions issued before the end of a calendar year are taken into account for calculating the success rate of appeals in that year.