

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)230****(Question Serial No. 2686)**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 provide the following information as per the tables below and advise this Committee on the staff establishment and expenditure for handling the related applications:

- a) the number of applicants for the Places of Public Entertainment (PPE) Licence, the number of PPE licences issued, the number of applications rejected, and the average time span from submission of application to granting of consent to the relevant arrangements by all departments concerned in the past 3 years:

Number of applicants	Number of licences issued	Number of applications rejected	Average time span from submission of application to granting of consent to the relevant arrangements from all departments concerned

- b) the items and number of prosecutions against failure to apply for a PPE licence in the past 3 years and the fines and penalties imposed:

Item of prosecution	Number of prosecutions	Fines	Other penalties

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (LegCo internal reference no.: 104)Reply:

- a) The Places of Public Entertainment (PPE) Licences are under the Home Affairs Bureau's policy purview. The information sought in respect of PPE licences is provided as follows -

Year	Number of applications received	Number of applications not further processed (Note 1)	Number of licences issued (Note 2)	Number of applications rejected	Average processing time (working days) (Note 3)
2016	19	8	12	0	99
2017	63	32	12	0	113
2018	126	73	27	0	138

Note 1 : Applications required no further processing mainly due to withdrawal by the applicants.

Note 2 : Applications for licence received in a year may be carried forward for processing in the subsequent year.

Note 3 : It refers to the average time from receipt of an application to issue of a full licence. The processing time for an application is contingent upon the time spent by the applicant in complying with the relevant licensing requirements and settling objections raised by other departments concerned, if any. It varies from case to case.

Staff in the 3 licensing offices of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are responsible for handling applications for food business and other trade licences. They include Health Inspectorate Officers, Executive Officers, Clerical Officers, etc. There is no breakdown on the staff establishment and expenditure for handling the PPE licence applications.

b) The information sought is provided as follows -

Year	Item of prosecution	Number of prosecutions	Fines	Other penalties
2016	Unlicensed PPE	0	Not applicable	Not applicable
2017	Unlicensed PPE	1	\$42,000	Not applicable
2018	Unlicensed PPE	4	\$4,000 - \$21,000	Not applicable

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