

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)413

(Question Serial No. 6153)

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 the following in tabular form:

- (1) the total number of liquor licence applications received in the past 5 years; among them, the number of refused applications and the reasons for refusal;
- (2) the number of liquor licence renewal applications processed by the Liquor Licensing Board in the past 5 years in private and public sessions respectively; among them, the number of applications with liquor licence issued and the number of refused applications;
- (3) the number of applications received in the past 5 years from previous non-compliant restaurants or licensees that have sold liquor without a licence; among them, the number of liquor licences issued; and
- (4) the number of applications received in the past 5 years from restaurants or licensees that have connections with the members of the Liquor Licensing Board and warrant a declaration.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 76)

Reply:

- (1) The numbers of liquor licence applications received and refused in the past 5 years are provided as follows –

Calendar Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total number of liquor licence applications received (including new issue, renewal, transfer and amendment applications)	8 630	8 936	6 520	6 324	6 865
Total number of liquor licence applications refused (including new issue, renewal, transfer and amendment applications)	67	40	34	41	22

The decrease in the number of liquor licence applications after 2016 was due to the rolling out of the 2-year liquor licences since August 2015.

For the unsuccessful applications, the reasons of rejection are mainly that (a) the applicant is not a fit and proper person to hold the licence; (b) the premises to which the application relates are not suitable for selling or supplying intoxicating liquor, having regard to the location and structure of the premises, and the fire safety and hygienic conditions in the premises; and (c) the grant of licence would be contrary to public interest.

- (2) Statistics sought for renewal applications of liquor licence processed at closed door meetings and open hearings are provided as follows –

Calendar Year	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Closed door meeting ²	Open hearing ³	Closed door meeting ²	Open hearing ³	Closed door meeting ²	Open hearing ³	Closed door meeting ²	Open hearing ³	Closed door meeting ²	Open hearing ³
Total number of renewal applications of liquor licence processed	804	221	969	175	872	97	1 010	84	1 104	100
Total number of liquor licences renewed ¹	800 (4)	208 (0)	969 (0)	166 (0)	871 (1)	90 (0)	1 010 (0)	73 (0)	1 103 (1)	91 (0)
Total number of applications refused	0	13	0	9	0	7	0	11	0	9

¹ Figure in brackets indicates the number of applications abandoned by the applicants.

² When the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) receives adverse comment(s) in relation to a liquor licence application from members of the public or from the relevant Government departments, but there is no objection to the application, such cases will be deliberated at a closed door meeting.

³ When LLB receives objection(s) in relation to a liquor licence application from members of the public or from the relevant Government departments, it will

conduct an open hearing to listen to representations from the applicant, the objector(s) and the relevant Government departments.

(3) The information is provided as follows –

Calendar Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total number of liquor licence applications received from restaurants or licensees with records of selling liquor without a licence	6 (6)	4 (3)	2 (1)	5 (5)	4 (3)

Note: Figure in brackets indicates the number of liquor licences issued.

(4) The information is provided as follows –

Calendar Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total number of declarations of interest made by LLB members at the meeting	29	17	9	6	8

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