

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)082****(Question Serial No. 0207)**

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 number of processed applications for restaurant licences, provisional restaurant licences and transfer of restaurant licences, the average time for processing an application, as well as the number of applications withdrawn in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively. Please also advise on the expenditure and manpower involved in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2017, 2018 and 2019) and the estimated expenditure and manpower required for 2020.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows :

		2017	2018	2019
(a)	No. of full restaurant licences issued	1 448	1 651	1 482
	No. of applications withdrawn	165	184	141
	Average processing time for issuing a full restaurant licence (working days)	171	170	170
(b)	No. of provisional restaurant licences issued	1 695	1 551	1 581
	No. of applications withdrawn	161	180	135
	Average processing time for issuing a provisional restaurant licence (working days)	50	50	48
(c)	No. of applications for transfer of restaurant licences	1 198	1 142	1 021
	No. of applications withdrawn	5	1	0
	Average time for processing an application for transfer of restaurant licence (working days)	39	44	46

In 2017 and 2018, 114 staff in 3 licensing offices of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department were responsible for handling applications for food business and other trade licences. The manpower increased to 123 staff in 2019. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved in processing applications for full restaurant licences, provisional restaurant licences and transfer of restaurant licences.

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