

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)083****(Question Serial No. 0214)**

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 liquor licence applications received and appeals lodged, the average time taken for processing an application and listing an appeal for hearing, the success rate of appeal, as well as the number of liquor licences revoked (with a breakdown by reasons for revocation), in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively. After the implementation of the Reserve Licensee Mechanism in March 2017, what are the number of applications for nomination of a reserve licensee and the number of applications approved in 2017-18 and 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

	2017		2018		2019	
Total number of liquor licence applications received (with number of applications for new licences in brackets)	6 324 (1 181)		6 865 (1 131)		7 565 (1 066)	
Average time for processing an application for liquor licence	1-year licence	2-year licence	1-year licence	2-year licence	1-year licence	2-year licence
	36 days ¹	34 days	34 days ¹	32 days	42 days ¹	41 days
Number of appeals lodged with Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB)	25		11		15	
Average time for listing an appeal for hearing ²	83 days		82 days		76 days	

	2017	2018	2019
Success rate of appeal (i.e. appeals allowed by MSAB) ³	86%	73%	57%

¹ The majority of applications for 1-year liquor licence were contested cases and the processing time was therefore longer.

² This is counted from the date of MSAB receiving the appeal application to the date of the case being heard.

³ Only cases with MSAB's decision issued before the end of a year are taken into account for calculating the success rate of appeal in that year.

The numbers of liquor licences revoked in 2017, 2018 and 2019 with a breakdown by reason are provided as follows:

Reasons for revocation of liquor licences	Number of liquor licences revoked		
	2017	2018	2019
Cessation of business	20	12	14
Breach of licensing condition	0	1	2
Contravention of legislation	1	4	1
Total	21	17	17

The numbers of applications for nomination of a reserve licensee and the numbers of applications approved in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 are provided as follows:

Nomination of reserve licensee	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20⁴
Number of applications received	2 411	1 482	1 276
Number of applications approved ⁵	1 490	1 635	1 058

⁴ As at 29 February 2020.

⁵ Applications approved include those lodged in the previous year.

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