

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)089****(Question Serial No. 0236)**

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 usage rate of the on-line Licence Application Tracking Facility in respect of food business licences, as well as the usage rate of the on-line licence application service for liquor licences, food business licences and other relevant endorsements, in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2017 to 2019). Please provide details of the publicity work, manpower arrangement and expenditure required in promoting the service.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

In 2017, 2018 and 2019, 57%, 59% and 60% of the applicants for food business licences or their authorised persons made use of the online Licence Application Tracking Facility respectively. In 2017, 2018 and 2019, 59%, 65% and 55% of the applicants for liquor licences (including club liquor licences) or their authorised persons used the Liquor Licence Processing System respectively.

Starting from 1 January 2013, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department accepts online submission of applications for food business licences and permits. The usage rate of the service in the past 3 years is listed below:

	2017	2018	2019
Number of applications for food business licences and permits	8 047	8 762	7 456
Number of online applications	1 011	1 039	1 111
Percentage of applications submitted online	13%	12%	15%

To encourage wider use of the online service, the Department displays promotional posters in SME One of the Hong Kong Productivity Council, the 19 district environmental hygiene offices and the 3 licensing offices, and conducts briefings for the trade during meetings

organised by the Efficiency Office and bi-monthly seminars on restaurant licensing. The Department does not have a separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure for the promotion work.

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