

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)139**

**(Question Serial No. 1788)**

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 inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many factory canteens were there in the past 5 years?
2. How many prosecutions were instituted in the past 5 years against breaches of the new condition of the Factory Canteen Licence which requires (i) a licensee to display a notice reading "FACTORY EMPLOYEES OF THIS BUILDING ONLY" outside each entrance of the factory canteen, as implemented by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department since February 2018?
3. Will the Government amend the legislation to allow factory canteens to provide catering services to persons not employed in the factory building concerned? If yes, the details; if no, the reason(s).
4. Please provide the figures of conversion of factory canteens into general restaurants in the past 5 years (in tabular form):

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of applications received					
Number of applications approved					
Number of applications rejected					

5. What are the main reasons for the rejection of applications for converting factory canteens into general restaurants?

6. Please provide in tabular form the distribution of factory canteens in the 18 districts of Hong Kong as at February 2020.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

1. The number of licensed factory canteens in the past 5 calendar years is as follows:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of licensed factory canteens	473	477	489	492	486

2. In the past 5 calendar years, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department instituted 124 prosecutions against licensed factory canteens as the licence holders failed to comply with the licensing requirement on display of a notice reading "FACTORY EMPLOYEES OF THIS BUILDING ONLY" outside each entrance of the factory canteen and at conspicuous places of the seating accommodation and did not take corresponding measures to ensure that a factory canteen can only serve employees in the factory building where the canteen is situated.
3. to 5. Under the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X), a Factory Canteen Licence must be obtained from the Department for operation of food business in a factory building which involves the sale or supply of meals or drinks for consumption on the premises by persons employed in the factory building concerned. The Factory Canteen Licence was introduced to facilitate factory workers to take meals in the factory building. From the perspective of food safety as well as hygiene and fire safety of food premises, the Department is not inclined to issue General Restaurant Licences to canteens operating in factory buildings.
6. The distribution of licensed factory canteens in the 18 districts of Hong Kong as at 29 February 2020 is as follows:

District	No. of factory canteens	District	No. of factory canteens
Central and Western	0	Kwun Tong	148
Wan Chai	0	Kwai Tsing	85
Eastern	17	Tsuen Wan	28
Southern	12	Tuen Mun	37
Islands	6	Yuen Long	10
Yau Tsim Mong	0	North	9
Sham Shui Po	49	Tai Po	6
Kowloon City	3	Sha Tin	46
Wong Tai Sin	27	Sai Kung	5

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