

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)308****(Question Serial No. 4564)**

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.: 145)

Reply:

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

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total number of liquor licence applications received (including new issue, renewal, transfer and amendment applications)	8 936	6 520	6 324	6 865	7 565
Total number of liquor licence applications refused (including new issue, renewal, transfer and amendment applications)	40	34	41	22	26

For the unsuccessful applications, the main reasons for refusal are: (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 at the premises; and (c) the grant of licence would be contrary to public interest.

- (2) The numbers of liquor licence renewal applications processed at closed door meetings and open hearings are as follows:

Year	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	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 liquor licence renewal applications processed	969	175	872	97	1 010	84	1 104	100	928	127
Total number of liquor licences renewed ¹	969 (0)	166 (0)	871 (1)	90 (0)	1 010 (0)	73 (0)	1 103 (1)	91 (0)	928 (0)	122 (1)
Total number of applications refused	0	9	0	7	0	11	0	9	0	4

¹ Figures in brackets indicate the numbers of applications abandoned by the applicants.

² When the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) receives adverse comment(s) but not objection(s) in relation to a liquor licence application from members of the public or the Government departments, the case will be deliberated at a closed door meeting. Moreover, at the LLB meeting on 24 September 2019, it was passed that “closed door meeting” be renamed “house meeting”.

³ When LLB receives objection(s) in relation to a liquor licence application from members of the public or the Government departments, it will conduct an open hearing to listen to representations from the applicant, objector(s) and the relevant Government departments.

- (3) The information sought is provided as follows:

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total number of liquor licence applications received from restaurants or licensees with records of selling liquor without a licence	4 (3)	2 (1)	5 (5)	4 (3)	1 (1)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the numbers of liquor licences issued.

- (4) The information sought is provided as follows:

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total number of declarations of interest	17	9	6	8	3

made by LLB members at the meeting					
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