

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)105****(Question Serial No. 1075)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Diane WONG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

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 2018 to 2020)? 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.: 30)Reply:

In 2018, 2019 and 2020, 59%, 60% and 68% of the applicants for food business licences or their authorised persons made use of the online Licence Application Tracking Facility respectively. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, 65%, 55% and 60% of the applicants for liquor licences (including club liquor licences) or their authorised persons used the Liquor Licence Processing System respectively.

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

	2018	2019	2020
Number of applications for food business licences and permits	8 762	7 456	7 067
Number of online applications	1 039	1 111	1 253
Percentage of applications submitted online	12%	15%	18%

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, though the seminars have been suspended in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, for effective

prevention of COVID 19 transmission. The Department does not have a separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure for the promotion work.

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