

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)180

(Question Serial No. 2081)

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 Diane WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under the indicator “applications for new restricted food permits”, the number of applications increased from 1 328 in 2019 to 2 182 in 2020. In this regard, please advise this Committee of:

- the number of permits for online sale of restricted foods among the 2 182 permits applied for;
- the number of permits for online sale of restricted foods with a breakdown by food type; and
- the number of online food sale complaints received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, as well as the food types concerned, the number of prosecutions instituted and the number of convicted cases in each of the past 3 years (from 2018 to 2020).

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (LegCo internal reference no.: 75)

Reply:

In 2020, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department received 2 182 applications for restricted food permits, 997 of which were for permits for online sale of restricted food. A breakdown by food type is set out below:

Type of restricted food	Number of applications
Meat	315
Sushi and/or sashimi	83
Oysters to be eaten in raw state	78
Shellfish	169
Fish	128
Poultry	87
Hairy crab	49
Frozen confections	76
Others	12
Total	997

The number of complaints received by the Department, the number of prosecutions instituted and the number of convicted cases pertaining to online food sale in each of the past 3 years are as follows:

	2018	2019	2020
Number of complaints received	144	235	459
Number of prosecutions	68	38	39
Number of convictions	68	37 ¹	21 ²

¹ The hearing result of 1 prosecution instituted in 2019 is pending.

² The hearing results of 18 prosecutions instituted in 2020 are pending.

The Department does not have a breakdown on the number of online food sale complaints by food type.

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