

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)018****(Question Serial No. 0355)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Ms Irene YOUNG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of processed applications for restaurant licences, provisional restaurant licences and transfer of restaurant licences, and the average time for processing an application in 2019, 2020 and 2021. In the past 3 years, have statistics been compiled on the number of restaurants closed for business? What were the ratios of closed restaurants to newly opened ones? Is the situation expected to worsen this year and end in "waves of business closures"?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows :

		2019	2020	2021
(a)	Number of full restaurant licences issued	1 482	1 577	1 349
	Average processing time for issuing a full restaurant licence (working days)	170	167	172
(b)	Number of provisional restaurant licences issued	1 581	1 206	1 746
	Average processing time for issuing a provisional restaurant licence (working days)	48	54	59
(c)	Number of applications for transfer of restaurant licences	1 021	729	1 469
	Average time for processing an application for transfer of a restaurant licence (working days)	46	39	43

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not keep statistics on the number of restaurants closed for business.

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