

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)094****(Question Serial No. 0829)**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 Environment and EcologyQuestion:

Please advise on the number of processed applications for restaurant licences, provisional restaurant licences and transfer of restaurant licences, the average time for processing an application, as well as the number of applications withdrawn in 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively. Please also provide the expenditure and manpower involved in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2020, 2021 and 2022) and the estimated expenditure and manpower required for 2023.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

		2020	2021	2022
(a)	Number of full restaurant licences issued	1 577	1 349	1 715
	Number of applications withdrawn	130	124	111
	Average processing time for issuing a full restaurant licence (working days) ^{Note}	167	172	173
(b)	Number of provisional restaurant licences issued	1 206	1 745	1 340
	Number of applications withdrawn	129	121	111
	Average processing time for issuing a provisional restaurant licence (working days) ^{Note}	54	59	61
(c)	Number of applications for transfer of restaurant licences	729	1 469	1 097
	Number of applications withdrawn	4	6	1
	Average time for processing an application for transfer of restaurant licence (working days)	39	43	39

Note: The processing time for a licence application is mainly contingent upon the progress of the applicant's compliance with the relevant licensing requirements, and whether there are any amendments concerning the application (such as layout plans) during the application process.

In 2020, 2021 and 2022, there were respectively 126, 126 and 133 staff members responsible for handling applications for food business and other trade licences in the 3 licensing offices of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. The Department does not maintain a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved in processing applications for full restaurant licences, provisional restaurant licences and transfer of restaurant licences.

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