

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)070****(Question Serial No. 0778)**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 set out in tabular form the number of applications from restaurant licensees for outside seating accommodation, the number of licences issued and the average time for processing an application in 2021, 2022 and 2023 respectively. Please also list the numbers of applications rejected (with a breakdown by reason for rejection), appeals lodged and applications withdrawn in each of the above 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

	2021	2022	2023
Number of applications for outside seating accommodation	78	73	98
Number of applications approved ^{Note 1}	29	37	32
Median time taken for processing an application ^{Note 2}	22 months	19 months	23 months
Number of applications rejected ^{Note 1}	1	1	0
Number of appeals lodged	0	0	0
Number of applications withdrawn/abandoned ^{Note 1}	52	44	52

Note 1: The number includes applications received in the respective year and the years before.

Note 2: The processing time for an application is contingent upon the time spent by the applicant in complying with the relevant licensing requirements, settling objections raised by the public or other departments concerned and addressing relevant land issues, if any. It varies from case to case.

The applications rejected in 2021 and 2022 were due to objections raised by the departments concerned.

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