

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)075

(Question Serial No. 0785)

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 (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

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transfer of restaurant licences, the average time for processing an application, as well as the number of applications withdrawn in 2021, 2022 and 2023 respectively. Please also provide the expenditure and manpower involved in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2021, 2022 and 2023) and the estimated expenditure and manpower required for 2024.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

		2021	2022	2023
(a)	Number of approved applications for full restaurant licences ^{Note 1}	1 291	1 638	1 260
	Number of applications withdrawn	124	111	119
	Median processing time for approving an application for a full restaurant licence (working days) ^{Note 2}	194	200	193
(b)	Number of approved applications for provisional restaurant licences ^{Note 1}	1 747	1 344	1 242
	Number of applications withdrawn	121	111	114
	Median processing time for approving an application for a provisional restaurant licence (working days) ^{Note 2}	60	61	59

		2021	2022	2023
(c)	Number of applications for transfer of restaurant licences	1 469	1 097	1 231
	Number of applications withdrawn	6	1	2
	Median time for processing an application for transfer of a restaurant licence (working days) ^{Note 2}	36	36	40

Note 1: The number includes applications received in the respective year and the years before. The issue of a licence, which is subject to, among others, the payment of the licence fee by the applicant, may not take place in the same year as the approval of the application.

Note 2: The number includes applications received in the respective year and the years before. The processing time for an application is contingent upon the applicant's compliance with the relevant licensing requirements, and whether there is any amendment concerning the application (such as layout plans) during the application process. It varies from case to case.

In 2021, 2022 and 2023, there were respectively 126, 133 and 134 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.

- End -