

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 3746)

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 this Committee of:

1. the number of liquor licence and club liquor licence applications handled by the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) and the average processing time in each of the past 5 years;
2. the staff establishment for vetting liquor licence applications, the number of complaints, the administrative expenditure and the information on the electronic system of the LLB in the past 5 years; and
3. the amount of licence fee collected from operators of liquor-licensed establishments and the fee adjustments in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 492)

Reply:

1. The information sought is provided as follows:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total number of liquor licence (including club liquor licence) applications received (including new issue, renewal, transfer and amendment applications)	7 565	6 783	7 888	8 477	8 949
Average approval time for liquor licences (working days)	42 (44) ¹	41 (44) ¹	41 (41) ¹	40 (42) ¹	40 (42) ¹

¹ Figures in brackets are the average approval time for club liquor licences.

2. The information sought is provided as follows:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of complaints relating to the vetting of liquor licences (including club liquor licences) received	9	2	8	5	13
Percentage of applicants for liquor licences (including club liquor licences) or their authorised persons using the Liquor Licence Processing System ²	29%	34%	41%	39%	39%

² Only cases where any function of the system was used after logging in are taken into account.

In the past 5 years, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department had 9 staff working at the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) Secretariat and 40 in the 3 Liquor Licensing Offices of the Department. They were responsible for assisting LLB in handling liquor licence and club liquor licence applications. Some of them also carried out administrative and clerical work of other licences. The expenditure of LLB Secretariat and the 3 Liquor Licensing Offices each year is as follows:

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (revised estimate)
Expenditure (\$ million)	17.0	18.7	19.5	17.0	19.3

3. The information sought is provided as follows³:

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (as at 29 February 2024)
Total income from liquor licence and liquor licence-related fees (\$'000)	10,199.7	3,689.3	4,330.6	4,518.1	11,215.6

³ From 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2023, the Government waived the fees for first issue or renewal of a liquor licence. There was no adjustment in liquor licence fees and related fees in the past 5 years.

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