

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****EEB(F)082****(Question Serial No. 0167)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Donald NG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

In 2022, 2023 and 2024, regarding liquor licence and club liquor licence, please advise this Committee of:

- (1) the number of applications received and the average time taken for completing the issuance of a licence;
- (2) the number of licence renewal applications received and the average time taken for completing a licence renewal;
- (3) the number of liquor licence applications to which the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) received objection from the public or the Police, and the average time taken for conducting an open hearing;
- (4) the number of appeals lodged with the Municipal Services Appeals Board, the average time for listing an appeal for hearing and the success rate of appeal; and
- (5) the number of liquor licences revoked, with a breakdown by reason for revocation.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

- (1) The information sought is provided as follows:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Total number of liquor licence (including club liquor licence) applications received (including new issue, renewal, transfer and amendment applications)</b>	8 477 (including 226 club liquor licences)	8 949 (including 277 club liquor licences)	8 112 (including 251 club liquor licences)
<b>Average time taken for completing the issuance of a licence (working days)</b>	40 (42) <sup>1</sup>	40 (42) <sup>1</sup>	40 (41) <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Figures in brackets are the average approval time for a club liquor licence.

- (2) The information sought is provided as follows:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Total number of liquor licence (including club liquor licence) renewal applications received</b>	6 143 (including 176 club liquor licences)	6 710 (including 222 club liquor licences)	6 110 (including 191 club liquor licences)
<b>Average time taken for completing a licence renewal (working days)</b>	41 (42) <sup>2</sup>	37 (38) <sup>2</sup>	39 (38) <sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Figures in brackets are the average approval time for a club liquor licence.

- (3) The information sought is provided as follows:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Number of liquor licence applications (including new issue, renewal, transfer and amendment applications) objected by the public or the Police</b>	40	31	13
<b>Average time taken for conducting an open hearing (working days)<sup>3</sup></b>	71	58	67

<sup>3</sup> This is counted from the date of public consultation for the application. The time taken for each case varies depending on when the objection is received.

- (4) The information sought is provided as follows:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Number of appeals lodged with the Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB)</b>	6	4	3
<b>Average time for listing an appeal for hearing (days)<sup>4</sup></b>	69	78	74
<b>Success rate of appeal (i.e. appeals allowed by the MSAB)<sup>5</sup></b>	25%	33.3%	33.3%

<sup>4</sup> This is counted from the date on which the MSAB received the appeal application to the date of the first scheduled hearing. The scheduling of dates for hearing may be affected by factors such as the schedules of the parties to the appeal and/or their legal representatives, as well as their request for extension of time limit to submit the relevant documents.

<sup>5</sup> Only cases with the MSAB's decision issued before the end of a year are taken into account for calculating the success rate of appeal in that year.

- (5) The number of liquor licences revoked, with a breakdown by reason for revocation, in each of the past 3 years is provided as follows:

<b>Reasons for revocation of liquor licences</b>	<b>Number of liquor licences revoked</b>		
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Cessation of business	10	26	21
Contravention of legislation <sup>6</sup>	0	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>

<sup>6</sup> Involves dangerous drug trade.

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