

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)096****(Question Serial No. 2309)**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:

Generally speaking, applicants for sites for organising bazaars are required to apply for Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licence and Temporary Food Factory Licence. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the current staff establishment for processing applications for the above 2 types of licences and the expenditure involved?
- (b) How many applications for Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licences and Temporary Food Factory Licences were received and approved in each of the past 3 years? What are the common reasons for rejection for unsuccessful applications?
- (c) Does the Government have plans to introduce new types of licences or adjust the application requirements for existing licences to meet the need of bazaar development?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)Reply:

- (a) There are 19 District Environmental Hygiene Offices and 3 licensing offices under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. These offices specialise in different areas of work, of which the processing of applications for Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licences is undertaken by the District Environmental Hygiene Offices, while applications for Temporary Food Factory Licences are processed by the licensing offices.

The staff establishment of these offices is provided below:

	2022	2023	2024
19 District Environmental Hygiene Offices	377	377	377
3 licensing offices	133	134	133

The Department does not keep any breakdowns of the staff establishment and expenditure for processing applications for Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licences and Temporary Food Factory Licences.

(b) The information sought is provided as follows:

		2022	2023	2024
(a)	Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licence			
	Number of applications	2 259	2 949	3 425
	Number of applications approved	1 858	2 651	3 225
	Number of applications rejected	1 ^{Note 1}	0	0
(b)	Temporary Food Factory Licence			
	Number of applications	519	1 952	2 901
	Number of applications approved	398	1 763	2 620
	Number of applications rejected	0	0	0

Note 1: The application was rejected due to tightened social distancing measures amid the epidemic.

(c) The Department processes applications for the relevant licences in accordance with the Places of Public Entertainment Ordinance (Cap. 172) and the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X). The current mechanism has worked well. In fact, as stated in part (b) above, out of the several thousand licence applications received over the past 3 years, only one was rejected due to the requirements amid the epidemic. In addition, the Environment and Ecology Bureau coordinated and launched an updated version of the “Resource Handbook for Bazaar Application” in 2024 to enable organisations/persons interested in organising bazaars to have a grasp of the relevant information and the application processes involved.

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