

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)119

(Question Serial No. 3182)

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 (Donald NG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is responsible for licensing food premises. It is mentioned in Programme (2) that 99% of Application Vetting Panel (AVP) meetings for restaurant licence applicants were scheduled within 20 working days from passing of initial screening. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the numbers of restaurant licence applications received in the past 3 years and the percentages of those passing the initial screening;
2. the percentages of applications approved for licensing at the AVP meeting in the past 3 years after passing the initial screening; and
3. the number of applications rejected at the AVP meeting and the reason(s) for rejection.

Asked by: Hon MAN Wing-ye, Ginny (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. The information sought is provided as follows:

	2023	2024	2025
Number of restaurant licence applications	1 437	1 378	1 497
Percentage of restaurant licence applications passing the initial screening	99%	98%	97%

2. The information sought is provided as follows:

	2023	2024	2025
Percentage of restaurant licence applications approved for the issuance of a letter of requirements at the Application Vetting Panel (AVP) meeting Note	98%	99%	99%

Note: Once the application passes the initial screening, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will refer it to the relevant departments and schedule an AVP meeting. After obtaining full clearance from the departments concerned, FEHD will issue a letter of requirements to the applicant before or at the AVP meeting. Upon compliance with all licensing requirements specified in the letter by the applicant and verification by FEHD, a provisional or full licence will be issued.

3. From 2023 to 2025, there were a total of 31 applications for which a letter of requirements was not issued. The main reasons included applications involving premises that had been ordered to close by the court, and/or failing to comply with one or more of the following requirements: (i) the requirements on structural safety of the building set out by the Buildings Department, the Independent Checking Unit under the Office of the Permanent Secretary for Housing or the Architectural Services Department; (ii) the requirements imposed by the Lands Department under Government lease conditions; (iii) the fire safety requirements of the Fire Services Department; and (iv) the Planning Department's requirements on statutory plans and land use.

- End -