

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)064

Question Serial No.

2663

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In 2008, the Administration achieved 98% of its targets in advising on licence applications of restaurants and places of public entertainment within 12 working days. What were the reasons for failing to fulfil the time pledge, and what was the number of cases involved? On average, how many working days were then required to complete the cases? What was the longest processing time involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The role of the Buildings Department (BD) in licence/registration applications is to advise the respective licensing authorities on the suitability of the premises for the intended uses from the perspective of building safety. Concerning the target for “advising on restaurants and places of public entertainment licence applications under the Application Vetting Panel system within 12 working days”, the planned performance target for 2008 was set at 98% and was achieved.

The BD set the target at 98% in light of past experience in processing applications. In 2008, the 2% of cases not achieving the performance target were due to difficulties experienced in 23 cases out of a total of 1 250 cases handled by the BD. The average processing time for these cases was 13.7 working days with 16 working days being the longest time. In some of these cases, BD staff were unable to gain access to the concerned premises for inspections. For some more complex cases, further research into building records was required. Nevertheless, for all the cases, the slightly longer time taken had not caused delay in considering the applications by the Application Vetting Panel. The BD will strive to process licence/registration applications within the target time.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

AU Choi-kai

Director of Buildings

18 March 2009