

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HPLB(PL)030

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

1019

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Does the Administration have a target time for providing advice on the suitability of premises for the issue of licences for specified commercial uses? What is the actual time required for processing an application? Has the Administration improved or expedited such process during the past two years?

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply :

Buildings Department's (BD) current performance pledge for providing advice to the licensing authorities on new applications for both restaurants and places of public entertainment is 14 working days. In 2003, we processed 1145 applications with 1071 (94%) meeting the pledge, compared with 1046 applications with 995 (95%) meeting the pledge in 2002. The average processing time in 2003 and 2002 for a new application is 12.8 and 12.1 working days respectively.

We do not have performance pledges for other types of licence applications. The average processing time for licence applications other than those for restaurants and places of public entertainment is 21.6 and 21.3 working days in 2003 and 2002 respectively. We are considering measures to improve the relevant services, including the feasibility of self-certification of the BD's requirements by building professionals in the private sector.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

26.3.2004