

Question on Notice
No. 1439
Asked on 7 October 2009

MR STEVENS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND FAIR TRADING (MR LAWLOR)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the current average approval period for applications dealt with by liquor licensing?

ANSWER:

The Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation (OLGR) deals with a wide variety of liquor licensing applications ranging from the transfer of licences; changes in licensed areas, trading hours or licence conditions; granting of community liquor permits; through to the consideration and approval of new liquor licence applications.

A diverse range of factors influence how long a particular application takes to process. The most critical determinant of how long an application takes to be processed is the complexity of the proposal and its potential community impact. Some other factors which contribute to the time taken is the completeness of information received from the applicant, and response times by other stakeholders including police, local council and members of the public.

Given the wide cross-section of applications received and considered by OLGR it is not meaningful to provide an 'average approval period' across all types of applications processed.

However, OLGR has adopted targets to assist applicants in gauging the approximate time a 'standard' application for a new liquor licence will take, which is at least 3-4 months. OLGR is, on average, meeting the 3-4 month target for new licence applications where there are no objections received. If objections are received the process generally takes longer.

Lodging an application is no guarantee the licence will be granted and in these days where alcohol-related issues are prominent it is critically important for all applications to be thoroughly assessed.