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**MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY:**

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**Mr P van Dalen (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism**

What is the total number of (a) hotel establishment **rooms,** (b) large hotel chain rooms and (c) non-hotel establishment rooms in the country (i) in the (aa) 2014-15, (bb) 2015-16 and (cc) 2016-17 financial years and (ii) since 1 April 2017? NW1753E

**Reply:**

1. The total number of rooms in the country:

There is currently no database that reflects the universal number of rooms in the country. The Tourism Grading Council of South Africa (TGCSA) only collects information on graded establishments and graded rooms.

|  | (aa) 2014-2015 | (bb) 2015-2016 | (cc) 2016-2017 | 1. 1 April 2017
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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Hotel establishment rooms

(graded hotel establishment rooms) | 58,186 | 55,263 | 58,684 | 59,092 |
| 1. \*Large hotel chain rooms
 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 1. \*\*Non-hotel establishment rooms

(graded non-hotel establishment rooms) | 57,491 | 59,018 | 60,185 | 59,709 |

\* The TGCSA does not track the number of graded hotel rooms according to the size of the hotel or by hotel chain.

\*\* Non-hotel establishment rooms in the following categories:

* Backpacker and hostelling
* Bed and Breakfast
* Caravan and Camping
* Country House
* Game Lodge
* Guest House
* Nature Reserve
* Lodge
* Self-Catering
* Meetings, Exhibitions and Special Events

The department recognises the need for a comprehensive database that is not solely dependent on the grading status or updates from establishments in order to support planning, growth and development of the tourism sector. In this regard, the Department, working with Provinces; Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs; Municipalities; Industry and other related agencies is embarking on a process to build a comprehensive tourism database for the country through a “census” of establishments during the current financial year.