

**Business Facilitation Advisory Committee
Task Force on Business Liaison Groups**

Relocation of Mahjong / Tin Kau Parlours

Background and Trade's Concern

At a meeting of the Business Liaison Group for Karaoke Establishments, Nightclubs, Bars and other Entertainment Clubs, the Mahjong / Tin Kau (MJ/TK) trade enquired the normal lead time of processing a relocation application before a preliminary result was received. The trade was concerned that if there was local objection to the proposed location, there might not be enough time for the licensee to identify another location and revise the application. As a result, the business had to be closed after expiry of the existing lease agreement.

Government's Response

2. In response, the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) of the Home Affairs Department clarified that upon receipt of an application for relocation of MJ/TK parlour, OLA would first conduct a preliminary review on the documents submitted by the applicant. OLA would also seek the comments from relevant departments such as the Hong Kong Police Force, Buildings Department, Lands Department, Planning Department on the application and conduct a local consultation through the district office concerned. After collecting the comments from these departments and views of the locals, OLA would examine the application in details and make further clarifications with relevant authorities and/or the applicant when necessary. Having considered all relevant factors, OLA will issue "the letter of further consideration" or "the letter of intend to refuse" within 27 weeks from the date of receipt of an application.

3. To avoid any unnecessary delays, the applicant is advised to work closely with OLA during the application process. The applicant is also welcomed to check the progress with the subject licensing officer.

Way Forward

4. Members are invited to note the above clarification/advice and offer comments, if any.

Office of the Licensing Authority
Home Affairs Department
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