

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

*One statement taking by Police for both
Places of Public Entertainment Licence and
Amusements with Prizes Licence applications*

Background

Family Amusement Centers (FACs) are places installed with prize-giving game machines for family amusement. According to the guidance notes on application for the grant of Amusements with Prizes Licence (AWPL), any person who wants to organize or conduct a game of amusement with prizes has to apply for a AWPL from the Home Affairs Department (HAD). Moreover, the premises at which the games of amusements with prizes are conducted must be covered by a valid Places of Public Entertainment Licence (PPEL) granted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD).

2. According to the current trade practice, some FAC operators submit their PPEL applications to FEHD and AWPL applications to HAD concurrently while some operators submit AWPL applications after submission of PPEL applications. Upon receipt of the applications, both FEHD and HAD would refer them to the Police for comments.

Trade's Concern

3. At a recent Business Liaison Group meeting for FACs, the trade remarked that in processing the PPEL and AWPL applications, the frontline officers from the relevant Police formations would invite the applicants to take separate statements for the two applications. As the two statements were very similar in content, the trade enquired if the Police would consider combining the two statements into one.

Government's Response

4. In response to the trade's enquiry, the Police explained that if FEHD and HAD referred the PPEL and AWPL applications to the Police at different times, the Police might need to take separate statements to ensure the information provided for processing the applications was correct and up-to-date. The Police also advised the trade that when the frontline officer of the relevant formation contacted them for statement-taking for the PPEL application, they could alert and provide material information regarding the pending AWPL application so that the Police would consider arranging one statement-taking for both applications if deemed appropriate.

Way Forward

5. Members are invited to note the above and offer comments, if any.

Hong Kong Police Force
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