

**Thirty-fourth Meeting of
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 3(c): Report on the work of the
Task Force on Business Liaison Groups***

Purpose

This paper reports on the work of the Task Force on Business Liaison Groups (BLGTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee meeting on 25 November 2016.

Work progress of the BLGTF

Overall progress of Business Liaison Groups

2. For the year 2016, 17 Business Liaison Group (BLG) meetings were held. At these meetings, a total of 72 out of 81 issues were satisfactorily resolved or clarified. In addition, 21 information dissemination sessions on new business facilitation measures or regulatory requirements and two consultation sessions on proposed new regulations were conducted by bureaux/departments concerned.

Good noise control practices for licensed liquor premises

3. Since licensed liquor premises are more prone to cause noise disturbance to nearby residents, liquor licence applicants are advised to take appropriate measures at earliest stage possible to minimise any potential noise disturbance. During liquor licence renewal, the past records of a licensed liquor premises (including noise nuisances caused to the neighbourhood during the licence period) are taken into account by the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB).

4. On 8 February 2017, the Environmental Protection Department briefed BLGTF on its newly published guidebook on “Good Practices on The Control of Noise From Liquor Licensed Establishments”. It highlights relevant legislations, potential noise problems associated with licensed liquor

premises as well as guidelines and examples on practical noise control mitigation measures.

Liquor licensee to take 2 day-offs weekly

5. The hotel, karaoke establishment, bar and other entertainment club trades has made an enquiry on whether LLB could approve liquor licensee to take two day-offs weekly. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) clarified in the BLGTF meeting on 8 February 2017 that the applicants / licensees can make the request for two day-offs per week in the relevant application forms. Applicants should provide supplementary information on the grounds of such arrangement for LLB's consideration. According to the application records in recent years, none of the applications for taking two day-offs weekly had ever been refused by LLB. This would ease the concern of those liquor licensees on 5-day work week.

Implementation of reserve licensee mechanism for liquor licence

6. The government has launched the "Reserve Licensee Mechanism" for liquor licence which will also benefit the trades of hotels, karaoke establishments, bars and other entertainment clubs. FEHD briefed the BLGTF on this new business facilitation measure at the same meeting on 8 February 2017. Its details have been reported in the work progress of the Food Business and Related Services Task Force [BFAC Paper 2/17 (2)].

7. BLGTF appreciated the business facilitation efforts of the departments concerned.

Way forward

8. Members are invited to note the work progress of the BLGTF. The Task Force will continue to oversee and monitor the work progress of the BLGs.

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