

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

***Agenda Item 4(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 7 October 2020.

Work progress of the BLGTF

Overall progress of Business Liaison Groups

2. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, no BLG meetings have been held. However, efforts were maintained in liaising with the trades to gauge their concerns and issues and follow them up by coordinating with relevant government departments to explore and work out business facilitation measures and tackle cross-departmental issues as appropriate. BLGTF Papers 115 to 116 set out the latest business facilitation measures that will benefit a number of BLG trades such as hotels, guesthouses, clubhouses, karaoke establishments, theme parks and family amusement centres and address the trades' concerns.

Measures to facilitate licence application and business operation of hotels, guesthouses, clubhouses, karaoke establishments and family amusement centres

3. Further to the measures implemented in 2019, the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) under the Home Affairs Department briefed Members at the meeting of 2 December 2020 on its new measures to further facilitate licence application and business operation of multiple trades. These measures include waiving the requirements of registering drainage plans for new licence applications, streamlining the procedures for alteration works for licensed premises, relaxing document submission requirements for minor works of low complexity, standardising drainage works requirements in guesthouses, setting a new performance pledge on new applications for Clubhouse Certificate of Compliance and strengthening sample game descriptions to ease the applications for Amusements with Prizes Licences. Except the last two measures which will be launched in 2021, all of the above measures have been implemented.

4. BLGTF thanked OLA for these new measures which would enhance the efficiency and transparency of the licensing services and reduce the compliance and operating costs of multiple trades at the same time.

Measure to facilitate the renewal for Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licences by adopting a pragmatic approach in granting the validity period of fire services certificates

5. The Fire Services Department (FSD) briefed Members at the same meeting on its new measure to facilitate the renewal for Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licences (TPPEL) by granting a fire services certificate (FSC) (a supporting document for TPPEL applications) of a validity covering the whole temporary public entertainment event period instead of issuing it every month for TPPEL applications in theme parks and attractions where temporary structure(s) is/are involved and the event lasts for more than one month on condition that the layout and other details of the event remain unchanged throughout the event period. The measure obviates the need for the trade to apply for a fresh FSC on a monthly basis for TPPEL renewal.

6. BLGTF welcomed FSD's pragmatic approach which will save the operational cost and administrative burden of the trade for TPPEL renewal.

Way forward

7. Members are invited to note the work progress of the BLGTF. BLGTF will continue to oversee and monitor the work progress of the BLGs.

**Business Facilitation Team
Efficiency Office
Innovation and Technology Bureau
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