

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

***Agenda Item 3(a) : Report on the work of the
Wholesale and Retail Task Force***

Purpose

This paper reports on the work of the Wholesale and Retail Task Force (WRTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee meeting held on 20 September 2021.

Work progress of WRTF

Regulatory Framework for Advanced Therapy Products (ATPs)

2. At the WRTF meeting held on 15 December 2021, the Department of Health (DH) briefed the WRTF on Government's amendments to the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, Cap. 138 and its Regulations to regulate ATPs. After the Amendment Ordinance came into operation on 1 August 2021, regulatory requirements for pharmaceutical products under relevant ordinances would also apply to ATPs. These include registration prior to marketing, obtaining prior approval for conducting clinical trials, licensing of manufacturers and distributors, and import/export control. Furthermore, there would be additional requirements on labelling and record keeping specific to ATPs to enhance traceability of the products.

3. In order to allow various stakeholders to better understand the regulatory framework for ATPs, the Drug Office of the DH, as the professional and executive arm of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong (the Board), assisted the Board in implementing the enhanced regulatory framework for ATPs.

4. WRTF thanked the DH for their clarification of the regulatory framework for ATPs and suggested the DH to review regularly the Amendment Ordinance to cope with the rapid development of ATPs.

Subsidy Scheme for Encouraging Early Deployment of 5G

5. At the same meeting, the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) briefed the WRTF on the Subsidy Scheme for Encouraging Early Deployment of 5G (the Scheme) which aims to encourage various sectors to deploy 5G technology early to foster innovation and smart city development, and to improve efficiency of their operations and quality of their services. Under the Scheme, the Government will subsidise 50% of the actual costs directly relevant to the deployment of 5G technology in an approved project, subject to a cap of \$500,000. In July 2021, the Government increased funding earmarked for the Scheme from \$50 million to \$100 million. The deadline for application has also been extended to 31 July 2022.

6. The WRTF appreciated OFCA for the briefing and suggested OFCA to set up a performance pledge on the turnaround time for application processing and approval.

Way forward

7. Members are invited to note the work progress of the WRTF. The WRTF will continue to monitor the development of the above initiatives.

**Business Facilitation Team
Efficiency Office
Innovation and Technology Bureau
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