

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

***Agenda Item 4 : Report on the progress of the
“Be the Smart Regulator” Programme
– June 2022 update***

Purpose

This paper provides updates on the progress of the “Be the Smart Regulator” Programme (the Programme) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting held on 22 February 2022.

Latest progress

Overview

2. All the 29 participating bureaux and departments (B/Ds) continue to sustain their momentum in enhancing their licensing services. Good progress has been made on various fronts to further improve the business facilitation and regulatory environment in Hong Kong with a view to boosting the long-term competitiveness. Major progress is highlighted below.

Major progress in various departments

3. From 2018-19 to 2021-22, the participating B/Ds have developed a total of 506 business facilitation measures to continue improving the efficiency and transparency of licensing services and reducing compliance costs to trades through streamlining procedures, proactively using information technology, enhancing regulatory requirements, as well as strengthening support and guidance to the trades. Examples of the measures implemented in recent months are highlighted as follows –

- (a) The Companies Registry has provided a step-by-step demonstration video on e-submission of application for renewal of trust or company service provider licence at its website to facilitate the trade in submitting related applications.

- (b) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department has developed an online platform and enhanced the computer system to provide end-to-end e-licensing services for application for registration of gas installers and permit for conveyance of liquefied petroleum gas cylinders on gas vehicle to facilitate the trade in completing registration or obtaining the permit.
- (c) The Office of the Communications Authority has developed performance pledges for issuance of two licences, namely the Public Radiocommunications Services Licence and Wireless Internet of Things Licence, to enhance the transparency of the licensing process so as to facilitate the trade in business planning.
- (d) The Transport Department has installed new on-street parking meters to support multiple payment systems (including remote payment through the mobile application “HKeMeter”) with the provision of real-time parking vacancy information to replace the old Octopus card-operated parking meters to enhance convenience in payment and locating parking spaces.

Progress of meeting policy pledges on e-licensing

4. As pledged in the 2020 Policy Address Supplement and 2021 Budget Speech that by mid-2022, e-licensing should be implemented for all licensing applications under the BTSR Programme unless there are legal or operational constraints. As at end-June 2022, applications for more than 90% of the licences can already be submitted electronically, provided with e-payment and e-licence facilities. For the remaining licences yet to be provided with electronic option, B/Ds concerned will progressively implement such option so as to provide a more business-friendly environment for trades. The Efficiency Office will continue providing the necessary support and assistance to B/Ds.

Way forward

5. Members are invited to note the progress of the Programme.

**Business Facilitation Team
Efficiency Office
Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau
July 2022**