

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

***Agenda Item 4(d): Report on the work of the
Task Force on Business Liaison Groups***

Purpose

This paper reports the work of the Task Force on Business Liaison Groups (BLGTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee meeting on 20 July 2022.

Work progress of the BLGTF

Overall progress of Business Liaison Groups

2. Since the last meeting, we have conducted two Business Liaison Group (BLG) meetings and proactively liaised with the trade of six BLGs. A total of 17 issues were satisfactorily resolved or clarified, and three consultation sessions on proposed revisions of licensing conditions and provision of a new code of practice were conducted by the relevant department as arranged by the BLG Secretariat.

3. To enhance communication with the trade, we continue to provide various channels including an online form for the trade to share their views on licensing and regulatory regime. Summaries of the views collected and the Government responses are uploaded onto the Business Facilitation Initiatives website on a regular basis. Salient issues and examples have been presented in the 31st meeting of the BLGTF.

Sickness allowance and employment protection under anti-epidemic measures

4. In the BLGTF meeting on 29 September 2022, the Labour Department (LD) briefed the BLGTF on the Employment (Amendment) Ordinance 2022 (“Amendment Ordinance”) which came into operation on 17 June 2022. The Amendment Ordinance strengthens the protection of employees’ rights and benefits when they comply with specific anti-epidemic requirements. It includes a day on which an employee is absent from work by reason of his/her compliance with a specific anti-epidemic requirement which imposes a restriction on movement as a sickness day, and makes it clear that it is not considered as a valid reason under the Employment Ordinance for the

employee to be dismissed or his/her employment terms be varied because of his/her absence from work due to the reason above. It also makes clear their respective obligations and rights when employers request their employees for COVID-19 vaccination.

5. BLGTF appreciated LD's efforts for the clear explanation of the statutory requirements which facilitates trade's compliance with the Amendment Ordinance.

Enhancement of Online Licence Services for Liquor Licence/Club Liquor Licence

6. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has launched the "Online Licence Services" (OLS) system since 1 August 2010 for the trade to submit liquor licences/club liquor licences related applications online, make online payment for the related licence fees and track the application progress online.

7. FEHD briefed at the same meeting on the new functions of the enhanced OLS system launched in October 2021 which further facilitate business and provide applicants with greater convenience and efficiency in the submission of liquor licence/club liquor licence related applications. After the enhancement, applicants who are "iAM Smart" users can use a single digital identity to sign up and log in to the OLS system, while applicants who have an "iAM Smart+" account can even sign the relevant applications digitally and submit them online straight away. The enhanced OLS system also provides new functions to assist applicants to fill in the required information more easily.

8. BLGTF thanked FEHD's committed efforts in enhancing their electronic licensing services which further facilitate liquor licence/club liquor licence related applications and benefit a large number of trade operators.

Way forward

9. 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, Technology and Industry Bureau
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