

**Fifty-first Meeting of  
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 3(b): Report on the work of the  
Food Business and Related Services Task Force***

**Purpose**

This paper reports the work progress of the Food Business and Related Services Task Force (FRSTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting on 23 February 2023.

**Work Progress of the FRSTF**

***Brief on the Implementation Progress of Introducing a “Professional Certification System” (PCS) for Food Business Related Licences and Relaxing the Restrictions on Types of Food Items Sold by Light Refreshment Restaurants***

2. At the FRSTF meeting on 18 April 2023, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) reported on the implementation progress of the two new initiatives to the FRSTF. The implementation of the two new measures has been generally smooth since commencement on 1 March 2023. Upon acquiring sufficient experience, the FEHD will review the effectiveness of the new measures. Subject to the support of the “Professional Certification System” (PCS) by the trade, the Department will consider extending the new regime to other food business licences as soon as possible.

3. The FRSTF welcomed the two new initiatives, and suggested the FEHD enhancing the publicity.

***Provision of Guide to Application for Restaurant Licences (Quick Reference Version)***

4. The FEHD published a concise version of the “A Guide to Application for Restaurant Licences” in December 2022 to provide the information on the criteria for issuing restaurant licences and the application procedures in a simple and easy to understand terms. The Quick Reference Version also includes examples of restaurant settings, a brief description of the major facilities in food room and a food room/kitchen area requirement calculator, which enable the applicants to have a better grasp of the relevant licensing requirements with both pictures and text.

5. The FRSTF welcomed the new Quick Reference Version and expressed appreciation to the FEHD for their efforts in developing business facilitation measures to assist those who intend to open a restaurant understand the relevant licensing requirements more easily.

### ***Provision of Action Timetables for Food Business Licence Applications***

6. To further assist an applicant holding a provisional food business licence to obtain a full licence in a timely manner, the FEHD sets out a specific action timetable for each licence application in the notification letter for approval for a provisional food business licence. In parallel, the time allowed for a food business licence applicant to comply with all licensing requirements for a full licence has been revised from six months after the expiry of the provisional licence to three months after the expiry of the provisional licence. If the licensing requirements are not fully met after the deadline, the application for a full food business licence will be deemed withdrawn.

7. The FRSTF expressed its understanding on the revision of the time allowed to comply with all licensing requirements. However, if the applicants could justify the failure of meeting the licensing requirements before the required timeline, members suggested the FEHD considering such cases with discretion. The FRSTF also suggested the FEHD further digitising the processing of licence applications with a view to shortening the lead time.

### **Way Forward**

8. Members are invited to note the work progress of the FRSTF. The FRSTF will continue to monitor the development of the above issues.

**Business Facilitation Team  
Efficiency Office  
Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau  
June 2023**