

**23rd Business Liaison Group Meeting
with the Hotel Trade**

Date: 12 December 2016 (Monday)
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room 4, G/F, Tamar Central Government Offices, Admiralty
Convenor: Mr Andrew KWOK Head, Business Facilitation Division,
Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit

Trade Attendees:

Federation of Hong Kong Hotel Owners (FHKHO)

Mr Michael LI Executive Director
Miss Stephenie FUNG Assistant to Executive Director

Acesite Knutsford Hotel

Mr Jeff MA Sales Manager

Kings Hotel

Mr Ken KWAN Director
Ms Janet KWAN Manager
Ms Molly CHAN Administrative Secretary

L'Hotel

Ms Amanda LAU Group Hotel Project & Development Manager

Oriental Lander Hotel

Mr K.C. LAI Managing Director

The Royal Garden

Ms Dorathy KO Executive Secretary

Government Representatives:

Home Affairs Department (HAD)

Mr Paul HEUNG Building Surveyor (Licensing Authority) S2
Mr TAM Wing-chau Building Surveyor (Licensing Authority) 2 (*Observer*)

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (BD)

Mr CHAN Kut-yee Superintendent (Hygiene)1
Ms Jacqueline HO Superintendent (Licensing)2
Mr CHENG Chok-wing Chief Health Inspector (Other Licensing) Head Quarters
Ms Nora LAW Chief Health Inspector (Liquor Licensing) Head Quarters

Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit (EABFU)

Mr Peter FUNG Chief Management Services Officer (Business Facilitation)2
(*Secretary*)
Miss Jenny YEUNG Business Facilitation Officer

In Attendance

Mr Joseph LEUNG

Member, Business Liaison Group Task Force

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The **Convenor** welcomed all to the meeting. He said that the notes of the last meeting had been posted to the Business Facilitation Initiatives website (http://theme.gov.hk/en/theme/bf/pdf/H_BLG_22_Notes.pdf) for trade's reference. He asked the secretary to remind the meeting of the following –

- (i) *The BLG meetings were open for participation by any member of the trade. There were no appointed BLG members from the trade.*
- (ii) *It was not appropriate to discuss individual cases at BLG meetings.*
- (iii) *The Task Force on BLGs (BLGTF) under the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee was tasked to oversee and monitor the work of BLGs. As such, BLGTF members attended BLG meetings as observers.*
- (iv) *Smoking in meeting venues (including corridor and toilet) was strictly prohibited.*

Agenda Item 1 – Briefing by Government department

Administrative scheme to regulate recycling of waste cooking oils from licensed food premises in hotels

2. **Mr CHAN Kut-ye** gave a briefing on the subject with the presentation slides at [Annex 1](#). **Mr CHAN** said that in view of the public concern for the safety of edible oils, the Government has announced in the 2016 Policy Address the introduction of administrative measures to ensure the proper recycling of “waste cooking oils” (WCO) produced by local licensed food premises through legitimate means. On source management of WCO, FEHD had started to impose additional licensing condition by phases upon renewal / issue of the licences requiring restaurants, factory canteens, food factories and bakeries to hand over their WCO to collector(s), processor(s) or exporter(s) registered or licensed by EPD for proper collection and disposal.

3. **Mr CHAN** clarified that the licensee would not be considered as in breach of this condition under one or more of the following circumstances –

- (i) small quantities of WCO which were already mixed with other kitchen waste and could not be separated, were disposed of together with the kitchen waste ;
- (ii) small quantities of grease trap waste were removed manually from grease trap(s) by scooping then put into watertight plastic bags/containers and sealed tightly for disposal together with other kitchen waste ; and
- (iii) waste water with WCO was discharged directly to a centralised/communal grease trap not exclusively used by the food premises.

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The new licensing condition would take effect after a grace period of 15 months before enforcement action on any non-compliance.

4. **Mr Michael LI** enquired whether there was any list of registered WCO collectors, and whether the collection time would tie in with the operation routine of the hotel restaurants so as to minimize inconvenience. Moreover, he also enquired whether the trade would need to bear the cost for the hiring of WCO collectors.

5. In response, the **Convenor** advised that the trade could assess the list of registered WCO collectors, processors and exporters on the website of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) (http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/prob_solutions/waste-cooking-oils-reglist.html). The fee for collection of WCO would be determined by the market and could be negotiated between the parties involved. **Mr LI** said that as this was a new licensing condition for the trade to comply with, it would be better for the Government to have some clear guidelines so that the fee to be charged would be more reasonable. The **Convenor** undertook to reflect Mr Li's view to EPD and supplemented that currently there were about a hundred of such registered collectors and the number was still growing.

(Post meeting notes: BLG Secretariat conveyed Mr Li's view to EPD on 18 January 2017.)

Agenda Item 2 – New Issues

Implementation of "Reserve Licensee" for liquor licence

6. **Ms Jacqueline HO** gave a briefing on the subject with the presentation slides at [Annex 2](#). **Ms HO** said that the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) would roll out the "Reserve Licensee Scheme" in the first quarter of 2017. The Scheme was a new trade facilitation initiative to minimize disruption to the liquor selling business by identifying at an early stage a suitable person to take over the role of the licensee due to sudden departure of the liquor licensee.

7. **Ms HO** said that the existing mechanism to deal with temporary absence of liquor licensee with a date of resumption of duty was still valid. Under the existing mechanism, granting an application for a leave longer than 30 days would take 10-15 days. However, the processing time for application for the reserve licensee to take over the licensee role would only be 4 working days because the nominee had been pre-vetted during the reserve licensee application.

8. **The Convenor** opined that it was necessary for the nomination of reserve licensee to be submitted together with the application for new issue / transfer / renewal of liquor licence so as to minimize the increase in workload. As there were over 7 000 liquor licences at present, it was important to make sure that the processing time for new and renewal applications would not be lengthened because of the increase in workload arising from the new nominations for reserve licensee. The key was to implement this important business facilitation measure as soon as possible, while the scheme would be

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reviewed one year later for any improvement opportunities.

9. **Mr LI** appreciated the efforts made by all departments concerned to put in place this new business facilitation initiative which was very useful to the hotel trade and the arrangement was reasonable. The hotel trade was very supportive to it and he would inform his member hotels for their actions. As for the review to be conducted one year later, he suggested the departments concerned should consider further streamlining the processing time.

10. **Ms HO** told the trade that the licensee would be informed of the implementation details in writing in due course. Application forms and details of the scheme would also be uploaded to the websites of LLB and FEHD. Upon suggestion by the **Convenor** and **Mr LI**, **Ms HO** said that LLB would also consider informing the business owner / proprietor of the new initiatives as very often the liquor licensee was the staff of the company only and the owner would have much concern on the liquor licence.

FEHD

Liquor licensee to take 2 day-offs weekly

11. The **Secretary** said that the hotel trade reflected that their liquor licensees were now required to work 6 days a week. As many hotels were now on a 5-day working week, they would like to know whether their liquor licensees could take 2 day-off weekly which would be in line with the working week of other hotel staff.

12. **Ms HO** said that in respect of weekly day-off, the applicant / licensee was required to provide the weekly day-off in the application form and usually there was only one day-off per week. However, should the applicant/licensee intend to have 2 day-off weekly, he/she could make such request in the application form with supporting information/reasons for LLB's consideration. According to the records, LLB had not refused any applications for 2 day-off weekly since 2015.

13. **Mr LI** said that some frontline officers might not be aware of such 2 day-off weekly arrangement. He said that frontline officers had questioned the absence of the liquor licensee during their approved off days. To address this issue, **Mr LI** suggested FEHD and the Police to inform their frontline officers of such arrangement as well as to advise the trade that there was a choice for them to take 2 off-day weekly.

14. **The Convenor** said that the BLG secretariat would inform the Police of the issue raised by the trade. **Ms HO** said that she would also inform the three liquor licensing offices that the trade could apply for 2 off-day weekly.

(Post meeting notes: BLG Secretariat informed the Police of the issue raised by the trade on 18 January 2017.)

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Agenda Item 3 - Date of the next meeting

15. The secretary would inform the trade of the date of the next meeting in due course.

**Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit
January 2017**