Business Facilitation Advisory Committee Task Force on Business Liaison Groups

"Hong Kong Licensed Hotels and Guesthouses" Mobile App

Background

The operation of guesthouses in Hong Kong is regulated by the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance (Cap. 349) (the Ordinance) which stipulates that any premises providing sleeping accommodation at a fee with a tenancy term of less than 28 consecutive days shall obtain a licence before commencing operation. The Office of the Licensing Authority ("OLA") under the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") is tasked with the issuance of licences and enforcement work. Licensed guesthouses have to comply with the standard of building and fire safety so as to ensure the safety of patrons and other users of the building.

2. To help tourists search for the latest details and locations of licensed hotels, guesthouses, holiday flats and holiday camps, HAD took initiative to launch the mobile app "Hong Kong Licensed Hotels and Guesthouses" on 10 February 2015.

Functions and features of the app

3. At the BLG meeting held in March 2015, OLA briefed the trade on the functions and features of the app, which are summarized at **Annex**. Not only could tourists and members of the public search for the latest details and locations of licensed guesthouses and other accommodations anytime and anywhere for a safe stay in Hong Kong, they could also report suspected unlicensed guesthouses to OLA and access the latest enforcement news of combating unlicensed guesthouses through the app. This business facilitation tool was well received by the trade.

Way Forward

4. Members are invited to note the content of this paper and offer comments, if any.

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