

**Fifty-fifth 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 12 June 2024.

Work Progress of the FRSTF

Proposed Business Facilitation Measures under the Food Business Licensing Regime

2. At the FRSTF meeting on 22 July 2024, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) briefed and consulted the FRSTF on whether there is a need to retain composite food shop licence and extend the validity period of full food business licence, in response to the views of the LegCo's Public Accounts Committee.

3. The FRSTF suggested FEHD retaining the composite food shop licence with better promotion to the trades on the licence type. For the extension of the validity period of full licences, as trade would not have flexibility to choose a shorter licensing period and the annual compliance of fire safety requirements remains status quo, the FRSTF considered that the extension of the validity period of full licences may not facilitate the trades' operation and there is no need for its implementation.

Review of the Measures to Step up Actions against Illegal Operation of Food Business

4. The FEHD also briefed and consulted the FRSTF on enhanced measures against illegal operation of food business in response to the views of the LegCo's Public Accounts Committee. To suppress the industry operating food businesses before obtaining a provisional licence/full licence, in addition to taking enforcement actions, FEHD suggested suspending the processing of licence application and debarring the same applicant and his/her partners from

applying for the same type of licence for the same premises for 12 months upon conviction of relevant offence by the court.

5. The FRSTF opined that the proposed administrative measures are too harsh and may undermine the catering business. The FRSTF suggested FEHD assisting the trades to obtain provisional licence more efficiently to address the issue of illegal operation.

Way Forward

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

Digitalisation and Business Facilitation Division
Digital Policy Office
Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau
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