

**Fifty-fourth 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 31 January 2024.

**Work Progress of the FRSTF**

***Proposed Business Facilitation Measures under the Food Business Licensing Regime***

2. At the FRSTF meeting on 17 April 2024, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) briefed the FRSTF on several business facilitation measures on food business operations, which includes introducing a "Composite Permit" covering multiple restricted food items, reducing the reminders issued for compliance with licensing requirements by letter or email, new licence fee payment arrangement for temporary food factory licence and extending licence validity period.

3. The FRSTF welcomed the above new measures, and suggested FEHD to provide flexibility to the trades on the selection of licensing period when extending licence validity period.

***Proposal on Requirement of Providing Consumer Advice for Consumption of Oysters to be Eaten in Raw State***

4. The FEHD also briefed the FRSTF on the proposed inclusion of a licensing condition requiring food business operators to provide consumer advice on consumption of oysters to be eaten in raw state (raw oysters), which requires food premises selling raw oysters to provide advice to consumers by posting a sticker with relevant information in conspicuous places of the food premises. To allow sufficient time for the trade to prepare for the requirement, FEHD also proposed that the new licensing condition would only be enforced following a grace period of about 15 months after implementation of the new condition.

5. The FRSTF raised strong objection to the proposal, queried the effectiveness of the measure and worried the impact on the catering business.

### ***Digital Corporate Identity Platform***

6. Pursuant to the announcement in the Budget Speech 2024, the Government will set up a “digital identity of enterprises” platform, i.e. the business version of “iAM Smart”, to enable authentication of identity and verification of signature of enterprises using electronic government services or conducting online business transactions in a secure, convenient and efficient manner without having to go through complicated procedures, thus saving time and reducing the risk of human error. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) briefed and collected views from the FRSTF on the Digital Corporate Identity (CorpID) Platform to be implemented. According to OGCIO’s plan, the CorpID Platform will be launched progressively from end-2026, including a portal to apply for a digital corporate identity, as well as four key functions (i.e. corporate identity verification, digital signing, authorisation to share corporate information from the e-service application system(s) for form pre-filling, and document wallet to store the corporate digital licences).

7. The FRSTF welcomed the work on establishing the platform, and suggested OGCIO considering how to ensure the proper use of CorpID by the employees in conducting e-business activities on behalf of the company in the design of the platform.

### **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 issue.

**Business Facilitation Team**  
**Efficiency Office**  
**Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau**  
**May 2024**