

**Business Facilitation Advisory Committee  
Task Force on Business Liaison Groups (BLGTF)**

***Streamlined Processing of Places of Public Entertainment Licence  
Applications for Family Amusement Centres***

**Background**

In accordance with the Places of Public Entertainment Ordinance (Cap. 172), a Places of Public Entertainment Licence (PPEL) should be obtained for operating a family amusement centre. The licensing authority, viz. the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) as authorised by the Secretary of Home Affairs, provides a one-stop service to process applications for PPEL by referring them to concerned departments, including the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) for comments and vetting as appropriate.

2. In processing the licence applications, HKPF used to interview each licence applicant and request the applicant to submit to them supporting documents including the layout plans for the premises concerned as well as a copy of the Business Registration Certificate and the relevant tenancy agreement to facilitate their vetting from the public safety and order perspectives.

**Trade's Concern**

3. At a Business Liaison Group meeting on family amusement centres, the trade expressed that HKPF's vetting had prolonged the licence application processing. They enquired what streamlining measures would be introduced to expedite the processing.

## **Administration's Response**

4. In response to the trade's comments, FEHD and HKPF have put in place the following streamlining measures with a view to speeding up the processing of new PPEL applications –

- (a) HKPF will interview applicants on a case-by-case basis having regard to the individual circumstances of each licence application; and
- (b) Applicants are allowed to submit the supporting documents required by HKPF upfront to FEHD at the time when they lodge in their PPEL applications. FEHD will refer the available documents to HKPF in the first instance to expedite the processing. The relevant licensing guides will be updated accordingly.

## **Way Forward**

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

**Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Hong Kong Police Force  
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