

Business Liaison Group for Hotels
Summary of Trade's views and Government's responses
January to June 2022

During the above-mentioned period, the Secretariat, Business Liaison Group for Hotels received some trade's views on licensing and regulatory matters. The Secretariat has excerpted the trade's views together with the responses of relevant bureaux/departments as follows for the trade's reference:

Item	Trade's views	Government's responses
1	Relief measures/ financial assistance to help the hotel trade tide over the pandemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government understands that the business of certain industries, including the hotel industry, has been impacted by the tightening of social distancing measures under the 5th wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government has therefore rolled out the 5th and 6th rounds of the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF) in January and February 2022 respectively to provide assistance to the industries affected by the tightened measures. • As far as the hotel industry is concerned, each eligible hotel may receive \$300,000 if it has 100 or less licensed guestrooms or \$400,000 if it has 101 or more licensed guestrooms. Furthermore, the Government has been waiving the fees for new issue or renewal of hotel licences since October 2019 and the Financial Secretary has announced in the 2022-23 Budget that the waiver will be further extended to end September 2023. The hotel industry may also benefit from a number of other cross-sector relief measures announced in the 2022-23 Budget, including reduction of profits tax, rates concession for non-domestic properties, waiver for business registration fees, 75% waiver for water and sewage charges payable by non-domestic households, extension and enhancement of the Special 100% Loan Guarantee for Enterprises, etc. If the development of the epidemic situation permits, the Government will relax the social distancing measures in a gradual and orderly manner on the basis of "vaccine pass". • In addition, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) has been supporting local tourism through the "Holiday at Home" promotion platform and rolled out two rounds of "Staycation Delights" in April and September 2021 respectively to encourage locals to be a tourist in their own city. The two rounds of

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		<p>“Staycation Delights” had a total quota of 40 000 which translated into an injection of \$20 million to the hotel industry, and were well received by the industry as well as the community. HKTB will continue to maintain close communication with the hotel industry and consider rolling out a new round of “Staycation Delights” when the epidemic situation abates so as to provide continued support for the industry.”</p> <p>[Note: HKTB subsequently announced on 6 May 2022 the launch of a new round of “Staycation Delights” which ran from 6 May 2022 to 19 July 2022.]</p>
2	<p>Allowing the staff of a courier company to present staff card for registration for collection of a hotel licence</p> <p>The Home Affairs Department (HAD) requests the staff of a courier company to present his/her Identity Card for registration for collection of hotel licence on behalf of the licence applicant. There were occasions where the licence could not be collected because some courier staff were not willing to present their Identity Card. As courier staff will not refuse to present their staff card, trade suggested HAD considering registering their staff card instead to facilitate collection of the licence on the spot.</p>	<p>If an applicant authorises another person (e.g. staff of a courier company) to collect the licence from the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) of the HAD on his/her behalf, the authorised person should bring along the original letter of notification of licence collection issued to the applicant by OLA and produce his/her own identification document (such as Identity Card or Passport) to collect the licence as required by OLA.</p> <p>If an authorised person is not willing to produce his/her identification document for whatever reason, apart from bringing along the original letter of notification of licence collection issued to the applicant by OLA, he/she should also submit an authorisation letter signed by the applicant and affixed with the applicant's company authenticating chop (if applicable) (the signature and authenticating chop must match the last record kept by OLA). The authorisation letter should indicate the related licence number, the name of the authorised person and that of his/her company (e.g. the name of the courier company), and the identifiable number (e.g. staff number of the authorised person) of his/her identity document. The authorised person should produce the corresponding identity document (such as the staff card) for verification of his/her identity by OLA before collecting the licence.</p> <p>Applicant can also choose to collect the licence by post instead of in person or by authorised person over the counter.</p>

Secretariat, Business Liaison Group for Hotels
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