

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0080)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the facilitation of alfresco dining operation, please advise:

1. whether the trade will be consulted accordingly; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s); and
2. whether the possible impact on the business of rental shop operators has been assessed; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

1. In 2013, the Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit under the Financial Secretary's Office formed a Working Group comprising representatives from eight government departments (including the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Fire Services Department, Buildings Department, Lands Department, Planning Department, Housing Department, Transport Department and Home Affairs Department) to review the procedures involved in handling applications for outside seating accommodation (OSA) permission from restaurants. The Working Group has put forward ten recommendations to enhance and streamline the OSA application procedures with a view to shortening the processing time and facilitating trade compliance. The Working Group has consulted the food business sectors through the Food Business and Related Services Task Force (FBRSTF) under the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee on the recommendations, and reported progress on the implementation of the recommendations to FBRSTF at regular interval.
2. For seeking to enhance and streamline the OSA application procedures, the recommendations put forward by the Working Group can help shorten the processing time and facilitate trade compliance. As the recommendations are still being implemented progressively, we have not assessed the impact of the enhancement

measures or the permission of OSA on the business of the restaurants. That said, as an ongoing effort, we will maintain close liaison with the relevant trades.

- End -