

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: How many appeal cases of sewage charge and trade effluent surcharge were there in 2005, 2006 and 2007? Of which, how many were from the restaurant trade? How many appeal cases were approved? Of which, how many were from the restaurant trade? What is the average time needed to complete the processing of a case?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The number of applications and approved cases for reassessment of trade effluent surcharge (TES) rate (i.e. COD reassessment) and discharge factor for sewage charge and TES in the past three years are as follows:

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (for 11 months only)
No. of applications received for reassessment of TES rate			
All trades	819	690	325
Restaurant trade	715	595	254
No. of applications approved			
All trades	527	734	457
Restaurant trade	440	640	435

No. of applications received for reassessment of discharge factor			
All trades	42	49	36
Restaurant trade	0	0	0
No. of applications approved			
All trades	33	44	32
Restaurant trade	0	0	0

Note :

1. As there is a time lag for processing the applications, the number of applications approved within a year may exceed the number of applications received.
2. The drop in number of applications received in 2007-08 is mainly due to the extension of the validity period of TES reassessments from one year to two years with effect from 1 July 2007.
3. A discharge factor of 80% is adopted for eight trades in the TES scheme to take into account the fact that a proportion of the metered water supplied may be used in the operating process and not discharged to sewer.

It normally takes three to four months to process a case.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	K K LAU
Post Title	Director of Drainage Services
Date	20 March 2008