

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

**ENB028**

Question Serial No.

0212

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 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10? 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 (i) trade effluent surcharge (TES) rate and (ii) discharge factor for sewage charge and TES in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are as follows:

		2007-08	2008-09 <sup>(2)</sup>	2009-10 <sup>(3)</sup> (for 11 months only)
<b>Reassessment of TES rate</b>	Number of applications received			
	- All trades	335	200	278
	- Restaurant trade	264	133	260
	Number of applications approved <sup>(1)</sup>			
	- All trades	471	187	112
- Restaurant trade	449	119	109	
<b>Reassessment of discharge factor</b>	Number of applications received			
	- All trades	37	27	29
	- Restaurant trade	0	0	0
	Number of applications approved <sup>(1)</sup>			
	- All trades	39	8	18
- Restaurant trade	0	0	0	

Notes:

- 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.
- The drop in the number of applications received in 2008-09 was mainly due to the extension of the validity period of TES reassessments from one year to two years with effect from 1 July 2007 and then from two years to three years with effect from 1 August 2008.
- We have further extended the validity period of TES reassessments from two years to three years with effect from 1 August 2008. The extension was applicable to all reassessments which were still valid on 1 August 2008. As a result, we received the majority of reassessment applications (many of which are the deferred renewal applications) in the last few months of 2009-10. Many of them are still under processing and hence the relatively lower number of applications approved so far in 2009-10.

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

15 March 2010