

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

ENB041

Question Serial No.

1376

Head : 39 – Drainage Services DepartmentSubhead :Programme : (2) Sewage ServicesControlling Officer : Director of Drainage ServicesDirector of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : How many appeal cases of sewage charge and trade effluent surcharge were there in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11? 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 an appeal case?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, TommyReply :

The number of applications and approved cases for reassessment of (i) trade effluent surcharge (TES) rate and (ii) discharge factor (DF) for sewage charge and TES in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are as follows:

		2008-09	2009-10	2010-11 (for 11 months only)
Reassessment of TES rate ⁽²⁾	Number of applications received			
	- <i>All trades</i>	200	311	237
	- <i>Restaurant trade</i>	133	290	227
	Number of applications approved ⁽¹⁾			
	- <i>All trades</i>	187	126	261
	- <i>Restaurant trade</i>	119	122	243
Reassessment of discharge factor (DF)	Number of applications received			
	- <i>All trades</i>	27	30	1 ⁽³⁾
	- <i>Restaurant trade</i>	0	0	0
	Number of applications approved ⁽¹⁾			
	- <i>All trades</i>	8	18	16
	- <i>Restaurant trade</i>	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.
- We have further extended the validity period of TES rate 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 TES rate reassessment applications (many of which are the deferred renewal applications) in the last few months of 2009-10 and many of them were approved in the first few months of 2010-11. The number of TES rate reassessment applications approved is therefore particularly high in 2010-11 due to the special circumstances as explained above.
- Since end 2008, three years validity period (instead of two years as in 2007-08) has been granted to all successful DF reassessment applications, thus leading to a lack of renewal applications in 2010-11. The number of applications received within 2010-11 is therefore particularly low as a result.

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

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 15 March 2011