

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

ENB025

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

0218

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 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12? 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, Tommy

Reply :

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 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 are as follows:

		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (for 10 months only)
Reassessment of TES rate	Number of applications received			
	- <i>All trades</i>	311	275	176
	- <i>Restaurant trade</i>	290	259	122
	Number of applications approved ⁽¹⁾			
	- <i>All trades</i>	126	279 ⁽²⁾	201
	- <i>Restaurant trade</i>	122	259 ⁽²⁾	146
Reassessment of DF	Number of applications received			
	- <i>All trades</i>	30	1 ⁽³⁾	21
	- <i>Restaurant trade</i>	0	0	0
	Number of applications approved ⁽¹⁾			
	- <i>All trades</i>	18	16	4 ⁽⁴⁾
	- <i>Restaurant trade</i>	0	0	0

Notes:

- As there is a time lag for processing the applications, the number of applications approved does not correspond to the number of applications received within the same financial year.
- The validity period of TES rate reassessments had been extended from two 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 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 was therefore particularly high in 2010-11 due to the special circumstances as explained above.
- Since end 2008, a three-year 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 was therefore particularly low as a result.
- Four applications have been approved so far in 2011-12 since we only received in the last couple of months the majority of this year's DF reassessment applications.

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 _____ 23 February 2012