

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

**ENB038**

Question Serial No.

3480

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 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13? 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 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 are as follows:

		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (for 11 months only)
<b>Reassessment of TES rate</b>	Number of applications received			
	- All trades	275	191	194
	- Restaurant trade	259	137	183
	Number of applications approved <sup>(1)</sup>			
	- All trades	279 <sup>(2)</sup>	229	77 <sup>(3)</sup>
	- Restaurant trade	259 <sup>(2)</sup>	172	73 <sup>(3)</sup>
<b>Reassessment of DF</b>	Number of applications received			
	- All trades	1 <sup>(4)</sup>	25	11
	- Restaurant trade	0	0	0
	Number of applications approved <sup>(1)</sup>			
	- All trades	16	8	16
	- Restaurant trade	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 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.
- We have processed a total of 126 TES rate reassessment applications in the first 11 months of 2012-13, including those that were carried forward from 2011-12. Other than the 77 applications approved, 48 applications were withdrawn and one application rejected in 2012-13.
- 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 2010-2011. The number of applications received within 2010-11 was therefore particularly low as a result.

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

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