

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB029****(Question Serial No. 0033)**

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum-wah, Daniel)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

How many appeal cases of sewage charge and trade effluent surcharge were there in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15? 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 (Member Question No. 33)

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 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 are as follows:

		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (for 11 months only)
Reassessment of TES rate	Number of applications received			
	— <i>All trades</i>	215	271	197
	— <i>Restaurant trade</i>	202	253	186
	Number of applications approved ⁽¹⁾			
	— <i>All trades</i>	99 ⁽²⁾	182	117
	— <i>Restaurant trade</i>	92 ⁽²⁾	172	104
Reassessment of DF	Number of applications received			
	— <i>All trades</i>	11	28	28
	— <i>Restaurant trade</i>	0	0	0
	Number of applications approved ⁽¹⁾			
	— <i>All trades</i>	18	8 ⁽³⁾	16
	— <i>Restaurant trade</i>	0	0	0

Notes:

1. 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the number of applications received within the same financial year and excludes the number of applications received but withdrawn.
2. As we received the majority of TES rate reassessment applications (many of which were deferred renewal applications) in the last few months of 2012-13, many of them were approved in 2013-14. The number of TES rate reassessment applications approved was therefore relatively low in 2012-13 due to the special circumstances as explained above.
3. For the majority of DF reassessment applications, as it takes a longer time to collect and verify the data provided by the applicants, the number of applications approved in 2013-14 was therefore relatively low.

It normally takes 3 to 4 months to process a case.

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