

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****EEB(E)020****(Question Serial No. 0164)**Head: (39) Drainage Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Sewage ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (MOK Wing-cheong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

Regarding the appeals against sewage charge and trade effluent surcharge in 2022, 2023 and 2024, would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the total number of appeals filed and the number of those lodged by the restaurant trade;
2. the total number of appeals allowed and the number of those won by the restaurant trade; and
3. the average time needed to complete the processing of an appeal?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)Reply:

		2022	2023	2024
Reassessment of Trade Effluent Surcharge (TES) rate	Number of applications received			
	<i>All trades</i>	13	3	59
	<i>Restaurant trade</i>	8	0	4
	Number of applications approved <sup>Note</sup>			
	<i>All trades</i>	0	0	63
	<i>Restaurant trade</i>	0	0	8
Reassessment of Discharge Factor (DF)	Number of applications received			
	<i>All trades</i>	8	22	17
	<i>Restaurant trade</i>	0	0	0
	Number of applications approved <sup>Note</sup>			
	<i>All trades</i>	16	9	28
	<i>Restaurant trade</i>	0	0	0

Note: As required by the law, applicants shall, after submitting their applications, gather and provide all necessary information for the Drainage Services Department (DSD)'s reassessment. Depending on the actual time required by the applicants to provide the DSD with the necessary information, the number of applications approved does not necessarily correspond to the number of applications received within the same year.

Normally, after the applicants have provided all the necessary information, it will take the DSD about 3 to 4 months to process each case of reassessment of TES rate, and about 1 to 2 months to process each case of reassessment of DF. During the COVID-19 epidemic (i.e. from 2022 to 2023), since some applicants required more time for preparation and submission of all necessary information, it took relatively long for the DSD to vet and approve certain applications. Moreover, as the Government's relief measure on waiver of TES with an aim to supporting the commercial and industrial sectors ended on 31 December 2023, the number of applications received by the DSD for reassessment of TES rate rebounded in 2024.

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