

**Fifty-fourth Meeting of
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 4 : Report on the progress of the
“Be the Smart Regulator” Programme
– May 2024 update***

Purpose

This paper provides updates on the progress of the “Be the Smart Regulator” Programme (the Programme) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting held on 31 January 2024.

Latest progress

Overview

2. The 28 participating bureaux and departments (B/Ds) continue to sustain their momentum in enhancing their licensing services. Good progress has been made on various fronts to further improve the business facilitation and regulatory environment in Hong Kong with a view to boosting the long-term competitiveness. Major progress is highlighted below.

Major progress in various departments

3. From 2021-22 to 2023-24, the participating B/Ds developed a total of 300 business facilitation measures to continue improving the efficiency and transparency of licensing services and reducing compliance costs to trades, through streamlined procedures, effective use of innovation and technology, enhanced regulatory requirements, as well as strengthened support and guidance to the trades. Examples of the measures implemented in recent months are highlighted as follows –

- (a) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department has launched the Type Approval Process and Authentication System, which enables applicants to submit applications, upload supporting documents, track application status, and receive result notification through a single online platform and reduce administrative burden on the trades.
- (b) The Office of the Communications Authority has extended the validity period of Ship Station Licence, Hotel Television

(Transmission) Licence, Broadcast Radio Relay Station Licence and Satellite Master Antenna Television Licence from one year to two years to reduce the operating cost and administrative burden of the trade in licence renewal, and facilitate their business planning.

- (c) The Transport Department has provided e-licence for Lantau Closed Road Permit to increase the efficiency of the licensing services, and hence reducing the administrative burden of the trades. Applicants can print and display the e-permit according to the related requirements. With an encrypted "Quick Response code" (QR code), law enforcement officers can verify the displayed permit using mobile devices.

Digitalisation of government services and e-payment services

4. In order to fulfill the pledges of the 2022¹ and 2023² Policy Addresses of turning all government services online and providing e-payment options for all government services, relevant B/Ds are on track in implementing the required e-services. The Efficiency Office (EffO) will continue to follow up with B/Ds on their implementation progress and render necessary support.

World Bank Group's Business Ready project

5. The World Bank Group (WBG) has updated the issue date of the first Business Ready (B-READY) result to 25 September 2024. To enhance awareness of Hong Kong's competitive advantage in doing business, the EffO has enriched the B-READY thematic webpage with details of the regulatory framework and public services that are in line with the good practices

¹ As pledged in the 2022 Policy Address, submission of application, payment and collection of documents for all licences, services involving application and approval and forms by electronic means will be enabled by mid-2024. If in-person submission or collection of documents is required by law or international practice, applicants will only need to visit the government offices once.

² The Chief Executive announced in the 2023 Policy Address that e-payment option will be provided for all government services by Q3 2024 to enable the public to settle relevant service payment online and offline (including service counters and self-service kiosks) through the Faster Payment System. The Government will also provide an option for making payment by Mainland e-wallets for government services commonly used by Mainland visitors (e.g. booking of various leisure facilities, application for immigration-related services and settling public medical consultation services fees, etc.) for their convenience.

advocated by the WBG in B-READY. The EffO is also working with relevant B/Ds and public organisations to tell a good story for Hong Kong and to implement improvement measures continuously with a view to enhancing Hong Kong's business environment.

Way forward

6. Members are invited to note the progress of the Programme.

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