

To : Members of the Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene Panel

From : Selina Chow

23rd February, 2002

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Licensing of Outside Seating Accommodation

I am sorry for the late submission of this paper, but as I shall not be able to attend your meeting on the 25th, I would like to bring to your attention the views of the Hong Kong Tourism Board on the captioned matter.

The Hong Kong Tourism Board have been requesting for the introduction of the OSA for quite some time, and therefore welcome the Government's conclusion to the consultation and the implementation proposals.

However on the behalf of the trade, we would like to raise the following queries, and hope they can be resolved through your discussion:

1. In paragraph 6 it is stated that the procession of STT to enable permanent of OSA is 3 months. We find this acceptably long, and would like to propose that the provisional licensing such as that for restaurants be followed. In other word, if submissions are in line with basic requirements set down, such as percentage of area to the main body of the premises, then provisional licenses should be issued to enable businesses to proceed while administration for the permanent licenses is processed. The application should not take more than 2 weeks. Naturally the operators operating on provisional licenses would be required to pay the necessary license fees from the day they start operation in the open area.
2. For both permanent the temporary OSAs it is essential that criteria for assessment of application as well as basis for the granting of the licenses should not be unduly harsh, and should be as transparent and clear-cut as possible, so as to be applicant-friendly. This would also facilitate smooth provisional licensing.
3. In paragraph 12 the FEHD informs the Panel that guidelines on OSA applications will be promulgated. Given that the intention is to start

the new arrangement in March 2002, could the department let members have a copy of the guideline for information?

Thank you for your attention.