

Information Note

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Itinerant Hawker Licences (Frozen Confectionery)

At the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene held on 14 April 2009, the Administration was asked to provide information on applications for the new Itinerant Hawker Licences (Frozen Confectionery) (IHL(FC)), commonly known as “small ice-cream vendors”.

2. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) invited applications for IHL(FC) in April to May 2009. The invitation had attracted some 3 600 eligible applicants. Since the number of applicants far exceeded 61, i.e. the number of new licences FEHD intended to issue with the agreement of the Panel, a computer balloting was held in June 2009 to prioritise eligible applicants. The first 61 applicants were invited by batches to attend interviews and their eligibility was further verified. Thereafter, they were issued with a letter of requirements for compliance in three months’ time. Applicants who were not able to comply with the requirements within three months due to special reasons were given a one-month extension, failing that their applications were treated as abandoned. FEHD then invited applicants down the priority list to undergo the same licensing procedure.

3. Since May 2009, FEHD has invited over 220 eligible applicants to undergo the licensing procedure and some 160 applicants have declined the offer for various reasons, including having already secured other jobs and poor health, etc. Hitherto, 48 new IHL(FC) have been issued. FEHD will continue to process applications of the remaining 13 licences in the coming year and follow the same licensing procedures as described above.

4. Separately, as regards Hon Tommy Cheung's proposal to expand the nature of the commodities permitted to be sold by small ice-cream vendors, please be informed that after consultation with the relevant hawker associations, the Administration decided to expand the IHL(FC)'s list of permitted items to include pre-packaged snacks (including candies and chewing gums) and small tissue packs. The new arrangement took effect on 25 October 2010.

**Food and Health Bureau
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
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