

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)2487/06-07
(These minutes have been seen by
the Administration)

Ref : CB2/SS/9/06

**Subcommittee on Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation
(Revision of Licence Fees) Regulation 2007**

**Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 28 June 2007, at 1:00 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Hon SIN Chung-kai, JP (Chairman)
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
- Public Officers attending** : Home Affairs Department

Mr Isaac CHOW
Deputy Director of Home Affairs (2)

Mrs Angelina CHEUNG
Assistant Director of Home Affairs(4)

Ms Mildred CHEUNG
Chief Executive Officer (4)
- Clerk in attendance** : Miss Flora TAI
Chief Council Secretary (2)2
- Staff in attendance** : Miss Monna LAI
Assistant Legal Adviser 7

Ms Alice LEUNG
Senior Council Secretary (2)1

Ms Anna CHEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2)2

Action

I. Election of Chairman

Mr SIN Chung-kai was elected Chairman of the Subcommittee.

II. Meeting with the Administration

[LegCo Brief: HAD HQ CR/15/3/1(C), LC Paper Nos. LS89/06-07 and CB(2)2303/06-07(01)]

2. The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).
3. Members noted that the Federation of Hong Kong Hotel Owners Limited, the Tourist Guest Houses Federation of Hong Kong Limited and the Hong Kong Hotels Association had no objection to the proposed fee revision.
4. After deliberation, members raised no objection to the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation (Revision of Licence Fees) Regulation 2007.
5. Members agreed that the Chairman would make a verbal report on the deliberation of the Subcommittee to the House Committee on 29 June 2007 and a written report on 6 July 2007.
6. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 2:05 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
12 July 2007

**Proceedings of the meeting of
Subcommittee on Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation
(Revision of Licence Fees) Regulation 2007
on Thursday, 28 June 2007, at 1:00 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

Time marker	Speaker	Subject	Action required
000000 - 000349	Mr Sin Chung-kai Mr WONG Ting-kwong Ms Audrey EU Yuet-mee	Election of Chairman	
000350 - 000719	Admin	Briefing by the Administration on the LegCo Brief on the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation (Revision of Licence Fees) Regulation 2007 (Amendment Regulation) [LegCo Brief: HAD HQ CR/15/3/1(C)]	
000720 - 000937	Mr Howard YOUNG Admin	Consultation with the trade associations concerned on the fee revision proposal	
000938 - 002110	Ms Audrey EU Admin	Ms Audrey EU Yuet-mee's questions about - (a) the methodology of computing the full cost of the issue and renewal of licences; and (b) the scope of consultation, particularly with small-scale guesthouses. The Administration's explanation on the procedures for processing licence applications, cost computation and the consultation work.	
002111 - 002659	Mr Abraham SHEK Admin	Mr Abraham SHEK's concern about the impact of the proposed fee revision on small-scale guesthouses and his questions about - (a) the percentage of increase for the licence fees of these guesthouses; and (b) whether the high staff cost was a factor contributing to the high full cost of issuing and renewing licences for these guesthouses.	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject	Action required
		<p>The Administration's advice on the measures taken to streamline the procedures for licence application and assist operators in the process.</p>	
002700 - 003432	<p>Miss CHOY So-yuk Chairman Admin</p>	<p>Miss CHOY So-yuk's concern over the impact of fee revision on and the affordability of the small-scale guesthouse operators.</p> <p>The Administration's information that the number of guesthouses with one to three rooms was around 20 to 30.</p> <p>The Administration's advice that the Office of the Licensing Authority (the Licensing Authority) under the Home Affairs Department (HAD) was working with the Efficiency Unit to review and identify measures to streamline the relevant work procedures, including the inspection procedures for licence application. Any saving achieved through the implementation of efficiency initiatives would be reflected in the next costing exercise.</p>	
003433 - 004318	<p>Prof Patrick LAU Admin</p>	<p>Discussion on Prof Patrick LAU's views -</p> <p>(a) that the Administration should review the licensing processing procedures to facilitate the development and operation of the business of small guesthouses; and</p> <p>(b) whether the existence of illegal guesthouses might be a result of the difficulty in obtaining licences.</p>	
004319 - 004800	<p>Mr CHAN Kam-lam</p>	<p>Mr CHAN Kam-lam's briefing on the Administration's agreement to extend the period of a licence up to seven years in order to ease the burden of the operators of guesthouses as suggested by the former Bills Committee on Hotel Accommodation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 1998; and his expression of support for the Amendment Regulation.</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject	Action required
004801 - 005642	Mr WONG Ting-kwong Admin	<p>Mr WONG Ting-kwong's view that, to facilitate the development of tourism industry and small-scale guesthouses and in consideration of the affordability of the operators, the Administration should consider exercising discretion to freeze the licence fees for these guesthouses.</p> <p>The Administration's advice that operation of illegal guesthouses was the primary concern of the trade.</p> <p>The Administration's briefing on its work to combat the operation of illegal guesthouses as follows -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Licensing Authority had enhanced its cooperation with the Police in stepping up enforcement actions against unlicensed guesthouses; (b) the number of inspection to guesthouses was some 4 000 in 2003-2004 but increased to around 5 300 in 2006; and (c) HAD, in cooperation with the Tourism Commission, the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong and the District Councils, had issued information leaflets on licensed guesthouses to tourists and encouraged members of public to report on suspected unlicensed guesthouses. 	
005643 - 010015	Chairman Admin	<p>The Chairman's enquiries about -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the number of staff responsible for combating illegal guesthouses; and (b) the availability of the list of licensed guesthouses. <p>The Administration's advice that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Licensing Authority had a special team of 20 staff responsible for combating unlicensed establishments including guesthouses; and (b) the register of licensed guesthouses was available on the website of HAD. 	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject	Action required
010016 - 010103	Chairman	Verbal report to be made to the House Committee on 29 June 2007; and a written report on 6 July 2007.	

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
12 July 2007