

Hostel

The followings are some points I would like to bring out for legislative council for discussion.

Currently the hostel license requires the premises are in the building for domestic use meaning hostel must be in the building for residential use. As long as the hostel meets safety fire standard The Licensing Department has the right to issue license. After acquiring the hostel license the operator must comply with the DMC of the building. I am not against the purpose of AirBNB but they must be property licensed and operated. The authority must monitor their business more closely to make sure other residents in the building are safe.

The section 4 clause “i” of the DMC prohibits hang up clothing or laundry otherwise than at the place or places as provided for by the builders. However hostel operator use the 2nd floor terrace almost entirely to hang the bed sheets and towels as reported by TV.

The section 4 clause “i” of the DMC prohibits storing any hazardous dangerous or combustible goods or materials. However hostel operator store such material in large quantities for laundry and cleaning purpose also as reported by TV.

The hostel operator are allowed to operate hostel only inside the licensed flat. However they redirect guests to other non-licensed empty flat once their licensed flat become fully occupied. This is definitely against the law and regulation. The operators of the hostel in this building is in my opinion have exceeded way beyond the intended purpose of hostel and in now a large scale business.

We have complained to the license department for the hostel operator’s conducts. The interesting thing is that the department send their people to inspect the non-licensed hostel flats. They do not inspect suspected flats but only visit those occupied by the residents.

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