

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Sewage Services Ordinance
(Chapter 463)

**REDUCTION OF SEWAGE CHARGE FOR FRESH WATER SUPPLIED FOR
NON-DOMESTIC PURPOSES**

INTRODUCTION

At the meeting of the Executive Council on 16 March 2021, the Council ADVISED and the Chief Executive ORDERED that the Sewage Services (Sewage Charge) (Amendment) Regulation 2021, at Annex, should be made.

Annex

JUSTIFICATIONS

2. The extension of 75% reduction of the sewage charge for fresh water supplied for non-domestic purposes is to provide relief to the businesses concerned. The proposal will benefit about 250 000 non-domestic fresh water users.

THE AMENDMENT REGULATION

3. The Sewage Services (Sewage Charge) (Amendment) Regulation 2021 (“the Amendment Regulation”) at Annex is made under section 12(1) of the Sewage Services Ordinance (Cap. 463) and section 29 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1) to extend the 75% reduction of the sewage charge for fresh water supplied for non-domestic purposes for eight months from 1 April 2021 to 30 November 2021, subject to a monthly cap of \$12,500 for each meter covered by a water bill during the period.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

4. The Amendment Regulation will be gazetted on 19 March 2021 and tabled with

the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) for negative vetting at the next sitting after the publication in the Gazette.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

5. The proposal is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. The proposal will not affect the binding effect of existing provisions of the Sewage Services Ordinance (Cap. 463) and its subsidiary legislation. It has no productivity, environmental, gender, family or sustainability implications. As for the economic implications, the proposal should help reduce operating costs of the businesses concerned, thereby rendering them support in the difficult economic environment.

6. The estimated government revenue forgone is \$240 million. Civil service implications, if any, will be absorbed within the existing provision of the relevant bureau/department.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

7. The measure was announced by the Financial Secretary in his Speech for the 2021-22 Budget delivered on 24 February 2021.

PUBLICITY

8. A press release will be issued. A spokesman will be available to answer enquiries.

ENQUIRIES

9. Enquiries on the brief should be made to Mr. C K CHEN, Assistant Director (Water Policy) of the Environmental Protection Department at 3509 8628.

Environment Bureau
March 2021

Sewage Services (Sewage Charge) (Amendment) Regulation 2021

(Made by the Chief Executive in Council under section 12 of the Sewage Services Ordinance (Cap. 463) and section 29 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1))

1. Commencement

This Regulation comes into operation on 1 April 2021.

2. Sewage Services (Sewage Charge) Regulation amended

The Sewage Services (Sewage Charge) Regulation (Cap. 463 sub. leg. A) is amended as set out in section 3.

3. Section 2A amended (sewage charge concessions for fresh water supplied for several non-domestic purposes between December 2019 and March 2021)

(1) Section 2A, heading—

Repeal

“March”

Substitute

“November”.

(2) Section 2A(5), definition of *concession period*—

Repeal

“31 March”

Substitute

“30 November”.



Clerk to the Executive Council

COUNCIL CHAMBER

16 March 2021

Sewage Services (Sewage Charge) (Amendment) Regulation 2021

Explanatory Note

Paragraph 1

3

Explanatory Note

Section 2A of the Sewage Services (Sewage Charge) Regulation (Cap. 463 sub. leg. A) provides for a concession on sewage charges for fresh water supplied for several non-domestic purposes during the period from December 2019 to March 2021.

2. This Regulation amends that section 2A to extend the concession by 8 months to November 2021.