

Registration for Licensed Guesthouses Subsidy Scheme to end on March 20

Registration for the Licensed Guesthouses Subsidy Scheme established under the Government's Anti-epidemic Fund will end on March 20. Eligible guesthouses wishing to apply for a one-off subsidy of either \$50,000 or \$80,000 should register with the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) under the Home Affairs Department as soon as possible.

There are currently about 1 800 licensed guesthouses in Hong Kong. Since the commencement of registration on February 21, so far the OLA has received more than 1 500 registrations. The registered licensed guesthouses account for over 80 per cent of the total.

All guesthouses with a valid guesthouse licence issued under the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance as at February 21, 2020 are eligible for registration. The registration form and guideline can be downloaded from the website of the OLA (www.hadla.gov.hk) or obtained from the OLA's office (Address: 10th Floor, 14 Taikoo Wan Road, Taikoo Shing, Hong Kong).

Under the Subsidy Scheme, each eligible guesthouse with one to five licensed guestrooms may receive a one-off subsidy of \$50,000 and those with six or more licensed guestrooms may receive a one-off subsidy of \$80,000.

Guesthouse licence holders should submit the completed registration forms together with documentary proof of their bank accounts to the OLA by post (the postmark date will be regarded as the date of receipt) or in person on or before March 20. If they file the registration forms and supporting documents via fax or email, they will be required to submit the original registration forms afterwards. The OLA will verify the registration forms upon receipt. In general, after receiving the completed registration form and the required supporting document, it is estimated that the disbursement of subsidies could be arranged in about 14 working days.

Ends/Sunday, March 8, 2020

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