

Applicants for Retail Sector Subsidy Scheme gradually notified of results

A Government spokesman said today (May 13) that the vetting work of the Retail Sector Subsidy Scheme under the first round of the Anti-epidemic Fund has been nearly completed. Among about 93 000 applications received, the Government has already notified about 66 000 applicants of vetting results. About \$3.5 billion in subsidies has been approved so far for eligible retailers, involving some 44 000 successful applications.

The Government is now processing some 27 000 remaining applications. Among them, about 10 000 applicants are required to submit further information or documents, such as correct bank account information and supporting documents showing the relevant shop's address, for determining whether they are eligible for the Scheme.

The spokesman urged applicants who received email asking for submission of supplementary information or documents to submit the required information or documents as soon as possible to avoid delays in vetting the applications.

As of today, over 22 000 applications are considered unsuccessful under the Scheme, as they cannot meet the eligibility criteria. The majority of unsuccessful cases involve businesses that are not retail, such as import and export, as well as commercial services and agency services, while some other unsuccessful cases involve duplicate applications for identical premises. The relevant applicants are being informed of their application results and reasons for rejection via SMS and email.

Depending on the final vetting results of the outstanding applications, the Government anticipates that more than 60 000 applications will eventually be approved. The number of anticipated successful cases is broadly in line with the number of establishments in the retail sector as estimated by the Census and Statistics Department.

For enquiries on vetting results, applicants may call the telephone hotline (1836 111) during office hours (Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm, except public holidays) or email enquiry@retailsubsidy.hk.