

Letterhead of Environment and Food Bureau Government Secretariat

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11 June 2001

Clerk to LegCo Panel on
Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
(Attn: Mrs Constance Li)
Legislative Council Secretariat
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Li,

Proposed arrangement for stallholders in Central Market

Thank you for your letter of 21 April 2001 conveying to us the motion passed by the Panel at the meeting on 8 January 2001.

As we explained at the above meeting, viability should be the overriding consideration in the planning of new public markets. This is in line with the recommendation of Director of Audit in his Report No. 29 - "Urban Council Public Markets" dated October 1997. As we have grave reservation over the viability of the proposed new market in Hollywood Road for reasons set out in our paper submitted to Panel on 8 January 2001, it will not be prudent on the part of the Government to proceed with the construction of a new market. In the absence of a suitable alternative site for the construction of a new market, we need to consider other proposed arrangements for eligible stallholders in Central Market.

The current tenancies between the stallholders of Central Market and FEHD will expire on 30 June 2001. In order to allow more time for

discussion with the affected stallholders, we are planning to extend the tenancies to 31 December 2001. Please rest assured that we will endeavour to work out a mutually acceptable arrangement with the affected stallholders.

Yours sincerely,

(David K K LAU)
for Secretary for the Environment and Food