

Outstanding issue	Administration's Response
<p>1. Extension of control under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Chemical Residues) Regulation to fish</p>	<p>The Administration presented a paper on proposed amendments of the Public health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance, Cap. 139 in the July 2001 Panel meeting. We explained, inter alia, that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the ambit of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance, Cap. 139 at present did not cover fish; and ● we would seek to extend the ambit of the Ordinance to cover fish in a legislative amendment exercise. <p>Members supported the proposals to amend the Ordinance. We are proceeding with the legislative amendment exercise which aims to introduce a number of improvements to the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance, including the extension of the ambit of the Ordinance to cover fish.</p>
<p>2. Legislative amendment to separate control of drugs for humans and animals in order that drugs for food animals could be regulated under one ordinance (Cap. 139) and one department (The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department)</p>	<p>With the coming into force of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Chemical Residues) Regulation, the problem of abuse of drugs in husbandry practice is being effectively tackled. EFB as the policy bureau and AFCD as the enforcement department will keep the Regulation under constant review to ensure that no abuse of chemicals, antibiotics and drugs on food animals goes unregulated.</p> <p>The problem of abuse of drugs in husbandry practice is a different matter from the registration of drugs, the mechanism of which is provided for in the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance. Under this Ordinance, all pharmaceutical products, including those used on animals, have to be registered with the Pharmacy and Poisons (Registration of Pharmaceutical Products and Substances: Certification of Clinical</p>

	<p>Trial/Medicinal Test) Committee of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board. One of the members of this committee is a representative of the veterinary profession who is able to provide professional input in the Committee's consideration of applications for registration of veterinary drugs and related matters. The registration system is working well and we do not see a need for a separate registration mechanism for veterinary drugs under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance.</p>
<p>3. Establishment of a designated zone for food animal farming</p>	<p>Concentrating all food animal farming in one designated zone is undesirable as animal disease would easily spread, resulting in complete loss of all Hong Kong's livestock. Moreover, there is no suitable site in Hong Kong that can be converted to a centralized farming estate. The Administration will not pursue this proposal.</p>