

**Extract from minutes of meeting with Wan Chai District Council Members
on 5 July 2001**

Members present : Hon Howard YOUNG, JP (Convenor)
Hon CHOY So-yuk
Hon IP Kwok-him, JP
Hon LAU Ping-cheung
Hon MAK Kwok-fung

By Invitation : **Wan Chai District Council Members**
Mrs Peggy LAM, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Mr SUEN Kai-cheong, MH (Deputy Chairman)
Mr NG Kam-chun, Stephen, MH
Ms TSUI Wai-ling, Carlye, JP
Ms WONG Ying-kay, Ada
Mr WONG Hon-ching, San Stephen
Mr LO Tin-sown

Staff in Attendance : Mrs Constance LI
Chief Assistant Secretary (2)5

Miss Irene MAN
Senior Assistant Secretary (2)9

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Food business licensing

36. Ms Ada WONG said that a number of cooked food stalls of about 100 square feet selling cooked snacks in Causeway Bay had made the places dirty and messy. Those stalls were holding food factory licences issued by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). She said that although FEHD had stepped up enforcement against the poor hygiene conditions of these premises, she considered that the fundamental solution lay with amending the legislation by narrowing down the scope of a food factory licence.

37. Mr WONG Hon-ching pointed out that the licensing requirements for a restaurant licence were a lot more complicated than those for a food factory licence, hence many of these cooked food stalls operated on a food factory licence. He said that a food factory should be one which manufactured and delivered the food

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products to elsewhere. However, the cooked food prepared by these so-called food factories in Wan Chai was for retail purposes. Moreover, the snacks were not covered properly and sauces spilt everywhere making the places very dirty. Mr WONG said that he had reservations about FEHD's explanation that food factory could sell the food manufactured. He requested LegCo Members' assistance in examining whether it was necessary to amend the legislation to plug any loophole concerning the licensing of food factories.

38. Mr IP Kwok-him said that he was a member of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and that the matter could be pursued by the Panel. However, he was worried that imposing even more stringent control on snack shops might have adverse impact on the job market and on tourism, since many countries also retained cooked food stalls as a kind of tourist attraction. Mr SUEN Kai-cheong suggested that if cooked food stalls were to be retained as a kind of tourist attraction, they should be provided in designated areas. He pointed out that these so-called food factories were taking advantage of the loophole in legislation and posed environmental hygiene problems. He believed that there was a need to amend the legislation to tackle the problem.

Clerk 39. The Convenor advised that the matter would be referred to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene for consideration.

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Legislative Council Secretariat
19 September 2001