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23 April 2004

The Hon. Fred LI Wah-ming, JP  
Chairman  
LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road, Central  
Hong Kong  
(Fax: 2509 0775)

Dear

**Resumption of Importation of Mainland Live Chickens –  
Review of Phase I Pilot Arrangement**

On 15 April 2004, the Administration briefed Members on the Phase I arrangement for the resumption of importation of Mainland live chickens on a pilot basis from 20 – 22 April 2004.

During the period from 20 – 22 April, three consignments of about 6,000 chickens were imported from the Mainland each day. Clinical examination of the chickens showed that the imported live chickens were in very good health conditions. The laboratory test results for the consignments also showed that all faecal samples were negative for avian influenza H5 virus and the antibody test results of all blood samples were satisfactory.

We have reviewed the results of the Phase I arrangement and considered that the daily quantities of imported live chickens can be further increased to 12,000 on 25 April after the wholesale market rest days for a further 5-day period until 29 April, after which we will further review the daily quantities of live chickens to be imported having regard to the latest experience.

Yours sincerely,

(Eddy CHAN)  
for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food