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24 May 2004

Mrs. Constance LI
Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mrs. Li,

Written submission on the Administration's consultation paper on "Prevention of avian influenza: Consultation on long term direction to minimize the risk of human infection"

Having studied the consultation document on prevention of avian influenza, I support the Government's policy to separate humans from live poultry in order to minimize the exposure of the community to potential health hazards.

Of the two major strategic approaches proposed, "cold chain" ensures better isolation of the population from live poultry, and therefore reduces the risk of viral transmission to humans. This is particularly important in areas of dense population. Moreover, the centralized slaughtering proposed in the "cold chain" approach is far more efficient in terms of poultry processing and control of contamination. However, monitoring mechanisms must be introduced to ensure strict compliance to hygienic practices during live poultry handling, slaughtering, meat processing and storage.

"Freshly slaughter chickens" offers an alternative to consumers that will have a higher receptivity. However, apart from the higher total capital cost; this approach increases exposure to live poultry during transportation to different slaughterhouses.

Both approaches proposed in the consultation paper will impact persons engaged in the live poultry trade; therefore, I agree that there is a need to provide financial assistance to those who are affected by the implementation of the new approach.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Polly Leung

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