



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部衛生福利及食物局  
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau  
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

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本函檔號 Our ref.:

電話號碼 Tel. No.: 2973 8297

來函檔號 Your ref.:

傳真號碼 Fax No.: 2136 3282

12 October 2006

Mrs Percy MA

Clerk to the Subcommittee

on Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Exhibitions) (Amendment)

Regulation 2006

Legislative Council Building

8 Jackson Road

Central

Hong Kong.

Dear Mrs MA,

**Subcommittee on**

**Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Exhibitions) (Amendment) Regulation 2006**

Thank you for your letter dated 6 October. As requested by the Subcommittee on Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Exhibitions) (Amendment) Regulation (hereafter "the Subcommittee"), we are collecting information on overseas regulations of racing pigeons for submission to the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene for reference.

With regard to the proposed licence fees stipulated in the *Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Exhibitions) (Amendment) Regulation 2006*, we must reiterate that the licence fee is set on the basis of total cost recovery principle. However, in view of the concerns on licence fee levels raised by the Subcommittee at the meeting on 30 September, we have carefully considered the issue and agreed to enlist the cooperation of applicants for

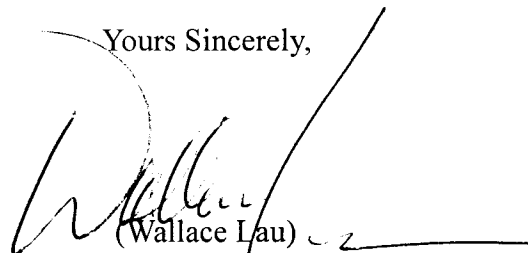
exhibition licence in working with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) by furnishing the information required, such as cage sizes, to AFCD for processing. The cooperation will save the time AFCD staff spend on processing the applications and reduce the licence fee as a result. In pursuance of the change, we propose to lower the exhibition licence fees for animals and birds as follows:

- (a) The licence fee for not more than 20 animals and birds is to be lowered from \$2,720 to \$2,190; and
- (b) The licence fee for more than 20 animals and birds is to be lowered from \$9,700 to \$7,790.

To implement the above fee revision, we will prepare appropriate forms for applicants to submit the required information to AFCD to facilitate verification by the department.

We would like to stress again that there is a need for the Government to regulate the rearing of racing pigeons to protect public health and safeguard environmental hygiene. As Hong Kong will enter the peak season for influenza soon, we hope the Subcommittee would support the above revision proposal so that we may submit an amendment motion on fee revision to the Legislative Council as soon as possible. If the amendment motion is carried, we will refund the difference between the old and new fees to those who have paid the old licence fees.

Yours Sincerely,



(Wallace Lau)

for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

c.c. Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Attn: Dr Eric TAI) (Fax: 2152 0320)

Department of Justice

(Attn: Miss Leonora IP) (Fax: 2845 2215)