



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

4 June 2009

Ms Joanne MAK
Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

**Bills Committee on Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2009
Enquiry from Meeting held on 30 May 2009**

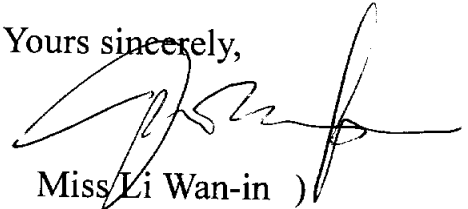
Dear Ms Mak,

Further to the Bills Committee meeting held on 30 May 2009, I set out below our response to the enquiry on the timetable for reaching an agreement with newspaper hawkers regarding the relaxation of licensing control.

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) met with newspaper hawkers' associations in mid-April 2009 this year to listen to their concerns and their suggestions on what might be done to help improve their business environment. The hawker representatives informed FEHD that they would gauge the views of their members before putting forward concrete proposals to the department for consideration. Regarding your request for a timetable, FEHD has approached the trade again and learnt that they were wrapping up their consultation and would soon hold a meeting with its members to finalise their proposals. FEHD

has offered to have an early meeting with them again and to actively consider their proposals with a view to offering appropriate assistance to the newspaper hawkers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Li Wan-in', written in a cursive style.

(Miss Li Wan-in)

for Secretary for Food and Health