



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

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13 July 2011

Hon Tommy CHEUNG, BBS, JP
Chairman, Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council

Dear Hon Cheung,

Public Consultation on the Review of Liquor Licensing

The Food and Health Bureau is conducting a public consultation on the review of liquor licensing. The consultation, which covers regulation of “upstairs bars” and measures to further streamline the liquor licensing procedures, will close on 14 September.

Some members of the community are particularly concerned about the potential problems of public safety and nuisance etc. brought about by liquor-licensed premises, especially “upstairs bars”. Despite this, we need to bear in mind that the sale of liquor plays an important role in our food, leisure, tourism and entertainment industries. When considering whether or not to tighten regulation of liquor licensing, apart from protecting public safety and minimising nuisance, we should also have regard to the equally legitimate

interests of the trade. We should strive to balance the interests of the trade and the neighbouring community. Against this background, the consultation document has set out various proposals to tighten control of “upstairs bars” on one hand, and as well as those from the trade to streamline the licensing procedures with a view to reducing the regulatory burden on them on the other.

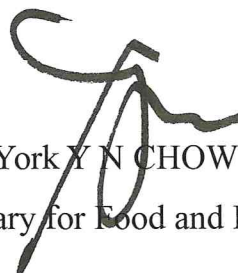
At the meetings of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council held on 15 February and 12 April this year, the Government briefed Members on our initial thinking about the review of liquor licensing and listened to Members’ views. These views have been fully taken into account in our preparation of this consultation document.

We hope that different sectors of the community would respond to this consultation, with a view to reaching a broad consensus as to what is the most appropriate and acceptable to the community as a whole, so that our liquor licensing system can be taken forward.

After the consultation, the Administration would analyse the comments received, and assess the desirability and feasibility of introducing the proposed measures. We would report the progress of our review to this Panel in due course.

If you have any enquiries on the content of the consultation document, please contact Mr Kevin Yeung, Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Telephone: 2973 8297; Fax: 2136 3281).

Yours sincerely,



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Secretary for Food and Health