

**For discussion
on 11 December 2013**

EC(2013-14)10

ITEM FOR ESTABLISHMENT SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Head 139 – GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT :
FOOD AND HEALTH BUREAU (FOOD BRANCH)
Subhead 000 Operational expenses**

Members are invited to recommend to Finance Committee the creation of the following permanent post in the Food Branch of the Food and Health Bureau with immediate effect upon approval by the Finance Committee –

1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B
(D3) (\$158,850 - \$173,350)

PROBLEM

The Food Branch of the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) needs to strengthen the senior directorate support to cope with the increasing workload, thereby enhancing its work in ensuring food safety and other related policies and measures, as well as pursuing amendments to and implementation of relevant legislation to safeguard public health.

PROPOSAL

2. We propose to create one permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (AOSGB) (D3) in the Food Branch of FHB with immediate effect upon approval by the Finance Committee.

/JUSTIFICATION

JUSTIFICATION

3. The policy portfolio of the Food Branch includes food safety and environmental hygiene, as well as agriculture and fisheries. The Branch is responsible for carrying out the related policy formulation, monitoring and legislative work. It is headed by an Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1 (D8) officer, designated as the Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food), who is supported by a Deputy Secretary (DS) ranked at Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 (D4) level, designated as DS(Food)1, and three Principal Assistant Secretaries (PASs) ranked at Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) level.

4. At the beginning of 2013, the Government noted a serious shortage of certain brands of powdered formula at the local retail level due to parallel trading activities. To combat the problem of parallel traders diverting large quantities of powdered formula away from the supply chain in Hong Kong, the Government announced on 1 February 2013 that amendments to the Import and Export (General) Regulation (Cap. 60 sub. leg. A) would be made as soon as possible to prohibit the export of powdered formula from Hong Kong except with a licence issued by the relevant authority. The substantial workload involved enactment of the emergency legislation and the related follow-up work. As follow-up on the enforcement of the relevant legislation and discussions with the trade on the supply chain improvement measures also generated huge workload, we created, through delegated authority, a six-month supernumerary post, designated as DS(Food) (Special Duties) (D3), on 3 August 2013 to strengthen senior directorate support in the Food Branch. The post will lapse on 3 February 2014 or the date when the proposed permanent post is created, whichever is earlier.

Increasing Public Concern over Food Safety and Public Health

5. The proposed creation of the AOSGB post will strengthen the senior directorate support in the Food Branch to cope with the increasing workload, thereby enhancing its work in ensuring food safety and other related policies and measures, as well as pursuing amendments to and implementation of relevant legislation to safeguard public health. Ensuring food safety is a long-term mission entailing heavy workload with a high level of complexity. To cite the example of food incidents identified by the Centre for Food Safety, the number of cases has risen from some 700 in 2008 to about 1 000 in 2012. Given the widespread public concern about food safety and the fact that Hong Kong is a liberal and free market with a complex food supply chain providing a great variety of food imports from all over the world, any major food incidents can have extensive sensitive impact, involving various Government departments and food safety authorities outside Hong Kong. Hence, such incidents would require proper handling at the senior directorate level so as to maintain public confidence in the food concerned. The justifications are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

6. In recent years, public awareness over food safety in Hong Kong has been growing. Ensuring food safety is one of the top priorities of the Food Branch, which involves an increasingly wide range of work and complicated issues. Since some 95% of our food is imported from places outside Hong Kong, it is necessary for the Government to respond promptly to any food incidents that occur outside Hong Kong and related media reports to safeguard public health. Recent examples of food incidents that drew extensive media coverage include the incident of radiation leak in Japan in March 2011 and the presence of plasticiser in food products and drinks from Taiwan in May of the same year; the incident of suspected substandard cooking oil in December 2012; the detection of maleic acid in Taiwan food products in May 2013 and the incident of food ingredients from New Zealand suspected to be contaminated by *Clostridium botulinum* in August of the same year. Both the media and the public expect the Government, as the regulatory body, to implement effective measures and provide prompt response. In the event of food incidents local or overseas, the Food Branch needs to take effective actions to co-ordinate inter-departmental response, disseminate information to the public and mitigate any impact on food supply.

7. Since most of our food is imported from places outside Hong Kong, to ensure food safety, we need to tackle not only food incidents but also keep a close eye on the multi-faceted rapid developments of food supply and safety in major food supplying economies and at the international level, as well as on the changing behaviour of food consumption and handling in the community, so as to ensure that our monitoring and regulatory regime is in line with the best international practice and the food consumption behaviour of the public, thereby safeguarding public health. The following three elements of our work are of utmost importance –

- (a) **To update the food safety standards in legislation from time to time and put the requisite food types or items under regulation:** since 2005, the Government has introduced or amended 14 pieces of food-related legislation including legislating to prohibit the use of malachite green in 2005; amending the legislation to update the standards for preservatives and antioxidants in food to align with international standards in 2008, and amending the legislation to regulate the use of melamine in food in the same year; legislating to empower the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene to prohibit the import and supply of problem food and to order the recall of such food in 2009; updating the list of sweeteners in 2010 for regulation of their use; enacting the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612) in 2011 to provide for measures to strengthen food safety control such as introduction of the registration scheme for food importers and distributors, and amending the legislation to prohibit the presence of three exogenous estrogens in dried milk, condensed

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milk and reconstituted milk in the same year; and enacting the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM) in 2012 to facilitate effective regulatory control of pesticide residues in food. In future, we also plan to regulate nutritional labelling of and claims in formula products and foods intended for infants and young children, the import of poultry eggs and aquatic products, and to review the safety standards for veterinary drug residues in food and food animals and heavy metals in food;

- (b) **To conduct thematic research on various food types and items as well as different cooking and food handling methods:** FHB maintains close liaison with the Centre for Food Safety and the Expert Committee on Food Safety. On the basis of a risk-based approach, we formulate the research direction and priorities each year on storage and handling of food or food ingredients, for example, seafood, frozen confections, perishable food and other high risk food, and carry out study on the risks posed by food prepared under different cooking temperatures, time and methods; and
- (c) **To maintain close contacts with major food supplying economies including Mainland China to conduct working-level and high-level exchanges and discussions, resolve problems and widen the scope of cooperation on food safety measures:** take the Mainland as an example, FHB has established a communication and co-ordination mechanism with the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) respectively on food safety and supply. At the regional level, we have also set up a cooperation and notification mechanism with Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Macao on areas such as food safety control. Looking ahead, we are in active discussion with the China Food and Drug Administration on setting up a platform for exchanges and cooperation.

In formulating and implementing the monitoring and regulatory measures for various kinds of food, there is a constant need for FHB to hold discussions with other relevant bureaux and departments for co-ordination and division of work. All in all, ensuring that food supplied to Hong Kong is fit and safe for human consumption is an ongoing work requiring a high level of management and leadership capabilities.

8. The nature and complexity of the regulatory work on food safety have evolved to the point that dedicated senior directorate support at D3 level on a

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long-term basis is warranted. To achieve synergy, it is suggested that the duties to ensure food safety and handle food incidents, which are currently under the DS(Food)1 post, should be placed under the proposed DS(Food)2 post. In making the decision, we have also taken into consideration the increasing workload of DS(Food)1 (details are set out in paragraphs 9 to 10 below).

Increasingly Complex and Onerous Policy Issues

9. Given the increasing quantity and complexity of duties in the Food Branch which oversees a wide portfolio encompassing food safety and environmental hygiene as well as agriculture and fisheries, it is impossible to rely solely on the existing DS(Food)1 to take charge of all the issues. In fact, developments surrounding the policy on columbaria and related legislative amendments alone have taken up a sizeable share of the time of this post. Since June 2009, FHB has been co-ordinating inter-bureaux/departmental efforts to explore the way forward for columbarium development. The work includes the completion of two rounds of public consultation, a Business Impact Assessment Study, reality checks on existing building and fire safety regulations, and the drafting of the Private Columbaria Bill (the Bill). Furthermore, as the Government has announced a total of 24 potential sites in 18 districts for columbarium development, we are forging ahead with a number of technical feasibility studies, soliciting district support and seeking funding approval. Follow-up action on the re-zoning of these sites will also be taken. As the draft Bill touches on a host of extremely complex and controversial policies straddling different policy areas, repeated discussions with bureaux and departments are needed to achieve congruency in different policies. The subsequent introduction of the Bill into the Legislative Council (LegCo) and the follow-up work after its enactment will require the dedicated and tremendous input of DS(Food)1.

10. Besides, as a result of the rising expectations and aspirations of the community, there are also pressing tasks in other policy subjects under DS(Food)1's portfolio, demanding substantial attention of DS(Food)1. Such areas of work include –

- (a) **To develop and follow up on proposals for improving the operating environment of public markets, including upgrading works for certain markets to enhance their competitiveness** so as to provide better service for the public. We will shortly commission a consultancy study, which will cover a review on the positioning and functions of markets in present-day circumstances as well as concrete suggestions to improve their operating environment. Besides, the rental adjustment mechanism and installation of air-conditioning systems for markets are also matters for follow-up;

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- (b) **To review the policy on agricultural development**, with a view to conserving the natural environment and facilitating the development, while strengthening support for the sustainable development of modern as well as urban agriculture;
- (c) **To respond to the growing concern about animal welfare in the community.** We launched a public consultation on the proposed changes to the membership and complaint-handling procedures of the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong as well as on better regulation of pet trading in 2012, and have followed up on the findings of the consultation, including the drafting of legislative amendments. For better regulation of pet trading, we are actively maintaining close liaison with stakeholders about their latest thinking. Progress has been made in the proposed “trap-neuter-return” trial programme and future implementation of the programme requires monitoring and assessment;
- (d) **To address the continuing threat of avian influenza (including H7N9 and H5N1) to animal and public health in Hong Kong.** Specific tasks include enhancing the preventive work at farms and markets in Hong Kong and maintaining close communication with relevant Mainland authorities;
- (e) **To follow up on the development of fisheries industries**, including soliciting the support of LegCo for setting up the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund, working out the details of the Fund such as the scope of assistance, the criteria of approval and the composition of the advisory committee etc. Moreover, we need to follow up on measures for conservation of fisheries resources such as establishing Fisheries Protection Areas and re-issuing marine fish culture licences, as well as examining whether international covenants relating to fisheries are applicable to Hong Kong; and
- (f) To follow up on other issues of concern to Members, such as improvement of the **liquor licensing regime** and **live cattle supply** etc.

Duties of the New DS(Food)2 Post to be Created

11. It is impossible to rely solely on DS(Food)1 to continue to cope with the quantity of work arising from food safety, environmental hygiene and developments of the agriculture and fisheries industries etc., in an effective and timely manner. We therefore consider it necessary to create one permanent DS post ranked at AOSGB level.

12. The proposed DS(Food)2 post will be responsible for the following aspects of work –

- (a) **To manage and co-ordinate the response of departments, including the Centre for Food Safety, to food incidents:** the volume of work in this regard is enormous and urgent (see paragraph 6 above). In the event of a food incident, the Government must exercise crisis management promptly and effectively, including actively liaising with the Mainland and overseas authorities, maintaining contacts with food traders and identifying the source of the problem through the food tracing mechanism provided for in the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612). It is also necessary to co-ordinate departmental efforts and provide the required policy steer and resources to handle the food incident effectively, including timely dissemination of accurate information to the public and the media to avoid panic;
- (b) **To review and establish food safety standards in the legislation, items requiring regulation and thematic studies on food safety,** and to conduct exchanges and discussions with food supplying economies (see paragraph 7 above);
- (c) **To monitor the supply of food to ensure it is sufficient and stable:** since Hong Kong relies heavily on imported food, it is the responsibility of the Government to monitor the supply of food in Hong Kong. Apart from ensuring that the supply is sufficient and stable, we also need to enhance market transparency to maintain a highly open and competitive food market and trade with diversified sources and food types. Moreover, as the Mainland is a major supplier of food to Hong Kong, FHB also maintains close liaison and exchanges information with relevant Mainland authorities (including MoC and ACSIQ, etc.) on the stable supply of fresh food produce. For this purpose, we have established effective mechanisms for liaison and emergency responses;
- (d) **To follow up on the enforcement of the Import and Export (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2013 and measures to improve the powdered formula supply chain with suppliers and retailers:** to ensure sufficient and steady supply of powdered formula to local infants and young children, the Government established in July a Committee on Supply Chain of Powdered Formula (the Committee) comprising members from different sectors to discuss and examine the supply chain improvement measures proposed by major suppliers of powdered formula and the Hong Kong General Chamber of Pharmacy, and conducted a stress test to review these

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measures during the National Day Golden Week as well as on the days immediately before and after it. The consultant is analysing the observations and data gathered from the stress test and will submit a report to the Government for discussion by the Committee, after which the Committee will tender views to the Government on the improvement of the supply chain of powdered formula. As far as the supply chain improvement measures are concerned, there is still a great deal of follow-up work;

- (e) **Legislation and implementation relating to nutrition labelling of formula products and foods for infants and young children:** with the support of the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in 2013, we are actively working on the drafting of the legislation for tabling at LegCo in 2014. If the legislation is approved by LegCo, we will still need to maintain close liaison with the trade and laboratories to ensure that all parties are well-prepared before commencement of the legislation so that it can be implemented smoothly;
- (f) **To conduct policy research on regulation of claims in formula products and foods for infants and young children:** at present, there is still a lack of international consensus on regulation of claims. Overseas experiences suggest that regulation of claims requires striking a careful balance between protection of public health, right-to-know of the public, and food choices. In view of the complexity and controversy of issues related to regulation of claims, a much longer lead time will be required before we can finalise the proposals. That said, we have already started to examine various regulatory options for claims. We organised a symposium and a consultation meeting with experts from overseas and the Mainland in October 2012 to seek their views on regulation of claims. We will also form an expert panel within this year to examine the subject and prepare for future legislation;
- (g) **Legislation on regulation of the import of poultry eggs and its implementation** to minimise the risk of avian influenza: according to the World Health Organization, eggs from infected poultry could be contaminated with avian influenza virus. The World Organization for Animal Health has recommended that an international veterinary certificate should accompany the import of poultry eggs for human consumption for control of avian influenza. To safeguard public health, we have submitted a proposal to LegCo on import control for poultry eggs. We have gained support of the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and are actively working on the

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drafting of the legislation. We also need to liaise closely with the trade to ensure the smooth implementation of the legislation after its enactment;

- (h) **To oversee the policy work relating to pesticide residues in food**, including the smooth implementation of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM) (the Regulation): on the basis of securing a safe and stable supply of food for Hong Kong, we have been holding intensive discussions with AQSIQ, the relevant entry-exit inspection and quarantine bureaux and other relevant Central Government ministries on the specific operating arrangements for the Regulation to ensure its smooth implementation. Besides, we are drafting some frequently asked questions and answers relating to the Regulation for reference by the trade. We will also update the residue limits in Schedule 1 of the Regulation from time to time;
- (i) **To review the safety standards for veterinary drug residues and heavy metals in food** and to take forward the related legislative amendment exercise: in order to strengthen the protection of food safety and public health, we will review the safety standards for veterinary drug residues in food and food animals and refine the details of the proposed regulatory framework in light of the framework of the Regulation. We also plan to amend the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V) to strengthen regulation of the level of metallic contaminants in food, with a view to promoting harmonisation between the local and international standards and better protecting public health. A Working Group on Amendment to Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations has been set up to discuss the parameters of the proposed amendments and statutory limits;
- (j) **To draw up a regulatory scheme on the safety of imported aquatic food products** and discuss with AQSIQ on ways to enhance supervision and management of Mainland farms supplying marine fish, shellfish and related aquatic products to Hong Kong; and
- (k) **To provide strategic support in overseeing the work and development of the Government Laboratory (GL)**: GL plays an important role in the effective implementation of Government policies, including food safety and environmental hygiene policies. As the housekeeping bureau of GL, FHB is responsible for ensuring that GL has sufficient resources, manpower and space to provide analytical, investigatory and advisory services. Food incidents that

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occurred over the last few years have underlined the importance of the support services in this area. We are discussing with GL on ways to better utilise its resources to deliver its services through internal reorganisation. Besides, by providing strategic support to GL, we are assisting GL, being recognised internationally as a laboratory providing world-class scientific services, to turn into a leading laboratory in the region.

Encls.
1 - 3
4 & 5

13. The existing and revised job descriptions of DS(Food)1 as well as the proposed job description of DS(Food)2 are at Enclosures 1 to 3 respectively. The existing and proposed organisation structures of the Food Branch of FHB are shown at Enclosures 4 and 5 respectively.

Non-directorate Support

14. As mentioned in paragraphs 5 and 7 above, the proposed AOSGB post will play an important role in liaising with major food supplying economies on food safety measures, co-ordinating with relevant bureaux and departments in formulating and implementing the monitoring and regulatory measures for various kinds of food, and handling food incidents. The post holder will be supported by PAS(Food)1 and two non-directorate staff of Administrative Officer grade in policy formulation, review and research. Meanwhile, three non-directorate staff of Personal Secretary and Clerical Officer grades (including the holder of a Personal Secretary I post to be created through delegated authority) will provide secretarial, clerical and general administrative support.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

15. Since the existing DS(Food)1 at D4 level in the Food Branch of FHB already has an extremely heavy schedule, it is not possible for him to take on the additional tasks mentioned in paragraph 12 above. To cope with the substantial expansion in workload and requirements as well as the need for dedicated attention and oversight of the regulatory work on food safety, we see a strong need for the creation of one permanent AOSGB post (D3).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. The proposed creation of the permanent AOSGB post will bring about an additional notional annual salary cost at mid-point of \$2,019,000. The full annual average staff cost, including salaries and staff on-cost, is \$2,925,000. As for

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the five non-directorate staff mentioned in paragraph 14 above, the notional annual salary cost at mid-point for these non-directorate staff is \$2,862,000 and the full annual average staff cost, including salaries and staff on-cost, is \$3,917,000. We have included sufficient provision in the Estimates of the relevant year to meet the requirements of the proposal.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

17. We consulted the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 12 November 2013. The majority of the Members supported the creation of the proposed permanent AOSGB post.

ESTABLISHMENT CHANGES

18. The establishment changes under Head 139 – Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) in the past two years are as follows –

Establishment (Note)	Number of Posts			
	Existing (as at 1 October 2013)	As at 1 April 2013	As at 1 April 2012	As at 1 April 2011
A*	7 [#]	7 + (1)	7 + (1)	7 + (1)
B	13	13	13	13
C	25	26	26	25
Total	45	47	47	46

Note:

A - ranks in the directorate pay scale or equivalent

B - non-directorate ranks, the maximum pay point of which is above MPS point 33 or equivalent

C - non-directorate ranks, the maximum pay point of which is at or below MPS point 33 or equivalent

* - excluding supernumerary post created under delegated authority

() - number of supernumerary directorate posts

- as at 1 October 2013, there were no unfilled directorate posts in the Food Branch of FHB

19. If the proposed creation of the DS(Food)2 post is approved, there will be a slight reshuffling of the existing duties of the three PASs in the Food Branch. PAS(Food)1, responsible for food safety matters, will report to the proposed DS(Food)2 for all matters pertaining to food safety and food supply. To achieve synergy, the policy and legislation governing pesticide and veterinary drug residues in food, as well as developments relating to organic food and genetically modified food, currently undertaken by PAS(Food)3, will be placed under PAS(Food)1. Apart from the subjects of columbaria and burial policy, hawker policy etc., PAS(Food)2 will continue to oversee other environmental hygiene matters, including anti-mosquito and anti-rodent efforts, cleanliness of public places and streets, regulatory control over food premises, secretariat work of the Licensing Appeals Board, and a review of the fee levels and charging policy of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department etc. Besides, PAS(Food)2 also needs to oversee policies and rental adjustment for wholesale food markets. PAS(Food)3 is responsible for policy issues related to the sustainable development of the local agriculture and fisheries industries, animal and veterinary health, including the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases (e.g. avian influenza), food safety and supply of food animals and food of animal origin, as well as policy matters relating to animal welfare and management. The revised job descriptions of the three PASs are at Enclosures 6 to 8.

Encls. 6 - 8

CIVIL SERVICE BUREAU COMMENTS

20. The Civil Service Bureau supports the proposed creation of a permanent AOSGB post in the Food Branch of FHB. The grading and ranking of the proposed post are considered appropriate having regard to the level and scope of the responsibilities required.

ADVICE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DIRECTORATE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

21. The Standing Committee on Directorate Salaries and Conditions of Service has advised that the grading proposed for the post would be appropriate if the post was to be created.

**Existing Job Description
Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Food)1**

Rank : Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 (D4)

Responsible to : Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Main Duties and Responsibilities –

1. To oversee policy work on public cemeteries, columbaria and cremation facilities and the formulation of legislative proposals for licensing private columbaria. To co-ordinate inter-bureaux/departmental discussions on how to take forward individual sites shortlisted across the territory for public columbarium development whilst promoting green burials in parallel.
2. To oversee policy work on public markets, cooked food markets, hawker licence and environmental hygiene issues, including monitoring the implementation of an assistance scheme for abatement of fire risks in hawker areas, and laying the ground work for launching a consultancy study on improving the operating environment of public markets.
3. To oversee policy work on sustainable fisheries, including taking forward initiatives such as the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund, the issue of new licences in marine fish cultures zones, and other measures that would provide added room for the fisheries industry to grow, following implementation of the trawl ban.
4. To manage and co-ordinate inter-departmental response to food incidents to ensure food safety and timely dissemination of information to the public concerning the incidents, and to liaise with relevant authorities to mitigate any impact on food supply arising from the food incidents.
5. To maintain close liaison with the Mainland, overseas food authorities and the trade over the importation regime of various food items for ensuring food safety; keep under review the efficacy of the existing preventive and surveillance programme for reducing the risk of avian influenza (H5N1, H7N9) outbreaks and human infections in Hong Kong; and oversee developments on organic food as well as genetically modified food, etc.
6. To oversee animal and veterinary health, including prevention and control of zoonotic diseases, as well as policy work on animal welfare, including legislative changes for better regulating pet trading, as well as amendments to the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529).

7. To oversee policy work on liquor licensing, including the implementation of measures to enhance the licensing control over upstairs bars, as well as the streamlining of procedures for handling licence renewal, etc.
8. To oversee policy work on sustainable agricultural development, including measures to promote migration to the production of good quality and high-value produce (such as organic produce) and utilisation of advances in technology that allows more efficient use of agricultural land.
9. To oversee and review policies on other subjects such as water seepage, wholesale markets, fees and charges, and regulatory control of food premises.
10. To support and/or attend meetings of Legislative Council panels and represent the Bureau on boards and committees as may be required.
11. To oversee and co-ordinate with the executive departments/agencies in implementing policies and programmes.
12. To oversee the allocation of resources to executive departments and ensuring that the resources are used for the efficient and cost-effective delivery of services.

Revised Job Description
Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Food)1

Rank : Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 (D4)

Responsible to : Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Main Duties and Responsibilities –

1. To oversee policy work on public cemeteries, columbaria and cremation facilities and the formulation of legislative proposals for licensing private columbaria. To co-ordinate inter-bureaux/departmental discussions on how to take forward individual sites shortlisted across the territory for public columbarium development whilst promoting green burials in parallel.
2. To oversee policy work on public markets, cooked food markets, hawker licence and environmental hygiene issues, including monitoring the implementation of an assistance scheme for abatement of fire risks in hawker areas, and laying the ground work for launching a consultancy study on improving the operating environment of public markets.
3. To oversee policy work on sustainable fisheries, including taking forward initiatives such as the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund, the issue of new licences in marine fish cultures zones, and other measures that would provide added room for the fisheries industry to grow, following implementation of the trawl ban.
4. To keep under review the efficacy of the existing preventive and surveillance programme for reducing the risk of avian influenza (H5N1, H7N9) outbreaks and human infections in Hong Kong.
5. To oversee animal and veterinary health, including prevention and control of zoonotic diseases, as well as policy work on animal welfare, including legislative changes for better regulating pet trading, as well as amendments to the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529).
6. To oversee policy work on liquor licensing, including the implementation of measures to enhance the licensing control over upstairs bars, as well as the streamlining of procedures for handling licence renewal, etc.
7. To oversee policy work on sustainable agricultural development, including measures to promote migration to the production of good quality and high-value produce (such as organic produce) and utilisation of advances in technology that allows more efficient use of agricultural land.

8. To oversee and review policies on other subjects such as water seepage, wholesale markets, fees and charges, and regulatory control of food premises.
9. To support and/or attend meetings of Legislative Council panels and represent the Bureau on boards and committees as may be required.
10. To oversee and co-ordinate with the executive departments/agencies in implementing policies and programmes.
11. To oversee the allocation of resources to executive departments and ensuring that the resources are used for the efficient and cost-effective delivery of services.

**Proposed Job Description
Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Food)2**

Rank : Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3)

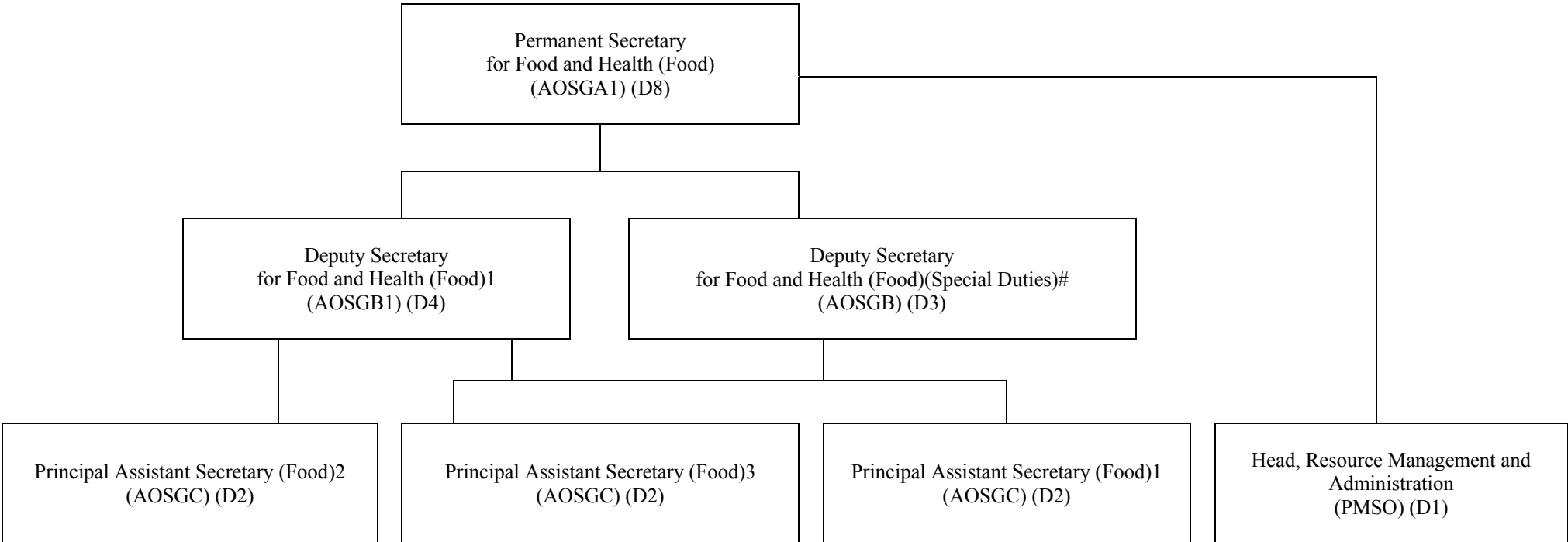
Responsible to : Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Main Duties and Responsibilities –

1. To maintain close liaison with the Mainland and overseas food authorities and the trade over the import of various food items for ensuring food safety; to manage and co-ordinate inter-departmental response to food incidents to ensure food safety and timely dissemination of information to the public concerning the incidents, and to liaise with relevant authorities to mitigate any impact on food supply arising from the food incidents.
2. To review and establish food safety standards in the legislation, items requiring regulation and thematic studies on food safety, and to conduct exchanges and discussions with food supplying economies.
3. To monitor the supply of food to ensure it is sufficient and stable.
4. To oversee implementation of supply chain improvement measures by major suppliers and retailers of powdered formula to bring about a stable and sufficient supply to meet the needs of local infants and young children.
5. To oversee legislative amendments and implementation relating to nutritional labelling of formula products and foods intended for infants and young children for protection of their health.
6. To oversee research and policy formulation, and subsequent legislative amendment relating to regulation of claims in formula products and foods intended for infants and young children.
7. To oversee legislative amendments and implementation relating to regulation of the import of poultry eggs to prevent avian influenza.
8. To develop and oversee the implementation scheme for the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM).
9. To review the safety standards for veterinary drug residues in food and food animals and heavy metals in food, to discuss with the Mainland authorities on the proposed regulatory frameworks, and to oversee the subsequent legislative amendment exercises.

10. To draw up a regulatory regime on the safety of imported aquatic food products and to discuss with the Mainland authorities regarding registered farms in the Mainland.
11. To oversee developments on organic food as well as genetically modified food, etc.
12. To secure resources and offer strategic input in terms of strengthening Government Laboratory's capacity in food safety protection, including construction of a comprehensive food safety laboratory.
13. To support and/or attend meetings of Legislative Council panels and represent the Bureau on boards and committees as may be required.
14. To oversee and co-ordinate with the executive departments/agencies in implementing policies and programmes.
15. To oversee the allocation of resources to executive departments and ensuring that the resources are used for the efficient and cost-effective delivery of services.

Existing Organisation Chart of Food Branch of Food and Health Bureau

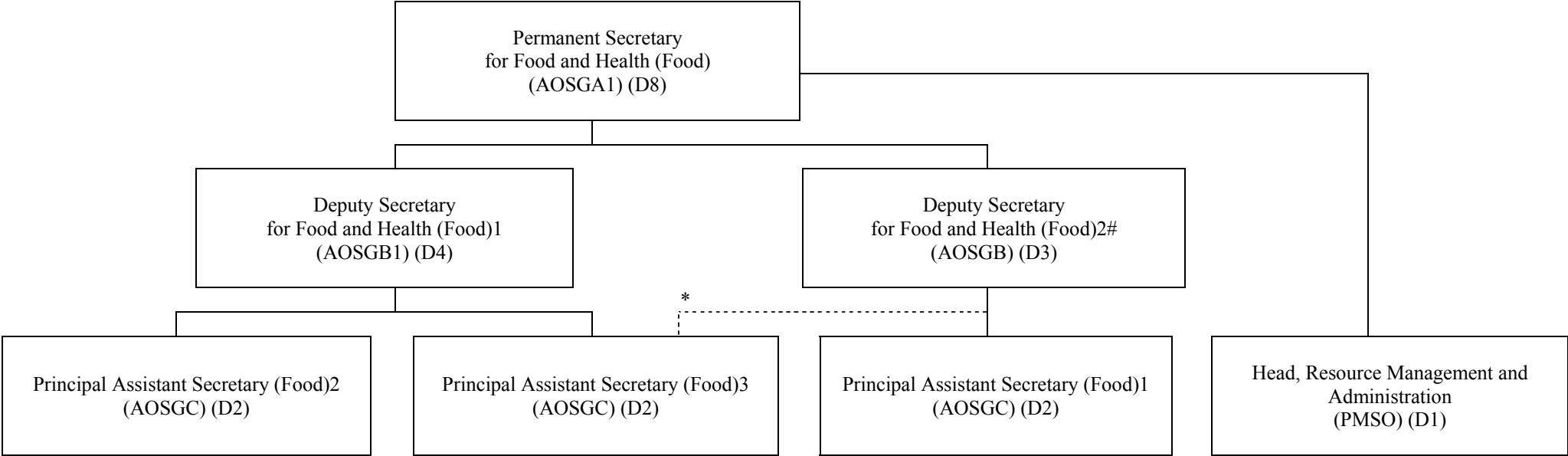


Legend: AOSGA1: Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1
 AOSGB1: Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1
 AOSGB: Administrative Officer Staff Grade B
 AOSGC: Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
 PMSO: Principal Management Services Officer

A six-month supernumerary post that will lapse on 3 February 2014 or the date when the proposed permanent AOSGB post is created, whichever is earlier.

Note: Excluding an AOSGC serving as Administrative Assistant to Secretary for Food and Health

Proposed Organisation Chart of Food Branch of Food and Health Bureau



- Legend:**
- AOSGA1: Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1
 - AOSGB1: Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1
 - AOSGB: Administrative Officer Staff Grade B
 - AOSGC: Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
 - PMSO: Principal Management Services Officer

Proposed new post

* Principal Assistant Secretary (Food)3 will report to Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Food)2 on issues relating to supply of food animals and food of animal origin, as well as the safety of food of animal origin.

Note: Excluding an AOSGC serving as Administrative Assistant to Secretary for Food and Health

**Revised Job Description
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food)1**

Rank : Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2)

Responsible to : Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Food)2

Main Duties and Responsibilities –

1. To oversee food safety of aquatic products, food of plant origin and processed food.
2. To review and formulate policies on import and export control of aquatic products, poultry eggs, food of plant origin and processed food.
3. To manage food incidents.
4. To monitor supply of non-staple food.
5. To monitor implementation of supply chain improvement measures by major suppliers and retailers of powdered formula.
6. To formulate policies and prepare legislative amendments on nutrition labelling of formula products and foods intended for infants and young children.
7. To formulate policies and subsequent legislative proposals relating to regulation of claims in formula products and foods intended for infants and young children.
8. To monitor implementation of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM).
9. To review safety standards for and formulate legislative proposals relating to veterinary drug residues in food and food animals and heavy metals in food.
10. To review and formulate policies on organic food and genetically modified food.
11. To oversee research and formulate proposals on updating other food safety standards.
12. To housekeep Government Laboratory.

Revised Job Description
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food)2

Rank : Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2)

Responsible to : Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Food)1

Main Duties and Responsibilities –

1. To formulate and review policies related to public cemeteries, columbaria and crematoria facilities.
2. To formulate and review policies for hawkers.
3. To formulate and review policies for public market management.
4. To steer the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) on environmental hygiene matters including street cleansing, waste collection and pest control etc.
5. To formulate and review polices and regulation standards for food premises.
6. To formulate and review the fee levels and charging policy of FEHD.
7. To oversee the policies for wholesale food markets.
8. To formulate and review liquor licensing policy.
9. To serve as secretary to the Licensing Appeal Board and Appeal Board on Closure Orders (Immediate Health Hazard).
10. To housekeep FEHD.

Revised Job Description
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food)3

Rank : Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2)

Responsible to : Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Food)1

Main Duties and Responsibilities—

1. To formulate and review policies on food safety, import and export control, and supply of food animals and food of animal origin.
2. To formulate policies for animal and veterinary health, including those for prevention and control of zoonotic diseases (e.g. policy and measures on prevention of avian influenza).
3. To formulate and review policies on sustainable development of local agriculture, including monitoring local livestock industry.
4. To formulate and review policies on sustainable development of local fisheries.
5. To formulate and review policies on safe and proper use of pesticides.
6. To examine initiatives including use of technology for tracing source of food.
7. To review measures to control water quality for keeping aquatic and fisheries products with a view to promoting seafood safety.
8. To review work of the Veterinary Surgeons Board and handle matters relating to veterinary education.
9. To formulate and review policies and legislation relating to animal welfare and management.
10. To serve as the secretary to the Advisory Council on Food and Environmental Hygiene.
11. To housekeep Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (on agriculture and fisheries sides).
