

立法會
Legislative Council

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Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Minutes of meeting
held on Wednesday, 21 January 2015, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP, PhD, RN
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS
Hon Claudia MO
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Member attending : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

Members absent : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP

**Public Officers : Item I
attending**

Dr KO Wing-man, BBS, JP
Secretary for Food and Health

Mrs Cherry TSE LING Kit-ching, JP
Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Professor Sophia CHAN Siu-chee, JP
Under Secretary for Food and Health

Mr Christopher WONG Kwok-bun, JP
Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 1

Mr Philip CHAN Kwan-yee, JP
Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 2

Miss Vivian LAU Lee-kwan, JP
Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Dr Gloria TAM Lai-fan, JP
Controller, Centre for Food Safety
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr Alan WONG Chi-kong, JP
Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Dr LAU Chau-ming, JP
Government Chemist
Government Laboratory

**Clerk in
attendance** : Ms Alice LEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (2) 2

**Staff in
attendance** : Ms Wendy LO
Senior Council Secretary (2) 2 (Acting)

Mr Richard WONG
Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Emma CHEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2) 2

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I. Briefing by the Secretary for Food and Health on the Chief Executive's 2015 Policy Address

(LC paper No. CB(2)634/14-15(01), The 2015 Policy Address booklet and The 2015 Policy Agenda booklet)

Members noted the new initiatives in the Chief Executive's 2015 Policy Address relevant to the policy portfolio of the Food and Health Bureau ("FHB") and the major ongoing initiatives undertaken by FHB, as detailed in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)634/14-15(01)).

Provision and management of public markets

2. Dr KWOK Ka-ki considered that the Administration should examine the need for building new public markets in newly developed districts, such as Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung, to cater for the needs of low-income groups there. He asked whether the Administration would conduct a policy study on the provision of public markets in new districts.

3. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan expressed concern that most of the wet markets in Tin Shui Wai were operated by the Link Real Estate Investment Trust ("The Link") and there was only another one market managed by the Housing Authority. Many Tin Shui Wai residents had to travel a long distance to Yuen Long and Tuen Mun to buy fresh food as the prices of such food were often cheaper than those in Tin Shui Wai. Mr LEE considered that there was a strong need for the Administration to build new public markets in Tin Shui Wai given its large area and population.

4. Secretary for Food and Health ("SFH") advised that while there were not many fresh provision retail outlets in Tin Shui Wai, Tung Chung and Tseung Kwan O, the Link and HA had currently managed some markets located in or near public housing estates in the above districts to meet residents' needs. The future provision of new public markets to be managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") in newly developed districts would be considered on a case-by-case basis taking into account a number of factors, including the population of the area concerned, the demographic mix, the community needs, the availability of public and private market facilities nearby and the number of fresh provisions retail outlets in the vicinity.

5. SFH added that the Administration had commissioned a consultant to assist in developing proposals for improving the operating environment of

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public markets. At the meeting of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets ("the Subcommittee") on 20 January 2015, the Administration and the consultant updated members on the key findings of the consultancy study on measures to improve the operating environment of public markets and the Administration's preliminary thinking on the recommendations in the study. While the consultancy study did not cover issues relating to establishment of new markets, the recommendations therein and the existing guiding principles stipulated in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines would provide insight and reference to the Administration for considering provision of new markets. The Administration had no plan to conduct a separate study on this subject at present.

6. Ms Starry LEE considered that the improvement of the operating environment of public markets would create job opportunities and provide consumers with a wider choice of fresh food provisions. She sought details on the objectives of the proposals to revitalize public markets and how the Administration would consult stakeholders, particularly stall tenants, on the proposals.

7. SFH advised that on the functions and positioning of public markets, the Administration agreed with the Consultant's views that public markets should continue to be one of the major sources of fresh food provisions for the general public. While public markets should be kept clean and hygienic, it might not be necessary for public markets to be upgraded to unduly upmarket shopping venues. The Administration also agreed with Members' view on the need to revitalize public markets. The Consultant had been requested to provide in its final report a more detailed account of the positioning and functions of public markets, which should go beyond the management and enforcement perspectives. SFH said that the Consultant had also made recommendations on enhancing FEHD's management of public markets. The Administration would study the options and Members' views in this regard before coming up with proposals with focus on fostering a sense of ownership amongst tenants and encouraging them to participate in the daily management of public markets. SFH further advised that the Consultant would need about two to three months to finalize the report which would be made public later. It was the Administration's plan to brief the Subcommittee before June 2015 on the preliminary proposals to implement improvement plans.

8. Noting that the consultant had selected six public markets for further study on potential improvements, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen asked whether the Administration would identify some public markets in New Territories East or New Territories West as prototypes in the consultancy study. SFH advised that the Administration would further study the consultant's physical

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improvement options in consultation with relevant government departments.

9. The Chairman and Mr Vincent FANG considered that the Administration should improve the operating environment of public markets (e.g. enhancing ventilation system and retrofitting of air-conditioning facilities) and increase the patronage before putting forward any rental adjustments. The Chairman suggested that the Administration should also review the stall size and layout and the tenant mix in FEHD's public markets.

10. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen said that the consultancy study seemed to conclude that the poor management of tenants had caused inherent problems of the markets and they lacked motivation to run their business due to the continuously low rent for stalls. He expressed concern on when the Administration would put forward the proposal on rental adjustment mechanism.

11. SFH advised that while the consultancy study had touched on factors affecting the operation of public markets, it had also made a number of recommendations on physical improvement works and management issues to improve the patronage and the operating environment of the markets. The rental freeze of public market stalls had been extended until 31 December 2015. The Administration would brief the Subcommittee on the proposed rental adjustment mechanism at the same time when it put forward the improvement proposals before June 2015.

Ensuring food safety

Online sale of food products

12. Mr WONG Kwok-hing said that there had been complaint cases involving sale of health food and food products containing medicine ingredients on the Internet in recent years. He enquired about the Administration's measures to regulate online sale of food products. Miss Alice MAK asked whether the Administration would increase the manpower resources of the Centre for Food Safety ("CFS") to step up inspections in response to the increasing complaints about food sold at local retail outlets and online sale of food products.

13. SFH advised that the relevant workload would be absorbed through internal deployment of manpower resources within CFS. Controller, Centre for Food Safety ("Controller, CFS") explained that as the annual number of food samples to be tested by CFS would remain at about 65 000, CFS had no plan to increase its manpower at present. In view of the increasing online purchase of food products, the Food Surveillance and Control Division's

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Food Import and Export Section under CFS had been conducting a target surveillance project to monitor the situation. CFS would carry out joint operations with the Department of Health ("DH") or the Customs and Exercise Department ("C&ED") if suspected violation of relevant laws was found. For instance, a syndicate involved in selling of oysters containing norovirus was smashed in late 2014. Controller, CFS added that CFS would carefully study cases about sale of health food which might contain Chinese or western medicine ingredients and would handle these cases in accordance with laws. Miss Alice MAK considered that the Administration should ensure that CFS had adequate manpower resources to carry out inspections so as to alleviate the increasing workload of frontline staff.

Inspection of vegetables and livestock supplied to Hong Kong

14. The Deputy Chairman asked, apart from stepping up the inspection of vegetables and livestock supplied to Hong Kong, how the Administration would work with the Mainland authorities to maintain adequate supply of imported food while safeguarding food safety given different safety standards were adopted in Hong Kong and the Mainland. SFH advised that vegetables imported from the Mainland had to meet the safety requirements in Hong Kong. Vegetable farms and production and processing establishments not meeting the relevant requirements might be delisted by the Mainland authorities under the mechanism in place. He believed that there would be continued supply of food from the Mainland to meet local demand. Meanwhile, the Administration was working with the Mainland authorities to identify farmlands in the Mainland for renting to Hong Kong farmers and investors.

15. Dr Helena WONG said that since the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM) had come into operation on 1 August 2014, CFS had detected samples of vegetables imported from the Mainland containing excessive pesticide residues. She enquired about the Administration's measures to ensure food safety at source. She was also concerned about the smuggling of vegetables which might originate from vegetable processing establishments not registered with the Mainland inspection and quarantine authorities. In her view, the Administration should step up enforcement actions to combat the smuggling of vegetables. SFH advised that the Administration would take prosecution actions against excessive use of pesticide residues in vegetables, trace the sources of problematic vegetables and alert the Mainland authorities to take follow-up actions. To combat smuggling of vegetables, CFS and C&ED had been conducting joint operations to increase inspection of vegetables vehicles at the Man Kam To Control Point.

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16. Dr Helena WONG enquired about the progress on the proposed duty visit of the Panel to Guangdong Province to better understand the regulation and operation of registered farms which supplied food to Hong Kong. SFH advised that the Administration had, at the Panel's request, relayed the proposal to the relevant Mainland authorities and would inform the Panel if there was any progress.

Regulation of heavy metals in food

17. Dr Helena WONG expressed concern that the safety standards for heavy metal content in food adopted in Hong Kong were laxer than international standards. She enquired whether the Administration would review and make amendments to the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V) to tighten the regulation of heavy metals in food. SFH advised that the Administration would embark on the preparatory work of amending the Regulations. Controller, CFS said that CFS had informed the relevant Mainland authorities about the Administration's intention to strengthen the regulation of heavy metals in food. In the meantime, CFS would also conduct checks to monitor the situation.

Regulation of the recycling of local waste cooking oil

18. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the Administration's measures to strengthen the regulation and monitoring of the recycling of local waste cooking oil. SFH advised that the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") and FEHD would work together to require, through the licensing conditions for restaurants and food factory licence of FEHD, that all waste cooking oil must be handed over to collectors or recyclers recognized by EPD under the "Hong Kong Cooking Oil Registration Scheme" of the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency. The Administration in parallel was considering a regulatory proposal, and aimed to launch a public consultation in this regard in 2015.

Regulation of cooked meat

19. The Chairman considered it important for the Administration to address the concerns of the trade when formulating the relevant legislative proposal on regulation of cooked meat. He suggested the Administration to consult the stakeholders in the trade and conduct a business impact study to assess the impact of the proposed regulation on the trade. He also urged the Administration to introduce the legislative proposal into the Legislative Council ("LegCo") earlier to allow sufficient time for its scrutiny before the end of the current LegCo term. SFH assured members that the

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Administration would consult the trade on the proposed legislation and assess its impact on the trade.

Implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme

20. Dr KWOK Ka-ki opined that the public were not aware of the use of nutrition information on labels for healthier food choices despite that the Nutrition Labelling Scheme for prepackaged food had come into force since 1 July 2010. He considered that the publicity efforts and enforcement actions made in this regard were inadequate. SFH advised that the Administration had updated members on the implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme at the meeting of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the Panel") in May 2014. The Administration would enhance public awareness about nutrition labelling through publicity programmes and would continue to take enforcement actions where necessary.

Reducing salt and sugars in food

21. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan expressed support for the Administration's plan to reduce intake of salt and sugars in food to minimize the health risks posed to the public as indicated in a survey. She considered that as there were very few choices of food and savoury products with low salt content in the market, the Administration should regulate the use of salt in food, particularly Chinese food. She also suggested the Administration to standardize the labelling requirement on salt and sugar content of imported food, so as to help the public make informed choices to protect their health.

22. SFH assured members that the Government attached great importance to safeguarding food safety and was planning to expand the food safety laboratory of Government Laboratory in 2016 to enhance its services. As regards the Administration's efforts in promoting a healthy diet, the Government established the International Advisory Panel on Reduction of Dietary Sodium and Sugars, comprising local and overseas experts, in 2014 to study overseas experience in promoting the reduction of salt and sugars in food. It was noted from overseas experience that before resorting to legislative means, co-operation from the food trade would be enlisted for voluntary reduction of salt and sugars in food, particularly prepackaged food products. The Administration would shortly establish a Committee on Reduction of Salt and Sugars in Food, with members from health professional organizations, food trade and those representing consumer interests, etc., to exchange views on how to reduce salt and sugars in food. Educational efforts would also be made to raise awareness of the public and the catering sector on this issue.

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23. Dr Kenneth CHAN suggested the Administration to conduct a comprehensive survey on salt and sugars consumption by Hong Kong people. The proposed Committee on Reduction of Salt and Sugars in Food should also provide the public with information on healthy diet and promote co-operation of the food trade to reduce salt and sugars in food.

Supply of live poultry

24. Mr Vincent FANG said that while the Government decided not to suspend selling of live poultry in Hong Kong at present, there were views that import of live poultry should be ceased. He enquired about the long-term policy considerations on live poultry supply in Hong Kong. SFH advised that the Government was commissioning a consultant to study the way forward of the live poultry trade including whether sale of live poultry should continue in Hong Kong.

25. The Deputy Chairman was concerned whether the Government and the Mainland authorities had consensus about the import of day-old chicks during the suspension of import of live poultry in order to maintain local production of live chickens. SFH said that the Government and the Mainland authorities had clear consensus that the suspension of import of live poultry during avian influenza incidents did not cover day-old chicks. However, it was up to the Mainland authorities to decide when to supply live poultry (including day-old chicks) to Hong Kong after resumption of live poultry trading at the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market, having regard to its inspection and quarantine requirements.

Supply of powdered formula

26. Mr CHAN Han-pan said that public hospitals under the Hospital Authority ("HA") would provide powdered formula for newborn babies. As there were still shortages of some brands of powdered formula (e.g. Friso) in the market, HA should stop purchasing and providing the products of those brands in shortage to new born babies in public hospitals so that the babies would not get used to taking their powdered formula, thereby relieving the demand for those products.

27. SFH advised that the Administration had been monitoring the market supply of powdered formula. Regular surveys would be conducted, particularly during festive or peak seasons, to provide the Administration with a good grasp of the market situation. As the recent supply of powdered formula had been quite stable, the Administration would not conduct stress tests in this regard. SFH further advised that at present, HA purchased different brands of powdered formula through open tender and provided them

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in turn for babies in need in the public hospitals with obstetric services. HA would consider devising terms and conditions on supply of powdered formula to assess whether suppliers would violate the contracts if there were shortages of their products in the market and the follow-up actions required. To protect the health of infants and young children, the Administration also launched a public consultation on 6 January 2015, proposing a regulatory framework to enhance the regulation of nutrition and health claims on formula products and prepackaged foods for infants and young children under the age of 36 months.

(Post meeting note: A submission from FrieslandCampina (Hong Kong) Limited relating to the discussion on the supply of powdered formula was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)709/14-15(01) on 26 January 2015.)

The new agricultural policy

28. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan asked whether provision of catering services, lodging and sale of agricultural products would be allowed in the Agricultural Park ("Agri-Park"), as proposed in the consultation document on new agricultural policy, for visitors to experience farming life. Mr CHAN Hak-kan enquired whether the Government would promote a leisure farming style in the Agri-Park for those who enjoyed farming life and the rural landscape. Dr Kenneth CHAN cautioned that the Administration should be careful in handling the conflicting interests concerning use of land under the proposed policy.

29. SFH advised that while the farmland of the Agri-Park would be put to productive use to ensure prudent use of public money, promotion of a leisure farming style or other leisure farming activities in the Agri-Park could also be considered. Apart from the Agri-Park, the Administration also proposed to establish a sustainable agricultural development fund to provide financial support to projects relating to agricultural development, including promotion of technology in agricultural production and leisure farming.

Development of fish culture rafts

30. The Deputy Chairman asked whether the Administration would promote water-friendly culture and activities in the licensed fish culture rafts which also operated recreational fishing activities. He also asked whether recreational fishing business would be allowed to operate in other areas other than in the fish culture zones in the long run. SFH advised that as the fish produced by local fish rafts were for human consumption and certain requirements on public safety had to be met in operating fish rafts, the

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Administration had no plan to promote water-friendly activities at fish culture rafts as part of its efforts to promote recreational fishing.

Assistance to hawkers

31. Mr Vincent FANG considered that the allocation of \$230 million for launching a five-year assistance scheme for the licensed hawkers in 43 fixed-pitch hawker areas to carry out stall reconstruction and relocation had successfully improved fire safety and environmental hygiene. He considered that the Administration should fill the 490-odd vacant stalls resulting from the voluntary surrender of licences under the assistance scheme so as to maintain the vibrancy of hawkers areas. Mr Vincent FANG and Mr LEE Cheuk-yan urged the Administration to consider allowing the transfer of licences from hawkers to their assistants for continuation of business. Mr LEE also expressed particular concern about the difficulties of the hawkers' assistants in Tsuen Wan Hau Tei Square Hawker Bazaar.

32. SFH advised that the Administration would first relocate hawker stalls away from staircase discharge points of buildings, thus enhancing fire safety through facilitating access by firemen and fire appliances. The Administration hoped that the operating environment of hawkers areas would first be improved and become less crowded with fewer hawker stalls resulting from the voluntary surrender of licences under the assistance scheme. The Administration would then consider the suggestion of according priority to hawkers' assistants as and when the vacant fixed-pitch hawker stalls were reallocated.

33. Dr Kenneth CHAN urged the Administration to proactively solicit views from stakeholders in formulating new directions and proposals for developing the hawking trade. SFH advised that the Administration and LegCo Members had a fruitful discussion on the further development of the hawking trade at the brainstorming session of the Subcommittee on Hawker Policy set up under the Panel. The Administration would provide an information paper to the Subcommittee on this.

(Post-meeting note: The information paper provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(4)561/14-15(01)) was discussed at the meeting of the Subcommittee on Hawker Policy on 2 March 2015.)

Measures against street obstruction

34. Mr CHAN Han-pan said that street obstruction problems were particularly serious at locations near public markets. Pointing out that section 83B of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132)

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provided that it was an offence to hawk in any street without a licence, he considered that FEHD's exercise of power under this section against shop front extensions ("SFEs") could not achieve deterrent effect. He asked how the Administration would strengthen enforcement efforts in this regard. SFH advised that the Government had consulted the public on enhanced measures against SFEs and a fixed penalty system was proposed to achieve greater deterrence against SFEs. FEHD had also stepped up enforcement actions against SFEs of food premises, including setting up dedicated task forces to tackle the problem in selected districts. FEHD would enhance the enforcement measures subject to the availability of resources.

Columbarium policy

35. Dr KWOK Ka-ki was concerned that apart from the sites at Sandy Ridge and Chai Wan, the Administration had made little progress in taking forward the remaining projects under the district-based columbarium development scheme to enhance the supply of public niches.

36. SFH advised that the Administration consulted the North District Council ("DC") and the Eastern DC on the sites at Sandy Ridge and Chai Wan respectively in 2014 and obtained their support for the projects. The Administration expected that the Sandy Ridge project, if implemented, could help relieve the shortage of public niches given its large scale. SFH said that FHB had also consulted the Tuen Mun DC on the Tsang Tsui site for columbarium development recently and noted that the majority of Tuen Mun DC members supported the project subject to improvement in existing road infrastructure. FHB would work with relevant Government Bureaux (e.g. the Transport and Housing Bureau) to explore enhancement of infrastructure and ancillary transport facilities to address Tuen Mun residents' concerns. SFH hoped that the Tsang Tsui project would be approved by the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of LegCo before the summer recess. Also, the Administration planned to consult the North DC on the Wo Hop Shek (Phase 1) project in February 2015.

37. Ms Starry LEE enquired about the estimated waiting time for a public niche after various measures had been taken to enhance the supply of public niches. SFH responded that subject to the support of DCs and LegCo for the projects under planning and the smooth commencement of the projects, the Administration estimated that the supply of new public niches would cumulatively increase to hundreds of thousands by 2031. A significant number of new public niches would start to come on stream from 2018 and 2019 onwards.

38. Dr KWOK Ka-ki considered that the Administration should step up

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publicity to promote "green burials", including the scattering of ashes in Gardens of Remembrance or at sea. SFH said that it took time to fortify the necessary mindset changes to turn "green burials" into the mainstream mode for handling human ashes. The Administration was reviewing how best to enhance the relevant services managed by FEHD. The Administration would also enhance publicity (e.g. producing and broadcasting TV Announcements in the Public Interest with celebrity spokespersons) in this regard.

39. Mr CHAN Hak-kan was concerned that prior to the implementation of the licensing scheme under the Private Columbaria Bill for regulating the operation of private columbaria, unauthorized private columbaria (e.g. those listed in Part B of "The Information on Private Columbaria" provided by the Development Bureau) would continue to market their niches to the public. He asked how the Administration would protect consumer interests. SFH advised that while the Private Columbaria Bill was still under scrutiny and had yet to come into operation, enforcement actions could be taken against malpractices of private columbaria by relevant departments in accordance with the existing laws. The Administration would enhance public awareness about "green burials" and the risks of using the services of unauthorized private columbaria through publicity.

(To allow sufficient time for discussion, the Chairman directed that the meeting be extended for 15 minutes)

Enhancing animal welfare

40. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen was concerned that little progress was made by the Administration to enhance animal welfare. He asked whether the Administration would take other measures to reduce the number of animals euthanized as the progress of the "Trap-Neuter-Return" ("TNR") trial programme was slower than expected. SFH advised that given the diverse views from the community and animal welfare groups on the TNR trial programme, it was considered appropriate for the Administration to adopt a prudent approach in carrying out the TNR trial programme. The Administration would consider the way forward taking into account the effectiveness of the programme.

41. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen asked when the Administration would put forward the legislative amendments to the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) to regulate pets breeding and trading. SFH responded that the Administration aimed to table the amendment regulation before LegCo in the 2014-2015 legislative session.

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42. Ms Claudia MO criticized that the proposed legislative amendments not only legalized pet breeding, but also condoning pet breeding by private pet owners and encouraging more people to join the business of home breeding which might result in more animal abuse cases. She urged the Administration to take into account the concerns of animal welfare groups on this issue in taking forward the legislative proposal. SFH advised that animal welfare groups and members of the public had diverse views on whether pet trading by private pet owners should be banned. He said that under the current legislation, a person might sell his own pet (and his pet's offspring) without the need to apply for an Animal Trader Licence. This exemption had been exploited by some commercial breeders who operated under the guise of a private pet owner, thereby circumventing the relevant regulation. The Administration had proposed to plug this loophole by tightening the regulation of sale, and breeding for sale, of dogs. In response to Ms MO, Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation added that the Administration had been consulting animal welfare groups on the legislative proposal for more than two years and noted their diverse views on the subject. The Administration hoped that the legislative proposal could strike a balance among various views and gain the majority support of stakeholders.

Prevention and control of dengue fever ("DF")

43. Mr WONG Kwok-hing expressed concern about the proliferation of *Aedes albopictus* and the confirmation of local DF cases in 2014 (e.g. the cases took place in the vicinity of the MTR Corporation Limited's construction site). He said that people living in the rural areas and hillside housing estates were particularly worried about the spread of the virus. He enquired about the Administration's preventive and control measures against *Aedes albopictus* and DF before the virus became endemic in Hong Kong.

44. SFH advised that almost all DF cases reported were imported from endemic areas in the past and local cases were last recorded a few years ago. However, the confirmation of three local DF cases with two identified sources of infection and the large scale outbreak of DF in neighbouring areas (including Guangdong) in 2014 had raised public concerns that DF might become endemic in Hong Kong. The Government had therefore stepped up anti-mosquito work and enforcement actions. In addition to the regular mosquito control work, the Anti-Mosquito Steering Committee chaired by the Permanent Secretary for the Food and Health (Food) had decided to carry out anti-mosquito campaign at the district level throughout this winter until the next rainy season. The Government would also strengthen publicity and education campaigns and the coordination among government departments (FEHD and the Centre for Health Protection of DH) and DCs in launching mosquito control operations. SFH added that the coordination work required

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would be absorbed by FHB and further increase of resources would depend on the actual DF situation in Hong Kong.

Review on fees and charges of services of municipal facilities and services provided by FEHD

45. Miss Alice MAK expressed concern that the Administration would increase the fees and charges of services of municipal facilities and services provided by FEHD after the review on such fees and charges. SFH responded that the Administration had not formed any views before the completion of the review.

II. Any other business

46. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:13 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
10 April 2015