

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 6 November 2014)

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
1. Strategy adopted by the Government in tackling the issue of stray cattle	December 2014

At the meeting on 8 April 2014, members noted that the Administration had provided a written response to Hon Claudia MO's letter dated 17 March 2014 on the programme launched by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD") to relocate stray cattle on Lantau Island and in Sai Kung. Hon MO considered that the subject of management of stray cattle including the aforementioned programme should be followed up by the Panel at a future meeting. She also expressed the hope that deputations would be invited to give views.

At the informal meeting between the Panel Chairman, Deputy Chairman and the Secretary for Food and Health ("SFH") on 23 October 2014 to discuss the work plan of the Panel for the 2014-2015 session ("the informal meeting"), the Administration advised that it had maintained close communication with animal welfare organizations concerned and the relevant resident groups in an effort to understand their views and concerns.

The Administration proposes to brief the Panel in December 2014 on the strategy adopted by the Government in tackling the issue of stray cattle.

2. Supply chain of powdered formula	December 2014
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Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration last briefed the Panel on its work in monitoring the supply and price levels of powdered

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
formula as well as efforts of the trade in improving the powdered formula supply chain in June 2014. The Administration plans to update the Panel on the subject in December 2014.	
3. Implementation of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM)	December 2014
At the meeting on 9 October 2014, Dr Hon Helena WONG expressed concern about the regulation of pesticide residues in vegetables imported from the Mainland and the effectiveness of the food tracing mechanism in facilitating the Administration to identify the source of the problem vegetables. She hoped that the Panel would continue to follow up the subject matter.	
4. Sustainable agricultural development	January 2015
At the special meeting on 21 January 2013, members expressed concern about the lack of a policy on the development of agriculture and dissatisfaction with the Administration's assistance available to the operators of organic farms. On 9 October 2014, the Deputy Chairman requested an early discussion on the item.	
The Administration plans to update the Panel on the subject in January 2015.	
5. Public consultation on the proposed regulation of oil	1 st quarter of 2015
Item proposed by the Administration.	
When discussing the sub-standard lard incident at the special meeting on 25 September 2014, the Administration advised the Panel that it would seek to launch a public consultation on the legislative proposals regarding regulation of edible oil in early 2015.	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
6. Reduction of sugar and salt content in food	1 st quarter of 2015
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration had provided an information paper on reduction of salt (sodium) and sugar content in food to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1118/12-13(01) on 10 May 2013. Members noted that the Centre for Food Safety ("CFS") had established two working groups on reducing sodium in food and reducing sugars in pre-packaged beverages to discuss the respective subject matters.	
The Administration plans to update the Panel on the subject in the 1 st quarter of 2015.	
7. Public consultation on the proposed regulation of nutrition and health claims on formula products and foods intended for infants and young children under the age of 36 months in Hong Kong	1 st quarter of 2015
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the 1 st quarter of 2015.	
8. Review on fees for certain services provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	1 st quarter of 2015
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the results of its review on the fees for certain services provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in the 1 st quarter of 2015.	

- | Subject | Proposed timing
for discussion |
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| <p>9. Review on fees and charges for certain services provided by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department</p> <p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the results of its review on the fees and charges for certain services provided by AFCD in the 1st quarter of 2015.</p> | 1 st quarter of 2015 |
| <p>10. Report on the Food Surveillance Programme for 2014</p> <p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the report on the Food Surveillance Programme for 2014 in the 1st quarter of 2015.</p> | 1 st quarter of 2015 |
| <p>11. Update on the latest development on the supply of public niches and regulation of private columbaria</p> <p>At the meeting on 9 October 2014, Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN expressed the hope that the Administration would update the Panel on the latest progress of increasing the supply of public niches and measures on how to protect consumers' rights of those who had entered into transactions for the purchase of private columbarium niches before the enactment of the Private Columbaria Bill.</p> <p>The Administration plans to update the Panel on the subject in the 1st quarter of 2015.</p> | 1 st quarter of 2015 |
| <p>12. Proposed legislation for the election of elected members to the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong</p> <p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> | 2 nd quarter of 2015 |

Subject

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

When the Panel was briefed on the legislative proposals to amend the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529) at its meeting on 8 April 2014, members urged the Administration to ensure that the election of six newly added veterinary surgeon members of the Veterinary Surgeon Board of Hong Kong ("VSB") would be conducted in a fair and open manner. Members noted that relevant details and procedures of the election of these new VSB members would be specified in a set of election regulation to be prescribed by SFH, which would be in the form of subsidiary legislation subject to scrutiny by the Legislative Council ("LegCo").

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the legislative proposals in the 2nd quarter of 2015.

13. Code of practice on pet trading

2nd quarter of 2015

Item proposed by the Administration.

When the Panel discussed the item "Amendments to the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations for better regulating pet trading" at the meeting on 8 July 2014, it was advised that the Administration was working on and refining the draft Code of Practice ("CoP") and additional conditions in consultation with the trade. The Administration undertook to consult the trade and the Panel when the draft CoP was ready.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the 2nd quarter of 2015.

14. Public consultation on the proposed regulation of cooked meat

2nd quarter of 2015

At the special meeting on 3 September 2014, members expressed concern about inadequate regulation of

Subject

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cooked meat and considered that the subject should be followed up by the Panel. The Administration advised that it would review the relevant legislation and seek the views of LegCo Members and the trade. Hon WONG Kwok-hing requested the Administration to provide the Panel with a policy paper on the subject in the 2014-2015 session.

At the meeting on 9 October 2014, Dr Hon Helena WONG hoped that the Administration would brief the Panel as early as possible on the progress of the review on legislation relating to the regulation of cooked meat.

The Administration plans to update the Panel on the subject in the 2nd quarter of 2015.

15. Public consultation on the proposed regulation of heavy metals in food

2nd quarter of 2015

At the meeting on 9 October 2014, Dr Hon Helena WONG expressed concern about the safety standards for heavy metals in food and urged the Administration to review the relevant legislation for regulating the presence of heavy metals in food. She hoped that the Panel would discuss the subject matter at a Panel meeting.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the 2nd quarter of 2015.

16. Implementation of the trawl ban

2nd quarter of 2015

Item proposed by the Administration.

An information paper provided by the Administration on the progress made in the disbursement of ex-gratia allowance to trawler owners affected by the trawl ban and the arrangements relating to the hearings on the appeal cases was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)644/13-14(01) on 9 January 2014.

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<p>The Administration plans to update the Panel on the latest progress on the implementation of the trawl ban in the 2nd quarter of 2015.</p>	
<p>17. Implementation of the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612)</p>	2 nd quarter of 2015
<p>The Administration proposes to update members on the implementation of the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612) ("FSO") in the 2nd quarter of 2015.</p>	
<p>18. Implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme</p>	2 nd quarter of 2015
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>When discussing the subject of the implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme at the Panel meeting on 13 May 2014, members expressed grave concern about the slow progress made by food traders in providing legible food labels. Members urged the Administration to set out a timetable requiring all traders to mandatorily follow the Trade Guidelines on Preparation of Legible Food Label issued by CFS and introducing the necessary legislative amendments.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the 2nd quarter of 2015.</p>	
<p>19. Proposed permanent food safety laboratory</p>	2 nd quarter of 2015
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on a proposal to establish a permanent food safety laboratory under the Government Laboratory to further enhance the testing capacity on food safety related analysis.</p>	

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The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the 2 nd quarter of 2015.	
20. Provision of columbarium and garden of remembrance at Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun	2 nd quarter of 2015
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the provision of columbarium and garden of remembrance at Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun in the 2 nd quarter of 2015.	
21. Enforcement against illegal outside seating accommodation by restaurants	July 2015
At the meeting on 10 June 2014, members agreed that the Panel would invite deputations to give views on the subject when it was discussed at future meetings.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel in July 2015.	
22. Wholesale market consultancy study	July 2015
Item proposed by the Administration.	
At the meeting on 10 June 2014, members noted that the Administration had commissioned a consultant to study the present-day functions and purpose of the wholesale business in the sale of fresh food produce, and analyze the geographical spread of the five existing wholesale markets from the perspective of land use and food safety. The Administration undertook to revert to the Panel when the outcome of the consultancy study was ready.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in July 2015.	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
23. Proposed legislation for implementing the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hong Kong	July 2015

Item proposed by the Administration.

At the meeting on 11 March 2014, members were briefed on the Administration's proposal to introduce a control scheme for the trading of toothfish by way of a piece of legislation for the implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hong Kong. Members noted that the Administration would engage relevant stakeholders (including seafood traders and importers) and seek their views on the proposed control scheme.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in July 2015.

24. Promotion of the safe and proper use of pesticides	To be confirmed
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The following issues are referred by the Subcommittee on Pesticides Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 1) Notice 2014 to this Panel for follow-up -

- (a) provision of the trade's Codes of Practice on the safe and proper use of pesticides by the Food and Health Bureau to the Education Bureau as well as the Labour and Welfare Bureau for their onward distribution to schools and elderly care homes with a view to promoting safe and proper use of pesticides in these places; and
- (b) progress of the follow-up actions to further promote the safe and proper use of pesticides undertaken by the Administration during the scrutiny of the Pesticides (Amendment) Bill 2013 (see details in paragraphs 12 to 18 of the report of the Subcommittee to the House Committee (LC Paper No. CB(2)1504/13-14)).

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<p>At the informal meeting on 23 October 2014, the Administration advised that it intended to provide the Panel with an information paper on the above issues to facilitate members' consideration of the need to follow up the subject at a Panel meeting.</p>	
<p>25. Consultation results of the proposed introduction of the pre-market safety assessment on genetically-modified food</p>	To be confirmed
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the item when ready.</p>	
<p>26. Issuance of new Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licence</p>	To be confirmed
<p>Members noted a submission from a member of the public expressing concern about the progress of the issuance of Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licence tabled at the meeting on 11 March 2014. Hon WONG Kwok-hing suggested the Panel to follow up the subject at a future Panel meeting.</p>	
<p>The Subcommittee on Hawker Policy ("the Subcommittee") formed under the Panel to study and review hawker policy had commenced its work since April 2014. At the informal meeting on 23 October 2014, there was a suggestion that given that the subject of the Administration's policy on the issuance of Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licence falls within the Terms of Reference of the Subcommittee, the matter be referred to the Subcommittee for follow-up.</p>	

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27. Public consultation on the proposed regulatory framework governing veterinary drug residues in food and food animals	To be confirmed
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration is considering measures to strengthen control over veterinary drug residues in food and food animals in order to enhance food safety. It plans to launch a public consultation on the proposed regulatory framework in due course.	
28. Liquor licensing system in Hong Kong and regulation of upstairs bars	To be confirmed
At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG expressed concern about problems caused by upstairs bars and the Liquor Licensing Board's considerations in assessing liquor licence applications from them. She suggested the Panel to continue to follow up the subject.	
At the meeting on 8 April 2014, members noted the research report on "Liquor licensing system in selected places" prepared by Research Office, Information Services Division of LegCo Secretariat. Hon Tommy CHEUNG suggested the Panel to discuss the subject of liquor licensing system in Hong Kong and to invite deputations from the trade concerned to give views at a future meeting.	
29. Safety of food for pet animals	To be confirmed
Item proposed by Hon CHAN Chi-chuen.	
At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Hon CHAN Chi-chuen suggested that the subject of the safety of food for pet animals be discussed at a future Panel meeting. Hon CHAN had written a letter to the Panel Chairman in late April 2014 expressing concern about	

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the presence of harmful substances in pet food (LC Paper No. CB(2)1429/13-14(01)). The Administration's response to the issues of concern raised in Hon CHAN's letter was issued to members on 5 May 2014 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1429/13-14(02)).	
30. Ancillary facilities for storage and distribution of chilled meat and poultry	To be confirmed
At the meeting on 9 October 2014, Hon Michael TIEN expressed concern about the lack of ancillary facilities for wholesaling of chilled meat and poultry. He pointed out that the trade had made repeated requests for the setting up of an approved distribution and storage centre by the Government for the chilled meat and poultry with a view to reducing food safety risks. He hoped that the Panel would follow up the subject matter.	
31. Regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture in Hong Kong	To be confirmed
At the meeting on 9 February 2010, in the light of the concerns raised by Hon WONG Yung-kan, the Panel Chairman suggested that the issue of regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture within Hong Kong waters should be discussed by the Panel at a future meeting.	
During the discussion of the implementation of FSO at the meeting on 11 July 2012, Hon WONG Yung-kan expressed worry about the over-expansion of oyster culture in Shenzhen Bay. He urged the Administration to step up the regulatory measures for oyster culture, including the introduction of a licensing mechanism.	