

立法會食物安全及環境衛生事務委員會  
二零一五年十一月十日會議跟進事項

選舉獸醫業界人士出任香港獸醫管理局成員

在二零一五年十一月十日立法會食物安全及環境衛生事務委員會(事務委員會)會議上，我們提交了有關選舉獸醫業界人士出任香港獸醫管理局(管理局)成員的最新建議，並向事務委員會委員簡介了政府在二零一五年年中就建議選舉規則的要點諮詢獸醫業界的結果。政府因應所收集到的意見，建議了經修訂的投票安排。由於政府僅收集到55份回應，部分委員在審議有關的投票安排時，就前述諮詢結果的代表性，表示關注。此外，有一名委員要求審閱政府向獸醫業界發出的諮詢文件。鑑於委員的意見，政府決定就投票安排向獸醫業界進行新一輪諮詢，以期接觸更多香港的註冊獸醫，從而更確切了解業界的取向。

2. 本文件載述新一輪諮詢的結果。

**徵詢獸醫業界意見**

3. 在二零一五年十二月十六日，政府進行了問卷調查，就選舉註冊獸醫出任管理局成員的投票安排徵詢註冊獸醫的意見。我們向註冊獸醫業界闡釋了不同投票安排(包括“一人一票或一人多票”及“親身投票或郵遞投票”)的優劣，以協助他們更深入地了解有關的議題。註冊獸醫有一個半月的時間提出意見。在調查期結束時，我們在 820 名<sup>1</sup>註冊獸醫中共收到 193 份回應。附信及問卷現載於附件，供委員參考。

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<sup>1</sup> 截至二零一五年十二月十四日

## 一人一票或一人多票

4. 在收到的 193 份回應中，有 132 名回應者(或 68.4%)認為，每名選舉人應可投選一名或超過一名候選人，上限為須選出席位的總數。有 47 名回應者(或 24.3%)則認為，每名選舉人在每次選舉中應只可投選一名候選人。其餘的回應者(14 人或 7.3%)沒有表達強烈意見，或提出了其他建議(例如在多名候選人中，表示選擇的次序)。因此，大多數回應者(68.4%)傾向可投多票。

## 親身投票或郵遞投票

5. 在收到的 193 份回應中，有 13 名回應者(或 6.7%)選擇親身投票；129 名回應者(或 66.8%)選擇郵遞投票；另有 23 名回應者(或 11.9%)對同時提供郵遞及網上／電子方式投票表示贊成；其餘 28 名回應者(或 14.5%)沒有表達強烈意見或選擇其他投票方法，包括傳真、電郵及網上投票。總的來說，大多數回應者(152 人或 78.8%)對郵遞投票表示贊成。少數回應者(6.7%)選擇只可親身投票。

## 其他意見

6. 有少數回應者(18 人或 9.3%)在回覆的問卷中亦另外表示了一些意見，包括詳述本身選擇一人多票及郵遞投票的理由；闡釋海外的投票慣例；表明傾向容許網上投票；建議只限持有執業證明書的註冊獸醫投票；以及認為在管理局成員中獸醫所佔比例應高於非業內人士等。該等意見範圍廣泛，但與上文所述業界的大多數意見並無抵觸。

7. 新一輪的諮詢結果與政府先前在二零一五年年中的諮詢所收到的意見大致相同，即大多數獸醫業界人士贊成“一人一票或多票，上限為須選出席位的總數”，以及“郵遞投票”這兩項投票安排。

## 未來路向

8. 經考慮獸醫業界的意見後，政府會據此擬備《選舉規例》，以便在立法會二零一六至一七年度會期內，提交立法會審議。

食物及衛生局  
漁農自然護理署  
二零一六年七月

漁農自然護理署

九龍長沙灣道三〇三號  
長沙灣政府合署五樓



AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND  
CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices  
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road,  
5<sup>th</sup> floor, Kowloon, Hong Kong

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16 December 2015

**Attention: All Registered Veterinary Surgeons of Hong Kong**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Seeking Your Opinion on the Voting Arrangements  
for the Election of Members from the Veterinary Profession to  
the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong**

You are invited to express your opinion on the voting arrangements for the proposed election of members from the veterinary profession to the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong (VSB).

**Background**

You may recall that we consulted you in April 2015 on the salient features of the proposed rules governing the abovementioned election. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) also organised two consultation forums in May 2015 to explain the proposals and listen to your views directly. At the end of the consultation, the Government has received a total of 55 responses from the veterinary profession. Taking into account the views received, the Government has revised the proposals and consulted the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (the Panel) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on 10 November 2015. The Panel paper, which sums up the outcome of the consultation with the veterinary profession and the revised proposed arrangements for the election to the VSB, can be downloaded from LegCo's website<sup>1</sup>.

Specifically, on the voting arrangements for the election, taken heed of the views of the respondents, the Government has proposed that **each elector should be permitted to cast one or more than one vote, up to the total number of seats to be elected, and that the voting could be done by post.**

Panel Members were generally content with the revised proposals put forward by the Government, but some of them held strong views against the two specific proposed voting arrangements as set out above. They also expressed concern that the 55 responses received during the previous consultation might not be representative of the majority views of the veterinary profession. The discussion at the Panel meeting can be accessed through LegCo's website<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr15-16/english/panels/fseh/papers/fseh20151110cb2-192-3-e.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr15-16/english/panels/fseh/agenda/fseh20151110.htm>

In view of the concern expressed by LegCo Members, we would like to invite you to express your views on these voting arrangements specifically.

### **One Vote vs Multiple Votes**

The first issue is **whether an elector can only vote for one candidate or he/she can vote for one or more than one candidate up to the maximum number of seats to be elected.** Either voting arrangement has its merits and demerits. If an elector is allowed to cast more than one vote, there is worry that there might be a risk that the election could be dominated by bloc voting influenced by certain sizeable groups or organisations. On the other hand, if an elector could only cast vote for one candidate in an election, as the electoral base of the veterinary profession is relatively small<sup>3</sup>, the number of votes obtained by the elected members particularly for the last seats might be thinned out, which might to a certain extent undermine the representativeness and credibility of the election. It is noted that an elector is also allowed to cast votes in respect of the number of vacancies at the general elections of some local professional regulatory bodies such as the Medical Council of Hong Kong and the Social Workers Registration Board of Hong Kong.

### **Voting in-person vs by post**

The second issue is **whether the electors should be required to cast their votes in person or allowed to do so by post.** Again either arrangement has its merits and demerits. Voting in person provides the highest level of security as the identity of the elector could be verified and we could ensure that the elector casts the vote in private without influence by others. The downside is that it is complicated and costly to operate multiple polling stations for such a small electoral base. Due to various reasons, some veterinary surgeons may also not be able to cast their votes at the designated venue during the designated hours. This might discourage electors from taking part in the election, leading to poor response rate. Voting by post, on the other hand, has the greatest flexibility and helps induce a higher degree of participation by the veterinary profession. It is also a common practice adopted by many other local and overseas professional regulatory bodies, such as the Medical Council of Hong Kong, the Social Workers Registration Board of Hong Kong and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Council of the U.K.

### **Your Opinion**

Against the considerations set out in the above paragraphs, you are invited to indicate your preference by completing the attached reply slip and returning it to AFCD by **31 January 2016**.

We thank you for your attention and look forward to your continued support to the development of the local veterinary profession.

Yours faithfully,



(Michelle Yeung)

for Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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<sup>3</sup> As at 14 December 2015, there were 820 registered veterinary surgeons in Hong Kong.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Submission number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reply Slip**

**ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSION TO  
THE VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD (VSB)**

**QUESTIONS FOR RESPONSE**

Please indicate your answer to the following questions by filling the box with an “✓”

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Clinic: \_\_\_\_\_ (Optional)

**Question 1 : Whether an elector should be allowed to cast one vote or more than one vote in an election?**

- One vote     One or more than one vote, up to the number of vacancies (i.e. up to six votes in an ordinary election)     Others (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_ )     No preference

**Question 2 : Whether an elector should cast a vote in person or by post?**

- In-person voting     Postal voting     Others (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_ )     No preference

**Question 3 : Any other comments? (Please indicate below)**

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**-End-**

**Remarks:**

1. The purpose of this reply slip is to collect the views of the members of the veterinary profession regarding the voting arrangements for the proposed election of members to the VSB. Information gathered will form the basis for the Government's consideration of the final proposals for the election arrangements. Views of individuals will not be disclosed.
2. If you have any views or enquiry on the reply slip, you are welcome to hand in your enquiry along with the submission of reply slip on or before **31 January 2016** by one of the following means (e-mail submission of the completed reply slip is encouraged):

By mail or  
hand delivery to:            Technical Services Division  
   Inspection and Quarantine Branch  
   Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
   Department  
   5/F, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices  
   303 Cheung Sha Wan Road  
   Kowloon, Hong Kong

Re:    **Opinion on the Voting  
Arrangements for the Election of  
Members from the Veterinary  
Profession to the Veterinary  
Surgeons Board of Hong Kong**

By fax to:                        (852) 2156 0215

By e-mail to:                    [tsdiq@afcd.gov.hk](mailto:tsdiq@afcd.gov.hk)

3. Submissions will be received on the basis that we may freely reproduce and publish them, in whole or in part, in any form, and use, adapt or develop any proposal put forward without seeking permission or providing acknowledgment of the party making the proposal.

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
December 2015**