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Translation

1 April 2016

Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen
Chairman, Panel on Development
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr TSE,

Planning of Public Markets

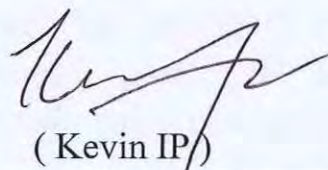
With reference to Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen's letter dated 3 March 2016 to the Chairman of the Panel on Development on the planning of public markets, we have consulted the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and the Planning Department (PlanD), and our consolidated reply is as follows.

The Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) stipulates general guidelines for determining the scale, location and site requirements of various land uses, community facilities and infrastructures according to the population and other factors. The relevant guidelines aim to serve as general reference to ensure that, new towns, new development areas and other land development projects will provide adequate land for different planned uses and facilities. The compilation of HKPSG is coordinated by PlanD, where relevant bureaux and departments will formulate, review and update planning standards under their purview in a timely manner, in accordance with their policies on relevant services and development needs.

FHB and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are responsible for the policy on and the provision of public markets, as well as the relevant planning standards. FHB conducted a policy review about public markets in 2007-2008 which concluded that the future provision of new public markets should be considered on a case-by-case basis to ensure the efficient use of public resources. Apart from the population of the area, other relevant factors that should be considered include the demographic mix, community needs, provision of both public and private markets nearby, number of fresh provision retail outlets in the vicinity, and public sentiments towards preservation of hawker areas in the particular locality. As a result of the policy review, those parts concerning public markets in Chapter 6: Retail Facilities of the HKPSG were amended in April 2009 and have remained in force since then. After the amendment, when preparing and reviewing various types of town plans, PlanD would consult FHB and other relevant departments to ascertain the need for reserving land for public market use. FHB and relevant departments will, according to the above planning standards and the actual situation of the area concerned, consider whether public markets will be provided in certain areas.

FHB will evaluate the need to review the planning standards regarding public markets in a timely manner, taking into account societal development as well as the actual situation of different areas. As the provision of and the planning standards on public markets are under the purview of FHB, Hon MAK may wish to consider following up on the issue at the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene.

Yours sincerely,



(Kevin IP)

for Secretary for Development

c.c.

Secretary for Food and Health
Director of Planning