

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

**List of outstanding items for discussion**

(position as at 11 January 2016)

- |  | <b>Proposed timing<br/>for discussion</b> |
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| <b>1. Public consultation on the proposed regulation of heavy metals in food</b> | 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter of 2016           |

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 launch a public consultation and to brief the Panel on the subject in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2016.

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| <b>2. Code of practice on pet trading</b> | 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter of 2016 |
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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, members were 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 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2016.

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for discussion**

- 3. Report on the Food Surveillance Programme for 2015** 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2016

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the report on the Food Surveillance Programme for 2015 in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2016.

- 4. Provision of columbarium at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery - Phase I** April 2016

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on a public works project concerning the provision of columbarium at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016, before the funding proposal is submitted to the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee for approval.

- 5. Annual report regarding the dialogue between the Secretary for Food and Health and the District Councils ("DCs")/the Environmental Hygiene Committees under DCs on matters related to keeping Hong Kong clean** 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration plans to report on the subject matter in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016.

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- 6. Dengue and Japanese Encephalitis Vector Surveillance Programmes, Anti-mosquito Campaign 2016, bedbug control and prevention and rodent prevention and control measures** 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration proposes to update members on above the matters in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016.

- 7. Rental adjustment mechanism for public market stalls** 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016

The Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets formed under the Panel had completed its work. During the course of deliberations, the Subcommittee made a number of recommendations for enhancing the operating environment and business competitiveness of public markets (please refer to paragraph 36 of the Subcommittee's report (LC Paper No. CB(2)2142/14-15(01)) for details). In recommending that the Panel should follow up with the Administration the various issues raised therein, the Subcommittee specifically requested the Administration to consult the Panel on its proposals, if any, for rental adjustment mechanism for public market stalls in the first quarter of 2017 at the latest (paragraph 31 of the report refers).

The Administration intends to revert to the Panel on this issue in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016.

In her letter dated 2 November 2015 (LC Paper No. CB(2)201/15-16(01)), Hon Alice MAK expressed concern about the lack of public markets in newly developed districts. Hon MAK considered that the Administration should comprehensively review its policy in respect of the planning and provision of public markets in Hong Kong and suggested that the

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matter be discussed by the Panel. On the instruction of the Panel Chairman, the Administration should be requested to address also the issues raised in Hon MAK's letter when the captioned item is discussed by the Panel.

**8. Review of fees for liquor licences**

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the results of its review on the fees for liquor licences in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016.

**9. Reduction of sugar and salt content in food**

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration plans to update the Panel on the relevant work of the Government in reducing salt and sugar content in food in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016.

**10. Outcome of the consultancy study on the future of live poultry trade**

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the findings and recommendations of the consultancy study on the future of live poultry trade in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016.

**11. Implementation of the Food Safety Ordinance**

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016

Item proposed by the Administration.

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for discussion**

The Administration proposes to update members on the implementation of the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612) ("FSO") in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016.

**12. Proposed legislation for implementing the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hong Kong**

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016

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 the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016.

**13. Implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme**

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration last briefed the Panel on the implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme in June 2015. The Administration plans to update the Panel on the latest progress in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016.

**14. Update on the implementation of the trawl ban**

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016

Item proposed by the Administration.

At the meeting on 9 June 2015, members were briefed

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on various matters relating to the implementation of the trawl ban, including the progress made in the disbursement of one-off financial assistance to fishermen affected by the trawl ban and measures taken to assist the fisheries industry to switch to other sustainable operations.

The Administration plans to update members on the subject in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016.

**15. Regulation of animal feed for livestock and cultured fish and the presence of veterinary drug residues**

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016

At the meeting on 15 October 2015, Dr Hon Helena WONG expressed concerns about the regulation of animal feed for livestock and cultured fish and the presence of veterinary drug residues, including antibiotics, in meat and aquatic products for human consumption. She considered that the Panel should discuss these issues at a Panel meeting.

In her letter dated 9 December 2015 (LC Paper No. CB(2)422/15-16(01)), Dr WONG reiterated her concerns and requested the early discussion of the item.

**16. Redevelopment of food safety laboratory of the Government Laboratory**

2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2016

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on a proposal to redevelop the food safety laboratory under the Government Laboratory to further enhance the testing capacity on food safety related analysis.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2016.

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**17. Wholesale market consultancy study**

To be confirmed

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.

At the meeting on 15 October 2015, Hon Steven HO expressed a wish that arrangements be made for early discussion of this subject.

**18. Public consultation on the proposed regulation of cooked meat**

To be confirmed

At the special meeting on 3 September 2014, members expressed concern about inadequate regulation of 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 the Legislative Council ("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.

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**19. Consultation results of the proposed introduction of the pre-market safety assessment on genetically-modified food**

To be confirmed

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the item when ready.

**20. Public consultation on the proposed regulatory framework governing veterinary drug residues in food**

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.

**21. 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 the 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



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give views at a future meeting.

**22. Safety of food for pet animals**

To be confirmed

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 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)).

In his letter dated 20 July 2015 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1958/14-15(01)), Hon CHAN Hak-kan also suggested the Panel's discussion of the subject matter.

At the meeting on 15 October 2015, Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan expressed a wish that when the Panel discussed the safety of food for pet animals, arrangements be made for discussion of the safety of medicine for pet animals as well.

In his letter dated 15 October 2015 (LC Paper No. CB(2)52/15-16(01)), Hon CHAN Chi-chuen reiterated his concerns about the safety of food for pet animals and the absence in Hong Kong of legislation to regulate the safety of pet food products. Hon CHAN requested the Panel to discuss the relevant issues as early as possible.

**23. 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

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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.

At the meeting on 15 October 2015, Hon Steven HO and Hon Michael TIEN both expressed concern about the slow progress of the Administration in taking forward the initiative of setting up an approved distribution and storage centre for chilled meat and poultry. They requested for early discussion of the subject matter by the Panel.

**24. 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, a suggestion was made 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.

**25. Implementation of regulation governing labelling of infant formula**

To be confirmed

The following issues were referred by the Subcommittee on Food and Drugs (Composition and

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Labelling) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2014 ("the Amendment Regulation") to this Panel for follow-up -

- (a) the results of the sampling tests on the fluoride content in infant formula to be conducted by the Centre for Food Safety upon implementation of the Amendment Regulation; and
- (b) the enforcement actions to be taken by the Administration against non-compliant cases relating to the nutritional composition and nutrition labelling requirements for formula products and prepackaged food for infants and young children under the age of 36 months (please refer to paragraphs 22, 25 and 30 of the report of the Subcommittee (LC Paper No. CB(2)256/14-15) for details).

**26. Outcome of the comprehensive review of the food-safety related penalties**

To be confirmed

Having regard to the views of the members of the Subcommittee on Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2014, the Administration undertook to conduct a comprehensive review of the food safety-related penalties under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and its subsidiary legislation, as well as FSO in 2015. The Administration also agreed to report the outcome of the study to the Panel. (Paragraphs 29 and 30 of the Subcommittee's report (LC Paper No. CB(2)256/14-15) refers.)

The Subcommittee on Three Regulations Relating to Control Regime for the Import of Eggs also proposed that the Administration should report the progress of the review to the Panel (please see paragraphs 24 to 26 of its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)2123/14-15) for details).

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**27. The import and sale of products made with fur of dogs and cats**

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 9 December 2014, members noted the letter from Hon Claudia MO expressing concern about the import and sale of products made with fur of dogs and cats as well as the Administration's response to her letter (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)408/14-15(01) and (02)). At the request of Hon MO, members agreed that the subject be included in the list of outstanding items for discussion.

**28. Proposed implementation of the new agricultural policy**

To be confirmed

At the Panel meeting on 13 January 2015, members were briefed on the Administration's consultation document entitled "The New Agricultural Policy: Sustainable Agricultural Development in Hong Kong".

Subsequently, the Panel received public views at the meeting on 9 June 2015 on the consultation document. Members were advised that the Administration was considering and would give due regard to the recommendations and feedback received during the public consultation exercise before finalizing the proposals.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the concrete proposals to implement the new agricultural policy at a future meeting.