



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局  
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat  
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

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Clerk to Panel on Establishment Subcommittee  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn.: Miss S H Cheung)

Dear Miss Cheung,

**Legislative Council Establishment Subcommittee**  
**Follow-up Items to the Meeting on 24 April 2017**  
**Regarding EC(2016-17)25**

Thank you for your letter dated 27 April 2017. At the meeting on 24 April 2017, Members of the Establishment Subcommittee requested the Administration to provide the testing results of the salmon sashimi samples collected by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in recent years, supplementary information on CFS' IT systems, and supplementary information on the two proposed supernumerary directorate posts. Our response is as follows.

**Salmon and Salmon Sashimi**

CFS collected approximately 1 350 salmon and salmon sashimi samples for chemical and microbiological tests from 2014 to 2016. In these three years, apart from



one sample collected in 2015 which was found to have pathogen level exceeding the standard of the Microbiological Guidelines for Food, the testing results of all of the samples were satisfactory.

### **IT Systems of CFS**

The existing 17 IT systems of CFS consist of those which are related to risk profiling and food tracing, such as a system on food import control; a system on food samples and testing data for food surveillance; a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system that traces the origin of imported live pigs and live cattle; various information systems that record the import data of live food animals, information on registered farms and CFS' inspections of those farms; and an information system that records foodborne disease cases referred to CFS by the Department of Health.

The existing IT systems of CFS were developed by contractors at different time to meet different user requirements. Since the IT systems, and their databases, have their own separate design and are different in data organization and structure, there are difficulties in integrating those data systemically into a centralized database that facilitates data retrieval and analysis. The lack of flexibility in system design also poses limitations on the room for streamlining workflow. The existing functions of the systems do not readily enable CFS staff to handle tasks that involve multiple systems. Further programming by technical staff or the use of external software is necessary to merge the data for further consolidation and analysis. These limitations hinder the effectiveness of CFS' food safety control efforts, including its risk profiling efficacy. Through comprehensively reviewing and revamping/capitalizing the business processes of CFS and the design of its existing systems, developing systems of high efficiency to more effectively support food safety control work in an integrated manner, and introducing technology-driven solutions and automation to better support the work of frontline staff, CFS will be able to effectively tackle the abovementioned problems.

### **The Two Proposed Supernumerary Directorate Posts**

The Food Branch of the Food and Health Bureau plans to start/carry out/complete various new tasks in the coming two and a half years which include: updating the standards for mycotoxins (including aflatoxin) in foods; starting the process of introducing legislative amendments to regulate and specify various safety standards for edible fats and oils; reviewing the regulation of veterinary drug residues in food animals and foods; reviewing the regulation of genetically modified food; and, at the suggestion of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene, reviewing the consistency or otherwise of the maximum levels of penalties of offences of similar nature as stipulated under the various food safety ordinances and regulations. The aforementioned work requires the oversight of directorate officer at D2 level. The proposed post of Principal Assistant Secretary (Special Duties) will be tasked to assist with the abovementioned duties.

The proposed post of Senior Principal Executive Officer (Corporate and System Management) will be responsible for overseeing the Corporate and System Management (CSM) Division of CFS, spearheading the formulation of long-term



strategies in corporate and system management; bringing forward IT-enabled business transformation in food import control and food surveillance work in the CFS; steering the re-engineering business processes, operational procedures and information management; and advising on good management practices in streamlining of workflow and re-engineering business processes with a view to developing computerized systems that can better support data analysis and risk profiling. During the business re-engineering process, the implementation of the Trade Single Window (SW) project will be duly taken into account, ensuring effective integration of the revamped IT systems of CFS with the SW, so as to strengthen CFS' efficacy on risk profiling and food tracing.

When the post is created, CFS will kick-start those tasks immediately, including the formulation of long-term corporate and system management strategies, with a view to completing a holistic review of all of the IT systems of CFS within the first year, and starting the review of the main business process, so as to formulate CFS' IT plan of the next five years for developing new major systems. The individual tasks in the 5-year IT plan include business process re-engineering, system analysis and design, procurement of relevant hardware and software, system upgrading, user tests, privacy impact assessment and audit, security risk assessment and audit, load tests, resilience tests, disaster recovery tests, user training and trial run etc. After the projects in CFS' IT plan are smoothly implemented, we will ensure that the new systems will be effectively integrated with SW in the year that follows, with a view to strengthening risk profiling and food tracing for food import. We plan to report to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council on the progress of the aforementioned 5-year IT plan in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

(Kenneth CHAN)  
for Secretary for Food and Health

cc: DFEH (Attn: Dr CHOI Mei-yee) (Fax : 2521 9527)  
(Attn: Ms. LAU Wing Han, Winnie) (Fax : 2893 3547)