

Our ref.: FEHD/A&D/53-20/15 C

18 January 2018

Mr Anthony CHU  
Clerk to the Public Accounts Committee  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road,  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr CHU,

**Follow-up to Public Accounts Committee Report No. 64**

**Public cooked food markets managed by  
The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)**

Thank you for your letter of 5 January 2018 requesting information regarding the latest progress of retrofitting of air conditioning (A/C) systems in cooked food markets and cooked food centres (CFCs).

As promulgated in the Policy Address in October 2017, the Government would conduct a comprehensive review of existing public markets, formulate specific improvement measures for the facilities in a systematic manner and allocate resources to improve the environment of existing public markets, including expediting the retrofitting of A/C systems.

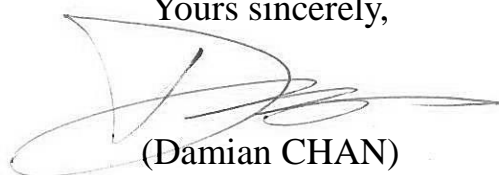
To this end, we have proposed the creation of a supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C in FEHD to lead a dedicated team for the above-mentioned comprehensive review. The dedicated team will give priority to speeding up the A/C retrofitting works, including formulating proposals in the light of the actual circumstances of individual markets with a view to reaching a consensus with the tenants as soon as possible on the extent of works. The Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) approved our proposal on 5 January 2018. We are working in full swing to carry out the comprehensive review.

Since the Government Minute submitted in May 2017, the Government has now made plans to consult the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene regarding the retrofitting of A/C systems in Tai Wai Market and seek funding approval from the FC in the first half of 2018.

Of the other 10 public markets having attained the threshold of tenants' support for the retrofitting of A/C systems, the preliminary feasibility assessment for Shui Wo Street Market CFC, Ngau Tau Kok Market CFC and Aberdeen Market cum CFC has been completed. The tenants concerned are being consulted on the extent of works. Their co-operation is of utmost importance as the market premises would have to be closed to a certain degree and for some time for the retrofitting work. After a consensus is reached, the Government will conduct a technical feasibility study to take the matter forward.

FEHD is following up with the Architectural Services Department to conduct preliminary feasibility assessment for the other markets concerned (namely Shek Tong Tsui Market CFC, Quarry Bay Market CFC, Electric Road Market CFC, Fa Yuen Street Market CFC, Ngau Chi Wan Market CFC, Yeung Uk Road Market and Tsuen Wan Market). Taking into consideration factors such as the findings of the technical feasibility studies, extent of works required, cost effectiveness, impact on business and market operation, and whether the implementation details are acceptable to the tenants concerned, the Government will decide whether there is a case for carrying out the works for retrofitting A/C systems.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Damian Chan', written over a light blue horizontal line.

(Damian CHAN)

for Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

c.c. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury  
Director of Audit