

香港特別行政區政府

創新及科技局

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INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGY BUREAU

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

20/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

By email

28 June 2018

Mr Desmond LAM
Clerk to Panel on Commerce and Industry
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr LAM,

**Panel on Commerce and Industry
Meeting on 15 May 2018**

**Measures to support the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks
Corporation and the establishment of technology research clusters
and creation of an Assistant Commissioner post
in the Innovation and Technology Commission**

The Administration was requested by the Panel to provide supplementary information relating to the animal research and drug testing facilities in reply to the questions raised by Hon CHU Hoi-dick at the meeting on 15 May 2018 and his letter of the same date. Having consulted the Food and Health Bureau/ the Department of Health, the relevant information is provided as follows –

The development of the animal research and drug testing facilities by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (“HKSTPC”) aims at providing healthcare technology researches with the necessary facilities to

complement the research activities in the field of healthcare technology. The facilities will only conduct experiments necessary for healthcare research (such as drugs efficacy tests and toxicology studies), so as to explore new biological and medical knowledge or develop new medicines. HKSTPC is discussing with the Government the detailed arrangements, including the scale of the facilities, operation model, the types of experiment animals, etc. HKSTPC will strictly follow the relevant laws and the “Code of Practice for Care and Use of Animals for Experimental Purposes” published by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, and establish an animal ethics committee to monitor the operation of the facilities. Besides, HKSTPC will also make reference to the standards adopted by the international organisation Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC International). The animals involved will be treated humanely and the number of animals used will be kept to the minimum.


Currently, the Animals (Control of Experiments) Ordinance (“the Ordinance”) provides for the control of experiments on living vertebrate animals in Hong Kong. Before performing an animal experiment, a person shall apply for a licence for that particular experiment by submitting a form prescribed by the Ordinance to the Director of Health. No person except a licensee shall perform any experiments on living vertebrate animals.

A licence issued under section 7 of the Ordinance will specify the type of experiments the licensee is allowed to perform, the place where experiments may be conducted, and the purpose of experiments. The Ordinance also provides that such experiments shall be conducted in accordance with the terms of the licensee’s licence and subject to the restrictions imposed by the Ordinance. While the Ordinance does not impose any restriction on the affiliation of licence applicants or the types and sources of animals to be used in experiments, a licensee shall render annual returns to the Director of Health in relation to the details of experiments conducted, including the types of animals used, in the format specified under relevant legislations.

In addition, the Ordinance restricts the purpose of performing experiments. Under section 6 of the Ordinance, no licensee shall perform any experiment except for the purpose of the advancement by new discovery of physiological knowledge, or of any knowledge which will be useful for saving or prolonging life, or alleviating suffering, or for combating any disease whether of human beings, animals or plants, or for the purpose of testing any former discovery said to be made for the advancement of such types of knowledge. Besides, except under and in accordance with a teaching permit issued under section 9, no licensee shall perform any experiment for the purpose of illustrating any lecture at any academic institution.

At present, animal experiments still play an important role in research areas such as understanding disease mechanisms as well as development and testing of new drugs, therapeutic methods and techniques. While non-living experimental techniques are becoming more mature, they cannot completely replace animal experiments yet. The relevant bureaux will review the relevant legislations from time to time in light of technological advances and relevant regulations in other regions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ricky CHONG', with a stylized, cursive script.

(Ricky CHONG)

for Secretary for Innovation and Technology

c.c. Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Attn.: Mr WONG Wang-wah)
Secretary for Food and Health (Attn.: Mr WU Kui-wah)
Director of Health (Attn.: Dr CHAN Siu-mui)