

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of outstanding items for discussion (position as at 9 October 2017)

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>1. Dutiable Commodities (Liquor Licences) (Fees) Amendment Regulation</p> <p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>Following discussion on the Government's review of fees for liquor licensing services at the Panel meetings on 11 July and 22 September 2017, the Administration plans to update the Panel on the proposed way forward prior to introducing the relevant subsidiary legislation into the Legislative Council ("LegCo") for negative vetting.</p>	November 2017
<p>2. Rolling out of the Internet Protocol Camera Scheme to all districts and other keep clean measures</p> <p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>Following discussion at the Panel meeting on 10 January 2017, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has examined the effectiveness of the captioned pilot scheme and completed the consultation with the District Councils by the end of September 2017. The Administration plans to update the Panel on the rolling out of the scheme on installing Internet Protocol cameras at hygiene blackspots to all 18 districts.</p>	November 2017
<p>3. Reduction of sugar and salt content in food</p> <p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to update the Panel on the relevant work of the Government in reducing sugar and salt content in food in the fourth quarter of 2017.</p>	4 th quarter of 2017

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
4. Government Laboratory's work in respect of food safety and other services	First half of 2018
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the first half of 2018.	
5. Regulation of animal feed for livestock and cultured fish and the presence of veterinary drug residues	First half of 2018
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 early discussion of the item. (Please also see item 6 below.)	
6. Public consultation on the proposed regulatory framework governing veterinary drug residues in food and food animals	First half of 2018
According to the Administration, it is considering measures to strengthen control over veterinary drug residues in food and food animals in order to enhance food safety and it plans to launch a public consultation on the proposed regulatory framework in due course. At the meeting on 18 October 2016, the Chairman and Dr Hon Pierre CHAN considered that arrangements should be made by the Administration for early discussion of items relating to veterinary drug residues (i.e. items 5 and 6).	

Subject

Proposed timing for discussion

At the meeting between the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the Secretary for Food and Health to discuss the work plan of the Panel for the 2016-2017 session ("the work plan meeting") held on 31 October 2016, the Administration undertook to provide an information paper on its work plan regarding antimicrobial resistance ("AMR"). Members may consider the need of discussing items 5 and 6 as a combined item (e.g. "Use of veterinary drugs in food animals and cultured fish and surveillance of veterinary drug residues in food and food animals" as suggested by the Administration), after perusal of the information paper to be provided by the Administration. The said paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)519/16-17(01)) was issued to members on 3 January 2017. At the Panel meeting on 10 January 2017, members considered it necessary for the Administration to explain in detail its work progress in tackling the threat of AMR at a Panel meeting, the agenda of which would include an item covering issues relating to the use of veterinary drugs in food animals and cultured fish and the surveillance of veterinary drug residues in meat and aquatic products.

In recognition of the major threat posed by AMR to global public health, the Administration set up a High Level Steering Committee on AMR ("HLSC") to formulate strategies and action plans for tackling AMR in Hong Kong. The Expert Committee on AMR ("Expert Committee") formed under HLSC had made recommendations to HLSC. Taking into account the recommendations of the Expert Committee and the "One Health" framework which apprehends the correlation among human, animal and environment health and that AMR must be tackled at all three levels, HLSC has formulated a holistic Action Plan on AMR. On 10 July 2017, the Administration formally launched the Action Plan (2017-2022). The issue was discussed at the meeting of the Panel on Health Services on 17 July 2017, and members of this Panel were invited to join the discussion of the issue.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
7. Implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hong Kong	First half of 2018

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 first half of 2018.

8. Liquor licensing system in Hong Kong and regulation of upstairs bars	To be confirmed
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At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG expressed concern about the nuisances caused by upstairs bars and the Liquor Licensing Board's considerations in assessing liquor licence applications from these establishments. She suggested the Panel 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 the Research Office, Information Services Division of the LegCo Secretariat. Hon Tommy CHEUNG suggested the Panel discuss the subject of liquor licensing system in Hong Kong at a future meeting and invite deputations from the trade concerned to give views on the subject when it was discussed.

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9. Update on Best Practices on Cooking Oils in Use	To be confirmed
<p>According to the Administration, the Centre for Food Safety ("CFS") has commissioned a consultancy study on "cooking oils in use" in 2017, with a view to developing guidelines on good practices on "cooking oils in use" for the trade. CFS will engage the trade in the process.</p> <p>The Administration will brief the Panel on the subject in due course, taking into account the progress of the consultancy study.</p>	
10. Progress of the major initiatives under the New Agriculture Policy	To be confirmed
<p>To keep members abreast of the latest developments of the major initiatives underpinning the New Agriculture Policy ("NAP"), the Administration provided the Panel with an information paper reporting on the matter in July 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1857/16-17(01)). The Administration undertook to keep the Panel informed of the progress of the implementation of NAP in the future.</p>	
11. Policies on promoting the development of the agricultural and fisheries industries	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 18 October 2016, Hon Steven HO suggested that the Panel should follow up with the Administration on the following issues:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="256 1776 1098 1899">(a) the Government's proposals of establishing an Agricultural Park and designating "Agricultural Priority Areas" under NAP;<li data-bbox="256 1944 1098 2069">(b) the impact of the changes to the fisheries policy of the Mainland (e.g. the implementation of the annual fishing moratorium in the South China Sea	

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and the provision of fuel subsidy to fishermen by the Mainland authorities) on the Government's implementation of various loan schemes for local fishermen; and	
(c) the assistance provided for fish farmers affected by natural disasters.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on item (a) when reporting on the progress of the major initiatives under NAP (Please see item 10). Regarding items (b) and (c), the Administration will brief the Panel on the matters when ready.	
12. Wholesale market consultancy study	To be confirmed
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 analyse the geographical spread of the five existing wholesale markets from the perspectives 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.	
13. 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 the	

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Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612) ("FSO"). The Administration agreed to report to the Panel the outcome of the review (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 (paragraphs 24 to 26 of its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)2123/14-15) refers).

At the work plan meeting on 31 October 2016, the Administration was requested to update members on the progress of its review. The Administration undertook to start the review after the supernumerary directorate post in the Food and Health Bureau had been created. That said, it would take time to carry out and complete the review.

14. 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 it necessary for the Panel to follow up the matter. The Administration advised that it would review the relevant legislation and seek the views of LegCo Members and the trade afterwards.

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. At the meeting on 18 October 2016, she reiterated her concern and requested the Administration to revert to the Panel on the progress of its work.

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| <p>15. Ancillary facilities for storage and distribution of chilled meat and poultry</p> <p>At the meeting on 9 October 2014, Hon Michael TIEN expressed concern about the lack of ancillary facilities for wholesaling of chilled meat and poultry. He pointed out that the trade had made repeated requests to the Government for the setting up of an approved distribution and storage centre for chilled meat and poultry with a view to reducing food safety risks. He hoped that the Panel would follow up the issue and arrange discussion of it at a meeting.</p> <p>At the meeting on 15 October 2015, Hon Steven HO and Hon Michael TIEN 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.</p> | <p>To be confirmed</p> |
| <p>16. Regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture in Hong Kong</p> <p>At the meeting on 9 February 2010, a suggestion was raised 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.</p> <p>During the discussion of the implementation of FSO at the meeting on 11 July 2012, concerns were expressed about the over-expansion of oyster culture in Shenzhen Bay and the need of introducing in Hong Kong a licensing mechanism for regulating the activities of oyster culture.</p> | <p>To be confirmed</p> |
| <p>17. Issues relating to food safety</p> <p>Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki requested at the meeting on 18 October 2016 that the Administration should be</p> | <p>To be confirmed</p> |

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requested to liaise with the Mainland authorities to make arrangements for members to visit registered farms in the Guangdong Province to better understand the regulation and operation of those registered farms supplying food to Hong Kong. At the work plan meeting on 31 October 2016, the Administration undertook to relay Dr KWOK's request to the Mainland authorities for consideration.

18. Measures to facilitate the establishment of co-operative societies

To be confirmed

In his letter dated 12 December 2016 (LC Paper No. CB(2)413/16-17(01)), Hon CHU Hoi-dick expressed concern on the need for the Administration to review the Co-operative Societies Ordinance (Cap. 33) and draw up measures for promoting local community economy by facilitating the establishment of co-operative societies. He suggested that the Panel should discuss the subject matter at a future meeting. The Administration's response to issues raised in the letter from Hon CHU was set out in LC Paper No. CB(2)514/16-17(01) issued on 3 January 2017.