

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 8 January 2018)

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
1. Report on the Food Surveillance Programme for 2017 and follow-up measures in response to The Ombudsman's investigation report on "Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's System of Safety Control for Imported Fruits and Vegetables"	February 2018

The Office of The Ombudsman has undertaken a direct investigation and found inadequacies in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD")'s sampling checks on fruits and vegetables imported by land and its surveillance on those by sea. It has also been pointed out in the direct investigation report that no clear regulatory standards have been set for some vegetables commonly consumed in Hong Kong. The Ombudsman has made recommendations to FEHD regarding inspection and statutory standards for more effective regulation of imported fruits and vegetables.

At the Panel meeting on 14 November 2017, it was suggested that the Administration should be requested to brief members, no later than January 2018, on its responses to the observations and recommendations set out in the said direct investigation report. The Administration has undertaken to issue in early January 2018 an information paper on its response to The Ombudsman's investigation report and brief members on its follow-up actions in response to the investigation report, together with the item "Report on the Food Surveillance Programme for 2017" at the Panel meeting in February 2018.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
2. Creation of a supernumerary post of Senior Principal Executive Officer in the Private Columbaria Affairs Office of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for the regulation of private columbaria	February 2018
Item proposed by the Administration involving a staffing proposal.	
The Administration plans to consult the Panel on the proposal before seeking approval from the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC") and the Finance Committee ("FC").	
3. Expansion of Wo Hop Shek Crematorium (Item 3026NB)	February 2018
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the above public works project before seeking approval from the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") and FC.	
4. New allocation arrangement for public niches (including advance allocation and time-limited leases) and green burial initiatives	February 2018
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in February 2018.	
5. Installation of air-conditioning system at Tai Wai Market (Item 3034NM)	March 2018
Item proposed by the Administration.	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the above public works project before seeking approval from PWSC and FC.	
6. Provision of columbarium at Cape Collinson Road in Chai Wan (Item 3023NB)	March 2018
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the above public works project before seeking approval from PWSC and FC.	
7. Upgrading of the telecommunications system for Hawker Control Teams of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	March 2018
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the above funding proposal before seeking approval from FC.	
8. Implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hong Kong	March 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.	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>The relevant bill (i.e. Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources Bill) has been included in the 2017-2018 Legislative Programme provided by the Administration on 13 October 2017. The Administration has indicated its intention to introduce into the Council the bill in the second half of the 2017-2018 legislative session. It also plans to brief the Panel on the subject in March 2018.</p>	
<p>9. Facilitation of development of technology-based crop and aquaculture production</p>	1 st half of 2018
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the first half of 2018.</p>	
<p>10. The Second Hong Kong Population-based Food Consumption Survey</p>	2 nd quarter of 2018
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the second quarter of 2018.</p>	
<p>11. Report progress of the Hawker Assistance Scheme</p>	2 nd quarter of 2018
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the second quarter of 2018.</p>	
<p>12. Government's policy on bazaar activities</p>	2 nd quarter of 2018
<p>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 2017-2018</p>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>session ("the work plan meeting") held on 3 November 2017, the Deputy Chairman requested the Administration to brief members on issues relating to the Government's policy on bazaar activities, including the Administration's next course of action and progress in following up the recommendations to be put forward by the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Bazaars.</p>	
<p>13. Outcome of the review of food-safety related penalties</p>	<p>2nd quarter of 2018</p>
<p>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 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 Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612) ("FSO"). The Administration agreed to report to the Panel on the outcome of the review (paragraphs 29 and 30 of the Subcommittee's report (LC Paper No. CB(2)256/14-15) refers).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>The Administration has advised that it would brief members on its review of the maximum levels of penalties of offences under FSO and its subsidiary legislation in the second quarter of 2018.</p>	
<p>14. Food safety surveillance mechanism for imported food</p>	<p>2nd quarter of 2018</p>
<p>On 9 October 2017, the Administration provided an information paper entitled "Food Safety Surveillance</p>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>Mechanism for Imported Food" (LC Paper No. CB(2)2188/16-17(01)) for members' reference. At the meeting on 12 October 2017, Hon Helena WONG requested the Administration to brief members on the content of the Administration's paper which covered the developments of the incident concerning the quality of Brazilian frozen and chilled meat and poultry meat and the follow-up actions taken by CFS in response to the incident of suspicious health certificate accompanying a consignment of frozen chicken feet imported from Brazil. She also requested the Panel to continue to follow up and discuss the import arrangements for hairy crabs in 2017.</p>	
<p>15. Outcome of the Trap-Neuter-Return Trial Programme for Stray Dogs</p>	2 nd quarter of 2018
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the outcome of the trial programme in the second quarter of 2018.</p>	
<p>16. Liquor licensing system in Hong Kong: enhancement measures</p>	2 nd quarter of 2018
<p>Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki proposed in his letter dated 27 October 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(2)178/17-18(01)) and at the Panel meeting on 14 November 2017 early discussion on the composition and operation of the Liquor Licensing Board. The Administration's response (LC Paper No. CB(2)290/17-18(01)) to issues and concerns raised in Dr KWOK's letter was issued on 14 November 2017.</p>	
<p>At the meeting on 10 October 2013, concerns were raised about the nuisances caused by upstairs bars and the Liquor Licensing Board's considerations in assessing liquor licence applications from these</p>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>establishments. It was suggested that the Panel should follow up the subject.</p> <p>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 Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat. There was a suggestion that the Panel should discuss the liquor licensing system in Hong Kong at a future meeting and invite deputations from the trade to give views on the subject when it was discussed.</p>	
<p>17. Liquor licence fee adjustment: outcome of consultation</p>	<p>To be confirmed</p>
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>At the meeting on 11 July 2017, the Panel was briefed on the Government's proposal to adjust liquor licence fees and the measures put in place to improve the liquor licensing regime.</p> <p>The Panel then held a special meeting on 22 September 2017 to receive public views on the subject. Concurrently, the Administration consulted stakeholders on the fee adjustment proposal at liaison meetings with the trade in September and October 2017. The Administration will revert to the Panel on the outcome of the consultation and update the Panel on the proposed way forward, when ready.</p>	
<p>18. Review of legislation relating to animal welfare</p>	<p>To be confirmed</p>
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
19. Implementation of the human-poultry segregation measures at retail outlets for the live poultry trade	To be confirmed
Item proposed by the Administration.	
20. Use of veterinary drugs in food animals and cultured fish and surveillance of veterinary drug residues in food and food animals	To be confirmed

At the meeting on 15 October 2015, concerns were raised 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. It was suggested that the Panel should discuss the subject matter at a Panel meeting.

According to the Administration, it was considering measures to strengthen control over veterinary drug residues in food and food animals and planned to launch a public consultation on a proposed regulatory framework.

On 3 January 2017, the Administration provided the Panel with an information paper on its work plan regarding antimicrobial resistance ("AMR") (LC Paper No. CB(2)519/16-17(01)). At the Panel meeting on 10 January 2017, members considered it necessary for the Administration to explain at a meeting in detail its work progress in tackling the threat of AMR.

In recognition of the major threat posed by AMR to global public health, the Administration has 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 has 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

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>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 by the Panel on Health Services at its meeting on 17 July 2017, and members of this Panel were invited to join the discussion.</p> <p>At the work plan meeting held on 3 November 2017, the Administration advised that it would brief members on the implementation of the Hong Kong Strategy and Action Plan on AMR to tackle issues related to local livestock farms, when ready.</p>	
<p>21. Progress of the major initiatives under the New Agriculture Policy</p>	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 implementation progress of NAP, including the proposed establishment of an Agricultural Park, the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and designation of Agricultural Priority Areas.</p>	
<p>22. Construction works of the Agricultural Park Phase 1</p>	To be confirmed
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>23. Policies on promoting the development of the fisheries industry</p>	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>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>(a) 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 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</p> <p>(b) the assistance provided for fish farmers affected by natural disasters.</p> <p>The Administration has indicated its intention to brief members on Hong Kong's mariculture development in 2018.</p>	
<p>24. Public consultation on the proposed regulation of cooked meat</p> <p>At the special meeting on 3 September 2014, members expressed concern about inadequate regulation over 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 before deciding on the way forward.</p> <p>At the meeting on 18 October 2016, a request was raised that the Administration should revert to the Panel on the progress of its review on legislation relating to the regulation of cooked meat.</p>	To be confirmed
<p>25. Government Laboratory's work in respect of food safety and other services</p> <p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to brief members on the re-development of the Food Safety Laboratory of the Government Laboratory, once ready.</p>	To be confirmed

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
26. Wholesale market consultancy study	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 10 June 2014, members noted that the Administration had commissioned a consultancy study on 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.</p>	
27. Ancillary facilities for storage and distribution of chilled meat and poultry	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 15 October 2015, concern was raised about the lack of ancillary facilities for wholesaling of chilled meat and poultry. Noting 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, members requested for early discussion of the subject.</p>	
28. Regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture in Hong Kong	To be confirmed
<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 on the implementation of FSO at the Panel 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>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
29. Measures to facilitate the establishment of co-operative societies	To be confirmed
<p>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.</p>	
30. Issues relating to the relocation of Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar to Tung Chau Street Market	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 12 October 2017, Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested that the Panel should follow up and discuss issues relating to the relocation of Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar to Tung Chau Street Market, including how the Administration would address the needs and concerns of street sleepers in the vicinity of Tung Chau Street Market arising from the Administration's plan to improve the surroundings of Tung Chau Street Market.</p>	