

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 8 January 2018)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
<p>1. Measures to improve the operating environment of public markets and provision of public markets in new development areas</p>	<p>Meetings of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to:</p> <p>(a) collect views of stall operators in markets without air-conditioning facilities on whether to take forward the retrofitting of air-conditioning facilities in respective markets and provide the Panel with the results (including the percentage of tenants who are in support of the retrofitting of air-conditioning facilities); and</p> <p>(b) provide the Panel with information on the outcome of the consultation with the tenants and the Market Management Consultative Committees of the relevant markets (and other markets, if any) on the improvement proposals for six selected markets and the finalized improvement plans.</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited. (Please refer to paragraphs 2 to 4 of the Administration's letter dated 27 March 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1085/16-17(01)) for the Administration's initial response.)</p>

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	24 January, 14 March and 11 April 2017	<p>At these meetings, members repeatedly requested the Administration to provide detailed information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) (i) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD")'s progress in taking forward the installation of air-conditioning in the 10 public markets which had obtained overwhelming support from tenants for the retrofitting of air-conditioning systems and (ii) the timetable for completing the installation work in each of the 10 markets;(b) other suitable sites identified/proposed for development of new public markets (including the number and respective location of the sites) that were purported to serve the residents living in new development areas, such as Tin Shui Wai, and the considerations behind respective proposals; and(c) measures taken by FEHD to improve the facilities and operating environment of public markets and the resources involved.	

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2. Issues relating to animal welfare and cruelty to animals	Meetings of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Animal Welfare and Cruelty to Animals	<p>The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the following issues:</p> <p>(a) the results of the review of the definition of "cruelty to animals" and "animal" respectively under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) and the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374); and</p> <p>(b) the overall test results as well as the outcome of the study on commercial pet food products available in Hong Kong.</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.
3. Issues concerning the implementation of the Private Columbaria Ordinance	8 November 2016	<p>The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the following issues:</p> <p>(a) measures to be taken by the Administration to cope with the shortfall of supply of temporary storage spaces (around 30 000 spaces) for the displaced ashes arising from the cessation of operation of some private columbaria after the commencement of the Private Columbaria Ordinance;</p>	Response from the Administration awaited. (Regarding items (a) and (b), please refer to paragraphs 2 to 10 of the Administration's paper dated 31 March 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1112/16-17(01)) for the Administration's initial response.)

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		<p>(b) measures to be adopted for increasing the supply of niches in the coming few years to meet the strong public demand; and</p> <p>(c) whether any initiatives would be taken by the Administration to facilitate the provision of medium-priced niches in the market (e.g. by waiving land premium for private columbaria and setting a cap on the price of the niches to be sold by these columbaria.)</p>	
	<p>9 May 2017</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide a response to the view that the Administration should, having regard to the High Court's ruling on 28 April 2017 on the judicial review case concerning civil service benefits to the spouse of a homosexual civil servant, re-consider the admissibility of Committee stage amendments proposed by some Members to the Private Columbaria Bill which respectively sought to (i) extend the definition of "relative" under section 6(2) of Schedule 5 to the Bill so that a deceased person's same-sex partner in a marriage, civil partnership or civil union in any jurisdiction outside Hong Kong would be eligible to claim for the return of the</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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		<p>deceased person's ashes and (ii) further amend the Administration's proposed definition of "related person" under the same section and the relevant priority of claims.</p>	
	<p>12 December 2017</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following supplementary information:</p> <p>(a) the estimated amount of revenue forgone associated with extending the waiving of relevant payments for regularization from pre-cut-off columbaria eligible for an exemption in all other respects to pre-cut-off columbaria eligible for a licence in all other respects ("the waiving arrangement") and the calculation method adopted/factors and variables taken into account in the Administration's assessment of land value premium to be paid by operators of those 131 columbaria claiming to be pre-cut-off columbaria ; and</p> <p>(b) information about the 131 private columbaria that had voluntarily joined the Notification Scheme and would likely to be benefit under the waiving</p>	<p>The Administration's response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)645/17-18 on 5 January 2018.</p>

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		<p>arrangement, including the name, address and size of those columbaria and the number of pre-cut-off sold niches in each of the columbaria.</p> <p>To facilitate Members' consideration of the proposed remuneration package for the non-official presiding officers of the Private Columbaria Appeal Board ("PCAB"), the Administration was requested to provide, in its paper to be submitted to the Finance Committee, detailed information on the caseload of PCAB, i.e. the estimated number of appeal cases to be received and processed by PCAB, in the initial licensing and appeal stages (i.e. in the first three years of the implementation of the licensing regime).</p>	
<p>4. Environmental hygiene issues in the vicinity of the Tung Chau Street Market</p>	<p>13 December 2016</p>	<p>During the discussion on issues relating to the relocation of Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar to the new Tung Chau Street cloth market, the Administration was requested to provide information on how it 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>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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5. Measures on prevention and control of mosquitos and biting midges	10 January 2017	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) other than the mosquito prevention and control measures already in place, whether any new and more effective measures would be adopted/considered in the Government's anti-mosquito work; and</p> <p>(b) details of the studies on the surveillance of biting midges infestation in Hong Kong conducted by experts and measures taken/to be taken by the Administration to address the problem of biting midges in various districts.</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.
	12 December 2017	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) a list of the 269 construction sites against which prosecutions had been instituted by FEHD's District Pest Control Offices for mosquito breeding between late May and late November 2017, and the major types of construction works carried out in those sites;</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>(b) the reasons for the substantial increase in the Area Ovitrap Index for Aedes albopictus recorded in Tseung Kwan O North (i.e. from 1.6% in April 2017 to 55.9% in May 2017) and the corresponding measures taken/ to be taken by FEHD and relevant government departments to tackle the mosquito problem in Tseung Kwan O North; and</p> <p>(c) details of the technical assistance in mosquito prevention and control against Japanese encephalitis ("JE") provided to pig farmers by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in the past few years and whether any new measures had been introduced to prevent outbreak of JE in Hong Kong.</p>	
6. Measures for keeping Hong Kong clean	10 January 2017	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) regarding the service contract tendering mechanism of FEHD, (i) criteria adopted by the Administration in evaluating the tenders before letting out</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited. (Regarding items (a) and (b), please refer to the second last paragraph of the Administration's letter dated 7 April 2017 (LC Paper No.</p>

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		<p>the cleansing service contracts and (ii) whether the Administration would consider the comments of District Councils and district personalities on the daily performance of the tenderers in considering awarding and renewing the service contracts;</p> <p>(b) FEHD's progress of fine-tuning the existing cleansing contract tendering system and its timetable for completing the exercise;</p> <p>(c) the expenditure incurred on the installation of Internet Protocol ("IP") cameras at certain refuse dumping blackspots in the Central & Western, Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long Districts, which was a pilot scheme implemented since end-2016;</p> <p>(d) given that the Administration would examine the effectiveness of the pilot scheme on installation of IP cameras upon its completion, the findings of the review once available;</p> <p>(e) a copy of the guidance notes and operational guidelines on the use and</p>	<p>CB(2)1174/16-17(01)) for the Administration's initial response.)</p>

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		<p>disclosure of the footage recorded by IP cameras to be drawn up by FEHD to ensure compliance with the provisions on the manner of collecting personal data under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486);</p> <p>(f) measures formulated by the Administration for improving the cleanliness of shorelines, and details of the additional resources allocated for stepping up the frequencies of clearing marine refuse in the harbour waters and refuse on beaches; and</p> <p>(g) how the Administration would assess the effectiveness of the inter-departmental working group, which was set up in November 2012, in reviewing and formulating strategies/ measures for improving the cleanliness of shorelines.</p>	
	14 November 2017	The Administration was requested to provide the number of prosecutions instituted against illegal dumping of refuse at the six refuse dumping blackspots in the Central & Western, Sham Shui Po and Yuen	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>Long Districts and how many successful prosecutions were made, since IP cameras had been installed at those blackspots.</p>	
<p>7. Demerit Points System ("DPS") for licensed food premises and applications for outside seating accommodation ("OSA") for licensed premises</p>	<p>24 January 2017</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) among all the food premises with licences suspended/cancelled in the past five years due to the accumulation of demerit points under the extant DPS, (i) the number and percentage of suspension and cancellation cases involving contravention of food safety requirements and (ii) a breakdown of these cases by the nature of offences; and (b) regarding applications for setting up OSA for licensed food premises, (i) the respective number of applications approved and rejected by FEHD in the past two years; (ii) the average processing time (i.e. from the receipt of an OSA application to the granting of approval/deciding on rejection); (iii) the major reasons for the long processing time required for some 	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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		applications; and (iv) the main reasons of rejection (with a breakdown by category and number of cases).	
8. Rodent prevention and control measures	14 March 2017	The Administration was requested to provide information on how FEHD monitored the situation of rodent infestation in public markets and the targeted measures taken by FEHD to control the rodent problem in public markets.	Response from the Administration awaited.
	14 November 2017	The Administration was requested to provide detailed information on the resources and manpower deployed (including the staffing establishment and ranks of the six Dedicated Enforcement Teams) for conducting the 28 926 inspections to prevent and control rodent infestation during the Anti-rodent Campaign 2017 and the average number of FEHD officers involved in each of the inspections.	
9. Supply of public niches and related issues	9 May 2017	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) traffic improvement measures to be taken by the Administration to alleviate the additional traffic arising from the</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>columbarium project at Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun;</p> <p>(b) whether consideration would be given to allowing storage of synthetic materials (e.g. synthetic diamond transformed from human ashes) in public niches; and</p> <p>(c) whether the Administration would consider adopting the following measures to promote green burial: (i) establishing a registration scheme for people to indicate their willingness to adopt green burial; (ii) offering monetary incentives to encourage adoption of green burial; and (iii) waiving the relevant charges and fees for cremation service if the family members/relatives of the deceased decided to adopt green burial.</p>	
<p>10. FEHD's enforcement strategy relating to hawker management and control</p>	<p>11 July 2017</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) in relation to appraisal of staff performance, (i) criteria adopted for evaluating the performance of staff in</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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		<p>the Hawker Control Teams ("HCTs") including Assistant Hawker Control Officers ("AHCOs"); (ii) a copy of the appraisal form(s) currently used within FEHD for assessing the performance of different ranks of HCT staff; and (iii) a written response to the question of whether any senior FEHD staff had evaluated the performance of AHCOs using the assessment form mentioned by a Panel member and the staff association of FEHD;</p> <p>(b) a response to the question of whether it was really the case that HCT staff had asked/would ask shop operators and licensed hawkers to place their goods/trading articles on roads instead of pedestrian passage ways to avoid prosecution;</p> <p>(c) regarding enforcement actions against illegal hawking, (i) the number of hawkers prosecuted by FEHD in the past three years and their age distribution; (ii) the number of warnings issued to aged hawkers by HCT staff before taking prosecution actions over the past three years; and</p>	

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		<p>(iii) whether HCT staff would be penalized if they did not give prior warnings to hawkers before taking enforcement actions;</p> <p>(d) regarding training provided to frontline HCT staff, (i) the training programmes provided to HCT staff to upgrade their work skills and (ii) a copy of FEHD's existing operational guidelines for hawker control; and</p> <p>(e) a written response to the views and concerns raised by Hon SHIU Ka-chun in his letter to the Secretary for Food and Health on 10 July 2017 concerning the enforcement strategy relating to hawker control (LC Paper No. CB(2)1875/16-17(01)).</p>	
<p>11. Government's review of fees and improvement measures for liquor licensing services</p>	<p>11 July and 22 September 2017</p>	<p>When receiving the Administration's briefing on the improvement measures introduced for processing liquor licensing applications and the Administration's latest thoughts on how to take forward, with respect to fees for liquor licensing services, the 2013-2014 Budget commitment to review fees and charges, members requested</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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		<p>the Administration to provide information on (a) various types of licences/permits required by different bureaux/departments that might be obtained by the relevant operators for engaging in catering and/or retailing businesses; and (b) whether any of the bureaux/departments followed the "user pays" principle and the Government policy that fees and charges of Government services should in general be set at levels sufficient to recover the full cost of providing the services, in determining the fees and charges for services under their purviews.</p>	
	<p>22 September 2017</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) regarding liquor licensing services, (i) details on how the annual costs for provision of different liquor licensing services (e.g. new issue/renewal/transfer of licence) to restaurants and bars were worked out in accordance with the "user pays" principle, with examples illustrating the calculation of the costs for different fee items; (ii) government departments involved</p>	

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		<p>in examining/processing liquor licence applications, the services they provided and the respective annual costs incurred by these departments for provision of such services; and</p> <p>(b) whether the Administration anticipated any need in the coming few years to review the fees and charges for other types of licences/permits that had to be obtained by food premises and clubs/bars for engaging in catering business and if yes, details of the plans.</p>	
<p>12. Initiatives on the reduction of salt and sugar in food</p>	<p>14 November 2017</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) regarding the Committee on Reduction of Salt and Sugar in Food ("CRSS") established in March 2015, (i) the number of meetings held by CRSS since its establishment; (ii) the attendance rates of individual CRSS members at each of the meetings; (iii) the concrete strategies and work plans devised by CRSS for consideration of the Administration, with a view to reducing the intake of salt and sugar by the public;</p>	<p>The Chinese and English versions of the Administration's response were issued to members vide LC Paper Nos. CB(2)536/17-18 and CB(2)576/17-18 respectively on 14 and 21 December 2017.</p>

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		<p>(b) the estimated number of prepackaged drinks available in the local market that were in compliance with the definitions of "low sugar" or "no sugar" under the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap. 132W) and were allowed to display corresponding labels on the products under the "Salt/Sugar" Label Scheme for Prepackaged Food Products; and</p> <p>(c) whether the Administration would consider drawing reference to and adopting in Hong Kong the traffic-light food labelling system implemented by the Government of the United Kingdom (i.e. a voluntary scheme under which participating manufacturers/retailers used green, amber and red colour coding (traffic lights) to indicate whether levels of nutrients (e.g. fat, saturated fat, sugar and salt) were low, medium or high for front-of-pack labelling).</p>	