

立法會 *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(2)1247/19-20

Ref : CB2/PL/FE

Report of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene for submission to the Legislative Council

Purpose

This report gives an account of the work of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the Panel") during the 2019-2020 Legislative Council ("LegCo") session. It will be tabled at the Council meeting of 8 July 2020 in accordance with Rule 77(14) of the Rules of Procedure.

The Panel

2. The Panel was formed by resolution of the Council on 8 July 1998 and as amended on 20 December 2000, 9 October 2002, 11 July 2007 and 2 July 2008 for the purpose of monitoring and examining Government policies and issues of public concern relating to food safety, environmental hygiene and agriculture and fisheries. The terms of reference of the Panel are in **Appendix I**.

3. The Panel comprises 24 members, with Hon Tommy CHEUNG and Dr Hon Helena WONG elected as Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively. The membership list of the Panel is in **Appendix II**.

Major work

Food safety and supply

Progress of the Administration's work in response to African Swine Fever

4. In this session, the Panel followed up with the Administration on its work in response to African Swine Fever ("ASF"). As the average daily supply of live pigs from the Mainland had, since the outbreaks of ASF in mid-2019 on the Mainland, dropped significantly leading to an upsurge in the retail price of fresh pork, members were gravely concerned about the impact caused by the reduced supply of Mainland live pigs on the general public and the food trade.

There was a call for the Administration to introduce more proactive measures (e.g. facilitating the development and/or expansion of the local pig rearing industry with a view to promoting local production) to safeguard market supply so as to help stabilize the price of fresh pork.

5. According to the Administration, the overall production and supply of live pigs on the Mainland had been greatly affected by the multiple outbreaks of ASF. Although the relevant Mainland authorities had launched a series of measures to increase pig production in a bid to ensure a steady supply of live pigs to Hong Kong, it was estimated that the supply would remain tight for a period of time as breeding took time. The Administration noticed that there were adjustments in the market and consumers' choice in response to the decline in the supply of live pigs; and as an alternative to fresh pork, the volume of chilled pork imported from the Mainland had increased since May 2019.

6. Some members held the view that as the business and operation of industries related to the sale of live pigs (including fresh meat stalls) had been badly hit, the Administration should introduce targeted measures to alleviate the impact of ASF on the trade. The Administration advised that a series of support measures, which could ease the financial pressure on industries affected by ASF and the reduced supply of live pigs, had been announced in August 2019. These measures included reducing rental by half for six months for stalls in public markets of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") and waiving the licence fee for fresh provision shops, slaughterhouses and pig farms for a year. While welcoming the Administration's support measures, members called for an extension of the rental reduction period or a waiver of the rent for meat stalls in public markets.

Enhancement of the information technology systems and the Food Surveillance Programme of the Centre for Food Safety

7. While members in general welcomed the Administration's enhancement of the five information technology ("IT") systems of the Centre for Food Safety ("CFS") (namely, the Food Trader Portal, the Food Import and Export Control System, the Food Incident Management System, the Food Surveillance System and the Food Classification and Coding System) to increase CFS' efficiency, reinforce its capability in food import control and surveillance, improve its effectiveness in food incident management and strengthen food traceability, there was a view that in tandem with the enhancement of CFS' existing IT systems, the Administration should make further efforts to improve the design and functions of CFS' website as well as Food Safety Mobile Application, so as to provide the public with an easy access to information relating to food safety and health. CFS was suggested to explore the use of new technologies, e.g. displaying QR codes/smart labels on prepackaged food products for consumers to scan the codes/labels via mobile applications to get more related information, so as to enhance the traceability and reliability of tested/certified food products.

According to the Administration, CFS had already made use of various social media platforms (e.g. Facebook and Instagram) to issue food alerts and to disseminate food safety news on food incidents. That said, CFS would consider members' suggestions to see whether further improvements could be made in this regard.

8. Members were pleased to note that CFS had, in response to their suggestions made over the past few years, stepped up under the Food Surveillance Programme ("FSP") surveillance on the safety of online food sale. Members were advised that compared with 2015, the number of online food samples collected for testing in 2016 increased more than a double from about 1 500 to about 4 000. The sample size was further increased progressively to about 4 900 in 2019, together with an increase in the proportion of samples assigned for microbiological testing. Some members, however, remained concerned about the regulatory control over online food selling activities conducted through overseas websites.

9. The Administration advised that with effect from February 2016, FEHD required operators who did not have physical premises to apply for permits in accordance with the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X) if they sold restricted food online. Permits were issued on the conditions that the operators must provide particulars (such as permit number, type(s) of restricted food permitted for sale and business address) on their websites and printed promotional materials for consumers' reference and for verification through FEHD's website. In addition, the restricted food must be obtained from lawful sources and prepackaged by the suppliers before delivering to customers. To monitor the safety of food available for sale online, CFS had, in recent years, collected food samples from online food ordering platforms for laboratory tests under FSP and had checked against the food suppliers on whether the food concerned was stored at a safe and proper temperature during the transportation/delivery process to prevent cross-contamination. And if FEHD had doubts on the source and safety of the food concerned or suspected that any online food sale activity involved unlicensed business, it would conduct investigations, including decoy operations to collect information, and take appropriate actions.

Safety risk of using deep-frying oil

10. In September 2017, CFS commissioned the PolyU Technology and Consultancy Company Limited ("Study Consultant") to conduct a study on the use of frying oil. Based on that study, CFS formulated and published in October 2019 the "Trade Guidelines on the Use of Deep-frying Oil" ("the Guidelines"). When receiving the Administration's briefing on the Guidelines, some members expressed concern about the safety of food that had undergone the deep-frying process and the food safety risk associated with the use of deep-frying oil. Question was raised as to whether there were methods/indicators for measuring the quality of deep-frying oil.

11. According to the Administration, the Study Consultant had conducted experiments mimicking the process how local food premises deep-fried food, followed by chemical analyses on levels of benzo[a]pyrene, erucic acid, acid value, total polar compounds ("TPC") and etc. in deep-frying oil. Results of the experiments showed that benzo[a]pyrene and erucic acid levels in deep-frying oil did not increase with repeated use, but acid value and TPC steadily increased concurrent with the number of times the oil was reused. The Guidelines had put forward specific recommendations and indicators for assessing the quality of deep-frying oil (such as colour, odour, smoke point and foaming etc.) as well as the conditions under which the deep-frying oil should be disposed of.

12. Some members were of the view that to encourage and facilitate the trade's adoption of the recommendations in the Guidelines, the Administration should provide straightforward and easy-to-apply recommendations, e.g. the number of times the oil could be reused before they had to be disposed of and the suitable temperature for cooking food during the deep-frying process. The Administration advised that complicated chemical reactions were involved in the deep-frying process. Since various factors (such as frying food with seasonings, using an excessively high temperature for deep-frying and accumulation of residues in the deep-frying oil) could lead to oil deterioration, it was difficult to provide recommendations on when the deep-frying oil should be disposed of solely based on the number of times the oil had been reused. The Study Consultant had consulted the trade extensively and invited food premises to try out the recommendations before finalizing the Guidelines. Suggestions received during the consultation process had been suitably incorporated to ensure the operability of and the trade's receptiveness to the Guidelines.

Initiatives to promote territory-wide salt and sugar reduction

13. In this session, the Panel received an update from the Administration on the implementation progress of major initiatives for reducing salt and sugar in food. While some members expressed support for the Administration's continued promotional efforts to encourage more people to follow the low-salt-low-sugar dietary culture, some other members were of the view that if general promotion and public education could not achieve the desired results, consideration should be given to (a) enacting legislation to regulate the salt and sugar contents in food in order to better safeguard public health and (b) imposing a "sugar tax" on food manufacturers/importers according to the volume of the sugar-sweetened food/drinks they produced or imported.

14. Members were advised that with ongoing efforts in pursuing various measures and initiatives, public awareness of healthy diets had been increasing. For example, there was a growing number of reduced salt, reduced sugar or even no salt, no sugar food/dishes available in the market; more people would choose reduced sugar or even no sugar options when purchasing beverages; and 94% of

the restaurants participating in the "Less-salt-and-sugar Restaurants Scheme" indicated that many diners welcomed the tailor-made less-salt-and-sugar dishes they provided. In the coming year, the Administration would, through continued collaboration with the trade, keep up its promotional efforts to further reduce local population's daily intake of salt and sugar, with a view to changing their dietary habit incrementally.

Proposed making permanent of one supernumerary post of Senior Principal Executive Officer in the Food Branch of the Food and Health Bureau

15. While acknowledging the importance of further enhancing the Administration's work in ensuring food safety and other related policies and measures, many members expressed concern over or objection to the Administration's proposal to make permanent at the present point of time an existing supernumerary post of Senior Principal Executive Officer ("SPEO") in the Food Branch of the Food and Health Bureau ("FHB"). In members' views, the justifications for the proposed making permanent of the supernumerary SPEO(Food) post were far from convincing, and the demarcation of FHB's work on food safety was not clear and delineation of duties among its staff not distinct. It was incumbent upon the Administration to carefully examine whether the duties of the proposed permanent SPEO(Food) post could be shared out by other staff in the Food Branch. Some members went further to suggest that consideration might be given to extending the supernumerary post for a few years instead. In the light of members' views, the Administration subsequently decided to modify its proposal and to retain the post for five years. The modified proposal was endorsed by the Establishment Subcommittee at its meeting on 3 June 2020.

Implementation of the Market Modernization Programme and development of new public markets

16. Issues relating to public markets remained high on the agenda of the Panel. To follow up on the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets as set out in its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)1000/18-19), the Panel discussed with the Administration in this session the progress of developing new public markets and implementing the 10-year Market Modernization Programme ("MMP").

17. In relation to the provision of new public markets, members noted that the Administration was taking forward seven projects which were at different stages of planning. Expressing dissatisfaction with the slow progress made by the Administration in the development of new public markets, members strongly requested for the early completion of those projects under planning. Some members went further to suggest that to meet the shopping needs of local residents for daily fresh provisions, phased opening of new markets should be considered or temporary markets should be built as an interim measure before

the establishment of new markets in various districts. A motion to that effect was passed by the Panel.

18. The Administration advised that providing a new public market required the use of scarce land resources and entailed public financial commitment (both capital and recurrent). In considering whether a public market (whether such market was permanent or temporary) should be built, it had to duly assess the need for the market and cost effectiveness in order to ensure proper use of public resources. Experience also suggested that there were many challenges in identifying a suitable location for the provision of temporary markets. Apart from the need to fulfil the relevant hygiene and safety requirements, considerable amount of resources would be required to provide the basic facilities such as stall partitions, electrical installations, fire safety system, water supply, drainage and sewage systems, ventilation facilities, refuse handling facilities, loading and unloading areas, etc. That said, considering the time required for building a new public market near Tin Shui Wai West Rail Station and to enable the public to benefit early, the Administration was pressing ahead with the provision of a temporary market at the open space adjacent to Tin Sau Road Park.

19. As regards the 10-year MMP for which \$2 billion had been earmarked for implementation of various types of hardware improvement works for existing markets managed by FEHD, the Administration advised that in addition to the overhaul of Aberdeen Market as the pioneering project, it planned to overhaul another three public markets in Kowloon and the New Territories (namely Yeung Uk Road Market, Ngau Tau Kok Market and Kowloon City Market) and kick-start minor refurbishment for 11 public markets in various districts. Some members were concerned about the criteria adopted for selecting public markets for overhaul. There was a view that the Administration should consult and engage stakeholders (including stall tenants and local residents) before deciding on the scope of and approach for the overhaul works. Members were advised that the physical condition of the markets, their geographical location and distribution, the condition of facilities thereof, business viability, community needs, tenants' readiness, etc. would be taken into account in determining whether to carry out overhaul works in individual markets across the territory. The Administration would maintain liaison with stakeholders on the options of overhaul works, with a view to minimizing the impact of the works as far as possible.

Control measures against rodent and mosquito infestation

20. The Government's pest control work was an issue frequently discussed by the Panel. When receiving an update from the Administration on existing measures and new initiatives implemented by relevant departments for preventing and controlling rodent infestation, members expressed deep concern about the worsening situation of rodent infestation in various districts, especially

in places bustling with human activities (such as public markets) or areas with higher concentration of aged buildings, private streets as well as food premises. A major criticism of members was that almost all of the measures implemented were old and far from effective in combating the aggravating problem of rodent infestation. The Panel passed four motions urging the Administration to, inter alia, apply new technologies to improve the effectiveness of its anti-rodent work; make it a mandatory requirement for all private and government buildings to incorporate rodent-proofing design; set specific indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of anti-rodent operations; expand the territory-wide rodent surveillance programme through increasing the number of areas selected for conducting the rodent infestation rate surveys; step up enforcement work against illegal dumping of refuse; and enhance refuse collection service in rural areas as necessary to maintain environmental hygiene. The Administration assured members that it would remain vigilant in sustaining anti-rodent work and, if and where necessary, step up the control work with focus on enhanced prevention, co-ordination and surveillance.

21. Of equal concern to members was the Government's efforts in containing the problem of mosquito infestation. Noting that up to 16 April 2020, a total of 20 dengue fever ("DF") cases (19 imported cases and one local case) had been recorded in 2020, members expressed concern whether the Administration had assessed the risk of outbreak of DF in Hong Kong. There were also worries among members that Hong Kong's public healthcare system might not be able to cope with additional medical needs arising from DF cases amid the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") epidemic. According to the Administration, early prevention was the most effective approach to mosquito control. Relevant government departments would commence and strengthen targeted operations to prevent mosquito breeding before the rainy season and conduct fogging operations after the arrival of the rainy season to eliminate adult mosquitoes. Apart from providing new mosquito traps (which had been tested to be effective in preventing the mosquito larvae in the water bodies from developing into adult mosquitoes) to the relevant departments/organizations for trial use, FEHD had, since April 2020, placed around 5 000 gravidtraps in the territory to replace the existing ovitraps for DF surveillance. The Administration further advised that compared with COVID-19 infections, the level of medical treatment and surveillance required was less demanding for DF cases. While it was important to ensure that a patient suffering from DF would not be bitten by vector mosquitoes so as to prevent further spread of the disease, the patient concerned was not required to undergo isolation in negative pressure wards as in the case of COVID-19 infection. Hence, the recently reported DF cases would not exert a heavy burden on the public healthcare system.

Columbarium policy

Implementation of the Private Columbaria Ordinance

22. When receiving a progress update on the implementation of the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630) ("PCO"), members expressed their long standing concern over the slow progress of the Private Columbaria Affairs Office ("PCAO") in processing applications for specified instruments (i.e. a licence, an exemption or a temporary suspension of liability ("TSOL")) from private columbaria. Noting that the Private Columbaria Licensing Board ("PCLB") had only granted five licences, and approved in principle two licence applications and one application for TSOL, many members called on the Administration to explore feasible measures for expediting the processing of applications, such that the supply of private niches could be resumed as early as possible.

23. The Administration explained that the progress in handling applications for specified instruments from private columbaria depended, to a large extent, on whether the applicants had already complied with all the requirements stipulated in PCO and the requirements specified by PCLB at the time of application, and whether the applicants had submitted all the required documents and information. To speed up the processing of applications, PCLB had since August 2019 implemented a number of new measures including (a) granting exemption without requiring applicants to restore the ash interment quantity first; (b) specifying 31 December 2019 as the deadline for submission of documents/information in respect of TSOL applications; and (c) making administrative arrangements for "Approval-in-principle for TSOL Application". With these efforts, PCLB had achieved significant progress in the scrutiny of the applications for specified instruments.

24. In response to members' enquiries whether and what assistance was provided to applicants, the Administration advised that PCAO had streamlined work procedures and provided various templates to facilitate the applicants in making applications. Furthermore, PCAO had assigned a case manager to follow up each application, answer enquiries from the applicant and assist the applicant to liaise and communicate with the relevant departments. Where necessary, PCAO would convene inter-departmental meetings to discuss how to address the problems encountered during the vetting of the applications.

Promotion of green burial

25. According to the Administration, green burial had been gradually gaining acceptance by the public in recent years. The number of green burial cases in Hong Kong (including the scattering of ashes in Gardens of Remembrance ("GoRs") or at sea) reached 7 909 in 2019, representing an increase of over 2 500 cases (or round 47%) as compared with the figure in 2016. When

discussing the work progress of the Administration on promoting green burial, members made a number of suggestions on enhancing green burial services, with a view to further boosting the usage rate. For example, consideration could be given to engaging non-government organizations or private companies to undertake the promotion and publicity work, offering incentives (such as waiving the fees and charges for cremation services) to bereaved families for using green burial, introducing more diversified forms of ash scattering for consideration/selection by the public and/or providing subsidies to private boat/ferry operators who provided ashes scattering services at sea. While expressing support for the Administration's continued promotion of green burial, some members opined that the Administration should set a target in respect of the public's adoption of green burial.

26. The Administration advised that it would enhance the promotion of green burial by various measures, including providing digital worshipping facility in newly constructed GoRs managed by FEHD, increasing the number of memorial sailings to be arranged before the Ching Ming Festival and the Chung Yeung Festival from four to eight each year, and launching a central register to encourage the public to plan in advance their after-death arrangements by registering their wish for green burial and making it known to their families. To gauge the public's views on existing green burial facilities and services, awareness of green burial as well as considerations in choosing post-death arrangements, the Administration would conduct two questionnaire surveys and would make reference to the findings in formulating long-term development plans for green burial facilities and services as well as strategies to promote green burial.

Issues relating to animal welfare

Proposals to enhance animal welfare

27. The Administration's efforts in enhancing animal welfare continued to be a major focus of the Panel's work. Between 26 April and 31 July 2019, the Administration conducted a public consultation exercise on the proposals to enhance animal welfare through amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) ("the Ordinance"). When receiving the Administration's report on the outcome of the consultation exercise, members were pleased to note that the majority of respondents supported the proposals to amend the Ordinance to (a) impose a positive "duty of care" on persons responsible for animals, (b) enhance the provisions for prevention of cruelty to animals and (c) strengthen enforcement powers to prevent and protect animals from suffering.

28. Regarding the proposed introduction of the concept of responsible pet ownership by imposing a positive "duty of care" on persons responsible for animals, members considered it necessary for the Administration to clearly define

the terms "duty of care" and "persons responsible for animals", so as to make it explicit who would be covered by or excluded from the definition of "persons responsible for animals" to whom the "duty of care" would apply. Some members were concerned about the impact of the "duty of care" requirement on the daily operation of the food and farming trades (in particular, people engaging in slaughtering, defeathering and/or butchering of live fish and poultry in wet markets). There were views that the Administration should clarify whether the existing slaughtering/defeathering/butchering methods adopted by trade practitioners would be in contravention of the proposed "duty of care" requirement; and guidelines on how to provide for the welfare needs of food animals should be provided to trade practitioners.

29. According to the Administration, to complement the "duty of care", the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD") planned to promulgate Codes of Practice ("CoPs") to give practical and realistic guidance on how good animal welfare could be achieved. As the first priority, CoPs would be issued for those types of animals which were commonly kept in Hong Kong, starting with pet animals. AFCD would make reference to overseas practices and consult stakeholders, including the food and farming trades, before finalizing the relevant CoPs. The Administration further advised that it would commence the relevant law drafting work. The plan of the Administration was to introduce the relevant amendment bill into LegCo in the next legislative session.

Results of the study on pet food products in Hong Kong

30. In order to assess whether and the extent to which the safety of pet food in Hong Kong was a concern, AFCD commissioned a study in October 2017 by engaging a contractor to collect and test a total of 360 pet food products that were commonly available in Hong Kong market. When receiving the Administration's briefing on the results of the study, some members expressed concern over the arrangement that the 360 pet food products were only tested against the presence of eight common harmful microbes and substances (namely, (a) Salmonella; (b) Escherichia coli (E. coli), including O157; (c) Listeria monocytogenes; (d) Aflatoxin B1; (e) Melamine; (f) Malathion; (g) Lead; and (h) Arsenic). In members' views, the types of harmful substances tested were far from adequate or comprehensive, when compared with the wide spectrum of harmful microbes and substances tested under some studies conducted by overseas jurisdictions and international organizations. There was a call for the Administration to continue to conduct pet food studies, and most important of all, to test more types of harmful substances (e.g. cadmium and mercury) in future studies so as to fully assess the safety of pet food products in Hong Kong and to consider the need for regulating pet food products sold in Hong Kong market in respect of production, import or distribution.

31. The Administration explained that there were at present no commonly adopted standards on the safety of pet food at the international level. When determining which harmful microbes and substances should be tested and what standards should be adopted and regarded as satisfactory standards in the study, the Administration had made reference to the relevant legislation of other places/regions where extensive regulatory pet food safety standards were in place, including the European Union, Japan, Mainland and Taiwan. While the standards might slightly vary among these places/regions, standards that were commonly used by these places/regions were adopted. The Administration assured members that although the results of the study indicated that the overall safety of pet food products sold in Hong Kong was satisfactory, it would continue to closely monitor the local situation and keep in view further developments on the international front related to the safety of pet food products.

Animal Management and Animal Welfare Building Complex in Kai Tak Development Area

32. The Panel was consulted on the Administration's proposal to construct in Kai Tak Development Area ("KTD") the Animal Management and Animal Welfare Building Complex ("AMAWBC") for the purposes of re-provisioning the Animal Management Centre in Kowloon ("AMC(K)") to release the existing site in To Kwa Wan for public housing development and providing additional space and facilities to meet the operational needs of AFCD.

33. Members noted with concern that compared with AMC(K), the number of animal keeping facilities to be provided in AMAWBC would increase from around 120 to only about 270. Anticipating that more animals might be surrendered to AFCD by pet owners after the Administration's introduction of the "duty of care" requirement (see paragraphs 27 to 29 above), some members opined that the Administration should, in planning for the animal keeping facilities in AMAWBC, take into account the possible increase in animal abandonment cases. There was a call for the Administration to review the design of AMAWBC, with a view to making room for provision of more animal keeping facilities as well as other facilities in relation to animal welfare and animal management.

34. The Administration advised that the new building complex would provide more than double the current number of animal keeping facilities in AMC(K) for dogs, cats and other small animals. AFCD would then be able to receive more stray animals or animals given by owners and extend the housing period of these animals where necessary, with a view to enhancing their chance of being adopted. In addition, a number of new and improved facilities (including a detention room, isolation facilities for infectious or debilitated animals, a surgical room and a recovery room for injured animals after surgical treatment, two inoculation rooms for dog vaccination and eight individual multi-purpose

rooms etc.) would be provided in AMAWBC. These facilities would help improve the overall health conditions of the animals kept in the new building complex. To further address members' concerns over this works project, the Administration subsequently provided the Panel with more detailed information. The works project has been included into the agenda of the Public Works Subcommittee for its endorsement. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee ("FC"), it was the plan of the Administration to commence the construction of AMAWBC in the third quarter of 2020 for completion of the works including the demolition of the existing AMC(K) in the second quarter of 2024.

Proposed injection into the Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme

35. The Mainland authorities started implementing the fishing moratorium in the South China Sea in 1999, with a view to conserving fisheries resources and promoting sustainable development of the fisheries industry. Over the last two decades, the fishing moratorium had been tightened in terms of both duration and fishing operations covered. The latest revision made in 2017 has extended the duration of the annual fishing moratorium to three and a half months (i.e. from 1 May to 16 August) and covered all fishing operations except lining. Since 1999, the Administration has been providing low interest loans, through the Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund ("FMOLF"), to local fishermen/vessel owners affected by the fishing moratorium to assist them in tiding over the moratorium. Having regard to the justifications provided by the Administration, members in general supported the proposals to increase (a) the loan ceiling of the fishing moratorium loans per vessel from \$300,000 to \$500,000; and (b) the financial commitment of the Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme through a further injection of \$210 million to FMOLF. According to the Administration, it would proceed to consult the Fish Marketing Advisory Board before seeking FC's approval for the proposed increase of the loan ceiling and the commitment of FMOLF.

Meetings held

36. Between October 2019 and June 2020, the Panel held a total of eight meetings. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020, the Panel meetings originally scheduled for February and March 2020 were not held. The Panel has scheduled another meeting in July 2020 to discuss the Administration's work in tackling the threat of antimicrobial resistance in food animals and the progress on provision of facilities for the handling of abortuses.

Legislative Council

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to food safety, environmental hygiene and agriculture and fisheries.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in respect of the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Membership list for the 2019-2020 session*

Chairman	Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Deputy Chairman	Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Members	<p>Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP Hon Claudia MO Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS Hon CHAN Chi-chuen Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin Hon CHU Hoi-dick Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP Hon SHIU Ka-chun Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP Dr Hon Pierre CHAN Hon HUI Chi-fung Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP Hon CHAN Hoi-yan</p> <p>(Total : 24 members)</p>
Clerk	Miss Josephine SO
Legal adviser	Mr Mark LAM

* Changes in membership are shown in Annex to Appendix II.

Annex to Appendix II

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Changes in membership

Member	Relevant date
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP	Up to 23 October 2019
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP	Up to 24 October 2019
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP	Up to 24 October 2019
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP	Up to 27 October 2019
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP	Up to 27 October 2019
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP	Up to 27 October 2019
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP	Up to 27 October 2019
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP	Up to 27 October 2019
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP	Up to 27 October 2019
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding	Up to 27 October 2019
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP	Up to 27 October 2019
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP	Up to 27 October 2019
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS	Up to 3 December 2019
Hon AU Nok-hin*	Up to 16 December 2019
Hon HO Kai-ming [#]	Up to 31 May 2020

* According to the Judgment of the Court of First Instance of the High Court handed down on 2 September 2019, AU Nok-hin was not duly elected as a member of LegCo at the LegCo by-election held on 11 March 2018 and no other person was duly elected instead. According to the decision of the Appeal Committee of the Court of Final Appeal of 17 December 2019 refusing Mr AU's application for leave to appeal, AU Nok-hin, by virtue of section 72(5)(b) of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542), has ceased to be a member of LegCo since 17 December 2019.

[#] Pursuant to section 15(1)(a) of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542), HO Kai-ming ceases to hold office as a member of LegCo upon his resignation on 1 June 2020.