

Letterhead of Environment and Food Bureau Government Secretariat

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Clerk to Subcommittee on matters relating
to environmental hygiene
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Mrs Constance Li)

Dear Mrs Li,

LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs

**Subcommittee on matters
relating to environmental hygiene**

Thank you for your letter of 22 February 2000 inviting our views on the proposed list of discussion items for the above Subcommittee.

For the coming meeting expected to be held in late March, as requested, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will brief Members on the provision of environmental hygiene services and facilities after the reorganisation of municipal services. In addition, we would also wish to brief Members on the "Open Categorisation Scheme" (commonly known as the "five star rating system") further to our reply to a LegCo question raised at the sitting on 16 February 2000.

As regards other possible discussion items suggested by Members, our comments are set out below for your consideration:

The management of hawker control teams

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) is conducting a review on the operations of the hawker control teams with a view to improving the supervision, procedures and corruption prevention of hawker control enforcement work. The review is expected to be completed around April after which FEHD will consider the recommendations of the ICAC and will brief Members of the Subcommittee on its proposals.

Proposed legislation to close unlicensed food premises

We are in the course of finalising our proposals and hope we will be able to brief the Subcommittee before the end of this LegCo session.

Proposed fixed penalty system for minor littering offences

Since we are considering the proposal in the wider context of our efforts to revive the Keep Hong Kong Clean Campaign, we are not yet certain when we would be able to consult Members on this subject but hope we will be able to do so as soon as practicable.

Policy on Itinerant Hawker Licence

The Itinerant Hawker Licence (IHL) Compulsory Deletion Policy was approved by the former Urban Council in 1993. Due to various reasons, the former Urban Council/Provisional Urban Council decided not to adhere to the original target date for deleting all IHLs. Members may wish to note that we have no intention to introduce any major changes to this policy at this stage.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Eva To)

for Secretary for the Environment and Food