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16 February 2006

Secretary General Legislative Council Secretariat Legislative Council Building 8 Jackson Road Central, Hong Kong (Attn: Mrs Constance LI)

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Dear Mrs LI.

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Special meeting on 7 February 2006

At the Special Meeting of the Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene Panel held on 7 February 2006, two members raised questions for which the Administration undertook to provide supplementary information. Our supplementary information is now set out below for Members' reference.

Question by Hon. Tommy Cheung

Hon. Tommy Cheung enquired if live poultry retailers are legally responsible to prevent customer taking live poultry away from their stalls. Our legal advisor pointed out that it is the person keeping the live poultry in/on premises who commits an offence, not the retailer who sells that person live poultry. The retailer cannot stop the customer taking the live poultry away and he/she is under no legal obligation to warn the customer that keeping the live poultry in or on permises is an offence.

Question by Hon. Alan Leong

Hon. Alan Leong raised the question in the LegCo meeting whether people having Livestock Keeping Licence (LKL) under 20 birds before 1994 in a livestock waste restriction area could still continue to have the LKL. We would like to explain that such LKL for not more than 20 birds does not exist because LKL have only been issued to farms having over 20 birds for commercial farming purposes. Farms having not more than 20 birds are not regarded as commercial farming practice.

Yours sincerely,

(Wallace Lau) for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food