

Dear Mr Li

I understand that you will be chairing the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on Tuesday 14 March which will be discussing a paper jointly drafted by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, AFCD, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Department of Health entitled "Progress of Comprehensive Plan of Action to Deal with the Global Problem of Avian Influenza".

I am writing to ask you to push for Mai Po Nature reserve to be re-opened immediately.

Despite extensive testing, not one bird has tested positive for H5N1 at Mai Po NR or the nearby KCRC ponds at Lok Ma Chau in 2005-06. In contrast, all cases of H5N1 in this period have occurred in the urban areas and involve species which are either frequently kept in captivity and so might have spent time in or near a wet market (eg Japanese White-eye and Oriental Magpie Robin) or might have fed upon chicken remains or droppings or been contaminated by them (eg Common Magpie and House Crow).

The government's present policy of keeping the wet markets open and shutting Mai Po makes no sense.

Yours sincerely

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