Bills Committee on Genetically Modified Organisms (Control of Release) Bill

List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion at the meeting on 8 December 2009

- (1) To include in the speech to be delivered by the Secretary for the Environment at the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Bill that the Administration will retain information in relation to non-disclosure requests for record purpose.
- (2) To consider setting out in clause 15(2) the criteria for assessing non-disclosure requests. To also consider specifying in the Bill the types of information that will be classified as confidential information with reference to Article 21(5) of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- (3) To re-consider the need for returning to the applicant any record or document containing confidential information in relation to an application/request or withdrawal of an application/request under clauses 20(2)(b) and 21(2)(b) respectively.
- (4) To consider replacing the phrase "a person" in clause 39(1) with "an applicant" if only the latter is allowed to lodge an appeal against the Director's decision.
- (5) To clarify whether the appeals under clause 39(1) also apply to any condition attached by the Director to the approval. To also provide the relevant parts of the Administrative Appeals Board Ordinance (Cap. 442) which are applicable to the Bill.

Council Business Division 1
<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u>
18 December 2009