



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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(Translation)

23 August 2013

Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Mr Jove CHAN)
[Fax: 2185 7845]

Dear Mr Chan,

**LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Follow-up to Meeting on 9 July 2013**

Motion under Agenda Item III:

“That this Council urges the Government to expeditiously study the construction of new markets in Tin Shui Wai and Lai Chi Kok to protect the consumers’ right to choose”

Thank you for your letter of 10 July 2013, requesting a written reply from us in response to the motion passed at the captioned meeting. Regarding the motion under Agenda Item III, I am authorised to reply as follows.

Various factors should be considered when planning for the construction of public markets, including the population and demographic mix in the district, community needs, the availability of market facilities nearby, as well as the number of fresh provision retail outlets in the vicinity,

(Translation)

etc. In his previous reports, the Director of Audit also pointed out that given the high cost of building a new public market, the Government should, when considering the provision of such facilities, consider carefully the question of viability and cost-effectiveness in order to ensure that public resources are put to appropriate and effective use.

In response to Members' request, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has reviewed the availability of market facilities in Tin Shui Wai and Lai Chi Kok. At present, these two districts are not short of markets and shops (including a number of fresh provision shops and supermarkets) that supply goods/food products similar to those available in markets, meeting the daily shopping needs of the residents. In Tin Shui Wai, for example, there are a total of six markets managed by the Link or the Hong Kong Housing Authority, 13 supermarkets, as well as dozens of fresh provision shops. In Lai Chi Kok, within Hoi Lai Estate and the four private residential estates nearby there are various shopping malls, plus four supermarkets and a number of fresh provision shops. Past experience has shown that if in the catchment area of a new market there are a sufficient number of retail outlets selling similar goods/food products, it may seriously affect the viability of the new market and result in a high vacancy rate for its stalls, undermining the capability of such facilities to serve the public.

Given the above considerations, the FEHD currently has no plan to construct any new markets in Tin Shui Wai or Lai Chi Kok. However, we will as before give careful consideration to the views and recommendations of all stakeholders and continue to closely monitor the situation of market facilities in these two districts.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

(Vinci CHAN)

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
(Attn.: Mr FAN Yung-kai) [Fax: 2530 1368]