# 立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)391/14-15 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref: CB2/PL/FE

### Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Minutes of special meeting held on Wednesday, 3 September 2014, at 9:30 am in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present

Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan (Chairman)

Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP

Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che

Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC

Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP

Hon WU Chi-wai, MH Hon CHAN Chi-chuen

Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP

Members absent

Hon Steven HO Chun-yin (Deputy Chairman)

Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP

Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP, PhD, RN

Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau

Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS

Hon WONG Yuk-man

Hon Claudia MO

Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP

Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP

Public Officers : Item I

attending

Professor Sophia CHAN Siu-chee, JP Under Secretary for Food and Health

Mr Jeff LEUNG Wing-yan

Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 1

Dr LIU Kwei-kin, JP

Assistant Director (Agriculture)

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Dr LEE Siu-yuen, JP

Assistant Director (Food Surveillance and Control),

Centre for Food Safety

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Dr HO Yuk-yin, JP

Consultant (Community Medicine) (Risk Assessment and Communication), Centre for Food Safety Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Item II

Professor Sophia CHAN Siu-chee, JP Under Secretary for Food and Health

Mr Jeff LEUNG Wing-yan

Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 1

Dr LEE Siu-yuen, JP

Assistant Director (Food Surveillance and Control),

Centre for Food Safety

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Clerk in attendance

Ms Alice LEUNG

Chief Council Secretary (2) 2

Staff in : Mr attendance Ser

Mr Jove CHAN

Senior Council Secretary (2) 2

Mr Richard WONG Council Secretary (2) 2

# Miss Emma CHEUNG Legislative Assistant (2) 2

Action

I. Supply of vegetables and food safety issues following the implementation of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2240/13-14(01) and (02))

At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>Under Secretary for Food and Health</u> ("USFH") briefed members on the supply of vegetables and food safety issues following the implementation of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM) ("the Regulation") on 1 August 2014, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)2240/13-14(01)).

2. <u>Members</u> also noted the information note entitled "Supply of vegetables and food safety issues following the implementation of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation" (LC Paper No. CB(2)2240/13-14(02)) prepared by the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat.

### Supply of vegetables following the implementation of the Regulation

- 3. While expressing support for the implementation of the Regulation which aimed to strengthen the regulation of pesticide residues in food to protect public health, Mr WONG Kwok-hing and Mr CHAN Chi-chuen were concerned about the impact of the Regulation on the supply of fresh vegetables from the Mainland. They noted that there were media reports that the import of four kinds of vegetable (i.e. spinach, leaf mustard, green string beans and white string beans) had dropped significantly following the implementation of the Regulation on 1 August 2014. Mr WONG also expressed concern about the substantial increase in the testing costs borne by vegetable importers and was worried that it might affect the supply and prices of vegetables. He hoped that the Administration would provide assistance to the vegetable importers so as to alleviate their burdens of the high testing costs.
- 4. Mr WU Chi-wai and Dr KWOK Ka-ki held similar view that as the Regulation was made in April 2012 and came into operation on 1 August 2014 after a two-year grace period, the vegetable importers should have already noted and prepared for the implementation of the Regulation. Mr WU asked whether the Mainland's inspection and quarantine authorities had made known the requirements under the Regulation to the registered vegetable farms in the Mainland during the two-year grace period. Dr KWOK wondered whether some vegetable importers intentionally

reduced or suspended the import of certain vegetables. He enquired whether there were other sources of supply of vegetables, apart from the Mainland.

- 5. In response, <u>USFH</u> and <u>Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 1</u> ("PASFH(F)1") made the following points -
  - (a) on the premise of safeguarding food safety and public health, the number of pesticides being regulated under the Regulation had been increased substantially. Some importers might incur additional operating cost to comply with the new statutory requirements;
  - (b) while approaching the implementation date of the Regulation, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine ("AQSIQ") had reminded vegetable traders to ensure that the vegetables exported to Hong Kong should meet the requirements of the Regulation;
  - (c) to prepare for the commencement of the Regulation, the Centre for Food Safety ("CFS") had conducted a series of briefings for the trade. Technical meetings as well as workshops on pesticide residues testing had also been arranged for the testing industry to help them develop and equip themselves with the relevant laboratory techniques;
  - (d) the Mainland's inspection and quarantine authorities had organized briefing sessions on the requirements of the Regulation for the registered vegetable farmers and the operators of the vegetable production and processing establishments in the Mainland and the food safety experts of CFS had also participated in some of these briefing sessions; and
  - (e) according to the figures of supply of vegetables recorded at the Vegetable Marketing Organization ("VMO") and the wholesale markets, the overall supply of vegetables had remained stable, though recently there had been a drop in the supply of the four kinds of vegetable.
- 6. Mr WONG Kwok-hing hoped that the Administration would closely communicate and collaborate with the vegetable importers and the relevant Mainland inspection and quarantine authorities so that appropriate assistance could be provided to the vegetable importers to help them reduce the testing costs.

- 7. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen referred to media reports and messages circulated through smartphone applications about a notice issued by a social enterprise in which it said that the Mainland's inspection and quarantine authorities had suspended the export of the four kinds of vegetable to Hong Kong. He said that while it was subsequently found that the notice was a fabricated one, he wondered whether CFS had put in place any mechanism for handling intelligence and reports concerning food safety.
- 8. <u>PASFH(F)1</u> and <u>Assistant Director (Food Surveillance and Control)/CFS</u> ("AD(FSC)/CFS") advised that -
  - (a) CFS monitored daily the information available from media and overseas food safety institutions, including those on the Internet and social media platforms, on food safety issues and food incidents. When there was a food incident or an intelligence report was received, CFS would verify the information with the relevant regulatory authorities and investigate whether the food concerned was imported into Hong Kong; and
  - (b) in the case as referred to by Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, CFS had verified with AQSIQ and also contacted a number of Hong Kong vegetable farmers who had invested and operated vegetable farms in the Mainland about the news that there was a suspension of export of the four kinds of vegetable to Hong Kong. CFS had confirmed with the relevant Mainland authorities that no suspension of export had been imposed on the four kinds of vegetable.
- 9. Notwithstanding the Administration's explanation, Mr CHAN Chichuen and Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che held the view that the Administration should verify with the social enterprise concerned whether it had issued a notice about the suspension of the four kinds of vegetable to Hong Kong by the Mainland's inspection and quarantine authorities. The Chairman requested the Administration to follow up the matter with the social enterprise concerned. USFH stressed that it was a proper practice for CFS to officially verify any food safety intelligence with the relevant authorities of the food exporting country concerned. In the light of members' views, CFS would follow up the matter with the social enterprise concerned.

# Smuggling of vegetables

10. <u>Mr Christopher CHUNG</u> pointed out that according to media reports, some registered vegetable farms in the Mainland which had already ceased production were collecting vegetables from other unregistered farms for

- export. He was concerned about the food safety of these vegetables and considered that the Administration should seriously investigate these cases and take necessary actions to safeguard the food safety of vegetables imported from the Mainland. Expressing a similar concern, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che said that the Administration should take proactive actions to investigate any suspected smuggling activities.
- 11. <u>USFH</u> advised that the Administration was vigilant in combating the smuggling activities of food including vegetables. She said that CFS regularly collected intelligence, including media reports and information provided by the trade, about vegetables that might be imported from improper sources. It also maintained close communication with the relevant Mainland inspection and quarantine authorities, and worked closely with the Customs and Excise Department ("C&ED") in exchanging intelligence and conducted joint operations at the Man Kam To Control Point ("MKTCP"). In response to Mr Christopher CHUNG's query about the absence of recent enforcement actions against the smuggling activities of vegetables, <u>PASFH(F)1</u> said that according to CFS no smuggling activities involving vegetables had been detected recently.
- 12. <u>Mr WONG Kwok-hing</u> expressed concern about the food safety risk brought about by the smuggling of vegetables into Hong Kong. Expressing similar concern, <u>Mr WU Chi-wai</u> enquired about how CFS could verify whether a consignment of vegetables was supplied from a registered vegetable farm. <u>The Chairman, Mr WONG Kwok-hing, Mr WU Chi-wai</u> and <u>Mr Christopher CHUNG</u> urged the Administration to step up its enforcement against the smuggling activities of vegetables.
- 13. <u>AD(FSC)/CFS</u> advised that each consignment of vegetables delivered from the vegetable production and processing establishments must be accompanied with identification tags and export certificates. After the implementation of the Regulation, CFS had stepped up the inspections at MKTCP to inspect whether the seals on vehicles transporting vegetables remained intact and whether the consignments tallied with the accompanying documents to ensure that they were delivered from registered vegetable farms/production and processing establishments.
- 14. Mr Christopher CHUNG maintained his view that the Administration should review the yield records of different registered vegetable farms and check whether any of these farms had collected vegetables from other unregistered farms. USFH and AD(FSC)/CFS advised that the vegetable production and processing establishments were required to maintain records of the sources of their vegetables and their delivery records. Where there was a need for verification of the sources of vegetables, the relevant records

would be available from these establishments. As CFS collected daily intelligence on issues relating to food safety, it would follow up suspected cases of smuggling of vegetables produced in unregistered farms in collaboration with the relevant Mainland authorities when these cases were detected.

Admin

- 15. The Chairman and Mr Christopher CHUNG requested the Administration to provide, after the meeting, information on the enforcement actions taken by CFS and/or C&ED against smuggling of vegetables from vegetable farms/production and processing establishments in the Mainland which were not registered for supplying vegetables to Hong Kong, including (i) the number of cases detected over the past three years; (ii) the quantity of vegetables detected in each case; and (iii) the penalties imposed on these cases.
- 16. <u>Dr KWOK Ka-ki</u> and <u>the Chairman</u> expressed dissatisfaction that CFS did not get hold of the basic information on individual registered vegetable farms such as their output amount, the environment of the farms, condition of soil and records of pesticide applications, etc. <u>AD(FSC)/CFS</u> advised that CFS's staff visited and inspected about 20 registered vegetable farms in the Mainland annually as routine control measures for the control of food safety and protection of public health from harmful farm products. The areas of inspection covered the environment and management of the farms, the records of pesticide applications and the inspections conducted by mainland authorities thereat to ensure that the farms concerned were following the best farming practices to meet the criteria for sound food safety.
- 17. Pointing out that there were more than 500 registered vegetable farms in the Mainland, the Chairman and Dr KWOK Ka-ki questioned whether 20 visits annually to the registered vegetable farms could effectively safeguard food safety of imported vegetables and public health in Hong Kong. They enquired about the number of registered vegetable farms/production and processing establishments, which were in active operation, in the Mainland. Dr KWOK also asked about how the registered vegetable farms/production and processing establishments were selected for inspection visits by CFS staff.
- 18. <u>AD(FSC)/CFS</u> advised that information about the number of active and inactive registered vegetable farms/production and processing establishments was not available from AQSIQ. According to the existing arrangement, the registered vegetable farms and production and processing establishments were selected by AQSIQ after seeking CFS's view. Generally speaking, more frequent visits would be made to those farms and production and processing establishments which were major suppliers to Hong Kong. For registered farms where unsatisfactory vegetables had been exported to Hong Kong, CFS would request AQSIQ to arrange a visit to those farms.

- 19. <u>Dr Kenneth CHAN</u> considered it undesirable that it was AQSIQ which determined which registered vegetable farms to be visited by CFS staff. He commented that CFS was in lack of information about the number of active and inactive registered vegetable farms and was too passive in monitoring the food safety of fresh vegetables supplied from the Mainland. He doubted whether CFS could perform its monitoring and gate keeping functions of the food safety of imported vegetables effectively. <u>The Chairman</u>, <u>Dr KWOK Ka-ki</u> and <u>Mr WU Chi-wai</u> expressed similar concerns and asked about the level of involvement of CFS in the selection process of registered vegetable farms and production and processing establishments for inspection visits by CFS.
- 20. <u>PASFH(F)1</u> stressed that the farms and production and processing establishments for inspection visits were selected through an interactive process between CFS and AQSIQ. The choices were made with regard to CFS's views. Staff of CFS would liaise and make suggestions to the relevant officials of AQSIQ during the selection process.
- 21. <u>USFH</u> stressed that inspection visits to registered vegetable farms were only part of the mechanism for monitoring food safety of imported fresh vegetables. Indeed, the control started at the source of vegetables that all imported fresh vegetables must be supplied from registered vegetable farms. Vegetable production and processing establishments and the Mainland inspection and quarantine authorities regularly took samples of vegetables for testing before the consignments were delivered to MKTCP. Food tests were also carried out at the import (i.e. at MKTCP), wholesale and retail levels to safeguard the food safety of vegetables. She said that CFS would step up the public education and publicity work to enhance the public's knowledge of handling fresh vegetables to safeguard public health. She assured members that the Administration would continue to maintain close liaison with AQSIQ to monitor the safety of vegetables supplied to Hong Kong.

Admin

22. At the request of the Chairman, USFH undertook to provide, after the meeting, information on the arrangement between CFS and the Mainland authorities for inspection visits to farms/production and processing establishments for supplying vegetables to Hong Kong, including (i) the criteria for selecting registered vegetable farms/production and processing establishments for inspection visits; (ii) the communication mechanism with the relevant Mainland authorities in respect of the arrangement of inspection visits vegetable farms/production to registered and processing establishments; and (iii) whether and what enhancements on the existing arrangement would be considered to exercise better control at source.

### <u>Inspection</u> and testing of imported vegetables

- 23. <u>Dr Kenneth CHAN</u> expressed concern about the effectiveness of CFS's risk-based approach for food surveillance on imported vegetables. He enquired about whether the Administration would review and enhance the sampling programme. In response, <u>USFH</u> and <u>AD(FSC)/CFS</u> advised that the sampling programme was under continuous review, taking into account factors including the consumption pattern of various kinds of vegetable, the toxicity of pesticides applied and the past surveillance results. CFS also attended to the relevant intelligence received, including local and overseas food incidents as well as relevant risk analysis, and stepped up the inspection of vegetables in question where necessary.
- 24. Regarding the report that levels of pesticide residues in two string pods samples exceeded the legal limit, the Chairman enquired whether the sources of the problem vegetables had been traced and if so, whether the supply of vegetables from the registered vegetable farms concerned had been suspended. PASFH(F)1 advised that the investigation of the incident by AQSIQ was in progress, and CFS would follow up the results of the investigation with AQSIQ. USFH said that CFS would continue to safeguard food safety and public health by taking different samples of vegetables, especially white string pods, for testing through its regular Food Surveillance Programme.
- 25. In response to the Chairman's enquiry on the health risks posed by the problem white string pods, Consultant (Community Medicine) (Risk Assessment and Communication), CFS said that based on the levels of pesticides residues detected in the white string pods concerned, they would not pose acute or long-term adverse health effect to consumers upon normal consumption. He further said that the maximum residue limits ("MRLs") for pesticide-food pairs were set with a consideration of encouraging the best farming practice, which included the application of the lowest possible amount of pesticides to achieve the necessary pest control effect on crops. For food safety consideration, CFS would decide whether the consumption of the food concerned was dangerous or prejudicial to health based on scientific Therefore, in the event that the pesticide residue level risk assessment. exceeded MRLs, it did not necessarily mean that the food concerned would pose health risk to the public.
- 26. The Chairman pointed out that VMO had taken samples of the four kinds of vegetable for food tests at the Pesticide Residues Laboratory managed by VMO at the Cheung Sha Wan Vegetable Wholesale Market. She asked whether CFS would consider setting up similar testing facilities at the wholesale vegetable markets to step up the testing for imported vegetables.

Admin

<u>USFH</u> reiterated that through control at source and conducting relevant food surveillance at import, wholesale and retail levels for the imported vegetables, the existing monitoring system was robust enough to ensure the food safety of vegetables imported to Hong Kong. Therefore, there was no imminent need for providing additional testing facilities at wholesale vegetable markets. At the request of the Chairman, <u>USFH</u> agreed to provide, after the meeting, the information on the operation of the Pesticide Residues Laboratory including (i) the number of samples taken and the type of tests carried out by the laboratory over the past 12 months; and (ii) the results of the tests (such as the number of samples not meeting local food safety standards and the food safety standard(s) involved).

# II. Follow-up measures on problem food products produced by Husi food factory in Shanghai

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2240/13-14(03) and (04), CB(2)2244/13-14(01))

- 27. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>USFH</u> briefed members on the follow-up actions taken by CFS relating to the food safety issues involving food products manufactured by the Husi food factory in Shanghai ("the Husi incident"), details of which were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)2240/13-14(03)).
- 28. <u>Members</u> also noted the information note entitled "Follow-up measures on problem food products produced by Husi food factory in Shanghai" (LC Paper No. CB(2)2240/13-14(04)) prepared by LegCo Secretariat, and the submission from the McDonald's Restaurants (Hong Kong) Limited ("McDonald's HK") (LC Paper No. CB(2)2244/13-14(01)).

## Responses of CFS and McDonald's HK to the Husi incident

29. The Chairman, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Mr WONG Kwok-hing were greatly dissatisfied that McDonald's HK had declined the Panel's invitation to attend the special meeting. In their view, there was an obligation for McDonald's HK, being a sizable multi-national corporate, to enhance its transparency on its food safety control and to attend the meeting to answer members' questions. They considered that McDonald's HK should be condemned. Mr CHAN commented that the information disseminated to the public by McDonald's HK on whether it had imported meat products manufactured by Husi plants in the Mainland was confusing and questioned whether McDonald's HK did it on purpose so as to dilute the public's attention.

- 30. Expressing concern that the problem food products of McDonald's HK had already been sold out, the Chairman and Mr WONG Kwok-hing criticized the Administration for its late response to the Husi incident and its failure to take timely and effective enforcement actions. Mr CHAN Chichuen enquired whether CFS had issued/would issue warning to McDonald's HK for supplying food which was unfit for human consumption, and whether McDonald's HK had been requested/would be requested to rectify its non-compliance or undertake that it would not commit similar non-compliance in the future.
- 31. AD(FSC)/CFS said that McDonald's HK had been uncooperative in responding to CFS's requests. Since the detection of the Husi incident on 21 July 2014, CFS had requested on the same day McDonald's HK to provide the transaction records of the food products affected. Despite CFS's repeated requests, no responses from McDonald's HK had been received before 23 July 2014. CFS managed to contact the management of McDonald's HK in the evening of 23 July 2014. McDonald's HK had undertaken to review and improve its handling of the incident. USFH said that in the Administration's view, McDonald's HK should improve its dissemination of information to the Administration, the media and the public, and should respond more proactively to the Administration. The Food and Health Bureau ("FHB") would consult the Department of Justice ("DoJ") on the follow-up actions to be taken, including the consideration of issuing a warning to McDonald's HK.
- 32. The Chairman noted that while the Food Safety Ordinance ("FSO") (Cap. 612) stipulated that food premises operators must keep their transaction records for tracing the sources of food, it was not specified in the provisions a timeframe for submission of records to CFS. She asked whether the Administration would consider any legislative amendments to clearly specify such timeframe. She was also concerned about the format of records for submission to CFS and asked whether they should be submitted in hard copy form or electronic form.
- 33. <u>PASFH(F)1</u> advised that under FSO, a person must produce for inspection any record required when he was required to do so by the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene ("DFEH") or an authorized officer. DFEH might disclose to the public any information contained in the record produced if DFEH was satisfied that public disclosure of the information was necessary for the protection of public health. <u>PASFH(F)1</u> stressed that when an operator of a food premise was requested so, he should provide the requested records within a reasonable time limit. Regarding the format of records for submission to CFS, <u>AD(FSC)/CFS</u> said that there was no prescribed format for the transaction records under FSO given that food premises of different scales were all bound by FSO.

- 34. Mr Michael TIEN and Mr Tommy CHEUNG expressed similar view that it was unclear as to what was being meant by the term "within a reasonable time limit". Mr TIEN considered that a specific timeframe should be spelled out clearly in FSO. USFH responded that when CFS required a food business operator to produce information under FSO, it could specify a deadline for submission. In response to Mr Tommy CHEUNG's enquiry on how long McDonald's HK had taken to provide required the information to CFS, USFH said that McDonald's HK had taken three days to provide the required information.
- 35. The Chairman noted that the Administration had also requested other eight major food chains (namely Pizza Hut, IKEA, Yoshinoya Hong Kong, Burger King, Starbucks, KFC, 7-Eleven and Subway) to provide their records of purchases from Husi's plants in the Mainland. She requested the Administration to provide, after the meeting, the information on the time taken by McDonald's HK and each of the above eight food chains in responding to (i) CFS's enquiries about whether they had imported food from Husi's plants in the Mainland; and/or (ii) CFS's requests for providing the required transaction records on food imported from Husi's plants in the Mainland.
- 36. <u>Mr Michael TIEN</u> enquired whether there would be any penalty imposed on food premises operators if they provided, in response to DFEH's requests under FSO, erroneous information. <u>PASFH(F)1</u> said that FHB would seek advice from DoJ in this regard.
- 37. Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that although McDonald's HK's food products made with problem cooked meat supplied from Husi's plants had been sold out, there were no reports of public health incidents. In his view, McDonald's HK, which had purchased the cooked meat from Husi without knowledge of the problem, was in fact a victim in the incident. He considered it unreasonable for CFS to request McDonald's HK to mark and seal the remaining stock of Husi's cooked meat because it was subsequently found that the cooked meat concerned did not pose risk to human health. USFH clarified that McDonald's HK and its importer sealed and disposed of the food products supplied from Husi's plants voluntarily, instead of upon request of the Administration.

### Regulation of cooked meat

38. In the light of the Husi incident, the Chairman expressed the view that more stringent regulation of cooked meat and proactive enforcement actions were necessary. She said that food premises operators should keep transaction records of cooked meat for inspection. While expressing support

Admin

for requesting food premises operators to keep transaction records of cooked meat for inspection, Mr Michael TIEN considered that the regulation of cooked meat should not be too stringent given that the health risk of consumption of cooked meat was low as compared to that of raw meat. He said that in addition to the requirement for importers to duly keep their transaction records, it would suffice to require exporters of cooked meat to provide food importers in Hong Kong with official health certificates issued by the relevant authorities in the exporting countries.

- 39. The Chairman and Mr WONG Kwok-hing urged the Administration to review the relevant legislation expeditiously and consider imposing more stringent statutory requirements, such as requesting retailers to acquire official health certificates for cooked meat before putting it for sale. Mr WONG hoped that the Administration would provide a policy paper on the regulation of cooked meat in the 2014-2015 session. The Chairman enquired about the Administration's plan for proposing relevant legislative amendments.
- 40. <u>USFH</u> clarified that under FSO, importers of cooked meat should keep the relevant transaction records. Given cooked meat was of a lower food safety risk than raw meat, there was presently no specific legislation to regulate the import of cooked meat. That said, food safety of cooked meat was monitored under the Food Surveillance Programme of CFS. <u>USFH</u> reiterated that in response to the Husi incident, the Administration adopted an open mind on whether cooked meat should be subject to stricter regulation and would commence a review on the need for legislative amendments. The food trade would be consulted on the matter.

(Members agreed to extend the meeting by 5 minutes.)

#### Conclusion

41. The Chairman said that at the informal briefing conducted by the Administration on 28 July 2014 on the update on problem food products produced by Husi, some members raised concerns on (i) whether the Administration would consider increasing the maximum penalties for failure to comply with the record keeping requirements as stipulated in FSO; (ii) whether the Administration would consider specifying the time requirement for food traders to respond to CFS's requests for the required transaction records in case of food incident; and (iii) the follow-up actions to be taken by the Administration in enhancing the regulation of cooked meat. She requested the Administration to provide a written response to the above concerns.

Admin

Admin

42. <u>The Chairman</u> also requested the Administration to provide the Panel with information on the results of the investigation into the Husi food factories by the Mainland authorities when the investigation report was made known to the Administration.

# III. Any other business

43. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:43 am.

Council Business Division 2
<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u>
3 December 2014