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Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 11 February 2014**

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department fees and charges

In his speech at the Second Reading debate on the Appropriation Bill 2013 at the Council meeting of 27 February 2013, the Financial Secretary stated that, to prevent cost recovery items being turned into heavily subsidized items, all policy bureaux and departments would be requested to carry out a review on their respective fees and charges and submit plans for their revision in one or two years. In conducting the review, the policy bureaux and departments would first deal with those fees that had not been revised for years and did not directly affect people's livelihood. Examples cited in the Financial Secretary's speech were fees for pesticide permits, riding establishment licences and temporary permits for exhibitions of animals and bird, which were administered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD").

2. In its replies to Members' initial written questions during the examination of the Estimates of Expenditure 2013-2014, the Administration advised that AFCD provided a wide range of regulatory activities in respect of animal, plant and fisheries for the purpose of protecting public health. There were about 80 fee items administered by AFCD, with an overall cost recovery rate of about 65%. The fee items were related to the following categories of licenses and/or service -

- (a) fees under the Pesticides Regulations (Cap. 133A);
- (b) temporary exhibition permit fee under the Public Health (Animals & Birds) (Exhibitions) Regulations (Cap. 139F);

- (c) riding establishment licence fee under the Public Health (Animals) (Riding Establishment) Regulations (Cap. 139J);
- (d) permit/licence fees under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Regulations (Cap. 139A) and the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Licensing of Livestock Keeping) Regulation (Cap. 139L);
- (e) pounds fees under the Pounds Fees Regulations (Cap. 168A);
- (f) examination fees under the Plant (Importation and Pest Control) (Fees) Regulations (Cap. 207A);
- (g) fees under the Plant Varieties Protection Regulation (Cap. 490A);
- (h) examination/testing fees for veterinary health certificate and laboratory diagnostic services; and
- (i) tractor cultivating service fee for fallow land rehabilitation.

3. The Administration will brief the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene at its meeting on 11 February 2014 on AFCD's review of fees and charges.

4. A list of relevant papers at the Legislative Council's website is in the **Appendix**.

Appendix

Relevant papers on Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department fees and charges

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Council Meeting	27.2.2013	Official Record of Proceedings Pages 7428 to 7430 (the Financial Secretary's speech at the Second Reading debate on the Appropriation Bill 2013 about the Government Revenue)
Financial Committee (Special meeting to examine the Estimates of Expenditure 2013-2014)	--	Administration's replies to Members' initial written questions (Reply Serial Nos. FHB(FE)008)

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