

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of outstanding items for discussion

(Position as at 6 March 2014)

- | Subject | Proposed timing
for discussion |
|---|---|
| 1. Proposed updating of Schedule 1 to the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation | April 2014 |
| Item proposed by the Administration. | |
| Having regard to the comments from members during the Panel meeting on 14 January 2014, the Administration will brief the Panel on the latest proposal of updating the Schedule 1 to the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM) in April 2014. | |
| 2. Amendments to the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance - reporting on the outcome of consultation and briefing on the legislative proposals (for expanding the membership of the Veterinary Surgeons Board and streamlining its modus operandi) | April 2014 |

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration briefed the Panel at its meeting on 13 November 2012 on a public consultation exercise being conducted to gauge public views on proposals to amend the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529). The legislative amendment exercise sought to strengthen the membership of the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong and streamline its modus operandi.

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The Administration proposes to report to the Panel on the outcome of the public consultation and the legislative proposals to amend the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance in April 2014.	
3. Proposed legislative proposals to amend the Liquor Licensing Regime	April 2014
Item proposed by the Administration.	
At the meeting on 10 January 2012, the Administration briefed the Panel on the outcome of the public consultation on the review of liquor licensing. Members were advised that a few recommendations from the public consultation exercise would require legislative amendments.	
The Administration will brief the Panel on these legislative proposals in April 2014.	
4. Research study on liquor licensing system in selected places	April 2014
At its meeting on 10 December 2013, the Panel agreed to request the Research Office of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat to conduct a research study on liquor licensing system in selected places. Members considered and endorsed the research outline of the study at the meeting on 14 January 2014. The research is expected to be completed by mid-March 2014.	
5. Development of sustainable agriculture	May 2014
During the briefing by SFH on the Chief Executive's 2013 Policy Address on 21 January 2013, members expressed concern on the lack of a policy on the development of agriculture and dissatisfaction with the	

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Administration's assistance available to the operators of organic farms. At the request of the Panel, the Administration provided a written response to members' concerns in August 2013 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1732/12-13(01)).

The Panel also received a letter dated 26 July 2013 from Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG, a non-Panel member, raising his concerns about the Government's policy on the development of agriculture in Hong Kong (LC Paper No. CB(2)1695/12-13(01)). The Administration's response to Dr Hon CHEUNG's letter was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1695/12-13(02) on 9 August 2013.

At the meeting on 10 October 2013, the Deputy Chairman and Hon WU Chi-wai expressed similar concern about the development of local agriculture in view of the Administration's development proposals of the Planning and Development Studies on North East New Territories. They requested that the subject of the Government's agricultural policy be discussed at a Panel meeting.

The Administration proposes to brief the Panel on the item in May 2014.

6. Implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme

May 2014

At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki expressed concern about the compliance with the requirements of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme which covered nutrition labelling and nutrition claims (which included nutrient content claim, nutrient comparative claim and nutrient function claim). He suggested that the subject be discussed at a future Panel meeting.

The Administration proposes to brief the Panel on the item in May 2014.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p data-bbox="177 421 935 461">7. Anti-mosquito control, including bed bugs</p> <p data-bbox="253 495 1098 573">The Administration proposes to brief the Panel on FEHD's efforts in mosquito prevention and control.</p> <p data-bbox="253 611 1098 775">At the meeting held on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG suggested the Panel to also discuss the Administration's disinfestations efforts in districts where bed bug problem was serious.</p>	May 2014
<p data-bbox="177 869 643 909">8. Private Columbaria Bill</p> <p data-bbox="253 943 818 983">Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p data-bbox="253 1025 1098 1447">On 7 October 2013, the Administration advised the Panel that it intended to roll forward submission of the new Private Columbaria Bill to LegCo from the fourth quarter of 2013 to the second quarter of 2014. At the meeting held on 10 October 2013, members expressed concern about the Administration's delay in introducing the Bill. The Panel held a special meeting on 19 November 2013 and received views from deputations on the regulation of private columbaria and the supply of public niches.</p>	May to July 2014
<p data-bbox="177 1525 1098 1688">9. Increasing the approved commitment of the loan capital of the Fisheries Development Loan Fund to meet the increased need for credit facilities for fishermen, fish farmers and fish collectors</p> <p data-bbox="253 1727 818 1767">Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p data-bbox="253 1809 1098 1968">The Administration plans to consult the Panel on its proposal to increase the approved commitment of the Loan capital of the Fisheries Development Loan Fund in June/July 2014.</p>	June/July 2014

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
10. Amendments to the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations for better regulating pet trading	June/July 2014
<p>At the meeting held on 13 November 2012, the Panel received deputations' view on the public consultation exercise on the proposed measures to better regulate pet trading in the interest of enhancing animal health and welfare. Members expressed grave concern that the proposed One-off permit might create a loophole for home breeders to abuse the licensing arrangement. They urged the Administration to impose additional and more stringent licensing conditions for the breeding of dogs for sale. They also called on the Administration to extend the scope of licensing to cover cats and other pet animals.</p> <p>The Panel was briefed on the outcome of the public consultation at its meeting on 16 April 2013. The Panel passed a motion at the meeting urging AFCD to issue under its proposed licensing requirements a single animal breeder licence only and which applied to all commercial and private animal breeders and traders, so as to further protect the welfare of animals in Hong Kong.</p> <p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the proposed legislative amendments to the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) in June/July 2014.</p>	
11. Regulatory control on outside seating accommodation of and illegal shop extensions by restaurants	June/July 2014
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to discuss with the Panel the subject in June/July 2014.</p>	

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12. Rodent Control	June/July 2014
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration will brief the Panel on Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD")'s efforts in rodent prevention and control in June/July 2014.	
13. Supply of live cattle in Hong Kong	June/July 2014
At the meeting on 28 May 2013, members urged the Government to expeditiously open up the market of imported live cattle, and draw up an implementation timetable as soon as possible. The Panel discussed with the Administration and received views from deputations on the supply of live cattle in Hong Kong at its meeting on 9 July 2013. Members were advised at the meeting that the Administration was exploring with the Ministry of Commerce opening up the business of the live cattle agent to competition. The Administration undertook to report to the Panel as and when there were further developments on the matter.	
At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Hon WONG Kwok-hing expressed concern about the progress of the opening up live cattle market and urged the Administration to revert to Panel as early as possible.	
The Administration plans to update the Panel on the latest developments on the subject in June/July 2014.	
14. Improvement of the operating environment of public markets – progress update	June/July 2014
The Panel discussed the Administration's proposal for rental adjustment of public market stalls and the initiatives to improve the operation environment of	

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public market at its meetings on 8 January, 16 April and 9 July 2013, and received views from deputations at one of the meetings. At the meeting on 8 January 2013, the Panel passed a motion moved by Hon WONG Kwok-hing to set up a subcommittee under the Panel to follow up the issue of installation of air-conditioning systems in public markets.

On 5 February 2013, members agreed to set up the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets to study and review issues relating to the policy and business environment of public markets, assess the demand for public markets according to the district-based principle, examine the Administration's proposals for the rental adjustment mechanism and air-conditioning charging arrangement for public market stalls and make timely recommendations. Members noted that the number of subcommittees on policy issues in operation had reached the maximum number of eight and the Subcommittee would be placed on the waiting list.

The Administration advised the Panel at its meetings on 16 April and 9 July 2013 that a consultant would be engaged to assist in developing proposals for improving the operating environment of public markets with a view to drawing more customers to public markets and enhancing customer satisfaction. The consultant was expected to submit the preliminary findings of the study in mid 2014.

The Administration will revert to the Panel on the outcome of the consultancy study in June/July 2014.

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15. Reprovisioning of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's Sai Yee Street Environmental Hygiene Offices-cum-Vehicle Depot to Yen Ming Road, West Kowloon reclamation area	First half of 2014
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration intends to brief the Panel in the first half of 2014 on its proposal to reprovision FEHD's Sai Yee Street Vehicle Depot to Yen Ming Road, West Kowloon Reclamation Area. Upon completion of the new vehicle depot, the existing Sai Yee Street Vehicle Depot will be demolished and the site returned to Lands Department.	
16. Consultation results of the proposed introduction of the pre-market safety assessment on genetically-modified food	Second half of 2014
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the item in the second half of 2014.	
17. Study on wholesale markets	To be confirmed
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration proposes to brief the Panel on the result of the consultancy study on the roles and functions of wholesale markets in Hong Kong as well as the location of five wholesale markets from the perspective of land use and food safety.	
At the informal meeting on 17 October 2013, the Administration was requested to brief the Panel on the subject in the second quarter of 2014.	

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18. Hawkers Policy	To be confirmed
<p>The Panel received views from deputations on the Government's hawker policy at its special meeting held on 21 June 2013. Members considered it necessary for the Administration to map out a blueprint for the future development of the hawking trade with respect to tourism, local economy and community aspiration, as well as the contribution made by the hawking trade to the improvement of people's livelihood.</p> <p>At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN suggested the Panel to follow up on the subject at a future Panel meeting.</p>	
19. Public consultation on the proposed regulatory framework governing veterinary drug residues in food and food animals	To be confirmed
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration is considering measures to strengthen control over veterinary drug residues in food and food animals in order to enhance food safety. It plans to launch a public consultation on the proposed regulatory framework in the first half of 2014.</p>	
20. Proposed permanent food safety laboratory	To be confirmed
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on a proposal to establish a permanent food safety laboratory under the Government Laboratory to further enhance the testing capacity on food safety related analysis.</p>	

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21. Regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture in Hong Kong	To be confirmed

At the meeting on 9 February 2010, in the light of the concerns raised by Hon WONG Yung-kan, the Chairman suggested that the issue of regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture within Hong Kong waters should be discussed by the Panel at a future meeting.

During the discussion of the implementation of the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612) at the meeting on 11 July 2012, Hon WONG Yung-kan expressed worry about the over-expansion of oyster culture in Shenzhen Bay and the crimes arisen in the area. He urged the Administration to step up the regulatory measures for oyster culture, including the introduction of a licensing mechanism.

22. Assessment of liquor licence applications from upstairs bars	To be confirmed
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The Panel held a special meeting on 13 June 2013 to receive views from members of the public on the proposed Guidelines on Assessing Liquor Licence Applications of the Liquor Licensing Board ("LLB"). The Administration also briefed the Panel on the procedures for assessing liquor licence applications at the special meeting. Pursuant to members' request at the meeting, the Administration provided information on how LLB would follow up on the views received, as well as the finalized Guidelines, to the Panel (LC Paper No. CB(2)20/13-14(01) issued on 9 October 2013). Members noted that LLB planned to publish the Guidelines on its website on 1 December 2013.

At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG expressed concern about problems caused by upstairs bars and LLB's considerations in assessing

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liquor licence applications from them. She suggested the Panel to continue to follow up the subject.	
23. Safety of food for pet animals	To be confirmed

Item proposed by Hon CHAN Chi-chuen.

At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Hon CHAN Chi-chuen suggested that the subject of the safety of food for pet animals be discussed at a future Panel meeting.