

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 6 June 2014)

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
1. Amendments to the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations for better regulating pet trading	Regular meeting in 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 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("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 July 2014.</p>	
2. Rodent Control	Regular meeting in July 2014
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	

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The Administration will brief the Panel on Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD")'s efforts in rodent prevention and control in July 2014.	
3. Further discussion on regulatory control on outside seating accommodation of and unauthorized extension of business area by restaurants	Regular meeting in July 2014
Members agreed at the Panel meeting on 13 May 2014 that deputations should be invited to give views on the subject.	
4. Private Columbaria Bill	July 2014
Item proposed by the Administration.	
On 7 October 2013, the Administration advised the Panel that it intended to roll forward submission of the new Private Columbaria Bill to the Legislative Council ("LegCo") from the fourth quarter of 2013 to the second quarter of 2014. 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.	
During the briefing by the Secretary for Food and Health ("SFH") on the Chief Executive's 2014 Policy Address 2014 on 17 January 2014, members were concerned about whether the new initiatives proposed by the Administration could substantially increase the supply of niches in the short- and mid-term.	
5. Development of sustainable agriculture	Second half of 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	

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development of agriculture and dissatisfaction with the 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 on 9 August 2013 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1695/12-13(02)).

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.

When the Panel received a briefing by SFH on the Chief Executive's 2014 Policy Address on 17 January 2014, some members expressed concern on the availability of lands for agriculture.

At the meeting on 8 April 2014, members agreed to the Chairman's suggestion that the Administration be requested to advance the discussion of the item to the meeting in the second half of 2014.

6. Improvement of the operating environment of public markets – progress update

Second half of
2014

The Panel discussed the Administration's proposal for rental adjustment of public market stalls and the

Subject

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initiatives to improve the operation environment of 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 ("the Subcommittee") under the Panel 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.

The first meeting of the Subcommittee was held on 25 March 2014. At the meeting, the Administration advised that BMT Asia Pacific was appointed as the consultant to develop proposals for improving the operating environment of public markets. The Administration would report to the Subcommittee on the results of the consultancy study after the consultancy study was completed in mid 2014.

The Administration plans to revert to the Panel on the outcome of the consultancy study in the second half of 2014.

7. 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

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in the second half of 2014.	
8. 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	To be confirmed

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration will brief the Panel on its proposal to reprovision FEHD's Sai Yee Street Vehicle Depot to Yen Ming Road, West Kowloon Reclamation Area when ready. Upon completion of the new vehicle depot, the existing Sai Yee Street Vehicle Depot will be demolished and the site returned to Lands Department.

9. Hawkers Policy	To be confirmed
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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.

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. On 9 July 2013, members agreed to form the Subcommittee on Hawker Policy under the Panel to study and review hawker policy with the objectives of facilitating the long-term development of the hawker trade and improvement of the management and operating environment of the hawker areas and make timely recommendations. The first meeting of the Subcommittee was held on 15 April 2014.

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<p>(Note: As the Panel has set up a Subcommittee to study and review hawker policy, the item will be taken out from the list of outstanding items for discussion.)</p>	
10. Issuance of new Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licence	To be confirmed
<p>Members noted a submission from a member of the public expressing concern about the progress of the issuance of Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licence tabled at the meeting on 11 March 2014. At the suggestion of Mr WONG Kwok-hing, members agreed that the Panel to follow up on the subject at a future Panel meeting.</p>	
11. 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>	
12. 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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13. Regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture in Hong Kong	To be confirmed
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
14. Liquor licensing system in Hong Kong and regulation of upstairs bars	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG expressed concern about problems caused by upstairs bars and the Liquor Licensing Board's considerations in assessing liquor licence applications from them. She suggested the Panel to continue to follow up the subject.</p>	
<p>At the meeting on 8 April 2014, members noted the research report on "Liquor licensing system in selected places" prepared by Research Office, Information Services Division of LegCo Secretariat. Hon Tommy CHEUNG suggested the Panel to discuss the subject of liquor licensing system in Hong Kong and to invite deputations from the trade concerned to give views at a future meeting.</p>	

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15. 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. Hon CHAN had written a letter to the Panel Chairman in late April 2014 expressing concern about the presence of harmful substances in pet food (LC Paper No. CB(2)1429/13-14(01)). The Administration's response to the issues of concern raised in Hon CHAN's letter was issued to members on 5 May 2014 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1429/13-14(02)).	
16. Management of stray cattle	To be confirmed
At the meeting on 8 April 2014, members noted that the Administration had provided a written response to Hon Claudia MO's letter dated 17 March 2014 on the programme launched by AFCD to relocate stray cattle on Lantau Island and in Sai Kung. Hon MO considered that the subject of management of stray cattle including the aforementioned programme should be followed by the Panel at a future meeting. She also expressed the hope that deputations would be invited to give views.	
17. Promoting safe and proper use of pesticides	To be confirmed
The following issues are referred by the Subcommittee on the Pesticides Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 1) Notice 2014 to this Panel for follow-up -	
(a) provision of the trade's Codes of Practice on the safe and proper use of pesticides by the Food and Health Bureau to the Education Bureau as well as the Labour and Welfare Bureau for their onward distribution to schools and elderly care homes with	

Subject

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a view to promoting safe and proper use of pesticides in these places; and

- (b) the progress of the follow-up actions to further promote the safe and proper use of pesticides undertaken by the Administration during the scrutiny of the Pesticides (Amendment) Bill 2013 (see paragraphs 12 to 18 of the Subcommittee report (LC Paper No. CB(2)1504/13-14)).

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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