

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of outstanding items for discussion
(Position as at 7 November 2013)

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
1. Issues relating to regulation of private columbaria and supply of public niches	Special meeting scheduled for 19 November 2013

At the meeting on 11 December 2012, the Panel was consulted on the legislative proposals for regulating private columbaria, including a proposed statutory licensing scheme under a new piece of legislation to be entitled "the Private Columbaria Ordinance". At the meeting, members were also briefed on the progress made by the Administration in taking forward the development of the 24 potential sites identified for public columbaria use and the Administration's proposal to develop columbarium and crematorium facilities at the Sandy Ridge Cemetery. Members were advised that the Administration planned to introduce the relevant Bill in the fourth quarter of 2013. Members expressed various concerns about the proposed licensing scheme and the adequacy of the supply of public niches to meet the demand in the light of demographic changes.

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. At the meeting held on 10 October 2013, members expressed concern about the Administration's delay in introducing the Bill and requested that the subject be discussed by the Panel in November 2013.

At the instruction of the Chairman, a special meeting is scheduled for 19 November 2013 to discuss and receive views from deputations on the subject.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
2. Proposed measures for compliance with fire safety requirements by food premises	December 2013

Item proposed by the Administration.

The item was originally scheduled for discussion at the meeting on 9 July 2013. Owing to insufficient time for discussion, members agreed to defer the discussion of the item to a future meeting and invite deputations to give views on the subject when it was discussed. At the suggestion of the Administration, discussion of the item was re-scheduled to the meeting on 12 November 2013.

At the request of Hon Tommy CHEUNG, the Chairman decided to defer the discussion on the subject to the regular meeting in December 2013 in order to allow sufficient time for discussion and to invite deputations to present their views to the Panel.

3. Review of supply chain of powdered formula	December 2013
--	---------------

On 28 May 2013, the Panel was briefed by the Administration on the implementation of the Import and Export (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2013 ("Amendment Regulation") and the measures for the improvement of the supply chain in relation to powdered formula. Some members expressed the view that the export restrictions on powdered formula should not be made permanent. The Administration advised that it would conduct stress tests during the National Day Golden Week to ascertain the effectiveness and sustainability of the improvement measures implemented before deciding on the need to continue or discontinue the implementation of the Amendment Regulation.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>On 25 September 2013, the Administration informed members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1817/12-13(01) on the latest development of the stress test on the supply chain of powdered formula. Members noted that the test would be conducted during the National Day Golden Week as well as the days immediately before and after it.</p> <p>The Administration will brief the Panel on the results of the stress tests in December 2013.</p>	
<p>4. Review of small volume exemption ("SVE") fees – Proposed amendments to Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations</p>	December 2013
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the review of SVE fees and the proposed amendments to the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap. 132W) in December 2013.</p>	
<p>5. Trap-Neuter-Return ("TNR") trial scheme for stray dogs and handling of animal cases</p>	January 2014
<p>At the meeting on 8 May 2012, members were briefed on the proposed TNR trial programme for stray dogs. The trial programme would study the effectiveness of TNR in reducing stray dog population within a designated area and its associated nuisance. The Administration had planned to roll out the trial programme in early 2013.</p>	
<p>The Administration proposes to update the Panel on the progress of the trial programme, as well as to discuss item 23 below concerning issues relating to animal welfare and cruelty to animals in January 2014.</p>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
6. Proposed updating of the schedules to the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation	January to March 2014
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to consult the Panel on the legislative proposals to update the schedules to the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM) in the first quarter of 2014.	
7. Development of sustainable agriculture	January to March 2014
During the briefing by the Secretary for Food and Health 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 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.	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>The Administration proposes to brief the Panel on the item in the first quarter of 2014.</p>	
<p>8. Update on the prevention and control measures against avian influenza</p>	<p>January to March 2014</p>
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration proposes to update the Panel on the prevention and control measures against avian influenza in the first quarter of 2014.</p>	
<p>9. Reprovisioning of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD")'s Sai Yee Street Environmental Hygiene Offices-cum-Vehicle Depot to Yen Ming Road, West Kowloon reclamation area</p>	<p>January to March 2014</p>
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration intends to brief the Panel in the first quarter of 2014 on its proposal to re-provision 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.</p>	
<p>10. Application of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources to Hong Kong</p>	<p>January to March 2014</p>
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the application of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources to Hong Kong in the first quarter of 2014.</p>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
11. Total diet study	January to March 2014
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration proposes to brief the Panel on the Total Diet Study carried out by the Centre for Food Safety to analyze dietary data of the population of Hong Kong in the first quarter of 2014.	
12. 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	January to March 2014
Item proposed by the Administration.	
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 the first quarter of 2014.	
13. Anti-mosquito control, including bed bugs	January to March 2014
The Administration proposes to brief the Panel in the first quarter of 2014 on FEHD's efforts in mosquito prevention and control.	
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 flea problem was serious.	
14. Private Columbaria Bill	April to 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 LegCo from the fourth quarter of 2013 to the second quarter of 2014.	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
15. Amendments to the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations for better regulating pet trading	April to July 2014

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.

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.

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 April to July 2014.

16. Proposed legislative proposals to amend the Liquor Licensing Regime	April to July 2014
--	-----------------------

Item proposed by the Administration.

At the meeting on 10 January 2012, the Administration briefed the Panel on the outcome of the public

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>consultation on the review of liquor licensing. Members were advised that a few recommendations from the public consultation exercise would require legislative amendments.</p> <p>The Administration will brief the Panel on these legislative proposals in April to July 2014.</p>	
<p>17. 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)</p> <p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 to July 2014 .</p>	<p>April to July 2014</p>
<p>18. Implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme</p> <p>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</p>	<p>April to July 2014</p>

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>claim and nutrient function claim). He suggested that the subject be discussed at a future Panel meeting.</p> <p>The Administration proposes to brief the Panel on the item in April to July 2014.</p>	
<p>19. Report on the Food Surveillance Programme for 2013</p>	<p>April to July 2014</p>
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the report on the Food Surveillance Programme for 2013 in April to July 2014.</p> <p>At the informal meeting between the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman and the Secretary for Food and Health ("the informal meeting") held on 17 October 2013, the Administration was requested to also brief members on the monitoring of food safety of aquatic products in Hong Kong when discussing the item.</p>	
<p>20. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department fees and charges</p>	<p>April to July 2014</p>
<p>At the request of the Subcommittee on Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Exhibitions) (Amendment) Regulation 2006, the Administration agreed to review the fees for application for an exhibition licence for animals and birds and licence renewal fees in the context of the general review of Government's fees and charges, and report the outcome to the Panel in due course.</p> <p>The Administration proposes to brief the Panel on the results of its review on the fees and charges of AFCD in April to July 2014.</p>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
21. Regulatory control on outside seating accommodation of and illegal shop extensions by restaurants	April to July 2014
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to discuss with the Panel the subject in April to July 2014.	
22. Rodent Control	April to July 2014
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration will brief the Panel on FEHD's efforts in rodent prevention and control in April to July 2014.	
23. Issues relating to animal welfare and cruelty to animals	(Item 5 refers)
At the meeting on 10 October 2013, some members expressed grave concerns about the management of stray animals, including dogs and cats in urban areas and cattle in rural areas. These members also raised concern about the media reports on the recent cases of cruelty to animals and considered that the Administration should consider a review of the penalty for relevant offences and also the suggestion of Animal Police Squad to combat the relevant crimes. They requested the Panel to discuss the above issues relating to animal welfare and cruelty to animals at a future meeting.	
At the informal meeting on 17 October 2013, the Chairman requested the Administration to discuss with the Panel the item in early second quarter of 2014.	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>The Administration proposes that the subject be discussed together with item 5 on TNR trial scheme for stray dogs and handling of animal cases".</p>	
24. Supply of live cattle in Hong Kong	April to July 2014
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to update the Panel on the latest developments on the subject in April to July 2014.</p>	
25. Improvement of the operating environment of public markets – progress update	April to July 2014
<p>The Panel discussed the Administration's proposal for rental adjustment of public market stalls and the 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</p>	

Subject

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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 April to July 2014.

26. Consultation results of the proposed introduction of the pre-market safety assessment on genetically-modified food

April to July
2014

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the item in April to July 2014.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
27. 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.	
28. Hawkers Policy	To be confirmed
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.	
29. Public consultation on the proposed regulatory framework governing veterinary drug residues in food and food animals	To be confirmed
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration is considering measures to strengthen control over veterinary drug residues in food	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
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.	
30. Proposed permanent food safety laboratory	To be confirmed
Item proposed by the Administration.	
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.	
31. 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.	
32. Assessment of liquor licence applications from upstairs bars	To be confirmed
The Panel held a special meeting on 13 June 2013 to receive views from members of the public on the	

Subject

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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 liquor licence applications from them. She suggested the Panel to continue to follow up the subject.

33. 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.