



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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By Fax: 2877 5029

15 October 2014

Ms Wendy KAN
Assistant Legal Adviser
Legal Service Division
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council

Dear Ms Kan,

**Veterinary Surgeons Registration (Amendment) Bill 2014
(the Bill)**

Thank you for your letter dated 26 September 2014 seeking our clarification regarding the matter as set out below.

Clause 1(2) of the Bill

You sought our advice on whether there is any intended commencement date of the Bill. Clause 1 of the Bill states that the Amendment Ordinance comes into operation on a day to be appointed by the Secretary for Food and Health (SFH) by notice published in the Gazette. Upon enactment of the Amendment Ordinance by the Legislative Council, it is our intention to first bring into operation the proposed new section 28(1A) so as to enable SFH to make the Election Regulation. Upon completion of negative vetting of the Election Regulation, SFH will publish a commencement notice for bringing into operation the remaining provisions of the Amendment Ordinance in stages, with reference to the approach taken in the Rural Representative Election Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2013 and the District Councils Ordinance (Amendment of Schedules 1 and 3) Order 2013.

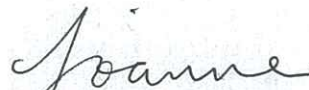
Clause 3(3) of the Bill

You noticed that in the proposed new definitions of "Chairperson" and "appointed member", references have been made to the proposed new sections 3C(2) and 3D(2) of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529) (VSRO) respectively, but no reference has been made to the proposed new section 17B(2) of VSRO in the proposed new definition of "assessor". Upon reconsideration of the provision, we concur with your view that it would be appropriate to make reference to the proposed new section 17B(2) in the definition of "assessor". For consistency, we also propose to amend Clause 16 of the Bill such that references of the proposed new sections 3D(2) and 17B(2) are to be made to paragraphs 2C(1)(d) and 2E(1)(d) of Schedule 1 respectively. The Administration will propose amendments to that effect at the committee stage.

Clause 16 of the Bill

You suggested that the heading of Schedule 1 to VSRO should be revised in view of the proposed amendments to that Schedule as set out in Clauses 6(1) and 6(2) of the Bill. We concur with your view and will propose an amendment to the heading of Schedule 1 by adding a reference to "assessor" in due course.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Jeanne CHENG)
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. AFCD (Attn.: Dr Thomas Sit, AD(IQ))
DoJ (Attn.: Mr Allen Lai, SGC)