

**Bills Committee on Veterinary Surgeons Registration  
(Amendment) Bill 2014**

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion  
at the meeting of 28 October 2014**

The Administration is requested to provide the following information in relation to the Veterinary Surgeons Registration (Amendment) Bill 2014 (“the Bill”) –

- (a) the composition of (i) overseas regulatory bodies comparable to the Veterinary Surgeons Board (“VSB”) and (ii) local and overseas regulatory bodies in professions/industries other than the veterinary profession (such as the legal and accounting professions), including the ratio of appointed to elected members and the ratio of members of the profession to non-members of the profession;
- (b) given that from 2007 to 2011, VSB took on average 16 months to conclude a complaint received, (i) the average length of time taken by VSB to conclude a complaint from 2002 to 2006; (ii) the number of outstanding complaints up to the end of October 2014; and (iii) an assessment of how the handling of complaints could be expedited (including the length of time to be shortened, if any, for concluding a complaint) after implementation of the relevant measures under the Bill;
- (c) the background of lay members appointed to VSB since its establishment;
- (d) the existing staffing strength of the VSB Secretariat and an assessment of the need for additional staffing support (including legal advisers) to cope with the anticipated increasing workload following the implementation of the relevant measures under the Bill;
- (e) a comparison between the workflows in connection with the handling of complaints and conduct of disciplinary proceedings under the relevant provisions (such as section 18) of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529) before and after implementation of the relevant measures under the Bill; and
- (f) in connection with VSB’s disciplinary proceedings, the practices adopted by other local and overseas professional regulatory bodies for conducting such proceedings, including whether the registered veterinary surgeons being complained of may opt for an open or closed hearing and their right to legal representation.