

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

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion  
at the meeting of 5 January 2015**

1. The Administration is requested to provide a written response to address the following concerns/views of members on the Veterinary Surgeons Registration (Amendment) Bill 2014 ("the Bill") –
  - (a) in connection with the proposed new sections 17C and 18(1C) of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529)("the Ordinance") under which the proposed ratios of registered veterinary surgeon ("RVS") to non-RVS on a preliminary investigation committee ("PIC") and an inquiry committee ("IC") are set at 2:1 ("the 2:1 ratio"),
    - (i) how to ensure that under the 2:1 ratio, the RVSSs on PIC/IC will maintain impartiality in handling complaints in which the persons being complained of are RVSSs; and
    - (ii) whether the Administration will propose Committee stage amendments ("CSAs") to the Bill to the effect that more non-RVSSs will be included in a PIC/IC so as to adjust the ratio of RVS to non-RVS on a PIC/IC to 1:1 or 1:2, or a PIC will be constituted by non-RVSSs only; and if it will, please provide the draft CSAs and their gist; if it will not, the reasons for that;
  - (b) whether the Administration will propose CSAs to the Bill to achieve the following effects respectively, and if it will, please provide the respective draft CSAs and their gists; if it will not, the reasons –
    - (i) in case no consensus is reached on a PIC on whether a complaint alleging a disciplinary offence should be referred to an IC, the complaint must be referred to the Veterinary Surgeons Board ("VSB") for consideration;
    - (ii) the proposed ratios of RVS to non-RVS on VSB and the panel of assessors under the Bill, which are set at 2:1, will be appropriately adjusted to 1:1, so as to better safeguard the interests of persons utilizing veterinary services; and

- (iii) the regulation to be made by the Secretary for Food and Health for matters concerning an election of members to VSB under the proposed new section 28(1A) of the Ordinance will be subject to positive vetting, instead of negative vetting, by the Legislative Council; and
  - (c) in connection with the proposed arrangements for the election of six members who are RVSs to VSB under which each elector may, in the capacity of a proposer or seconder, nominate a maximum of six RVSs who are qualified as electors to be candidates, and may vote for a maximum of six candidates in an ordinary election (as set out respectively in paragraphs 15 and 19 of the "Salient features of the proposed election of elected members to VSB" [LC Paper No. CB(3) 309/14-15(01)]), whether the Administration will undertake to review the proposed nomination and voting arrangements, including whether to restrict each elector to nominate and vote for one candidate only in the election; and
2. The Administration is also requested to provide the draft CSAs to –
- (a) Clause 3(3) of the Bill – to the effect that reference to the proposed new section 17B(2) of the Ordinance will be made in the definition of "assessor";
  - (b) Clause 16 of the Bill – to the effect that references of the proposed new sections 3D(2) and 17B(2) will be made to paragraphs 2C(1)(d) and 2E(1)(d) of Schedule 1 to the Ordinance respectively; and
  - (c) Clause 16 of the Bill – to the effect that reference to "assessor" will be added to the heading of Schedule 1 of the Ordinance.