

立法會

Legislative Council

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Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 10 February 2015

Review on fees and charges for facilities and services provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

When the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the Panel") discussed the Administration's proposal to align the different levels of fees and charges for certain municipal facilities and services provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") in the urban areas and the New Territories ("the fee alignment proposal")¹ at the meeting on 16 April 2013, members were advised that following the alignment exercise, FEHD would conduct a comprehensive review of its fee levels and charging policy so as to put forward recommendations to the Financial Secretary² as soon as possible. While members expressed no objection to the fee alignment proposal, there were worries that FEHD would increase its fees and charges following the comprehensive review. The Administration stressed that there was a need to conduct the comprehensive review as FEHD fees and charges had remained unchanged since 2000³. Members were also advised that while cost recovery would be one consideration in determining the fee levels and charging policy, the affordability of the public and the views of the trade would be taken into account.

¹ The subsidiary legislation relating to the fee alignment proposal was introduced to the Legislative Council ("LegCo") on 29 May 2013 for negative vetting, and came into operation on 19 July 2013.

² The Financial Secretary stated in his speech at the Second Reading debate on the Appropriation Bill 2013 at the Council meeting of 27 February 2013 that to prevent cost recovery items from being turned into heavily subsidized items, all policy bureaux and departments would be requested to carry out a review on their respective fees and charges and submit plans for their revision in one or two years.

³ At the Panel meeting on 30 November 2001, members expressed support for the Administration's proposal that in view of the economic downturn, FEHD fees and charges would be frozen at the level inherited from the two former Municipal Councils up to 31 December 2002. In February 2003, the Administration informed the Panel that it need more time to work out the proposal to align the various FEHD fees and charges. FEHD fees and charges had remained unchanged until the fee alignment proposal took effect on 19 July 2013.

2. The Administration will brief the Panel on its review on fees for slaughterhouse services and cemeteries and crematoria services provided by FEHD at the meeting on 10 February 2015.
3. A list of relevant papers at the LegCo website is in the **Appendix**.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
4 February 2015

Appendix

Relevant papers on

Review on fees and charges for facilities and services provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene	30.11.2001 (Item V)	Agenda Minutes
Council Meeting	27.2.2013	Official Record of Proceedings Pages 7428 to 7430 (the Financial Secretary's speech at the Second Reading debate on the Appropriation Bill 2013 about the Government Revenue)
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene	16.4.2013 (Item IV)	Agenda Minutes
House Committee	31.5.2013 (Item III)	Agenda Minutes