



醫院管理局
HOSPITAL
AUTHORITY

Our Ref. : (31) in HA894/1/8

22 December 2015

Mr Anthony CHU
Clerk
Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central

Dear Mr CHU,

Public Accounts Committee
Consideration of Chapter 2 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 65
Reduction and recycling of food waste

Thank you for your letter dated 15 December 2015 on the captioned subject.

Please find in the Annex measures that the Hospital Authority has taken and would take to further minimize food waste in HA hospitals.

Yours sincerely,

(Desmond NG)
for Chief Executive
Hospital Authority

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與民攜手 Helping People Stay Healthy
保健安康

Public Accounts Committee
Report No. 65 of the Director of Audit
on the results of value for money audits - October 2015

Chapter 2 - Reduction and recycling of food waste

The Hospital Authority (HA) has signed the “Food Wise Charter” since May 2013 under the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign initiated by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to prevent and reduce food waste, and has established a governance structure in the Authority to monitor and oversee follow up actions in relation to results of food waste surveys conducted in the hospitals. According to the survey results as reported in the Audit Commission’s report, the quantity of food waste in the Authority has reduced by 11% in 2015/16 comparing with that in 2013/14.

2. In connection with observations in the Audit Report, HA conducted a special meeting among its hospitals to identify and share good practices, with a view to further preventing and reducing food waste in patient food where practicable. All hospitals with patient meals served have subsequently implemented the following good practices :

- Minimize the number of spare meals as far as possible; and
- Ensure timely updating of patient meal number in the Dietetic and Catering Management System.

3. Initial review of the food waste generated (per-in-patient-per-day) in Grantham Hospital and Kowloon Hospital / Hong Kong Eye Hospital / Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital showed that the amount of food waste was reduced from 0.58 Kg and 0.46 Kg as stated in the report of the audit conducted in July 2015, to 0.33 Kg and 0.35 Kg respectively in November 2015. HA will continue to conduct food waste surveys and identify good practices and areas for improvement with a target to further minimize food wastage.

4. In addition to food waste reduction at source, HA has adopted the following food waste treatment practices with a view to reducing the burden on food waste disposal at landfills :

- 14 hospitals are using decomposers to convert solid food waste into fertilizers for plantings / gardening in the hospital compounds. In the coming three years, more HA hospitals will be included for using decomposers;
- Food waste pulpers are used in hospitals to reduce the weight of food waste by 70%;
- Recycling waste collectors are arranged for food waste collection for converting food waste into fertilizers; and
- HA is exploring food donation programme, through a pilot project in the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital, for donating fresh leftover vegetables and entrée in kitchen to charitable institutions for distributing to people in need. HA will review the effectiveness of the programme in due course.