

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of follow-up actions (position as at 9 January 2017)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
1. Annual report on the Food Surveillance Programme of the Centre for Food Safety ("CFS")	11 March 2014	The Administration was requested to provide information on the maximum permitted concentrations for heavy metals and other harmful substances in food according to the respective standards adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the European Union, the Mainland, the United States and Hong Kong.	Response from the Administration awaited.
	8 March 2016	In the context of receiving the Administration's briefing on the Food Surveillance Programme in 2015 and the major surveillance results for the period, the Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information: (a) its written response to the issues raised in Dr Hon Helena WONG's letter dated 4 March 2016 annexed to the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2016;	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>(b) among the 49 prosecutions initiated by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") from June 2012 to December 2015 against unlicensed food premises selling food online, the number of successful prosecutions taken out; and</p> <p>(c) whether FEHD had any performance pledge for processing applications for permits for online sale of restricted foods; and if yes, the details.</p>	
<p>2. Measures to improve the operating environment of public markets</p>	<p>Meetings of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to:</p> <p>(a) collect views of stall operators in markets without air-conditioning facilities on whether to take forward the retrofitting of air conditioning facilities in their respective markets and provide the Panel with the results (including the percentage of tenants who are in support of the retrofitting of air-conditioning facilities) in the fourth quarter of 2015; and</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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		(b) provide the Panel with information on the outcomes of the consultation with the tenants and the Market Management Consultative Committees of the relevant markets (and other markets, if any) on the improvement proposals for six selected markets and the finalized improvement plans.	
3. Implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme	8 March 2016	The Administration was requested to provide detailed information on CFS's publicity and educational programmes to enhance public understanding of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme and to educate consumers on how to make use of the information available on nutrition labels to make healthier food choices.	The English and Chinese versions of the Administration's response (LC Paper No. CB(2)311/16-17(01)) were issued to members on 5 and 13 December 2016.
4. Import control on poultry eggs	10 May 2016	The Administration was requested to provide a breakdown by places of origin of the 1 029 consignments of poultry eggs inspected by FEHD between 5 December 2015 and 31 March 2016.	Response from the Administration awaited.

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<p>5. Issues relating to animal welfare and cruelty to animals</p>	<p>Meetings of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Animal Welfare and Cruelty to Animals</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the following issues:</p> <p>(a) the results of the review of the definition of "cruelty to animals" and "animal" respectively under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) and the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374); and</p> <p>(b) the overall test results as well as the outcome of the study on commercial pet food products available in Hong Kong.</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>
<p>6. Issues relating to the incidents of hairy crabs detected with dioxins</p>	<p>8 November 2016</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <p>(a) the number of hairy crab samples collected and to be collected for tests on dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls ("PCBs") by CFS under the seasonal food surveillance programme since late September 2016 and the test results;</p>	<p>The Administration's response (LC Paper No. CB(2)452/16-17(01)) was issued to members on 16 December 2016.</p>

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		<p>(b) the rationale for adopting an action level of 6.5 picograms (pg) toxic equivalent per gram (6.5 parts per trillion) of the food sample (wet weight) for dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in edible portion of hairy crabs for the purpose of food surveillance in 2016 and whether consideration would be given to setting out in food safety legislation the limit on the level of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in foods;</p> <p>(c) the scope of testing conducted by CFS in respect of hairy crabs under the seasonal food surveillance programme, whether and what other contaminants were included in the testing;</p> <p>(d) a copy of the official document "Measures for Supervising and Administering the Inspection and Quarantine of Exit Aquatic Animals (出境水生動物檢驗檢疫監督管理辦法)" issued by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the Central People's Government of the</p>	

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		<p>People's Republic of China, which set out requirements, terms and conditions that aquaculture farms or transit farms of exit aquatic animals shall meet in order to apply for registration;</p> <p>(e) the measures taken/to be taken by the Mainland inspection and quarantine authorities to monitor and regulate registered aquaculture farms and registered transit farms for exporting hairy crabs to Hong Kong;</p> <p>(f) whether CFS had informed the relevant Mainland authorities of its decision to conduct from 2014 onwards testing of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs on hairy crabs and whether a notification system had been/would be put in place for CFS to notify the Mainland authorities about any new inclusion of contaminants/substances for testing under CFS's surveillance programme; and</p> <p>(g) the outcome of the review and liaison between the Administration and the Mainland authorities on the monitoring and regulatory arrangements on import</p>	

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		<p>of hairy crabs to Hong Kong, e.g. whether the Mainland authorities would adopt Hong Kong's standards on dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in hairy crabs.</p>	
	19 December 2016	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <p>(a) in respect of food safety incidents occurred in the past three to five years, (i) the amount of compensation or ex-gratia payment that had been made to the affected parties, such as food retailers and suppliers, by the Administration in each of the cases and the reasons for granting the compensation/ex-gratia payment; (ii) whether the Administration had applied any formula for calculating the amount of compensation/ex-gratia payment paid to the affected parties and if yes, the details;</p> <p>(b) given that Hong Kong and the Mainland adopted different standards for testing of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in hairy</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>crabs, whether the Administration would (i) take any specific measures to ensure that hairy crabs imported into Hong Kong from the Mainland were fit for human consumption; and (ii) consider conducting joint testing with the Mainland authorities before the hairy crabs were imported into Hong Kong; and</p> <p>(c) the timetable for reviewing the Administration's policies and drawing up measures to enhance the monitoring and regulatory arrangements on hairy crabs, with a view to ensuring that the import into and sale of hairy crabs in Hong Kong in the next season would not be affected by similar incidents.</p>	
<p>7. Issues concerning the Private Columbaria Bill to be re-introduced</p>	<p>8 November 2016</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the following issues:</p> <p>(a) measures to be taken by the Administration to cope with the shortfall of supply of temporary storage spaces (around 30 000 spaces) for the displaced ashes arising from the</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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		<p>cessation of operation of some private columbaria after the enactment of the Private Columbaria Bill;</p> <p>(b) measures to be adopted for increasing the supply of niches in the coming few years to meet the strong public demand; and</p> <p>(c) whether any initiatives would be taken by the Administration to facilitate the provision of medium-priced niches in the market (e.g. by waiving land premium for private columbaria and setting a cap on the price of the niches to be sold by these columbaria.)</p>	
<p>8. Issues relating to the incident of pigs tainted with prohibited veterinary drugs</p>	<p>8 November 2016</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <p>(a) the number of consignment of live pigs found to contain prohibited veterinary drugs, the number of live pigs involved and the follow-up actions taken by the Administration in these cases (including the number of prosecutions initiated by</p>	<p>The Administration's response (LC Paper No. CB(2)522/16-17(01)) was issued to members on 4 January 2017.</p>

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		<p>FEHD and the number of successful prosecutions taken out), respectively for the periods (i) from 1999 to 2007 and (ii) from 2007 up to present;</p> <p>(b) the Administration's responses to the issues raised in (i) the referral from the Public Complaints Office of the Legislative Council Secretariat on the procedures for testing and slaughtering pigs and (ii) the submission dated 3 November 2016 from Federation of Hong Kong Agricultural Associations;</p> <p>(c) details of the established operational procedures of slaughterhouses for preventing tainted pigs from being slaughtered and discharged to the market;</p> <p>(d) measures to be adopted for enhancing communication among relevant stakeholders to ensure accuracy of information of the distributors and retail outlets involved in the transaction, facilitating the tracing of pigs released to the market; and</p>	

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		(e) recommendations of the working group (established by FEHD) on how to further enhance the entire work flow of the slaughterhouses.	
9. Environmental hygiene issues in the vicinity of the Tung Chau Street Market	13 December 2016	During the discussion on issues relating to the relocation of the Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar to the new Tung Chau Street cloth market, the Administration was requested to provide information on how it would address the needs and concerns of street sleepers in the vicinity of the Tung Chau Street Market arising from the Administration's plan to improve the surroundings of the Tung Chau Street Market.	Response from the Administration awaited.
10. Proposed creation of supernumerary directorate posts in the Food and Health Bureau ("FHB") and CFS	13 December 2016	To facilitate Members' consideration of the proposed establishment proposal, the Administration was requested to provide, in its paper to be submitted to the Establishment Subcommittee, more detailed information on the following matters: (a) how the proposed implementation of the Trade Single Window ("SW")	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>project to be spearheaded by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, to which CFS' IT systems were prepared to migrate, would benefit the food import regulatory and surveillance work of CFS, and the support/input to be provided by the post holder of the proposed supernumerary Senior Principal Executive Officer ("SPEO") post in taking forward the overhaul of IT systems for effective data management in CFS in order to ensure the smooth integration/migration to SW;</p> <p>(b) given that one permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (AOSGB) (D3), designated as Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 2, had been created since 2013 in the Food Branch of FHB, the Administration was requested to justify the proposed creation of an additional supernumerary post of SPEO (D2) in the Food Branch for a period of 2.5 years and to advise on the long-term manpower planning, requirement and resources allocation</p>	

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		<p>for the Food Branch, with information on workload and division of work among different directorate officers; and</p> <p>(c) whether the Administration anticipated any need for the two supernumerary posts, one each in FHB and CFS, to be extended or turned into permanent posts in the future.</p>	
<p>11. Site formation and associated infrastructural works for the development of columbarium at Sandy Ridge Cemetery and the progress of the district-based columbarium development scheme</p>	<p>19 December 2016</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <p>(a) the estimated percentage share of the proposed project "site formation and associated infrastructural works for the development of columbarium at Sandy Ridge Cemetery" in the Government's total estimated expenditure for the entire Sandy Ridge Cemetery project; and</p> <p>(b) regarding the district-based columbarium development scheme under which the Administration had</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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		identified 24 potential sites in the 18 districts for columbarium development, the latest progress of work in each of the sites and the estimated number of new niches to be provided by these projects in the coming five to 10 years.	

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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