

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 13 February 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;	The Administration's response in respect of (a) was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)580/16-17(01) on 11 January 2017.

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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>The Administration's response in respect of (b) and (c) was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)577/16-17(01) on 10 January 2017.</p>
<p>2. Measures to improve the operating environment of public markets and provision of public markets in new development areas</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>(b) provide the Panel with information on the outcomes of the consultation with</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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		<p>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.</p>	
	<p>24 January 2017</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on (a) FEHD's progress in taking forward the installation of air-conditioning in the 10 public markets which had obtained overwhelming support from tenants for the retrofitting of air-conditioning systems and (b) the timetable for completing the installation work in each of the 10 markets.</p> <p>The Administration was also requested to provide detailed information on other suitable sites identified/proposed for development of new public markets (including the number and respective location of the sites) that were purported to serve the residents living in new development areas, such as Tin Shui Wai, and the considerations behind respective proposals.</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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3. 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.	The Administration's response (LC Paper No. CB(2)578/16-17(01)) was issued to members on 10 January 2017.
4. Issues relating to animal welfare and cruelty to animals	Meetings of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Animal Welfare and Cruelty to Animals	<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>	Response from the Administration awaited.
5. Issues concerning the Private Columbaria Bill to be re-introduced	8 November 2016	<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</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>spaces (around 30 000 spaces) for the displaced ashes arising from the 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>6. Environmental hygiene issues in the vicinity of the Tung Chau Street Market</p>	<p>13 December 2016</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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		Administration's plan to improve the surroundings of the Tung Chau Street Market.	
7. Proposed creation of supernumerary directorate posts in the Food and Health Bureau ("FHB") and CFS	13 December 2016	<p>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 ("ESC"), more detailed information on the following matters:</p> <p>(a) how the proposed implementation of the Trade Single Window ("SW") 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>	The Administration's response was set out in its paper submitted to ESC for discussion at its meeting on 18 January 2017 (EC(2016-17)25).

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		<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 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>	
8. Issues relating to the incidents of hairy crabs detected with dioxins	19 December 2016	The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<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 polychlorinated biphenyls in hairy 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>	

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		<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>9. 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 identified 24 potential sites in the 18 districts for columbarium</p>	<p>The English and Chinese versions of the Administration's response were circulated to members vide LC Paper Nos. CB(2)761/16-17 and CB(2)792/19-17 respectively on 7 and 10 February 2017.</p>

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		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.	
10. Measures on prevention and control of mosquitos and biting midges	10 January 2017	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) other than the mosquito prevention and control measures already in place, whether any new and more effective measures would be adopted/considered in the Government's anti-mosquito work; and(b) details of the studies on the surveillance of biting midges infestation in Hong Kong conducted by experts and the measures taken/to be taken by the Administration to address the problem of biting midges in various districts of the territory.	Response from the Administration awaited.

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11. Measures for keeping Hong Kong clean	10 January 2017	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="943 459 1619 927">(a) regarding the service contract tendering mechanism of FEHD, (i) the criteria adopted by the Administration in evaluating the tenders before letting out the cleansing service contracts and (ii) whether the Administration would consider the comments of District Councils and district personalities on the daily performance of the tenderers in considering awarding and renewing the service contracts;<li data-bbox="943 970 1619 1134">(b) FEHD's progress of reviewing the existing cleansing contract tendering system and its timetable for completing the review;<li data-bbox="943 1177 1619 1473">(c) the expenditure incurred on the installation of Internet Protocol ("IP") cameras at certain refuse dumping blackspots in the Central & Western, Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long Districts, which was a pilot scheme implemented since end-2016;	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>(d) given that the Administration would examine the effectiveness of the pilot scheme on installation of IP cameras upon its completion, the findings of the review once available;</p> <p>(e) a copy of the guidance notes and operational guidelines on the use and disclosure of the footage recorded by IP cameras to be drawn up by FEHD to ensure compliance with the provisions on the manner of collecting personal data under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486);</p> <p>(f) the measures formulated by the Administration for improving the cleanliness of shorelines, and details of the additional resources allocated for stepping up the frequencies of clearing marine refuse in the harbour waters and refuse on beaches; and</p> <p>(g) how the Administration would assess the effectiveness of the inter-departmental working group, which was set up in November 2012, in reviewing and formulating strategies/</p>	

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		measures for improving the cleanliness of shorelines.	
12. Demerit Points System ("DPS") for licensed food premises and applications for outside seating accommodation ("OSA") for licensed premises	24 January 2017	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <p>(a) among all the food premises with licences suspended/cancelled in the past five years due to the accumulation of demerit points under the extant DPS, (i) the number and percentage of suspension and cancellation cases involving contravention of food safety requirements and (ii) a breakdown of these cases by the nature of offences; and</p> <p>(b) regarding applications for setting up OSA for licensed food premises, (i) the respective number of applications approved and rejected by FEHD in the past two years; (ii) the average processing time (i.e. from the receipt of an OSA application to the granting of approval/deciding on rejection); (iii) the major reasons for the long</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		processing time required for some applications; and (iv) the main reasons of rejection (with a breakdown by category and number of cases).	

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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