

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 10 March 2017)

- | Subject | Proposed timing
for discussion |
|---|---|
| 1. Proposed creation of a supernumerary directorate post in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department | April 2017 |
| Item proposed by the Administration. | |
| The Administration proposes to create a supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for a period of five years with immediate effect upon the approval of the Finance Committee. The new post shall be responsible for formulating strategies relating to public markets, including the development of new public markets as well as consolidation or closure of under-utilized public markets; and taking forward improvement works projects in public markets. | |
| 2. Public consultation on the way forward for the live poultry trade | April 2017 |
| Item proposed by the Administration. | |
| At the meeting on 18 October 2016, the Chairman suggested that the Panel should follow up with the Administration on the outcome of the consultancy study on the future of the live poultry trade. The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in April 2017. (Please also see item 3 below.) | |
| 3. Wholesale market consultancy study | April 2017 |
| At the meeting on 10 June 2014, members noted that the Administration had commissioned a consultant to | |

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study the present-day functions and purpose of the wholesale business in the sale of fresh food produce, and analyze the geographical spread of the five existing wholesale markets from the perspective of land use and food safety. The Administration undertook to revert to the Panel when the outcome of the consultancy study was ready. At the meeting on 15 October 2015, Hon Steven HO expressed a wish that arrangements be made for early discussion of this subject.

At the meeting between the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the Secretary for Food and Health to discuss the work plan of the Panel for the 2016-2017 session ("the work plan meeting") held on 31 October 2016, the Administration was requested to update members on the latest progress of the wholesale market consultancy study, in particular the feasibility study on relocating Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market and Yau Ma Tei Fruit Market, when reporting to the Panel on the public consultation on the way forward for the live poultry trade (item 2 above refers).

4. Implementation of the Food Safety Ordinance

April 2017

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration plans to update the Panel on the subject in April 2017. (Please also see item 15 below.)

5. Public consultation on the proposed regulation of heavy metallic contamination in food

2nd quarter of 2017

At the meeting on 9 October 2014, Dr Hon Helena WONG expressed concern about the safety standards for heavy metallic contamination in food and urged the Administration to review the relevant legislation for

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regulating the levels of metallic contamination in food. She hoped that the Panel would discuss the subject matter at a Panel meeting. At the meeting on 18 October 2016, she reiterated her concern about the need for the Administration to review the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V).

Noting that the Administration plans to launch a public consultation, at the work plan meeting on 31 October 2016, the Chairman requested the Administration to brief the Panel on the subject matter in March 2017. Having reviewed the progress of work, the Administration advised that more time would be required for its preparation for discussion of this item. It suggested briefing the Panel on this topic in the second quarter of 2017 tentatively.

6. Review of fees for liquor licences

2nd quarter of 2017

Item proposed by the Administration.

At the work plan meeting on 31 October 2016, the Administration was requested to brief the Panel on the results of its review on the fees for liquor licences in the second quarter of 2017.

7. Liquor licensing system in Hong Kong and regulation of upstairs bars

2nd quarter of 2017

At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG expressed concern about problems caused by upstairs bars and the Liquor Licensing Board's considerations in assessing liquor licence applications from them. She suggested the Panel continue to follow up the subject.

At the meeting on 8 April 2014, members noted the

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<p>research report on "Liquor licensing system in selected places" prepared by Research Office, Information Services Division of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat. Hon Tommy CHEUNG suggested the Panel discuss the subject of liquor licensing system in Hong Kong and invite deputations from the trade concerned to give views at a future meeting.</p> <p>At the work plan meeting on 31 October 2016, the Administration was requested to report to the Panel on the subject in the second quarter of 2017.</p>	
8. Reduction of sugar and salt content in food	2 nd quarter of 2017
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to update the Panel on the relevant work of the Government in reducing sugar and salt content in food in the second quarter of 2017.</p>	
9. Government Laboratory's work in respect of food safety and other services	2 nd quarter of 2017
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the second quarter of 2017.</p>	
10. Update on Best Practices on Cooking Oils in Use	2 nd quarter of 2017
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the second quarter of 2017.</p>	

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11. Policies on promoting the development of the agricultural and fisheries industries	2 nd quarter of 2017
<p>At the meeting on 18 October 2016, Hon Steven HO suggested that the Panel should follow up with the Administration on the following issues:</p>	
<p>(a) the Government's proposals of establishing an Agricultural Park and designating "Agricultural Priority Areas" under the New Agriculture Policy;</p> <p>(b) the impact of the changes to the fisheries policy of the Mainland (e.g. the implementation of the annual fishing moratorium in the South China Sea and the provision of fuel subsidy to fishermen by the Mainland authorities) on the Government's implementation of various loan schemes for local fishermen; and</p> <p>(c) the assistance provided for fish farmers affected by natural disasters.</p>	
<p>Regarding (a), the Administration proposed at the work plan meeting on 31 October 2016 to report to the Panel on the progress of initiatives under the New Agriculture Policy in the second quarter of 2017.</p>	
<p>Regarding (b) and (c), the Administration will brief the Panel on the matters when ready.</p>	
12. Regulation of animal feed for livestock and cultured fish and the presence of veterinary drug residues	Before the summer recess of 2017
<p>At the meeting on 15 October 2015, Dr Hon Helena WONG expressed concerns about the regulation of animal feed for livestock and cultured fish and the presence of veterinary drug residues, including antibiotics, in meat and aquatic products for human consumption. She considered that the Panel should</p>	

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discuss these issues at a Panel meeting. In her letter dated 9 December 2015 (LC Paper No. CB(2)422/15-16(01)), Dr WONG reiterated her concerns and requested early discussion of the item. (Please also see item 13 below.)

13. Public consultation on the proposed regulatory framework governing veterinary drug residues in food and food animals

Before the summer
recess of 2017

According to the Administration, it is considering measures to strengthen control over veterinary drug residues in food and food animals in order to enhance food safety and it plans to launch a public consultation on the proposed regulatory framework in due course. At the meeting on 18 October 2016, the Chairman and Dr Hon Pierre CHAN considered that arrangements should be made by the Administration for early discussion of items relating to veterinary drug residues (i.e. items 12 and 13).

At the work plan meeting on 31 October 2016, the Administration undertook to provide an information paper on its work plan regarding antimicrobial resistance ("AMR"). Members may consider the need of discussing items 12 and 13 as a combined item (e.g. "Use of veterinary drugs in food animals and cultured fish and surveillance of veterinary drug residues in food and food animals" as previously suggested by the Administration), after the Administration's provision of the information paper. The said paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)519/16-17(01)) was circulated to members on 3 January 2017. At the Panel meeting on 10 January 2017, members agreed that the Administration should explain in detail its progress in tackling the threat of AMR at a Panel meeting, the agenda of which would include an item covering issues relating to the use of veterinary drugs in food animals and cultured fish and the surveillance of veterinary drug residues in meat and aquatic products.

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The Administration subsequently advised that the Expert Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance has yet to make its recommendations to the High Level Steering Committee ("HLSC") on the AMR containment strategies. The Administration plans to report to the Panel shortly after HLSC has deliberated on the recommendations of the Expert Committee.

14. Implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hong Kong

2nd quarter of 2017

Item proposed by the Administration.

At the meeting on 11 March 2014, members were briefed on the Administration's proposal to introduce a control scheme for the trading of toothfish by way of a piece of legislation for the implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hong Kong. Members noted that the Administration would engage relevant stakeholders (including seafood traders and importers) and seek their views on the proposed control scheme.

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the subject in the second quarter of 2017.

15. Outcome of the comprehensive review of the food-safety related penalties

To be confirmed

Having regard to the views of the members of the Subcommittee on Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2014, the Administration undertook to conduct a comprehensive review of the food safety-related penalties under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and its subsidiary legislation, as well as

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the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612) ("FSO"). The Administration agreed to report to the Panel the outcome of the review. (Paragraphs 29 and 30 of the Subcommittee's report (LC Paper No. CB(2)256/14-15) refers.)

The Subcommittee on Three Regulations Relating to Control Regime for the Import of Eggs also proposed that the Administration should report the progress of the review to the Panel. (Paragraphs 24 to 26 of its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)2123/14-15) refers.)

At the work plan meeting on 31 October 2016, the Administration was requested to update members on the progress of its review when reporting to the Panel on the implementation of FSO (item 4 above refers). The Administration undertook to start the review after the supernumerary directorate post in the Food and Health Bureau had been created with the support of the Panel. That said, it would take time to carry out and complete the review.

16. Public consultation on the proposed regulation of cooked meat

To be confirmed

At the special meeting on 3 September 2014, members expressed concern about inadequate regulation of cooked meat and considered that the subject should be followed up by the Panel. The Administration advised that it would review the relevant legislation and seek the views of LegCo Members and the trade.

At the meeting on 9 October 2014, Dr Hon Helena WONG hoped that the Administration would brief the Panel as early as possible on the progress of the review on legislation relating to the regulation of cooked meat. At the meeting on 18 October 2016, she reiterated her concern and requested that the Administration should report to the Panel on the subject.

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17. Consultation results of the proposed introduction of the pre-market safety assessment on genetically-modified food	To be confirmed
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the item when ready.	
18. Ancillary facilities for storage and distribution of chilled meat and poultry	To be confirmed
At the meeting on 9 October 2014, Hon Michael TIEN expressed concern about the lack of ancillary facilities for wholesaling of chilled meat and poultry. He pointed out that the trade had made repeated requests for the setting up of an approved distribution and storage centre by the Government for the chilled meat and poultry with a view to reducing food safety risks. He hoped that the Panel would follow up the subject matter.	
At the meeting on 15 October 2015, Hon Steven HO and Hon Michael TIEN expressed concern about the slow progress of the Administration in taking forward the initiative of setting up an approved distribution and storage centre for chilled meat and poultry. They requested for early discussion of the subject matter by the Panel.	
19. Regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture in Hong Kong	To be confirmed
At the meeting on 9 February 2010, in the light of the concerns raised by Hon WONG Yung-kan, a suggestion was made that the issue of regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture within Hong Kong waters should be discussed by the Panel at a future meeting.	

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During the discussion of the implementation of FSO at the meeting on 11 July 2012, Hon WONG Yung-kan expressed worry about the over-expansion of oyster culture in Shenzhen Bay and urged the Administration to step up the regulatory measures for oyster culture (including the introduction of a licensing mechanism).	
20. Issues relating to food safety	To be confirmed
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki requested at the meeting on 18 October 2016 that the Administration should be requested to liaise with the Mainland authorities to make arrangements for members to visit registered farms in the Guangdong Province to better understand the regulation and operation of those registered farms which supplied food to Hong Kong. At the work plan meeting on 31 October 2016, the Administration undertook to relay Dr KWOK's request to the Mainland authorities for consideration.	
21. Measures to facilitate the establishment of co-operative societies	To be confirmed
In his letter dated 12 December 2016 (LC Paper No. CB(2)413/16-17(01)), Hon CHU Hoi-dick expressed concern on the need for the Administration to review the Co-operative Societies Ordinance (Cap. 33) and draw up measures for promoting local community economy by facilitating the establishment of co-operative societies. He suggested that the Panel should discuss the subject matter at a future meeting. The Administration's response to issues raised in the letter from Hon CHU was set out in LC Paper No. CB(2)514/16-17(01) issued on 3 January 2017.	