



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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29 May 2017

Clerk to LegCo Panel on Food Safety and
Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong.
(Attn: Miss Josephine SO)

Dear Miss SO,

**LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Follow-up Actions Arising from Special Meeting on 16 May 2017**

**Outcome of the consultancy study on
the way forward for the live poultry trade in Hong Kong**

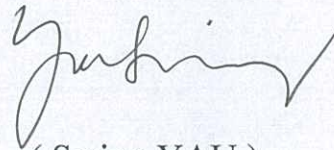
In response to the Chairman's enquiry at the special meeting of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (the Panel) on 16 May 2016, the Government provides in the ensuing paragraphs supplementary information on the resources spent on the prevention and control of avian influenza (AI).

The Government implements a range of preventive and control measures against the risk of AI. The expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on this front was \$49.5 million in 2015-16. The work includes ensuring local farms comply with the requirements related to biosecurity, farm hygiene and vaccination of chickens against AI virus through regular inspections at the farms, and education on farm management and disease prevention to local farmers and their workers. AFCD officers also carry out surveillance of pet bird shops, combat illegal

keeping of backyard poultry, and take samples from wild bird carcasses for AI tests. In the same year, the expenditure of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) on related work was about \$13.5 million. The work includes conducting surveillance on AI virus in imported live poultry at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station, and regularly inspecting registered farms on the Mainland that supply poultry to Hong Kong. At the wholesale poultry market and retail outlets, samples are collected for testing to closely monitor if AI virus is present in the environment, and cleansing is strictly implemented to ensure observance of the hygiene requirement. The estimated expenditure of AFCD and FEHD on this front in 2017-18 is \$50.8 million and \$17.1 million respectively.

Given that AI prevention and control measures are implemented holistically but are not limited to the live poultry supply chain, the expenditure of these measures if sale of live poultry were to be banned cannot be separately estimated.

Yours sincerely,



(Swing YAU)

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.

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