

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of follow-up actions (position as at 7 June 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 ("Codex"), the European Union, the Mainland, the United States and Hong Kong.	The Administration has put forth proposals to update the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V). The proposals are detailed in the public consultation document entitled "Proposed Amendments to the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations" released on 6 June 2017, with Annex III of which setting out the information on the maximum levels of the metallic contaminants set by Codex.
2 Measures to improve the operating environment of public markets and provision of public	Meetings of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets	The Administration was requested to: (a) collect views of stall operators in markets without air-conditioning	Response from the Administration awaited. (Please refer to paragraphs 2 to 4 of the Administration's

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<p>markets in new development areas</p>		<p>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 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>letter dated 27 March 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1085/16-17(01)) for the Administration's initial response.)</p>
	<p>24 January, 14 March and 11 April 2017</p>	<p>At these Panel meetings, members repeatedly requested the Administration to provide detailed information on:</p> <p>(a) (i) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD")'s progress in taking forward the installation of air-conditioning in the 10 public markets which had obtained</p>	

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		<p>overwhelming support from tenants for the retrofitting of air-conditioning systems and (ii) the timetable for completing the installation work in each of the 10 markets;</p> <p>(b) 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; and</p> <p>(c) measures taken by FEHD to improve the facilities and operating environment of public markets and the resources involved.</p>	
3 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>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<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>4 Issues concerning the Private Columbaria Bill</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 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>Response from the Administration awaited. (Regarding items (a) and (b), please refer to paragraphs 2 to 10 of the Administration's paper dated 31 March 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1112/16-17(01)) for the Administration's initial response.)</p>

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	9 May 2017	The Administration was requested to provide a response to the view that the Administration should, having regard to the High Court's ruling on 28 April 2017 on the judicial review case concerning civil service benefits to the spouse of a homosexual civil servant, re-consider the admissibility of Committee stage amendments proposed by some Members to the Private Columbaria Bill which respectively sought to (i) extend the definition of "relative" under section 6(2) of Schedule 5 to the Bill so that a deceased person's same-sex partner in a marriage, civil partnership or civil union in any jurisdiction outside Hong Kong would be eligible to claim for the return of the deceased person's ashes and (ii) further amend the Administration's proposed definition of "related person" under the same section and the relevant priority of claims.	Response from the Administration awaited.
5 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	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		Chau Street Market arising from the Administration's plan to improve the surroundings of the Tung Chau Street Market.	
6 Issues relating to the incidents of hairy crabs detected with dioxins	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 polychlorinated biphenyls ("PCBs") in hairy crabs, whether the Administration would</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>(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>	
	11 April 2017	The Administration was requested to provide information on (a) the action levels for dioxins/dioxin-like PCBs in hairy crabs adopted by CFS respectively before and after 2016; and (b) the reasons for CFS' setting categorically an action level of 6.5 picograms toxic equivalent per gram for hairy crabs in 2016 for the purpose of food surveillance, while the taking of food samples for dioxin testing since 1999 had	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>been observing the then Hygiene Division of the Department of Health's action level of 1 picogram toxic equivalent per gram of the food sample.</p>	
<p>7 Measures on prevention and control of mosquitos and biting midges</p>	<p>10 January 2017</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(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.</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>
<p>8 Measures for keeping Hong Kong clean</p>	<p>10 January 2017</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited. (Regarding items (a) and (b), please refer to the second last paragraph of the</p>

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		<p>(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;</p> <p>(b) FEHD's progress of fine-tuning the existing cleansing contract tendering system and its timetable for completing the exercise;</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(d) given that the Administration would examine the effectiveness of the pilot scheme on installation of IP cameras</p>	<p>Administration's letter dated 7 April 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1174/16-17(01)) for the Administration's initial response.)</p>

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		<p>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/ measures for improving the cleanliness of shorelines.</p>	

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<p>9 Demerit Points System ("DPS") for licensed food premises and applications for outside seating accommodation ("OSA") for licensed premises</p>	<p>24 January 2017</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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 (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 processing time required for some applications; and (iv) the main reasons of rejection (with a breakdown by category and number of cases). 	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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10 Rodent prevention and control measures	14 March 2017	The Administration was requested to provide information on how FEHD monitored the situation of rodent infestation in public markets and the targeted measures taken by FEHD to control the rodent problem in public markets.	Response from the Administration awaited.
11 Import of frozen and chilled meat and poultry meat from Brazil	8 April 2017	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <p>(a) regarding the 17 060 samples of meat and poultry meat taken by CFS for testing under the food surveillance programme in the past three years, (i) details of the testing parameters (e.g. metallic contaminants, veterinary drug residues and micro-organisms) adopted by CFS; (ii) the major problems identified in the 36 samples found unsatisfactory; and (iii) the follow-up actions taken by CFS in response to the unsatisfactory samples;</p> <p>(b) the total quantity of meat and poultry meat products supplied to Hong Kong by the 6/21 Brazilian meat plants in question/under investigation during the six weeks immediately preceding 21 March 2017, the date on which CFS decided to temporarily suspend the</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>import of all frozen and chilled meat and poultry meat from Brazil in the wake of the food safety incident under discussion ("the incident");</p> <p>(c) the total quantity of meat and poultry meat products covered by valid import licences issued by FEHD to the 6/21 meat plants in question/under investigation in the last year, and their respective percentage shares in the total quantity of Brazilian meat products covered by import licences issued during the same period of time;</p> <p>(d) other than the 21 meat plants under investigation, a full list of Brazilian meat plants currently permitted to supply meat products to Hong Kong;</p> <p>(e) in relation to the 180 samples of chilled meat and poultry meat imported from Brazil and taken at the import and retail levels for testing of meat deterioration and other food safety indicators (e.g. metallic contaminants, veterinary drug residues, pesticide residues, sorbic acid, nitrate and nitrite), details of the test results of different meat items against individual indicators/parameters;</p>	

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		<p>(f) regarding the recall of Brazilian meat or poultry meat ordered by CFS on 24 March 2017, (i) the latest progress of recall including the total quantity of meat and poultry meat recalled and the retailing points involved; (ii) a list of local food importers, distributors and retailers affected by the recall;</p> <p>(g) the progress of inspections conducted by CFS on local retailing points since the incident to ensure compliance with the mandatory recall order;</p> <p>(h) the seven sources/channels from which CFS collected information/intelligence to assist in its identification and tracing of the source of problematic food imported into Hong Kong and determining the extent of distribution of the food concerned in the territory; and the measures taken by CFS to enhance the food tracing mechanism established under the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612); and</p> <p>(i) the number of convicted cases involving contravention of sections 52/54 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and/or</p>	

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		<p>the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap. 362) in the past three to five years and the penalties imposed by the Court on the convicted persons.</p>	
<p>12 Implementation of the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612) ("FSO")</p>	<p>9 May 2017</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the manpower involved in conducting inspections on food importers, distributors and retailers between 2014 to 2016 to ensure that the trade complied with the registration scheme and the requirement of keeping transaction records under FSO and the number of food premises inspected by the Administration during the same period; and (b) the major findings of the inspections and follow-up actions taken by the Administration, including the respective numbers of prosecution instituted against (i) food importers/distributors who had not registered under FSO and (ii) food traders for failing to comply with the record keeping requirement. 	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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13 Supply of niches and related issues	9 May 2017	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) traffic improvement measures to be taken by the Administration to alleviate the additional traffic arising from the columbarium project at Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun;(b) whether consideration would be given to allowing storage of synthetic materials (e.g. synthetic diamond transformed from human ashes) in public niches; and(c) whether the Administration would consider adopting the following measures to promote green burial: (i) establishing a registration scheme for people to indicate their willingness to adopt green burial; (ii) offering monetary incentives to encourage adoption of green burial; and (iii) waiving the relevant charges and fees for cremation service if the family members/relatives of the deceased decided to adopt green burial.	Response from the Administration awaited.