

LC Paper No. CB(2)543/17-18 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PS/2/16

# Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Animal Rights

# Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 31 October 2017, at 4:30 pm in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members : present	Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP (Chairman) Hon Claudia MO (Deputy Chairman) Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS Hon CHAN Chi-chuen Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP Hon CHU Hoi-dick Hon HUI Chi-fung Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH Hon KWONG Chun-yu Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho
Public Officers : attending	Items II & IIIDr CHUI Tak-yi, JP Under Secretary for Food & Health Food and Health BureauMr Bill WONG Kwok-piu Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food)3 Food and Health BureauDr Thomas SIT Hon-chung Assistant Director (Inspection & Quarantine) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

	Dr Mary CHOW Ka-wai Senior Veterinary Officer (Animal Management) Development Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
	Dr Esther TO Man-wai Senior Veterinary Officer (Animal Management) Operations Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Clerk in attendance	: Ms Alice LEUNG Chief Council Secretary (2) 6
Staff in attendance	: Miss Connie AU Council Secretary (2) 6 Miss Meisy KWOK Legislative Assistant (2) 6

#### Action

### I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman (if required)

<u>Members</u> considered it not necessary to re-elect the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Animal Rights ("the Subcommittee"). <u>Dr CHIANG Lai-wan</u> and <u>Ms Claudia MO</u> agreed to continue to serve as the Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively in the 2017-2018 session.

II. Implementation of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)147/17-18(01) and (02))

2. <u>The Subcommittee</u> deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

(At 5:24 pm, the Chairman suspended the meeting to allow those Subcommittee members who were also members of the Panel on Development ("DEV Panel") to proceed to the meeting venue of DEV Panel for voting on a motion. The meeting resumed at 5:34 pm.)

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>Under Secretary for Food & Health</u> ("USFH") briefed members on the progress of implementation of the Public

Action

Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (LC Paper No. CB(2)147/17-18(01)).

- Admin 4. <u>The Subcommittee</u> requested the Administration to provide the following information:
  - (a) of the 90 complaints received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD") between 20 March 2017, the commencement date of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B), and 30 September 2017, a breakdown in terms of their sources, specifically (i) complaints from the public on the Internet; (ii) complaints from the public over the phone; (iii) self-initiated by the investigation unit of AFCD; and (iv) others; and
  - (b) the number of prosecutions instituted, the number of successful prosecutions as well as details of the penalties handed down by the court in the past three years for prosecutions against cruelty to dogs and cats under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169).
  - **III.** Observation of dogs and cats on public health grounds (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)147/17-18(03) to (05))

5. <u>The Subcommittee</u> deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

6. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>USFH</u> briefed members on the background and cause for keeping dogs and cats for observation on public health grounds (LC Paper No. CB(2)147/17-18(03)).

# IV. The way forward for the Subcommittee

7. <u>The Subcommittee</u> deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

8. <u>Members</u> noted that no further meeting of the Subcommittee would be held. <u>Members</u> agreed in principle that it was desirable for the Subcommittee to continue to be tasked with the responsibility to study the issues relating to animal rights and welfare and that approval be sought from the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the Panel") and the Action

House Committee on the Subcommittee's proposed continuation of work for another 12 months.

(*Post-meeting note*: The Panel and the House Committee endorsed the Subcommittee's proposed continuation of work at its meeting on 14 November 2017 and 1 December 2017 respectively.)

Clerk9. The Chairman suggested and members agreed that a site visit to the<br/>Chong Hing Water Sports Centre ("CHWSC") in Sai Kung be arranged to be<br/>held in November 2017. The Chairman instructed the Secretariat to<br/>follow-up with the Administration regarding the proposed visit to CHWSC to<br/>understand the ecological environment of the site for relocated stray cattle.

(*Post-meeting note:* Members were informed vide LC Paper No. CB(2)241/17-18 on 3 November 2017 that the site visit to CHWSC would be held on 14 November 2017.)

# V. Any other business

10. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:17 pm.

Council Business Division 2 Legislative Council Secretariat 15 December 2017

# Proceedings of the meeting of the Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Animal Rights on Tuesday, 31 October 2017, at 4:30 pm in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

		Required
on of Chairman and I	Deputy Chairman (if required)	
hairman eputy Chairman Ir Steven HO r Elizabeth QUAT	Members considered it not necessary to re-elect the chairman and deputy chairman.	
hairman	Opening remarks	
ementation of the Pul 139B)	blic Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) R	egulations
hairman dmin	Briefing by the Administration on the progress of implementation of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (LC Paper No. CB(2)147/17-18(01))	
hairman eputy Chairman dmin	<ul> <li>The Deputy Chairman enquired about:</li> <li>(a) the manner in which the 2 400 inspections mentioned in paragraph 7 of the Administration's paper were conducted; and</li> <li>(b) the details of the 13 cases mentioned in paragraph 9 of the Administration's paper which were said to be still under investigation by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD").</li> <li>The Administration responded that:</li> <li>(a) the inspections conducted included inspections of licensed premises, inspections for new applications as well as those carried out in response to complaints about suspected illegal animal trading/dog breeding activities. Over half of these 2 400 inspections were surprise inspections; and</li> <li>(b) on receipt of complaints regarding suspected illegal animal trading/dog breeding activities, a dedicated investigation unit of AFCD ("the investigation, unit") would conduct further investigations, including decov operations as necessary to collect</li> </ul>	
	hairman eputy Chairman fr Steven HO r Elizabeth QUAT nairman ementation of the Pul 139B) hairman dmin hairman eputy Chairman	eputy Chairman       chairman and deputy chairman.         ir Steven HO       chairman and deputy chairman.         r Elizabeth QUAT       Opening remarks         nairman       Opening remarks <i>imentation of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) R 139B</i> )         hairman       Briefing by the Administration on the progress of implementation of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (LC Paper No. CB(2)147/17-18(01))         hairman       The Deputy Chairman enquired about:         eputy Chairman       (a) the manner in which the 2 400 inspections mentioned in paragraph 7 of the Administration's paper were conducted; and         (b) the details of the 13 cases mentioned in paragraph 9 of the Administration's paper which were said to be still under investigation by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD").         The Administration responded that:       (a) the inspections conducted included inspections of licensed premises, inspections for new applications as well as those carried out in response to complaints about suspected illegal animal trading/dog breeding activities. Over half of these 2 400 inspections were surprise inspections; and         (b) on receipt of complaints regarding suspected illegal animal trading/dog breeding activities, a dedicated investigation unit of AFCD ("the investigation

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action Required
		In response to the Deputy Chairman's further enquiry about the work of the investigation unit, the Administration explained that other than acting upon complaints, the investigation unit would also proactively monitor advertisements for animal trading and boarding activities on the Internet. Among the 90 complaints about offers to sell a dog without a licence or One-off permit mentioned in paragraph 9 of the Administration's paper, majority of them were identified through the proactive monitoring by the investigation unit.	
		The Deputy Chairman requested the Administration to provide a breakdown in terms of the sources of the 90 complaints.	Admin (paragraph 4(a) of the minutes)
001739 – 002248	Chairman Mr Jeremy TAM Admin	Mr Jeremy TAM expressed concern that only a total of 90 complaints had been handled by the investigation unit over a period of six months. The Administration explained that the investigation unit, which comprised of seven staff, would monitor advertisements for animal trading and boarding activities on the Internet every day. More than 200 relevant advertisements on the Internet were screened each month. However, the number of suspicious cases that warranted further investigation was much less than the number of advertisements screened.	
		At the request of Mr TAM, the Administration was requested to advise in writing, of the 90 complaints received by AFCD between 20 March 2017 (i.e. the commencement date of the amended Cap. 139B) and 30 September 2017, a breakdown in terms of their sources, specifically (i) complaints from the public on the Internet; (ii) complaints from the public over the phone; (iii) self-initiated by the investigation unit; and (iv) others.	Admin (paragraph 4(a) of the minutes)
002249 – 002928	Chairman Mr KWONG Chun-yu Admin	Mr KWONG Chun-yu was concerned that given the fast-paced trading of animals on the Internet, if AFCD took a long time to carry out its investigation work, those illegal transactions might have completed before AFCD could take action on them. He enquired:	
		(a) whether the 90 complaints handled by AFCD in relation to Cap. 139B could fairly present the situation of illegal animal trading/dog breeding activities in Hong Kong; and	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action Required
		<ul><li>(b) referring to the Administration's response to Mr Jeremy TAM's question above, what criteria were used by AFCD in determining whether a case would warrant further investigation.</li></ul>	
		The Administration responded that:	
		<ul> <li>(a) a more stringent licensing regime was implemented under Cap. 139B to regulate animal trading and dog breeding activities, and the penalty levels for contravention of Cap. 139B had been increased. Illegal animal trading and dog breeding activities might be reduced due to the heightened deterrent effect upon implementation of the enhanced regulatory regime under Cap. 139B. While AFCD would continue to take vigorous enforcement actions to deter illegal dog breeding and selling activities, AFCD would continue to conduct publicity activities to remind the public to buy dogs from persons with the relevant licence and permit to sell dogs; and</li> <li>(b) a lot of planning and preparation work, including</li> </ul>	
		obtaining legal advice from the Department of Justice as necessary, were needed in commissioning a decoy operation and all these work would take time and involve many staff members.	
002929 – 003448	Chairman Mr CHAN Chi-chuen Admin	Noting that there were only six approved applications each for Dog Breeder Licence (Category A) ("DBLA") and Dog Breeder Licence (Category B) ("DBLB") since 20 March 2017 up to 30 September 2017, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen asked whether it was within the expectation of the Administration. He was concerned if it was due to insufficient publicity on the enhanced regulatory regime.	
		The Administration advised that the figures were considered normal as it would take time for the applicants, in particular those of DBLB, to make the necessary preparations, such as erecting the dog kennels (applicable to DBLB), in order to fulfill the statutory requirements before a licence would be granted to them. The six DBLBs issued covered a total of 121 female dogs and amongst them, the maximum number of female dogs covered by a single licence was 42.	
		In response to Mr CHAN's further enquiry, the Administration replied that all six DBLAs were located in domestic premises. It was explained that	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action Required
		application of the relevant requirements set out in the deeds of mutual Covenant ("DMCs") and ensuring their compliance were outside the ambit of AFCD's regulatory power for the licensing regime. That notwithstanding, AFCD had examined DMCs of all six DBLAs in their approval process. If there was evidence to indicate that any breach of the relevant provisions in the relevant DMCs might affect the suitability of the premises concerned to be used for the breeding of dogs or the compliance with the relevant requirements, depending on the circumstances of the particular case, it might be one of the relevant factors for the Administration to take into account when considering whether to grant a licence.	
003449 – 003843	Chairman Admin	In response to the Chairman's enquiry regarding the sources of dogs for sale through an animal trader holding an Animal Trader Licence ("ATL"), the Administration replied that the dogs were either imported or sourced from licensees of DBLB. AFCD staff would inspect the relevant documents on the sources of dogs during their regular inspection of ATLs. The Chairman's enquiry and the Administration's response regarding the legislations prohibiting the sale of wild animals and endangered species of animals in Hong Kong.	
003844 - 004431	Chairman Deputy Chairman Admin	The Deputy Chairman requested the Administration to elucidate its stance on the review of the current legislations on safeguarding animal rights and enactment of a comprehensive and consolidated legislation on animal protection. The Administration responded that on the issue of protection for animal welfare, its key consideration was whether the existing legislations could achieve the objective of safeguarding the welfare of animals. The Administration would keep in view the relevant legislative provisions on animal protection to ensure that they could serve its purpose and were up-to-date. It would also pay close attention to the relevant international trend and propose amendments to the relevant legislations as necessary, having regard to the unique local situation. As such, the Administration did not see the need for enactment of a comprehensive and consolidated legislation on animal protection at the present stage.	

Time	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action
marker		The Deputy Chairman expressed the view that the proposed introduction of a concept of positive duty of care on animal keepers promulgated in the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address was not an effective measure to protect animal rights. She also reiterated her concern that Cap. 139B had, in effect, legalized commercial breeding of dogs, which, in her view, should be banned.	Required
		In response to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry, the Administration advised that site inspections would be conducted in processing the applications for DBLA and DBLB. The number of female dogs that were allowed to be kept by a licensee of DBLA would depend on the area of the premises concerned (100 sq ft per one small dog and not exceeding four female dogs on the premises).	
004432 – 004614	Chairman Admin	In response to the Chairman's enquiry on the general environment of the licensed premises of DBLA, the Administration advised that of the six DBLAs already approved, only one to three female dogs were kept by each licensee and it was believed that these licensees kept their dogs as pets. In some cases, applicants would withdraw their applications when they understood that they could not meet the relevant licensing requirements.	
004615 – 004737	Chairman Deputy Chairman Admin	In response to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry, the Administration advised that three applications for DBLA had been withdrawn by applicants and one application for DBLA had been rejected by AFCD since 20 March 2017 up to 30 September 2017.	
004738 – 005409	Chairman Mr KWONG Chun-yu Admin	Mr KWONG Chun-yu expressed disappointment at the Administration's stance regarding the enactment of a comprehensive legislation on animal protection. He opined that in order to render better protection to animals, a comprehensive and consolidated legislation on animal protection was needed. In addition, the penalty levels for animal cruelty should be increased to achieve better deterrent effect. In response, the Administration reiterated its view on the subject as detailed in its earlier response to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry.	
		Mr KWONG maintained his view that the Administration should establish "animal police" teams specifically tasked to combat animal cruelty cases. The Administration responded that as explained to members by the Police at its meeting on 17 January	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action Required
		2017, a similar arrangement was currently in place in that the District Commander might, having regard to the manpower of the police district, the nature and prevailing trend of cases, assign animal cruelty cases to dedicated teams. Mr KWONG stressed that the said arrangement was not available in all police districts.	
005410 - 005810	Chairman Mr LAU Kwok-fan Admin	Mr LAU Kwok-fan stressed that as cases of cruelty to animals still happened from time to time, the Administration should review the relevant legislation as well as the penalty levels for cruelty to animals to enhance the deterrent effect against cruelty to animals.	
		The Administration reiterated its stance on the review of the current legislations on safeguarding animal rights as detailed in its earlier response to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry. It added that as reported to the Subcommittee at its meeting on 17 January 2017, the Administration had reviewed the definition of "cruelty to animals" under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169), as well as the penalties under Cap. 169 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations (Cap. 169A) by drawing reference from the equivalent definitions/penalties in other jurisdictions. It was noted that the existing definition of "cruelty to animals" under the Cap. 169 and the relevant penalty levels were by and large comparable to those of other jurisdictions. It also advised that to further enhance animal welfare, it would consider exploring the introduction of a concept of positive duty of care on animal which was a new initiative in the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address.	
		The Administration was requested to provide information on the number of prosecutions instituted, the number of successful prosecutions as well as details of the penalties handed down by the court in the past three years for prosecutions against cruelty to dogs and cats under Cap. 169.	Admin (paragraph 4(b) of the minutes)
005811 – 010846		Suspension of meeting	
Item III –	Diservation of dogs and c	ats on public health grounds	
010847 – 011047	Chairman Admin	Briefing by the Administration on the background and cause for keeping dogs and cats for observation on public health grounds (LC Paper No. CB(2)147/17-18(03))	
011048 – 011807	Chairman Mr LAU Kwok-fan Admin	Mr LAU Kwok-fan expressed concern about the two recent incidents in which cats were being ordered by AFCD to be put under observation on receipt of	

Time	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action Bequired
marker		complaints from the public. In his view, there was a need to review the corresponding observation arrangements and the relevant legislations, including the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) and the Dogs and Cats Ordinance (Cap. 167). According to his understanding, in many biting or attack cases, the dogs or cats concerned were agitated by external stimulus and the attack was just an intuitive response of an animal rather than a sign of rabies infection, and in some cases, it might even be a false allegation. Pointing out that the public had a negative impression about the hygiene condition of the Animal Management Centres ("AMCs") in which the animals were put under observation, he suggested that the Administration should allow home observation for cats and dogs even if they had not received vaccination against rabies.	Required
		The Administration advised that: (a) the chance of false allegation was slim as AFCD would act upon the referral from the Police (as provided in Cap. 421, the keeper of an animal that had bitten a person should report the case to the Police) and in many cases, the medical treatment record of the bitten person were also provided. AFCD would contact both the bitten person and the keeper of an animal to investigate the case. The animal concerned would be put under observation for a period of seven days from the date of the incident;	
		(b) the biting animal would be taken to one of the AMCs for observation in a single-occupancy compartment under the care of veterinary officers of AFCD. In view of the close animal-keeper bond in some cases, AFCD also allowed the option of home observation provided that the animal was on up-to-date rabies vaccination (i.e. within three years of vaccination). In occasional circumstances, if the animal had exhibited other health issues which warranted close monitoring by a veterinarian, AFCD would also allow the animal to be kept in a private veterinary clinic under the care of a veterinarian; and	
		<ul><li>(c) biting and aggression could be clinical signs of rabies infection which might lead to fatality within a short period. It was thus necessary to put animals with such symptoms under observation. Although Hong Kong had no reported rabies case</li></ul>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action Required
		for more than 30 years, the Administration must remain vigilant against the risk of rabies as rabies cases still occurred in other Asian countries.	
011808 – 012422	Chairman Deputy Chairman Admin	The Deputy Chairman expressed concern about the possibility of false allegations and abuse of the complaints mechanism by persons with an unscrupulous intent. The Administration reiterated the importance of putting animals under observation on public health grounds. It stressed that the observation arrangement was not a penalty for the animal concerned nor its keeper (hence, there was nothing so-called "arrest by appointment" as reported by some media), instead, it was necessary for protecting public health as well as safeguarding the health of animals. There were over 1 000 animals being put under observation for rabies every year and over 60% of them undergone home observation.	
012423 – 012943	Chairman Mr KWONG Chun-yu Admin	Mr KWONG Chun-yu expressed a similar concern with the Deputy Chairman and enquired if the Administration would review the current observation arrangements to avoid abuse. The Administration explained that while AFCD might take a few days to investigate a case, it was of utmost importance to put the animal with symptoms of infection under observation as soon as possible once a biting incident had occurred so as to minimize the risk of outbreak of rabies in the community.	
012944 – 013737	Chairman Mr Jeremy TAM Admin	In response to Mr Jeremy TAM's enquiry, the Administration explained that the Dogs and Cats Ordinance (Cap. 167) was enacted in 1950s to regulate the keeping and control of dogs and cats and to provide for the suppression of rabies and other infection diseases. Subsequently, in response to the rabies outbreak in 1980s, Cap. 421 was enacted to specifically strengthen the control of rabies. Currently, AFCD would invoke the relevant clauses of Cap. 421 (instead of Cap. 167) in arranging for the observation of animals, including dogs and cats, on public health grounds.	
		Mr TAM also raised a query why Cap. 139B had only put the breeding activities of dogs under control. The Administration explained that based on past investigation records and conviction cases, the welfare of dogs that were kept for breeding purpose was compromised more frequently and to a greater extent	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action Required
		than other types of pet. The Administration therefore saw a strong case to put dog breeding activities under licensing control. It would review the effectiveness of the enhanced regulatory regime in around two years' time after its commencement and assess the need to extend its coverage to cats.	
Item IV – 2	The way forward for the S	ubcommittee	
013738 - 014056	Chairman	The Chairman said that according to rule 26(c) of the House Rules, the Subcommittee should complete its work within 12 months of its commencement and report to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the Panel"). As the first meeting of the Subcommittee was held on 16 December 2016, it would need to conclude its work by 15 December 2017. The Chairman further said that the Subcommittee had basically discussed all issues under its work plan and suggested by members at its first meeting, excluding those items which were under the purview of other Panels. Members noted that these items included (a) protection of endangered species of animals (including import and export control of fur products and ivory) and measures to prevent and combat illegal hunting and trapping of animals; and (b) welfare of captive animals in the Ocean Park. The Chairman suggested that members might follow-up these issues with relevant Panels, if they so wished. The Chairman further advised that the Deputy Chairman had written to her before summer recess requesting the Subcommittee to invite deputations to give views on the issues relating to conservation of cattle. Members noted that a number of cattle concern groups had already given their views at the Subcommittee meetings on 24 April and 26 June 2017 under the agenda items on "Management of stray cattle" and "Issues relating to the promotion of animal- friendly measures (including public rental housing, public transport and public open space)" respectively. Members also noted that no further meeting would be held. Taking into consideration that concern was raised about the suitability of the Chong Hing Water Sports Centre ("CHWSC") as the site for relocated stray cattle, the Chairman suggested and members agreed that a visit to CHWSC be arranged to facilitate members to obtain first hand understanding of the ecological environment there.	
014057 – 014513	Chairman Deputy Chairman Clerk	The Deputy Chairman considered it desirable for the Subcommittee to continue to be tasked with the responsibility to study issues relating to animal rights	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action Required	
		and welfare and to extend its period of work for another 12 months because:		
		<ul> <li>(a) there were a number of issues that would need to be followed-up or studied by the Subcommittee, including the emerging concept of protection of farmed animals against cruelty; and</li> </ul>		
		(b) given the various issues on food safety and environmental hygiene which had to be considered by the Panel, little time would be left for discussion of issues relating to animal rights and a dedicated subcommittee was considered necessary to take up the subject.		
		The Clerk explained the arrangements for extension of period of work of subcommittees on policy issues in the Sixth Legislative Council as agreed at the House Committee meeting on 7 July 2017.		
014514 – 014757	Chairman Mr KWONG Chun-yu Admin	Mr Kwong Chun-yu echoed the Deputy Chairman's view on the need for a subcommittee dedicated to the study of issues relating to animal rights.		
		Noting that even if the Subcommittee's proposed continuation of work was approved by the Panel and the House Committee, the Subcommittee would be put on the waiting list and could be re-activated only when a vacant slot was available, Mr KWONG suggested that if possible, one more meeting should be arranged before December 2017.		
014758 – 015108	Chairman Clerk	The Clerk further explained the arrangements for extension of period of work of the Subcommittee.		
		The Chairman suggested and members agreed that approval be sought from the Panel and the House Committee on the Subcommittee's proposed continuation of work for another 12 months.		
		The Chairman instructed the Secretariat to follow-up with the Administration regarding the proposed visit to CHWSC, which was tentatively scheduled to be held in November 2017.	<b>Clerk</b> (paragraph 9 of the minutes)	
Item V – A	Item V – Any other business			
015109 – 015123	Chairman Admin	Closing remarks		