



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

31 January 2018

Ms Wendy LO  
Senior Council Secretary (2)2  
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Legislative Council Secretariat  
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(Fax : 2509 9055)

Dear Ms LO

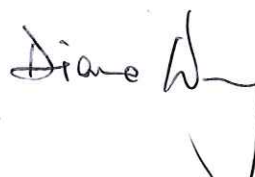
**List of Follow-up Actions**

Regarding LC Paper No. CB(2) 606/17-18(02), we provide the following replies on the subjects in the list of follow-up actions:

Subject	Our Response
1. Measures to improve the operating environment of public markets and provision of public markets in new development areas	Further to part of our response contained in our letter dated 27 March 2017 (see paragraphs 2 to 4 of LC Paper No. CB(2)1085/16-17(01)), our response to the rest is set out in Annex A.
2. Issues relating to animal welfare and cruelty to animals	The response is set out in Annex B.
3. Issues concerning the implementation of the Private Columbaria Ordinance	Regarding item (c) of the meeting on 8 November 2016 and the meeting on 9 May 2017, the response is set out in Annex C.

4. Environmental hygiene issues in the vicinity of the Tung Chau Street Market	The response is set out in Annex D.
5. Measures for keeping Hong Kong clean	Regarding items (a) and (b), our response was provided in the letter dated 7 April 2017 (see the penultimate paragraph of LC Paper No. CB(2)1174/16-17(01)). As for items (c) to (g) of the meeting on 10 January 2017 and the meeting on 14 November 2017, the response is set out in Annex E.
6. Demerit Points System for licensed food premises and applications for outside seating accommodation for licensed premises	The response is set out in Annex F.
7. Supply of public niches and related issues	The response is set out in Annex G.
8. Government's review of fees and improvement measures for liquor licensing services	The response is set out in Annex H.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Diane WONG)  
for Secretary for Food and Health

## **Public Markets**

### **Retrofitting of Air-conditioning Systems**

Since 1 July 2015, the Government has lowered the threshold of tenant support for retrofitting of air-conditioning systems from 85% to 80%. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) has since December 2015 consulted the Market Management Consultative Committees (“MMCCs”) of those public markets without air-conditioning. According to the results, the MMCCs of 27 markets / cooked food centres / cooked food markets have indicated support for conducting the questionnaire surveys for collecting the tenants’ views on retrofitting of air-conditioning systems in the relevant markets. FEHD has hence proceeded with the questionnaire surveys. Among the 27 participating public markets, eight markets / cooked food centres have obtained adequate (i.e. at least 80%) tenant support. The detailed results of the questionnaire surveys are at **Appendix 1**. In other words, together with those cases with adequate tenant support previously obtained, a total of eleven markets / cooked food markets have obtained adequate tenant support<sup>1</sup>. The Government is now following up the relevant work.

We completed the technical feasibility study for Tai Wai Market. We obtained the support for the relevant works from the District Council in November 2017 and plan to, in the first half of 2018, consult the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and seek funding from the Legislative Council Finance Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> Currently, the 11 markets / cooked food centres that have obtained sufficient tenants’ support are: Shui Wo Street Market Cooked Food Centre, Tai Wai Market, Aberdeen Market and Cooked Food Centre, Electric Road Market Cooked Food Centre, Fa Yuen Street Market Cooked Food Centre, Ngau Chi Wan Market Cooked Food Centre, Ngau Tau Kok Market Cooked Food Centre, Quarry Bay Market Cooked Food Centre, Shek Tong Tsui Market Cooked Food Centre, Tsuen Wan Market and Yeung Uk Road Market. The pace in taking forward the work depends on the technical feasibility, the reduction in stall number arising from installation / expansion of transformer room, the outcome of resources allocation, the availability of manpower for the works department, and the overall workload and the priorities.

For Ngau Tau Kok Market Cooked Food Centre and Shui Wo Street Market Cooked Food Centre, we completed the preliminary technical feasibility studies and are consulting the relevant tenants on the details of the scope of works. Upon consensus being reached between the Government and the tenants on the scope of works, the Architectural Services Department (“ArchSD”) will immediately conduct a technical feasibility study and formulate an implementation timetable for taking forward the works, as well as seeking relevant funding according to the established procedures.

For Aberdeen Market and Cooked Food Centre, we are conducting the preliminary technical feasibility study. We are working with ArchSD on the preliminary technical feasibility studies for the other relevant markets. When the results of the studies are ready, we will consult the MMCCs and tenants on the details of the works. After considering factors including the results of the technical feasibility studies, scope of works, cost effectiveness, impact on business and market operation, as well as and whether the implementation details are acceptable to the tenants concerned, the Government will decide whether to seek funding for the retrofitting works of air-conditioners.

#### Follow-up to the recommendations made by the Consultant

The consultant commissioned earlier by the Food and Health Bureau selected six representative markets for detailed study and put forward specific improvement plans. The experience gained and the improvement plans taken forward will serve as reference for pursuing improvements to other markets in future. When the Government is following up the specific improvement plans, we must assess the feasibility of the plans and the level of acceptance of the plans by the tenants.

The Government is now following up the specific improvement plans in these markets by phases:

- (a) For Lockhart Road Market, the relevant works commenced in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2017 and are expected to complete in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2019. The estimated expenditure is around \$21.20 million. For the improvement works for Sheung Fung Street Market, they

are expected to commence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2018 and complete in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018. The estimated expenditure is around \$5 million.

- (b) As for Yau Ma Tei Market and Wing Fong Street Market, FEHD consulted the MMCCs of the two markets in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2016 and is carefully considering the views given by the MMCCs. FEHD will, in accordance with the established procedures, conduct feasibility studies and seek funding for taking forward the improvement works in the relevant markets.
- (c) As regards Tsuen Wan Market and Ngau Chi Wan Market, FEHD is now following up with ArchSD the improvement plans recommended by the consultant. On the retrofitting of air-conditioning systems, Ngau Chi Wan Market (Cooked Food Centre) and Tsuen Wan Market have obtained at least 80% tenant support. FEHD will conduct a technical feasibility study and further consult the relevant MMCC.

The progress of the improvement works at the six selected markets is at **Appendix 2**.

### Provision of New Public Markets

According to the Policy Address of October 2017, based on our new thinking on governance focused on bringing benefits and convenience to the public, the Government will make available resources for building new public markets in Tung Chung, Tin Shui Wai and Hung Shui Kiu. The Government will also study the need and feasibility of providing new public markets in districts where relevant facilities are alleged to be insufficient.

In planning for new development areas in the future, the Government will consider the need to include public markets as part of the infrastructure. The factors to be taken into account include the planning standards for public markets in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, such as the population and demographic mix of the area;

community needs; the availability of market facilities and the number of fresh provision retail outlets in the vicinity. In addition, we will also take into account the availability, the geographical location, existing and planned uses, and usable area of potential sites; and ancillary transport facilities nearby, in order to ensure that, upon completion, the markets will be of a substantial scale and viability and that public finances and land resources can be optimised.

### Review on Public Markets

Regarding existing public markets, the Government will conduct a comprehensive review and formulate specific improvement measures for both the facilities and their management in a systematic manner. The Government will allocate resources to improve the environment of existing public markets, including hardware and software. To take forward the above work, the Government will form a dedicated team to conduct a comprehensive review of public markets and formulate concrete and effective measures in a systematic manner to improve the facilities and management of public markets, and to consider adopting new approaches to their construction, design and modus operandi when resuming the construction of new public markets. The review will cover the positioning of public markets, distribution of existing and new markets, management mode and structure, rental adjustment mechanism, hardware improvement and ways to handle markets with relatively low patronage, etc. The LegCo Finance Committee approved on 5 January 2018 the creation of a time-limited post of a directorate officer at the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C to take forward the review.

## Appendix 1

### **Results of questionnaire surveys on the retrofitting of air-conditioning system conducted at public markets conducted after the lowering of the threshold of tenant support on 1 July 2015**

<b>Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Public Market</b>	<b>Tenants' Support Rate</b>
1	Shek Tong Tsui Market	21.3%
	Shek Tong Tsui Market CFC	93.3%
2	Tin Wan Market	26.5%
	Tin Wan Market CFC	30%
3	Wong Nai Chung Market (Market only)	11.7%
4	Bowrington Road Market (Market only)	44.2%
5	Quarry Bay Market	30.6%
	Quarry Bay Market CFC	100%
6	Sai Wan Ho Market (Market only)	5.4%
7	North Point Market	14.6%
8	Java Road Market (Market only)	17.5%
9	Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	18.2%
10	Electric Road Market	7.9%
	Electric Road Market CFC	100%
11	Causeway Bay Market	2%
12	Ngau Tau Kok Market CFC	90%
13	Pei Ho Street Market (Market only)	12.3%
14	Po On Road Market	19.2%
	Po On Road Market CFC	73.7%
15	Lai Wan Market	39%
16	Cheung Sha Wan Cooed Food Market	75%
17	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	27.8%
18	Fa Yuen Street Market	53.9%
	Fa Yuen Street Market CFC	80%
19	Tai Shing Street Market (Market only)	42.3%
20	Ngau Chi Wan Market	53.1%
	Ngau Chi Wan Market CFC	100%
21	Sheung Fung Street Market	7.8%
22	Tung Yick Market	76.5%
23	Sai Kung Market	56.9%
24	Tui Min Hoi Market	8.8%

25	Wing Fong Street Market	47.5%
26	Yeung Uk Road Market	81.7%
27	Tsuen Wan Market	82.1%

**Remarks:**

CFC – Cooked Food Centre

Market only – for the wet market portion only as the CFC portion has already been provided with air-conditioning.



**Progress of Following Up Improvement Recommendations made by  
the Consultant on Six Representative Markets**

<b>Market</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Lockhart Road Market	<p>The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has consulted the Market Management Consultative Committees (MMCCs) of these two markets. The MMCCs expressed support for some of the proposals that do not require temporary closure of stalls or suspension of business. Rejection of those that necessitate temporary closure/business suspension implies that the scope of improvement will be significantly less than that envisaged in the Consultancy Report.</p> <p>Having considered the MMCC' views and the results of the feasibility studies, the improvement works for Lockhart Road Market will include beautification of the façade and upgrading market external wall facing the major road, enhancement of the ventilating system, upgrading of market toilets, loading bay facilities, fire service installation, barrier free access and lightings, provision of Closed-circuit Television System and a new TV broadcast system, replacement of old directional signboards and old floor tiles, and conversion of former poultry stalls into trading stalls. The improvement works commenced in the second quarter of 2017 for completion in the fourth quarter of 2019, at an estimated cost of \$21.2 million.</p> <p>For Sheung Fung Street Market, having considered the MMCC's views and results of the feasibility studies, the improvement works will include beautification of the façade, installation of ventilation fans at the ceiling of the poultry stall, addition of double-leafed self-closing door at the loading bay, provision of Closed-circuit</p>
Sheung Fung Street Market	

	Television System, upgrading of fire service facilities, replacement of old directional signboards and conversion vacant poultry stalls into storage stalls. The improvement works are expected to commence in the second quarter of 2018 for completion in the fourth quarter of 2018, at an estimated cost of \$5 million.
Yau Ma Tei Market	The MMCCs of these two markets were consulted in the fourth quarter of 2016. The MMCCs expressed support for some of the proposals that do not require temporary closure of stalls or suspension of business. Rejection of those that necessitate temporary closure implies that the scope of improvement will be significantly less than that envisaged in the Consultancy Report. The Department is carefully considering their views and will conduct feasibility studies and seek funding approval according to the established mechanism for taking forward the improvement works.
Wing Fong Street Market	
Tsuen Wan Market	The Department is now following up on the Consultant's recommended improvements for these 2 markets. Recent surveys indicated that Ngau Chi Wan Market (Cooked Food Centre) and Tsuen Wan Market have attained the 80% threshold support rate for retrofitting the air-conditioning system. This will be taken into account in conducting the technical feasibility studies and further consultation with the MMCC.
Ngau Chi Wan Market	

**Issues relating to animal welfare and cruelty to animals**

With regard to the definition of “cruelty to animals” under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169), the Government has studied the legislative provisions in other jurisdictions and found that the existing definition of “cruelty to animals” under the Ordinance is by and large comparable to that adopted in these places. For details, please refer to the paper submitted to the Panel’s Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Animal Rights on 17 January 2017 (LC Paper No. CB (2) 576/16-17 (03)). To further enhance our efforts in safeguarding animal welfare, we will study the existing legislation related to animal welfare having regard to the local context and with reference to international experience and trends, and explore introducing a concept of positive duty of care on animal keepers.

As to covering cats and dogs in section 56 of the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374), the Government expects to complete the review within 2018. We will, upon conclusion of the review, consider amending the relevant legislation and consult the Legislative Council in due course.

Regarding the suggestion to study commercial pet food products available in Hong Kong, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department commissioned a contractor in October 2017 to conduct the study and test pet food products available in the local market so that we could keep abreast of the actual market situation to see whether there are safety problems. The study is expected to be completed in three years.

**Issues concerning the implementation of  
the Private Columbaria Ordinance**

On whether any initiatives would be taken to facilitate the provision of medium priced niches in the market, private columbaria are private commercial operations and the niche price is subject to market adjustment. The background, features and prices of the private columbaria are diverse and people have different considerations and choices when purchasing or renting a niche. The Government has no plan to regulate niche price through administrative measures for the time being.

On the judicial review case concerning civil service benefits to the spouse of a homosexual civil servant, we have consulted the relevant Bureau and the Department of Justice when considering the Committee Stage Amendment of the Private Columbaria Bill. The Private Columbaria Ordinance has been come in operation upon gazettal on 30 June 2017. According to our understanding, the appeal proceedings of the court case in question is underway.

**Reprovisioning of Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar**

The Government understands that the problems of street sleepers in the vicinity of Tung Chau Street Temporary Market may affect the willingness of the cloth hawkers of the Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar to move to the cloth bazaar on Tung Chau Street. Reasons contributing to the problems of street sleepers are complex and multifarious. Relevant departments including the Sham Shui Po District Office, the Police and the Social Welfare Department are working together with a view to identifying long term solutions to the problem. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to maintain close communications with those departments and strive to upkeep the environmental hygiene in the vicinity of the Tung Chau Street Temporary Market.

**Measures for keeping Hong Kong clean**

The expenditure spending of the pilot scheme on the installation of Internet Protocol ("IP") cameras at certain refuse dumping blackspots in the Central & Western, Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long Districts implemented since end-2016 is about 1.04 million. After review, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) considers the trial scheme very effective in curbing illegal dumping activities and changing the behaviour of habitual offenders. The amount of refuse illegally deposited at blackspots and the number of complaints received have dropped significantly after the installation. FEHD follows the Guidance on CCTV Surveillance and Use of Drones issued by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, including the posting of notices in the areas covered by the IP cameras to inform the public that the cameras are in operation. FEHD required that the disclosure of the images captured is restricted to the extent necessary for legal action to be taken. Under section 58 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap 486), the disclosure of the footages to other departments is restricted to the extent necessary for enforcement and prosecution taken. Should no prosecution be instituted against the irregularities within six months, the images so captured will be deleted.

2. Up to 31.12.2017, a total of 80 summons cases had been laid of which 71 cases were convicted, and 5 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) were issued. The breakdown is provided at **Appendix**. IP camera is used as a supporting enforcement tool. To achieve the desired effect of successful enforcement and ultimately deterring people from illegal dumping, it is imperative that preparatory work, including the formulation of enforcement strategies by, analysing the patterns of and motivation behind the illegal acts, giving prior warnings to the potential offenders, and extension of opening hours of the nearby refuse collection points, etc., be done beforehand. The low enforcement statistics in respect of some locations have indeed reflected the successful enforcement strategies deployed.

3. According to the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), member departments of the Inter-departmental Working Group on Clean Shorelines (Working Group) have been implementing various measures to keep

the shorelines clean. The departments concerned have been cumulatively allocated with some \$90 million in total for enhancing cleaning efforts, stepping up patrols, as well as provision of support and facilities (e.g. drinking fountains and recyclables collection bins), etc. Regarding shorelines cleaning work, the government departments concerned stepped up their cleaning efforts at the 27 priority sites for marine refuse over the past two years, in response to the Marine Refuse Study report published in April 2015 by the Working Group. The relevant departments increased the total number of clean-up operations per year at these sites by nearly 50 per cent. According to the five-level Shorelines Cleanliness Grading system established by the Working Group, nearly half of the priority sites have shown significant improvement in their average cleanliness index. This reflects that the improvement measures and the enhanced cleaning efforts have generally delivered positive results. For the sake of better deployment of resources for improving shorelines cleanliness, the EPD has reassessed the coastal sites across the territory and revised the list of priority sites in January 2018. There are 29 priority sites in the revised list with 15 retained from the old list and 14 new ones. The relevant departments will enhance their efforts in cleaning up each of the priority sites in the revised list with regard to their actual situation.

**Enforcement Statistics of the Six Hygiene Blackspots  
of the Trial Scheme of Internet Protocol Cameras  
(As at 31 December 2017)**

<b>Locations of IP Cameras</b>	<b>Enforcement Statistics since Implementation of the Scheme</b>	<b>No. of Conviction of summonses</b>
1. Side lane of the Police Married Quarters, 2-4 Staunton Street, Central	2# 5@	- 5@
2. Bridges Street (near the former Shing Wong Street RCP)	0	0
3. Lin Cheung Road (Southbound) lay-by	1@	1@
4. Cheung Wah Street RCP	2^ 1#	-
5. Tung Tai Street RCP	1@ 7*	1@ 7*
6. Pak Sha Tsuen RCP, Shap Pat Heung	33@ 33*	27@ 30*

- @ Contrary to section 9A, Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation (Cap. 132BK) (By way of summons)
- \* Contrary to section 4(1), Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation (Cap. 132BK) (By way of summons)
- # Contrary to section 3, Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) regarding depositing waste in public places (By way of FPN)
- ^ Contrary to section 3, Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) regarding spitting in public places (By way of FPN)



## **Annex F**

### **Demerit Points System ("DPS") for licensed food premises and applications for outside seating accommodation ("OSA") for licensed premises**

In the past five years, the number of food premises with licences suspended and cancelled due to the accumulation of sufficient demerit points involving convictions of offences relating to food safety and environmental hygiene under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance ("Cap. 132") and its subsidiary legislation is tabulated below.

**Table 1: Number of licensed food premises suspended/cancelled under the extant DPS in the past five years**

Year	Sanctions under DPS for convictions of offences involving unauthorized extensions of food business outside the licensed area		Sanctions under DPS for convictions of offences involving food safety and environmental hygiene	
	Suspension	Cancellation	Suspension	Cancellation
2013	221	29	21	0
2014	175	11	33	0
2015	148	2	43	0
2016	83	4	25	0
2017	71	0	30	0
<b>Total <sup>(Note1)</sup></b>	<b>698(82.1%)</b>	<b>46(100%)</b>	<b>152(17.9%)</b>	<b>0(0%)</b>

*Note 1 : The percentage in bracket denotes the percentage of suspension / cancellation cases involving contravention of unauthorized extensions of food business outside the licensed area or involving contravention of food safety and environmental hygiene (excluding contravention of unauthorized extensions of food business outside the licensed area) among all the suspension / cancellation cases.*

Regarding applications for setting up OSA for licensed food premises, the respective number of OSA applications approved and rejected as well as the respective average processing time for approved and rejected cases by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in the past two years are summarized in Table 2.

**Table 2: Number of OSA applications approved/ rejected in the past two years**

<b>Applications for OSA for licensed food premises</b>			
	<b>Year</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	
<b>Number of application approved</b>	18	31	49
<b>Number of application rejected</b>	4	4	8
<b>Average time taken for processing an application</b> <small>Note 2</small>	15 months	15 months	--
<b>Average processing time to reject application</b>	3 months	2 months	--

*Note 2: The processing time for an application is contingent upon the time spent by the applicant in complying with the relevant licensing requirements; settling objections raised by the public or other departments concerned; and addressing relevant land issues, if any. It varies from case to case.*

The major reasons of long processing time required for some applications are summarized as follows:

- (a) applicants are required to overcome the objections received from the public, e.g. suspected the OSA would cause obstruction to emergency vehicle access and pose hazard to residents in case of fire incident;
- (b) applicants are required to remove unauthorized building works erected on government land;
- (c) applicants are required to provide additional sanitary fitments to overcome its inadequacy arising from the increase in number of customers accommodated in the OSA as required by legislation;
- (d) applicants are required to address relevant land issues, e.g. apply for Land Licence/ Short Term Tenancy Agreement from the Lands Department; and
- (e) applicants are required to submit revised layout plans to fulfill concerned departments' requirements.

**Table 3: Breakdown of rejected applications in the past two years**

<b>Breakdown of rejected applications</b>			
	<b>Year</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	
<b>Objection by the Home Affairs Department</b>	0	0	0
<b>Objection by the Lands Department</b>	1	0	1
<b>Objection by the Buildings Department</b>	0	0	0
<b>Objection by the Fire Services Department</b>	1	0	1
<b>Objection by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department</b>	2	4	6

The main reasons of rejection are summarized as follows:

- (a) failed to overcome local objections such as noise nuisance, obstruction to pedestrian, sanitary nuisance and possible incidents/accidents arising from the setting up of OSA;
- (b) failed to comply with the land lease condition;
- (c) failed to overcome the objections raised by the Buildings Department;
- (d) obstruction to emergency vehicular access; and
- (e) failed to submit suitable layout plan and property owner's agreement to support the OSA under application.

**Supply of public niches and related issues**

**(1) Traffic improvement measures to be taken by the Government to alleviate the additional traffic arising from the columbarium project at Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun**

The traffic migration measures include :-

- (i) during the peak period of the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals, the private cars are forbidden to enter the columbarium site;
- (ii) three special bus routes to and from MTR Tuen Mun Station, Siu Lam Interchange near Tuen Mun Road Bus Transfer Station and MTR Tsing Yi Station will be provided; and
- (iii) the addition of a two-lane bi-directional carriageway connects Nim Wan Road and Tsang Tsui columbarium.

**(2) whether consideration would be given to allowing storage of synthetic materials (e.g. synthetic diamond transformed from human ashes) in public niches**

When considering whether to allow storage of synthetic materials in public niches, applicants of public niches shall provide documentary proofs to show that the synthetic materials are transformed from the cremated ashes of the respective deceased persons. We will consider each application on a case by case basis having regard to individual merits.

- (3) whether the Government 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**

On (i), the Government would consider the introduction of a registration scheme, should there be consensus in the community on the matter. On (ii) and (iii), we have considered the merits of waiving the charges for cremation and certain after-death services in those cases where green burial is opted for. But on balance, we consider it pre-mature to pursue such an idea at this stage, for fear that some may misconstrue this as according a greater importance to financial considerations than filial piety. We will re-consider the above suggestion, if in future there is prevalent support in society for waiving certain fees and charges as a modest financial incentive in appreciation of people's support for more environmental friendly modes of ash disposal.

**Review of Fees and Improvement Measures  
for Liquor Licensing Services**

**Relevant Licences Required for Food Businesses**

As regards the licences issued by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”), reference can be made to the FEHD’s webpage on “Guide on Types of Licences Required” (Link: [http://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/licensing/Guide\\_on\\_Types\\_of\\_Licences\\_Required.html](http://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/licensing/Guide_on_Types_of_Licences_Required.html)).

**“User Pays” Principle**

2. In general, it is the Government policy to provide public services according to the ‘user pays’ principle. The liquor licence holders operate their businesses on commercial principles. The fee levels set more than 20 years ago translate into a subsidy for profit-making commercial activities by taxpayers of around \$24 million per annum. While we recognise that some liquor licensees are small and medium sized enterprises, taking into account the possible alternative uses of public funds for socially and economically worthy causes, we must prudently consider the justification for long term public subsidy of a profit-making business operation.

**Review of Fees for Liquor Licensing Services**

3. Following consulting the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (the Panel) in July 2017, we consulted the trade and listened to their views in August 2017 on various occasions (including the Food Business and Related Services Task Force, Task Force on Business Liaison Groups, Recreational Clubs Business Liaison Group and Hotels Business Liaison Group of the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee under the Financial Secretary’s Office). We also joined a special meeting of the Panel on 22 September 2017 to receive views from

the trade, the public and Panel members.

4. We are currently compiling the views received from various parties. We will report the latest position to the Panel at an opportune moment in future.