

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)521/18-19  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/FE

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Tuesday, 13 November 2018, at 2:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Chairman)  
Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP  
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon Claudia MO  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP  
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan  
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP  
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH  
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin  
Hon CHU Hoi-dick  
Hon SHIU Ka-chun  
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH  
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan  
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN  
Hon HUI Chi-fung  
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH  
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon AU Nok-hin  
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH

**Members attending** : Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP  
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH  
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai

**Members absent** : Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS  
Hon HO Kai-ming  
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho

**Public Officers attending** : Item IV

Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP  
Under Secretary for Food and Health

Mr Gilford LAW Sun-on  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 2

Miss Diane WONG Shuk-han  
Deputy Director (Environmental Hygiene)  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr FORK Ping-lam  
Assistant Director (Operations) 3  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr LEE Ming-wai  
Pest Control Officer-in-charge  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Dr Albert AU Ka-wing  
Principal Medical and Health Officer (Surveillance Section)  
Department of Health

Mrs Helen CHEUNG LO Pik-yuk  
Chief Manager/Management (Hong Kong Island and Islands)  
Housing Department

Item V

Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP  
Under Secretary for Food and Health

Mr Gilford LAW Sun-on  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 2

Miss Diane WONG Shuk-han  
Deputy Director (Environmental Hygiene)  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr FORK Ping-lam  
Assistant Director (Operations) 3  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

**Clerk in attendance** : Miss Josephine SO  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 2

**Staff in attendance** : Ms Wendy LO  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 2

Mr Clement HAU  
Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Cally LAI  
Legislative Assistant (2) 2

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**I. Confirmation of minutes**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2)192/18-19)

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2018 were confirmed.

**II. Information paper issued since the last meeting**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2)176/18-19(01))

2. Members noted that an information paper provided by the Administration on the import and regulatory arrangements for sale of hairy crabs had been issued since the last meeting.

### **III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion**

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)207/18-19(01) and (02))

#### Regular meeting in December 2018

3. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 11 December 2018 at 2:30 pm:

- (a) Review of the Licensed Hawker Assistance Scheme;
- (b) Creation of a directorate post in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for better managing and upgrading municipal infrastructure; and
- (c) Certification system for organic food.

4. Members agreed that the December meeting would be extended by half an hour to end at 5:00 pm to allow sufficient time for discussion of all items on the agenda.

*(Post-meeting note: Members were informed vide LC Paper No. CB(2)362/18-19 issued on 3 December 2018 that the Chairman had acceded to the Administration's request to replace the agenda item "Creation of a directorate post in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for better managing and upgrading municipal infrastructure" with "Improving public toilet services and facilities at major tourist spots" for the December meeting.)*

#### Items for discussion at future meetings

5. The Chairman informed members that he and the Deputy Chairman had met with the Secretary for Food and Health on 1 November 2018 to discuss the work plan of the Panel for the 2018-2019 legislative session. The Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion had been updated to reflect members' suggestions made at the Panel meeting on 11 October 2018 and the discussion with the Administration at the work plan meeting.

### **IV. Mosquito and rodent control**

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)207/18-19(03) and (04), CB(2)2024/17-18(01) and CB(2)2070/17-18(01))

6. At the invitation of the Chairman, Under Secretary for Food and Health ("USFH") briefed members on the measures taken by the Administration on mosquito and rodent control in 2018 as well as the key areas of work in 2019, as set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No.

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CB(2)207/18-19(03)). Members noted the background brief on the subject prepared by the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat (LC Paper No. CB(2)207/18-19(04)).

Rodent prevention and control

*Rodent infestation situation in public places*

7. Many Members, including the Chairman, Dr Elizabeth QUAT, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, Mr SHIU Ka-chun, Mr Wilson OR, Ms YUNG Hoi-yan, Dr CHENG Chung-tai and Mr Vincent CHENG expressed grave concern about the rodent infestation problem in various public rental housing estates and districts. Dr CHENG and Mr SHIU were particularly concerned about the severity of the rodent problem in Fuk Loi Estate where most of the residents were elderly persons. Dr CHENG said that he had received complaints that rodents sneaked into the apartments of the residents through windows and pipes, and some elderly residents even got bitten by rodents. Expressing dissatisfaction that relevant departments including the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") and the Housing Department ("HD") were not proactive in following up the complaints, he asked whether and, if yes, what concrete measures would be taken by FEHD and HD to tackle the rodent problem in Fuk Loi Estate.

8. Deputy Director (Environmental Hygiene)/FEHD ("DD(EH)/FEHD") gave the following responses:

- (a) the Administration had all along attached great importance to pest control work. The Anti-mosquito Steering Committee was re-organized and upgraded as the Pest Control Steering Committee ("PCSC") in July 2018. In addition to mosquito control, the PCSC's terms of reference covered other pest control issues, including the prevention and control of rodent infestation. PCSC aimed to synergise the efforts of various bureaux and departments, through providing high level direction for pest control work. This apart, FEHD had been maintaining close liaison with other government departments and providing them with technical support as well as training in the implementation of effective pest control measures in venues or areas under their purview;
- (b) in May 2017, FEHD launched a two-month anti-rodent operation in designated target areas in various districts and adopted multi-pronged strategies to step up rodent control work, including improving environmental hygiene, eliminating rodents and taking enforcement actions. During the operation, FEHD had deployed additional manpower and resources to prevent and control rodent

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infestation by eliminating the three survival conditions of rodents, viz. food, harbourage and passages (i.e. the elimination of the food sources and hiding places of rodents, as well as blockage of their dispersal routes). The first phase of the anti-rodent operations in designated target areas was completed in June 2018. On 8 October 2018, FEHD launched the second phase of the anti-rodent operations. Work assessment for various districts would be conducted upon completion of the second phase of the operations for enhanced monitoring of the effectiveness of anti-rodent efforts; and

- (c) given the public attention towards rodent infestation in public rental housing estates, aside from the anti-rodent operations carried out by HD, FEHD would conduct joint inspections of the rodent infestation situation with HD staff and offer professional advice and technical guidance on prevention and control of rodent infestation, e.g. improving rodent-proofing facilities of the buildings. FEHD would also support HD in carrying out anti-rodent work in target public rental housing estates with serious rodent infestation problems. On 5 October 2018, FEHD and HD launched a four-week joint cleansing operation in Choi Wan (I) Estate and Choi Wan (II) Estate.

9. Mr Vincent CHENG urged FEHD and HD to step up joint anti-rodent operations in Oi Man Estate. He suggested that the Administration should arrange home visits to provide the affected residents with concrete advice/measures on rodent control. Mr CHENG also asked whether FEHD and HD would launch joint cleansing operations in other public rental housing estates. In response, Chief Manager/Management (Hong Kong Island and Islands), HD gave an account on the measures taken by HD to control the rodent problem in Oi Man Estate, including conducting on-site joint inspections of the rodent infestation situation with FEHD, improving rodent-proofing facilities of the buildings, increasing the frequency of cleansing in respect of the garbage collection points/facilities/common areas in public rental housing estates and strengthening publicity on rodent prevention and control. DD(EH)/FEHD added that FEHD and HD would identify two public rental housing estates for anti-rodent operations in designated target estates starting from end-December 2018.

10. The Chairman requested the Administration to revert in writing on whether FEHD and HD would work hand in hand to step up anti-rodent operations in all public rental housing estates and if yes, the timetable and implementation details. USFH replied in the affirmative and undertook to provide supplementary information in this regard.

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11. Referring to Annexes 2 and 3 to the Administration's paper, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen sought details of FEHD's anti-rodent operations in designated target areas. Mr Andrew WAN also enquired about the criteria for selecting locations as designated target areas for conducting anti-rodent operations. Assistant Director (Operations) 3/FEHD ("AD(Ops)3/FEHD") responded that in 2017, FEHD conducted two rounds of anti-rodent operations in designated target areas. A total of 19 designated areas (i.e. one in each of the 19 FEHD districts) were included in each round of the operations which took about two months to complete. FEHD had consulted District Councils in selecting the designated areas. Each designated area normally covered a few main streets and 10-odd rear/side lanes.

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12. At the request of Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, the Administration undertook to provide supplementary information on (a) the respective numbers of dead rodents cleared, live rodents caught and rat holes destroyed, with a breakdown by district, as well as follow-up actions taken after the completion of the first and second phases of the anti-rodent operations in designated target areas launched in June and October 2018; and (b) the total numbers of rodents cleared/caught, rat holes destroyed and warnings issued for the years 2016 and 2017 respectively.

13. Mr Andrew WAN expressed concern that there was no mention of rodent control work in old districts in the Administration's paper. Mr CHU Hoi-dick said that rear lanes were convenient locations for restaurants to carry out dish washing and food preparation which gave rise to choked drains and rodent infestation. He asked how FEHD would tackle licensed food premises' illegal dumping of food remnants/garbage in rear lanes as well as drainage and sewerage systems, particularly in those districts with a high concentration of restaurants.

14. In response, DD(EH)/FEHD advised that FEHD had disseminated publicity materials on rodent prevention for private buildings in various districts through the Home Affairs Department, owners' corporations as well as mutual aid committees. To improve the hygiene condition of rear lanes, FEHD would launch a five-week operation before January 2019, with the first two weeks being an education and advisory phase to enhance food premises' awareness of maintaining street cleanliness as well as the proper way for disposal of refuse and the subsequent three weeks being an enforcement phase when stringent enforcement actions would be taken against illegal dumping of bagged refuse in rear lanes.

15. Dr Elizabeth QUAT and Ms YUNG Hoi-yan considered that rubbish bins not provided with lids should not be used in public places (including rural areas and public rental housing estates) for collection of waste, as such kind of rubbish bins could not keep out insects but instead provided food sources and shelters for rodents. Mr CHU Hoi-dick expressed concern

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whether FEHD would improve the design of some existing refuse collection facilities in rural areas to facilitate proper handling of refuse.

16. DD(EH)/FEHD responded that FEHD had already commenced a trial on 24 solar-powered compacting refuse bins ("compacting bins") for use at 12 bin sites in rural areas for collection of household waste from the nearby residents. With the auto inlet opening with sensors, the compacting bins allowed the public to dispose of bagged refuse without having to touch the bin. FEHD had also put in place some aluminium refuse collection points, where the public could dispose of their waste easily into the refuse bins therein through window-type openings. FEHD would explore further enhancement in the form of auto-sensor opening panels and assess whether such facilities were suitable for wider use in Hong Kong after the trial. DD(EH)/FEHD further said that the Steering Group on the Modification of Recycling and Refuse Collection Facilities in Public Places, which was set up in February 2016 and chaired by the Secretary for the Environment, was reviewing the provision, distribution and design of recycling and refuse collection facilities in public places and would make recommendations for enhancement as and where necessary.

17. Mr LAU Kwok-fan considered that FEHD's practice of awarding outsourced contracts to the lowest bidder was the root cause for inferior cleansing and pest control services, and outsourced service providers might not have the incentives to improve their pest control work due to cost consideration. In evaluating tenders for the provision of environmental hygiene services, FEHD had all along been adopting the standard marking scheme approved by the Government's Central Tender Board. In Mr LAU's view, the Administration should review whether the relative weightings of technical score and price score (respectively at 30% and 70%) should continue to be adopted. AD(Ops)3/FEHD responded that FEHD did not award service contracts simply on the basis of tender price. FEHD was reviewing the cleansing contract tendering system, guided by the need to uphold the requirements on service quality and to observe the principle of value for money. FEHD would also strengthen its supervision of outsourced cleansing/pest control services through the provision of additional supervisory staff.

18. Noting that FEHD had provided contract templates on pest control for follow-up actions by contract management units in various departments so that clauses relating to pest control could be included in the new contracts, Ms YUNG Hoi-yan enquired about the content of the contract templates. AD(Ops)3/FEHD advised that there were clauses stipulating the service requirements that must be met by the contractors in carrying out pest control operations and the punitive measures for breaching the relevant contract provisions.



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19. Ms Claudia MO expressed grave concern that a study led by Professor YUEN Kwok-yung of the Department of Microbiology of Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine of The University of Hong Kong ("HKU") had discovered for the first time in the world that rat hepatitis E virus ("rat HEV") could infect humans to cause clinical infection. She was worried that there would be an outbreak of rat HEV or other rodent-transmitted diseases in Hong Kong. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan expressed a similar concern.

20. USFH responded that the Department of Microbiology of HKU had so far identified two cases of human infection of rat HEV after testing the blood samples of patients who had HEV infection in recent years. The two patients concerned both suffered from long-term illness, making them more susceptible to infection. He assured members that at the current stage, there was no evidence suggesting that the disease would spread. That said, FEHD would step up rodent control measures to prevent rat HEV infection and other rodent-transmitted infections in Hong Kong. Principal Medical and Health Officer (Surveillance Section), Department of Health added that the Department of Health noted with concern the relevant findings of HKU. In response to the findings of HKU, the Centre of Health Protection ("CHP") had reviewed the human HEV cases notified to CHP in the past and had sent the archived blood samples of patients which were positive for anti-HEV IgM antibody but negative for human HEV nucleic acid by molecular test to HKU for further laboratory investigations. CHP would also enhance laboratory surveillance on human infection with rat HEV.

*Rodent surveillance*

21. Mr CHAN Han-pan and Dr Helena WONG queried the reliability of rodent infestation rates ("RIRs") in reflecting the situation of rodent infestation in the surveyed areas. Dr WONG said that she had received many complaints about rodent problems in areas with low RIRs recorded. Mr CHAN expressed concern that the ratio of baits placed in areas with poor hygiene conditions and bitten by rodents would unlikely be high due to clear food attractions around the monitoring baits. In their views, FEHD should review the existing methods for monitoring pest (including rodents) infestation. Mr CHAN suggested that FEHD should consider engaging independent organizations to conduct the surveillance work so as to enhance the reliability of the survey results.

22. DD(EH)/FEHD responded that in addition to RIRs, FEHD frontline staff also took into account the trails left by rodents, complaint figures as well as the feedback from local community and the public, in assessing the overall rodent infestation situation in individual districts. Apart from conducting trial tests on traps and rodenticides, FEHD would continue to study ways to improve the collection and investigation methods of RIRs so that the surveys could reflect more accurately the situation of rodent infestations in different

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districts. FEHD would also consider tapping outside expertise (e.g. from tertiary institutions) in studying the way forward.

23. Dr Helena WONG and Mr SHIU Ka-chun noted from media reports that FEHD's outsourced service contractors put rodent baits into plastic bags to prevent rodents from gnawing on the baits. As such, no rodent infestation was detected and the contractors could minimize the cost for conducting anti-rodent operations. They expressed concern whether this was really the case. In response, Pest Control Officer-in-charge/FEHD ("PCOic/FEHD") said that to ensure the efficacy of the rodent baits unaffected by weather or humidity, it was recommended that the baits be put inside plastic bags with holes punched on the bags. FEHD would keep monitoring contractors' placing of rodent baits to ensure the effectiveness of rodent surveillance. FEHD would also consider using other non-toxic rodent baits (i.e. other than sweet potatoes) containing ingredients which were more attractive to rodents for conducting RIR surveys.

24. Mr SHIU Ka-chun said that it was recommended in Report No. 63 of the Director of Audit on the results of value for money audits (published in October 2014) that FEHD should strengthen the monitoring of the outsourced service contractors' performance in carrying out pest control services. He enquired about the follow-up actions taken by FEHD to address this issue. AD(Ops)3/FEHD said that FEHD had deployed additional manpower resources in recent years for enhancing the supervision and monitoring of the pest control work carried out by outsourced service contractors. He undertook to provide supplementary information in this regard after the meeting.

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*Application of new technologies in rodent control*

25. The Chairman, Mr CHAN Han-pan, Dr Helena WONG, Dr Elizabeth QUAT, Mr POON Siu-ping, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, Mr Andrew WAN and Mr LAU Kwok-fan all considered that FEHD should review the effectiveness of its rodent control measures and adopt new methods/techniques by making reference to the experience of other countries/places. They asked whether FEHD would set a timetable for introducing new measures and techniques for rodent control.

26. PCOic/FEHD assured members that the rodenticides and rodent disinfection methodologies/techniques currently adopted by FEHD were in line with those promoted in the international arena. FEHD would keep in view the latest advances in rodent control methodologies and techniques and would carry out tests to assess the suitability of such methodologies/techniques for local use. FEHD was closely monitoring the effectiveness of rodenticides currently in use and would consider other rodenticides as replacement whenever resistance was detected. PCOic/FEHD and

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DD(EH)/FEHD further said that FEHD would consider installing night vision camera surveillance system at locations where rodents were rampant, so as to analyse the extent and severity of the rodent problem (e.g. the density of rodents and their movements). Information and data provided by the night vision camera surveillance system could help facilitate more effective and targeted application of rodenticides and rodent traps.

27. In response to the follow-up questions from Mr Andrew WAN and Mr SHIU Ka-chun, PCOic/FEHD said that the technology of using night vision camera to monitor rodent activities was newly developed by a private company. FEHD planned to install night vision cameras in two locations (a wet market and a rear lane) to monitor rodent activities. FEHD would evaluate the feasibility of widely adopting this technology in Hong Kong after the trial programme. Mr CHAN Han-pan welcomed the introduction of night vision video capturing technology use together with artificial intelligence to obtain a more detailed picture of rodent activities in order to facilitate more effective and targeted application of rodenticides and rodent traps. He hoped that if the trial was proved to be successful, consideration be given to expanding the programme to more locations.

28. Dr Elizabeth QUAT, Mr POON Siu-ping and Ms YUNG Hoi-yan asked whether FEHD would consider using rodenticides with sterilant to render rodents infertile, if applied. PCOic/FEHD responded that although some products on the market with sterilant as the main ingredient could render the rodents infertile, re-application was required to ensure a prolonged effect and that a substantial proportion of the rodent population had sufficient intake of the sterilant in order to reduce the rodent population. Moreover, compared with existing rodenticides used by FEHD, more time was needed for these products to reduce the overall population of rodents and rodents that had taken sufficient dose of sterilant would still be active and might continue to cause nuisance. That said, FEHD would keep in view products that contained new active ingredients. New products, if applicable, would be treated as alternate pesticides.

29. Mr Andrew WAN said that he noted from news reports that the A24 rat trap (a rat trap designed by a New Zealand company which crushed the rat's head with a gas-powered piston) was very effective in eradicating rodents. He asked whether FEHD would conduct tests to assess the suitability of A24 rat trap and other electric-driven traps for local use. Both Dr Elizabeth QUAT and Dr CHIANG Lai-wan made a similar enquiry. DD(EH)/FEHD and PCOic/FEHD responded that the A24 rat trap was mainly used in New Zealand for killing rats in outdoor areas. FEHD was testing the use of A24 rat trap in a wet market, and had tested other electric-driven traps in two wet markets. As the preliminary findings and observations were not satisfactory, FEHD needed more time to assess the suitability of these tools for local use.

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30. Mr Andrew WAN urged FEHD to conduct more tests of A24 rat traps at hygiene blackspots across the territory to make an accurate assessment of their effectiveness in killing rats. Dr Elizabeth QUAT requested the Administration to provide the Panel with detailed results of FEHD's assessment of new technologies/methods for pest control purposes, presented in tabular form, covering (a) types of technological products tested by FEHD; (b) how and when the tests were conducted; and (c) findings of the tests.

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31. The Chairman said that it was reported that genetic technology was applied in rodent control in some overseas jurisdictions. In his view, FEHD should appoint a consultant to study how FEHD's rodent control work could be improved by using new technologies. Noting that the New Zealand Government had announced a pest extermination programme aiming to wipe out all introduced predators (including introduced species of rats) by 2050, the Chairman suggested that FEHD should set a concrete target for eliminating rodents in Hong Kong. USFH responded that in light of the Chairman's suggestions, the Administration would consider how to assess effectiveness of its anti-rodent measures. The Chairman requested the Administration to revert in writing on whether FEHD would (a) set a concrete target for elimination of rodent infestation and (b) commission a consultancy study with a view to strengthening FEHD's rodent prevention and control work.

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32. In response to Mr CHU Hoi-dick's enquiry, PCOic/FEHD said that live rodents caught would be euthanized by cervical dislocation, which was considered as a humane killed method for rats. Mr WU Chi-wai was of the view that although some rodent control products available on the market (e.g. glue traps for rats) were considered as less humane control methods, FEHD should consider using them if they had proven to be effective in rodent control work. He further said that to his understanding, some private management companies had reservations about using certain rodent control products, lest attracting criticism from the public. Mr WU considered that if FEHD took the lead to adopt new measures for rodent control, the private sector would follow suit.

33. DD(EH)/FEHD cited examples to illustrate the merits and demerits of some rodent control products currently available on the market. She stressed that FEHD was conducting trial tests on new rodent traps and rodenticides with a view to enhancing control of rodents. At Mr WU Chi-wai's request, the Administration would revert in writing on whether the use of any specific rodent control product/technique was bound by law to refuse its application.

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#### Control measures against mosquitoes and biting midges

34. Mr POON Siu-ping asked whether relevant departments had deployed

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additional manpower resources to strengthen their pest control work under the coordination of PCSC after its reorganization in July 2018. Mr Wilson OR said that according to his observation, there was a lack of coordination among various departments in carrying out pest control operations. He hoped that inter-departmental coordination in implementing pest control measures could be strengthened.

35. USFH responded that in view of the 29 local dengue fever cases in this summer, PCSC held two ad hoc meetings in August 2018. Relevant bureaux and departments had offered active support and strengthened collaboration in order to curb the spread of dengue fever in Hong Kong. DD(EH)/FEHD supplemented that in addition to the some 700 departmental staff deployed to pest control, FEHD engaged service contractors to provide pest control services across the territory through 329 roving teams with a workforce of about 1 970 (representing an increase in manpower resources for such work by 18% when compared with 2017).

36. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok said that the local outbreak of dengue fever this summer had attracted wide public concern. He enquired about the concrete measures taken by the Administration to curb the spread of dengue fever. USFH and DD(EH)/FEHD advised that in response to the 29 dengue fever cases identified this summer, FEHD had intensified the third phase of the anti-mosquito campaign by launching 10-week territory-wide all-out anti-mosquito operations between mid-August and mid-October 2018. Relevant departments and the Hospital Authority had also conducted all-out anti-mosquito operations in areas under their purview. PCSC planned to hold meetings before the arrival of the next rainy season to draw up mosquito prevention strategies and control measures for 2019.

37. Mr Wilson OR considered that FEHD should monitor and release real-time ovitrap indices for *Aedes albopictus* by applying technologies, as this would facilitate timely implementation of mosquito prevention and control measures. DD(EH)/FEHD responded that FEHD would strive to improve the existing surveillance system for mosquitoes by application of technologies and would make reference to overseas experience (e.g. improving the design of ovitraps for more effective detection of the larval breeding rate of *Aedine* mosquitoes). To enhance the alert function of the ovitrap indices for *Aedes albopictus*, the arrangement for releasing the results of the indices had been improved with more frequent updates, so as to keep the public abreast of the latest situation of mosquito infestation. FEHD would also continue to announce the monthly Area Ovitrap Index of various areas to give the public an overview of the infestation level of mosquitoes.

38. Mr Wilson OR expressed concern that pest control operations carried out by some private property management companies were not satisfactory. He asked about the number of prosecutions taken out in 2018 against private

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management companies for failure to take appropriate pest control measures to maintain environmental hygiene. DD(EH)/FEHD and AD(Ops)3/FEHD advised that in relation to mosquito control work, FEHD conducted inspections of 1 818 premises (covering 1 212 construction sites and 606 other premises) and instituted 182 prosecutions (comprising 173 cases involving construction sites and nine cases involving other premises) from 1 January to 26 October 2018. As for rodent control, FEHD would conduct inspections of private premises upon receipt of complaints. In most cases, private management companies would act on FEHD's advice.

39. Mr LAU Kwok-fan expressed concern that the problems of biting midges and bed bugs in many public places and old public rental housing estates had become increasingly serious. He asked whether FEHD would consider formulating indicators for assessing the infestation/activity of biting midges and bed bugs and alerting relevant departments to take preventive measures in response to index changes. USFH responded that PCSC would look into other pest control issues including the infestation of biting midges.

Motion jointly proposed by three members

40. During the discussion on this item, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan indicated an intention to move a motion jointly with Dr Elizabeth QUAT and Mr Wilson OR (the wording of their proposed motion is attached in the **Appendix**). The Chairman ruled that the motion was directly related to the agenda item under discussion and advised that the motion would be dealt with after all members had finished asking questions. However, since the three motion movers and a quorum were not present at the meeting when the discussion on this item was about to end, the proposed motion was not dealt with at the meeting. Having considered precedent cases with similar circumstances (i.e. the motion mover(s) and/or a quorum were not present at the meeting at the juncture of proceeding to deal with the proposed motion), the Chairman suggested that the Administration should provide a written response to the motion jointly proposed by the three members. No members raised objection.

41. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan returned to the conference room after the meeting had moved on to the next discussion item. Noting that the Chairman had closed the discussion on agenda item IV and made the decision as mentioned in paragraph 40 above, she asked for an opportunity to read out the proposed motion under the item "Any other business". The Chairman acceded to her request.

**V. Post-typhoon follow-up efforts under the purview of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**  
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)207/18-19(05) and (06))

42. At the invitation of the Chairman, USFH briefed members on the follow-up actions taken by FEHD in the aftermath of super typhoon

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Mangkhut in mid-September 2018, as set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)207/18-19(05)). Members noted the information note prepared by the LegCo Secretariat (LC paper No. CB(2)207/18-19(06)).

Provision of tools and equipment for cleansing workers

43. Mr SHIU Ka-chun said that according to an organization's survey findings released after the passage of Mangkhut, among the 143 cleansing workers employed by outsourced service contractors of FEHD and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD"), about 50% of them had not been given any safety training for performing outdoor cleansing work under inclement weather conditions. Some of the workers also claimed that they were not provided with adequate tools/equipment and appropriate protective gear (such as working clothes and gloves) to perform cleansing duties after the typhoon. Mr SHIU asked whether FEHD had stepped up inspections before the arrival of Mangkhut to ensure that the outsourced cleansing workers would be provided with sufficient tools/equipment and protective gear to perform post-typhoon clearance work.

44. The Chairman said that on the day following the passage of Mangkhut, he saw a contractor's worker cutting fallen trees into smaller logs with a chopper. He suggested that FEHD's outsourced service contractors should be requested to stocktake the type and quantity of tools/equipment and protective gear they kept for providing public cleansing services. FEHD should also conduct regular inspections and check with frontline workers on whether sufficient tools and protective gear were provided for them to perform the duties.

45. AD(Ops)3/FEHD responded that before the arrival of Mangkhut, FEHD management staff had conducted inspections to check the contractors' preparations and preparedness for the restoring work after the typhoon. Although FEHD did not keep figures on the number of inspections conducted or reminders issued to contractors, it was noted from on-site observations of FEHD's supervisory staff and photos of clearance operations that contractors' workers were generally provided with the tools/equipment and protective gear needed. AD(Ops)3/FEHD added that relevant departments including LCSD, the Highways Department and the Fire Services Department had provided assistance in clearing fallen trees by using different tools and machinery (e.g. electric saws, stump grinders, etc.). It was noteworthy that FEHD was mainly responsible for removing the branches and twigs cut by LCSD on public roads in the urban area. FEHD's cleansing workers (including those employed by contractors) did not need the machinery for cutting fallen trees or big broken twigs.

46. Noting that 979 default notices had been issued to outsourced service contractors in the 2017-2018 financial year for default in performance under

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the service contracts or breach of contractual obligations, Mr SHIU Ka-chun requested for a breakdown of the 979 cases by nature (including cases where the contractors failed to provide sufficient tools/equipment and appropriate protective gear for their staff to perform the cleansing duties) and the corresponding follow-up actions taken by FEHD against the default cases. DD(EH)/FEHD undertook to check whether the requested breakdown was available after the meeting. She added that currently, FEHD's outsourced service contracts would reflect the commitment made by contractors in their bids for the contracts, including providing their staff with the necessary cleansing tools/equipment to perform the duties. FEHD might take appropriate actions including the issuance of default notice if non-compliance with contract provisions was found.

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47. At the request of the Chairman, the Administration would revert in writing on whether FEHD would list out in its public cleansing service contracts tools and equipment as well as protective gear that must be provided/were recommended to be provided by outsourced service contractors for their staff to perform the cleansing duties and if yes, what the items were.

*(Post-meeting note: The Administration's responses in respect of the issues mentioned in paragraphs 46 and 47 were circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(2)438/18-19 on 12 December 2018.)*

48. Noting that FEHD deployed 8 000 staff each day for street cleansing and removal of fallen trees after the passage of Mangkhut, Mr POON Siu-ping expressed concern whether these workers were offered overtime pay if they had to work outside normal working hours. He said that the Federation of Hong Kong & Kowloon Labour Unions ("the Federation") had received complaints that some contractors' staff were asked to clear up typhoon debris left on major thoroughfares in Tsuen Wan without protective measures taken. The Administration had informed the Federation that FEHD had issued warnings to the contractors concerned for violation of the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509). FEHD had also conducted interviews with the contractors' workers on a random sampling basis to ascertain whether there were any breaches of the contract requirements and/or the relevant labour legislation by the contractors. Mr POON sought details about the interview arrangements.

49. AD(Ops)3/FEHD advised that FEHD carried out random interviews with contractors' staff every month to ascertain whether their actual wages and working hours were consistent with the contract provisions and whether they were provided with necessary training and equipment for performing their duties. If irregularities were detected, FEHD would take follow-up actions including issuing warnings or default notices to the contractors concerned. To enhance the work safety of frontline workers of the contractors, FEHD had engaged a consultant to improve the design of their



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uniform (e.g. adding reflective strips on their work uniform). FEHD would continue to conduct regular and surprise checks to ensure contractors' compliance with the contract provisions.

Post-typhoon clearance work in public places

50. Mr AU Nok-hin sought information on the division of work between FEHD and LCSD in clearing fallen trees in public places after the passage of Mangkhut. He said that he had visited Shek O Beach about one week after the strike of Mangkhut and found that the fallen trees and other debris were not removed from the beach. Similar situation was found in various other places such as roadside gullies/slopes. In his view, relevant departments including FEHD and LCSD should re-examine their work on the prevention of damages, emergency response and recovery in relation to typhoons, with a view to enhancing the coordination and effectiveness across bureaux and departments in carrying out clearance work in public places after the passage of super typhoons in the future.

51. DD(EH)/FEHD responded that the clearance of fallen trees in public places after the strike of typhoons involved cutting of trees and removal of the branches and twigs cut, the responsibilities of which were defined clearly within the Government. Generally speaking, FEHD was only responsible for removing the branches and twigs cut by LCSD on public roads in the urban area. Other departments and venue management units (e.g. LCSD in the New Territories) would cut the trees and remove the branches and twigs on the roads and venues under their respective purviews. Mangkhut had caused a great amount of tree collapses. Relevant departments had enhanced communication and worked closely in conducting the clearance work. Apart from the urban area under its original purview, FEHD had, upon invitation, deployed additional manpower to assist other departments in removing fallen trees and twigs in the New Territories.

52. Mr Kenneth LAU asked whether any mechanism was in place to determine the priority for conducting clearance work after inclement weather. He hoped that FEHD would provide assistance to elderly people living in rural villages in clearing the refuse brought about by Mangkhut. DD(EH)/FEHD said that Mangkhut had caused extensive damage and brought about a huge amount of typhoon debris and fallen trees. Up to 22 October 2018, government departments had received a total of 60 894 reports of fallen trees, i.e. roughly 10 times the number of reports brought about by Hato in 2017. In deploying Government resources for removal of debris and fallen trees, top priority was accorded to areas which posed imminent hazards to the public and major thoroughfares impeding traffic flow. That said, FEHD had also provided assistance for some remote areas or those with special needs.

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53. In response to Mr POON Siu-ping's follow-up question about FEHD's post-typhoon clearance work at remote areas, DD(EH)/FEHD said that FEHD had joined hands with relevant departments to clear up typhoon debris and fallen trees at remote areas including Kat O, Ap Chau, Lai Chi Wo, Sai Lau Kong, Tap Mun, Tung Ping Chau, Tung Lung Island, Shek O and Deep Water Bay, etc. From 17 September to 31 October 2018, FEHD had cleared a total of over 10 000 tonnes of typhoon debris and delivered nearly 300 lorry-times of tree waste. Cleansing services would resume to normal progressively, as and when the post-typhoon clearance work had been completed.

*(To allow sufficient time for discussion, the Chairman directed that the meeting be extended for 15 minutes.)*

54. Mr Kenneth LAU asked how FEHD would handle the tree waste on its part after the closure of the temporary wood waste collection area in the Kai Tak Development Area ("the collection area") set up by the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD"). DD(EH)/FEHD responded that by 6 November 2018, some 620 sites of blocked carriageways or pavements near densely populated areas or where people commuted as recorded by FEHD a week after the passage of Mangkhut had largely been cleared. The tree waste collected during the clearance operations had been delivered to the collection area. As the quantity of tree waste received from various sources at the collection area had gradually decreased over the past few weeks, EPD decided to close the collection area on 10 November 2018. Thereafter, government departments and their contractors would deliver the tree waste to landfills directly.

55. The Chairman asked whether relevant government departments would consider procuring more tools and machinery for clearing fallen trees and branches caused by inclement weather. DD(EH)/FEHD responded that apart from one department having a few wood chippers for use in its venues, two departments were respectively testing the use of hired wood chipper service on roads and an industrial-type wood chipper in a remote location. In light of the experience gained in handling the aftermath of Mangkhut, the Government would review the adequacy of equipment and machinery for handling fallen trees.

56. In response to the enquiries of the Chairman and Mr AU Nok-hin about the review underway concerning the handling of strong typhoons, DD(EH)/FEHD said that the Chief Executive had tasked the Security Bureau to coordinate a review of the handling of such super typhoons, which covered contingency response plans, post-typhoon recovery and restoration as well as external and internal information dissemination. FEHD and other relevant departments were participating in the review. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide, once available, the outcome of the review highlighting the parts relevant to FEHD including measures to be adopted to

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ensure that FEHD's outsourced service contractors would have sufficient resources and manpower to handle the cleansing work after the passage of super typhoons.

**VI. Any other business**

57. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan said that to her understanding, members of the public were very concerned about issues relating to mosquito and rodent control. Instead of just reading out the proposed motion jointly put forward under agenda item IV by herself, Dr Elizabeth QUAT and Mr Wilson OR as she originally requested, Dr CHIANG hoped that voting be conducted at this juncture.

58. The Chairman referred members to paragraph 3.46 of the Handbook for Chairmen of Panels which stated that "The Chairman should first decide whether the motion is directly related to an agenda item of that meeting. This is to ensure that members are aware of the possibility that a motion may be moved without notice on the subject matter of an agenda item. For this reason, a motion moved under 'Any other business' or under a newly added discussion item under 'Any other business' should not be ruled admissible by the Chairman". The Chairman reiterated the rationale for not dealing with the motion proposed by the three members (as mentioned in paragraph 40 above) and declared the meeting closed.

59. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan expressed strong dissatisfaction with the Chairman's decision not to accede to her request for taking a vote on the proposed motion.

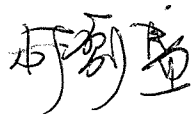
60. The meeting ended at 5:09 pm.

*(Post-meeting note: After the meeting, Dr Elizabeth QUAT, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan and Mr Wilson OR jointly wrote to the Chairman, requesting that their proposed motion be dealt with at the next Panel meeting scheduled for 11 December 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(2)261/18-19(02)). With the agreement of the Chairman, a relevant item was included into the agenda of the December meeting for members' consideration.)*

2018年11月13日食物安全及環境衛生委員會上，就討論事項「防治蚊鼠」提出的議案：

近年本港蚊患與鼠患問題日趨惡化，今年8月爆發有紀錄以來最嚴重的本地感染登革熱疫潮，9月港大醫學院公佈本港發現全球首宗老鼠傳染人類戊型肝炎個案，上述事件引起港人對防治蚊鼠情況的憂慮和關注。就此，本事務委員會促請政府：

- 一、強化「防治蟲鼠督導委員會」的跨部門協作，積極協調不同部門的防治蚊鼠工作，並加強與各區區議會的聯繫，防範疫症在社區爆發。
- 二、制訂全面的「綜合蚊患管理策略」，加強防蚊滅蚊工作，杜絕成蚊及其幼蟲的滋生環境，在各區增加誘蚊產卵器的數目，全面監察蚊患情況，並因應蚊患指數的變動適時調整防蚊滅蚊策略；仿照蚊患指數的方式設立監察蠓患的指標，並加強市民對蠓患防治的宣傳，做好社區層面的防治工作。
- 三、檢討「鼠患參考指數」計算方法，例如引入鼠患投訴數字、捕獲活鼠與收集死鼠數目等多元參考指標，定期因應鼠患指數的變動調整滅鼠策略；加強滅鼠工作，包括增加放置毒餌、捕鼠器、毀滅鼠洞及防阻鼠隻設施，並積極引入新的滅鼠措施。
- 四、加強對外判商承辦商的監督，包括增加監督人員的數目、制訂清晰的督導機制，並要求前線從業員接受專業的訓練；強化區議會對外判服務的監察，包括就承辦商的招標、遴選、合約磋商、制訂監管機制等範疇給予意見，並鼓勵區議會收集公眾人士對外判服務的意見，集中向政府反映，以確保蚊鼠治理工作的成效。
- 五、設立由區議會主導的「社區環境衛生改善基金」，讓區議會能自主運作相關撥款，用於社區環境改善工作，積極改善社區內的蟲鼠治理工作，並透過地區官員與區議員的緊密合作，改善社區面對的急切衛生問題。



提案人：柯創盛議員

