

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 9 November 2018)

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
1. Review of the Licensed Hawker Assistance Scheme	December 2018
<p>On 12 July 2018, the Administration provided the Panel with a paper reporting on the progress of the implementation of the five-year Hawker Assistance Scheme ("the Scheme") launched in June 2013 for licensed fixed-pitch hawkers in 43 hawker areas (LC Paper No. CB(2)1809/17-18(01)).</p> <p>At the meeting between the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the Secretary for Food and Health to discuss the work plan of the Panel for the 2018-2019 session ("the work plan meeting") held on 1 November 2018, it was tentatively agreed that the Administration should report to the Panel on the outcome of the review of the Scheme and explain its hawker policy in December 2018.</p>	
2. Creation of a directorate post in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for better managing and upgrading municipal infrastructure	December 2018
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to consult members on the above staffing proposal in December 2018.</p>	
3. Certification system for organic food	December 2018
<p>At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Dr Hon Helena WONG and Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT considered that the Panel should discuss the certification system for organic food. At the work plan meeting held on 1 November 2018, it was tentatively agreed that this subject item be included into the agenda for the regular meeting in December 2018.</p>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
4. Government's efforts to keep Hong Kong clean	January 2019

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, members considered that the Panel should follow up with the Administration on the following issues:

- (a) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD")'s strengthened efforts in improving environmental hygiene and eliminating hygiene blackspots;
- (b) review of FEHD's cleansing contract tendering system (including the practice of using the "standard marking scheme" for evaluating the tenders received); and
- (c) application of innovation and technologies for improving environmental hygiene.

At the work plan meeting held on 1 November 2018, the item "Government's efforts to keep Hong Kong clean" was tentatively scheduled for discussion in January 2019. In relation to the issue in (c) above, the Chairman suggested that the Research Office of the Information Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat could be requested to prepare an information note or fact sheet on practices and experiences in selected places for members' reference.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
5. Review of legislation relating to animal welfare	1 st quarter of 2019
<p>At the Panel meetings on 9 January, 10 April and 11 October 2018, some members expressed wishes that arrangement be made for discussion of issues relating to animal welfare, including the progress of the Administration in reviewing legislation relating to animal welfare, measures to prevent/combat acts of cruelty to animals, the feasibility of setting up "animal police" teams tasked to investigate into cases of animal cruelty and abandonment as well as measures taken by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD") for tackling nuisance caused to the community by boars.</p> <p>At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, it was agreed that the item be tentatively scheduled for discussion in the first quarter of 2019.</p>	
6. Policies on promoting the development of the fisheries industry	1 st quarter of 2019
<p>At the meeting on 18 October 2016, Hon Steven HO suggested that the Panel should follow up with the Administration on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="261 1491 1090 1778">(a) the impact of the changes to the fisheries policy of the Mainland (e.g. the implementation of the annual fishing moratorium in the South China Sea and the provision of fuel subsidy to fishermen by the Mainland authorities) on the Government's implementation of various loan schemes for local fishermen; and<li data-bbox="261 1823 1090 1899">(b) the assistance provided for fish farmers affected by natural disasters. <p>At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Hon Steven HO expressed a view that the Administration should conduct a study on the structural changes in local fisheries industry, with a view to formulating measures</p>	

Subject

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

to assist fishermen engaging in capture fishery to switch to sustainable fisheries operations such as aquaculture and recreational fisheries.

At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, it was agreed that the item be tentatively scheduled for discussion in the first quarter of 2019. It was also agreed that the issue of regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture in Hong Kong should be subsumed under this item.

7. Progress of the Private Columbaria Licensing Board in processing applications for specified instruments

1st quarter of 2019

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Dr Hon Helena WONG considered it necessary for the Administration to report to the Panel on the progress of the Private Columbaria Licensing Board in processing applications for a licence or other specified instruments for operating a private columbarium and enforcement actions taken against private columbaria after the enactment of the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630).

At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, it was agreed that the item be tentatively scheduled for discussion in the first quarter of 2019. By then, the Administration should also brief members on the arrangements for handling the displaced ashes arising from cessation of operation of private columbaria.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
8. Food safety surveillance mechanism for imported food	2 nd quarter of 2019
<p>On 9 October 2017, the Administration provided the Panel with an information paper entitled "Food Safety Surveillance Mechanism for Imported Food" (LC Paper No. CB(2)2188/16-17(01)). At the meeting on 12 October 2017, Dr Hon Helena WONG requested the Administration to brief members on the content of the said paper which covered the developments of the incident concerning the quality of Brazilian frozen and chilled meat and poultry meat and the follow-up actions taken by the Centre for Food Safety ("CFS") in response to the incident of suspicious health certificate accompanying a consignment of frozen chicken feet imported from Brazil. She also suggested that the Panel should continue to follow up and discuss the import arrangements for hairy crabs. On 1 November 2018, the Administration provided the Panel with an information paper, reporting on the import and regulatory arrangements for sale of hairy crabs in 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(2)176/18-19(01)).</p> <p>At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, it was tentatively agreed that the Administration would brief members on the food safety surveillance mechanism for imported food (including vegetables, fruits, fish and livestock imported from the Mainland) in the second quarter of 2019.</p>	
9. Government Laboratory's work in respect of food safety and other services	2 nd quarter of 2019
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to brief members on the re-development of the Food Safety Laboratory of the Government Laboratory in the second quarter of 2019.</p>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
10. Outcome of the review of the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations	2 nd quarter of 2019
<p>At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Dr Hon Helena WONG suggested that the Administration should be requested to update members on the progress/outcome of the review of the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap. 132AF). At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, it was agreed that the item be tentatively scheduled for discussion in the second quarter of 2019.</p>	
11. Outcome of the study on "cooking oils in use" and the formulation of the guidelines on good practice of using frying oils	2 nd quarter of 2019
<p>At the meeting on 12 December 2017, the Panel received the Administration's briefing on the progress of the study on "cooking oils in use" and the formulation of the guidelines on good practice of using frying oils. The Administration advised that the study was expected to be completed in mid-2019.</p> <p>At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, it was agreed that the Administration should report to the Panel on the subject matter in the second quarter of 2019.</p>	
12. Report on the Food Surveillance Programme for 2018	2 nd quarter of 2019
<p>At the meeting on 11 October 2018 and the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, concerns were expressed about CFS' surveillance control over imported vegetables (including vegetables directly distributed to retail outlets), efficiency of the Government Laboratory in testing samples of vegetables as well as the progress of the Administration in following up the recommendations</p>	

Subject

Proposed timing for discussion

made in the Ombudsman's direct investigation report on "Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's System of Safety Control for Imported Fruits and Vegetables".

At the special meeting on 3 September 2014, in response to members' concern about inadequate regulation over cooked meat, the Administration advised that it would review the relevant legislation and seek the views of the trade before deciding on the way forward.

At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, it was agreed that when the Administration reported on the Food Surveillance Programme for 2018, it should update members on the safety control for imported vegetables and the direction regarding the regulation of cooked meat.

13. Regulatory control of genetically modified food

2nd quarter of 2019

At the meeting on 12 March 2013, the Panel was briefed on the Administration's proposal on regulating genetically modified ("GM") food by introducing a mandatory pre-market safety assessment scheme ("PMSAS") in Hong Kong. At the meeting on 11 July 2017, the Administration advised that it would launch a public consultation on PMSAS in due course, taking into account the international development on regulation of GM food.

At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, the Chairman requested the Administration to update members on the progress in taking forward PMSAS, the latest development in relation to GM food labelling and the inspection/testing work on GM food conducted by CFS.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
14. Use of veterinary drugs in food animals and cultured fish and surveillance of veterinary drug residues in food and food animals	End of 2018-2019 session

At the meeting on 15 October 2015, concerns were raised about the regulation of animal feed for livestock and cultured fish and the presence of veterinary drug residues, including antibiotics, in meat and aquatic products for human consumption. There was a suggestion that the Panel should discuss the subject matter at a Panel meeting.

On 3 January 2017, the Administration provided the Panel with an information paper on its work plan regarding antimicrobial resistance ("AMR") (LC Paper No. CB(2)519/16-17(01)). At the Panel meeting on 10 January 2017, members considered it necessary for the Administration to explain at a meeting its work plan and progress in tackling the threat of AMR.

In recognition of the major threat posed by AMR to global public health, the Administration has set up a High Level Steering Committee on AMR ("HLSC") to formulate strategies and action plans for tackling AMR in Hong Kong. The Expert Committee on AMR ("Expert Committee") formed under HLSC has made recommendations to HLSC. Taking into account the recommendations of the Expert Committee and the "One Health" framework which apprehends the correlation among human, animal and environment health and that AMR must be tackled at all three levels, HLSC has formulated a holistic action plan on AMR. On 10 July 2017, the Administration formally launched the Hong Kong Strategy and Action Plan on AMR ("Action Plan") (2017-2022). The issue was discussed by the Panel on Health Services at its meeting on 17 July 2017, and members of this Panel were invited to join the discussion.

On 6 August 2018, the Administration provided a further information paper on the progress of the work on tackling the threat of AMR in food animals by

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
AFCD under the Action Plan (LC Paper No. CB(2)1913/17-18(01)). At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, the Administration was requested to update members on the subject by the end of the 2018-2019 session.	
15. Establishment of an Agricultural Park (Phase 1) in Kwu Tung South	To be confirmed
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to consult members on the above public works project when ready.	
16. Provision of Columbarium and Related Works at On Hing Lane, Shek Mun, Sha Tin	To be confirmed
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to consult members on the above public works project when ready.	
17. Provision of Columbarium and Garden of Remembrance at Sandy Ridge Cemetery (Phase 1 Development)	To be confirmed
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to consult members on the above public works project when ready.	
18. Animal Management and Animal Welfare Building Complex at Kai Tak Development	To be confirmed
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to consult members on the above public works project when ready.	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
19. Outcome of the review of food-safety related penalties	To be confirmed
<p>Having regard to the views of the members of the Subcommittee on Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2014, the Administration undertook to conduct a review of the food safety-related penalties under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and its subsidiary legislation, as well as the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612) ("FSO"). The Administration agreed to report to the Panel on the outcome of the review (paragraphs 29 and 30 of the Subcommittee's report (LC Paper No. CB(2)256/14-15) refers).</p>	
<p>The Subcommittee on Three Regulations Relating to Control Regime for the Import of Eggs also proposed that the Administration should report the progress of the review to the Panel (paragraphs 24 to 26 of its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)2123/14-15) refers).</p>	
<p>The Administration has advised that it would brief members on its review of the maximum levels of penalties of offences under FSO and its subsidiary legislation when ready.</p>	
20. Government's policy on bazaar activities	To be confirmed
<p>The Administration has been requested to brief members on issues relating to the Government's policy on bazaar activities, including the Administration's next course of action and progress in following up various recommendations of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Bazaars as set out in its report (Annex I to LC Paper No. CB(1)969/17-18). On 11 September 2018, the Administration provided the Panel with an information paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)2003/17-18(01)) reporting on the follow-up actions taken by the Administration in response to the Subcommittee's report.</p>	

Subject

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, the Chairman requested the Administration to explore the feasibility of issuing specific permits/licences allowing bazaar activities at designated areas. The Administration undertook to report to the Panel on the subject matter when ready.

21. Liquor licence fee adjustment: outcome of consultation

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 11 July 2017, the Panel was briefed on the Government's proposal to adjust liquor licence fees and the improvement measures introduced for processing liquor licensing applications. The Panel subsequently held a special meeting on 22 September 2017 to receive public views on the subject. The Administration concurrently consulted stakeholders on the fee adjustment proposal at liaison meetings with the trade in September and October 2017. The Administration has advised vide Annex H to LC Paper No. CB(2)804/17-18(01) that it is compiling the views received from various parties and will report to the Panel on the latest position at an opportune time.

At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, the Administration was requested to provide, before the end of the first quarter of 2019, the Panel with an information paper reporting on the latest development of the subject matter to facilitate members' consideration of whether the matter should be brought up for discussion at a Panel meeting.

22. Implementation of the human-poultry segregation measures at retail outlets for the live poultry trade

To be confirmed

Item proposed by the Administration.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
23. Wholesale market consultancy study	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 10 June 2014, members noted that the Administration had commissioned a consultancy study on the present-day functions and purpose of the wholesale business in the sale of fresh food produce, and analyse the geographical spread of the five existing wholesale markets from the perspectives of land use and food safety.</p>	
<p>At the meeting on 11 October 2018, members considered it necessary for the Administration to brief members on the outcome of the consultancy study (including the timetable, proposed sites and detailed plan for relocating Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Poultry Market and Yau Ma Tei Fruit Market). At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, the Administration advised that the study was expected to be completed in 2020.</p>	
24. Ancillary facilities for storage and distribution of chilled meat and poultry	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 15 October 2015, concern was raised about the lack of ancillary facilities for wholesaling of chilled meat and poultry. Noting that the trade had made repeated requests to the Government for the setting up of an approved distribution and storage centre for chilled meat and poultry with a view to reducing food safety risks, members requested for early discussion of the subject.</p>	
25. Measures to facilitate the establishment of co-operative societies	To be confirmed
<p>In his letter dated 12 December 2016 (LC Paper No. CB(2)413/16-17(01)), Hon CHU Hoi-dick expressed concern on the need for the Administration to review the Co-operative Societies Ordinance (Cap. 33) and to draw up measures for promoting local community</p>	

Subject

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

economy by facilitating the establishment of co-operative societies. He suggested that the Panel should discuss the subject matter at a future meeting. The Administration's response to issues raised in the letter from Hon CHU was set out in LC Paper No. CB(2)514/16-17(01) issued on 3 January 2017.

At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, it was agreed that the Administration would bring up this issue when it reported to the Panel on the progress of the initiatives under the New Agricultural Policy.

26. Issues relating to the relocation of Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar to Tung Chau Street Market

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 12 October 2017, Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested that the Panel should follow up and discuss issues relating to the relocation of Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar to Tung Chau Street Market, including how the Administration would address the needs and concerns of street sleepers in the vicinity of Tung Chau Street Market arising from the Administration's plan to improve the surroundings of Tung Chau Street Market.

27. Enforcement strategy and operational guidelines for handling street obstruction/environmental hygiene issues involving scavengers

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Hon SHIU Ka-chun considered that the Administration should review FEHD's enforcement strategy and operational guidelines for frontline staff in handling street obstruction/environmental hygiene issues involving scavengers. He suggested that the matter be brought up for discussion at a future meeting.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, the Administration advised that the subject might cover discussion of practices of waste recycling and recovery. The Chairman subsequently suggested that when the item was discussed by the Panel, members of the Panel on Environmental Affairs should be invited to join the discussion.</p>	
<p>28. Food safety and hygiene issues relating to online food selling activities/platforms</p>	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Dr Hon Helena WONG suggested that the Panel should follow up with the Administration on food safety and hygiene issues relating to online food selling activities/platforms, including the potential food safety risks involved in the delivery process of food products sold through these platforms.</p>	
<p>At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, the Administration was requested to provide, before January 2019, the Panel with an information paper reporting on the subject to facilitate members' consideration of whether the matter should be brought up for discussion at a Panel meeting.</p>	
<p>29. Provision of water dispensers at venues of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department</p>	To be confirmed
<p>At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, the Chairman expressed concern about the Administration's progress in installing water dispensers at the venues under the management of FEHD and the hygiene condition of the water dispensers.</p>	
<p>At the request of the Chairman, the Administration would provide, by the end of the second quarter of 2019, the Panel with an information paper reporting on the subject to facilitate members' consideration of</p>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
whether the matter should be brought up for discussion at a Panel meeting.	
30. Licensing conditions and requirements for food factory licence	To be confirmed

At the work plan meeting on 1 November 2018, the Chairman expressed concern that as some food factories were not allowed to provide dining service under the existing licensing requirements, visitors had to use disposable plastic tableware even the food was consumed inside the factories, which resulted in wastage of tableware. The Chairman suggested that the Administration should review whether amendments should be made to the licensing conditions for food factories. The Administration undertook to provide, by the end of the second quarter of 2019, the Panel with an information paper reporting on the subject to facilitate members' consideration of whether the matter should be brought up for discussion at a Panel meeting.