

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 2 January 2019)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
1. Mosquito and rodent control work	13 November 2018	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) the increase in manpower resources in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") in recent years for enhancing the supervision and monitoring of pest control work carried out by outsourced service contractors;</p> <p>(b) in relation to rodent prevention and control work, (i) 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 (ii) the total numbers of rodents cleared/caught, rat holes destroyed and warnings issued for the years 2016 and 2017 respectively;</p> <p>(c) detailed results of FEHD's assessment of new technologies/methods for pest</p>	<p>The Administration's response was circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(2)511/18-19 on 27 December 2018.</p>

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		<p>control purposes, presented in tabular form, covering (i) types of technological products tested by FEHD; (ii) how and when the tests were conducted; and (iii) findings of the tests;</p> <p>(d) whether the use of any specific rodent control product/technique was bound by law to refuse its application; and</p> <p>(e) whether FEHD would (i) set a concrete target for elimination of rodent infestation; (ii) commission a consultancy study with a view to strengthening FEHD's rodent prevention and control work; and (iii) work hand in hand with the Housing Department to step up anti-rodent operations in all public housing estates and if yes, the timetable and implementation details.</p>	
<p>2. Post-typhoon follow-up efforts under the purview of FEHD</p>	<p>13 November 2018</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) a breakdown by nature of the 979 cases in which default notices were issued to outsourced service contractors in the</p>	<p>The Administration's responses in respect of (a) and (b) were circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(2)438/18-19 on 12 December 2018.</p>

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		<p>2017-2018 financial year for default in performance under the service contracts or breach of contractual obligations (including cases where the contractors failed to provide sufficient tools/equipment and appropriate protective gear, such as working clothes and gloves, for their staff to perform the cleansing duties) and the corresponding follow-up actions taken by FEHD against the default cases;</p> <p>(b) 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; and</p> <p>(c) outcome of the review coordinated by the Security Bureau on the handling of super typhoons (once available), highlighting the parts relevant to FEHD including measures to be adopted to ensure that FEHD's outsourced service contractors would have sufficient</p>	

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		resources and manpower to handle the cleansing work after the passage of super typhoons.	
3. Review outcome of the five-year assistance scheme for licensed hawkers operating in 43 fixed-pitch hawker areas ("the Hawker Assistance Scheme")	11 December 2018	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) a summary (with detailed breakdown and figures) of how FEHD, following the surrender of 854 hawker licences under the Hawker Assistance Scheme, took forward stall relocation cum reconstruction or in-situ stall reconstruction to improve the design and fire resisting capability of hawker stalls, resulting in the release of 237 vacant hawker pitches for re-allocation;</p> <p>(b) the respective number of hawker pitches vacated as a result of surrender of hawker licences or through natural causes; how the figure of 423 vacant pitches considered as suitable for re-allocation was arrived at after the completion of the Hawker Assistance Scheme; the number of vacant pitches not going to be re-allocated and the rationale behind; and</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>(c) whether any assistance had been provided to unlicensed street tradesmen with characteristics of local culture and heritage (e.g. cobblers and watch repairers) in recent years to facilitate the tradesmen to conduct business at suitable sites; and the Administration's future position on the preservation of hawking of traditional crafts.</p>	
<p>4. Improving facilities of and cleansing services for public toilets</p>	<p>11 December 2018</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) the estimated expenditure for carrying out hardware improvements/refurbishment work in the 23 public toilets at major tourist spots;</p> <p>(b) apart from improving the facilities of and cleansing services for the 23 public toilets at major tourist spots, whether FEHD had any plan to improve the hygiene conditions of all the 700-odd public toilets across the territory and if yes, the enhancement strategies for other public toilets as well as the timetable for taking forward the improvement plan;</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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		<p>(c) among the 700-odd public toilets, the respective number of toilets which were provided with toilet attendants (i) after 5:30 pm on weekdays and (ii) during weekends;</p> <p>(d) the daily average usage of each of the 700-odd public toilets and the number of workers (including toilet attendants) deployed for the cleansing work in each of the toilets during peak hours and non-peak hours (including after 5:30 pm on weekdays and during weekends); and</p> <p>(e) the service requirements (including staff deployment, working hours and work schedules of toilet attendants, frequency of cleansing) that must be met by contractors and as laid down in the tender documents and contracts for outsourced public toilet cleansing services.</p>	
5. Certification system for organic food	11 December 2018	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) the number of inspections (including regular and spot checks) conducted by</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre ("HKORC") on the 140 food production units that had been certified under HKORC's certification system, and the follow-up actions taken by the Administration or HKORC in case of any non-compliance with HKORC's certification standards and requirements was found;</p> <p>(b) the number of operations carried out by the Customs and Excise Department ("C&ED") against the sale of counterfeit organic food/false claim of organic produce over the past few years, and the number of prosecutions instituted against contraventions of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap. 362) ;</p> <p>(c) whether the Administration would consider tasking the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department or the Centre for Food Safety, instead of HKORC and C&ED, to conduct inspections on certified production units and retailers of organic food products for ensuring compliance with relevant</p>	

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		<p>certification standards and labeling requirements in relation to the production and sale of organic food; and</p> <p>(d) whether the Administration would consider putting in place a mechanism for monitoring and reporting cases of selling fake organic food or labelling of certification marks on unauthenticated food.</p>	