

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

**List of follow-up actions**  
(position as at 1 February 2019)

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Follow-up action required</b>	<b>Administration's response</b>
1. Post-typhoon follow-up efforts under the purview of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD")	13 November 2018	The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the 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 resources and manpower to handle the cleansing work after the passage of super typhoons.	Response from the Administration awaited.
2. 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	The Administration was requested to provide the following information:  (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;	The Administration's response was circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(2)588/18-19 on 14 January 2019 for the special meeting of the Panel scheduled for 28 January 2019.

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		<p>(b) the respective numbers of hawker pitches vacated as a result of surrender of hawker licences and 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> <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>	

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	28 January 2019	<p>When the Panel received deputations' views on issues relating to the proposed arrangements for re-allocation of vacant hawker pitches at the special meeting on 28 January 2019, members noted that the Administration would brief and consult the seven District Councils with fixed pitches to be re-allocated and relevant stakeholders on the proposed arrangements for re-allocation of suitable/vacant hawker pitches before finalizing the allocation mechanism with an aim to taking forward the re-allocation in the third quarter of 2019. Members requested the Administration to revert to the Panel before the end of the 2018-2019 legislative session the outcome of the consultation and the finalized arrangements for re-allocating the vacant pitches.</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>
3. Improving facilities of and cleansing services for public toilets	11 December 2018	<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</p>	<p>The Administration's response was circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(2)542/18-19 on 7 January 2019.</p>

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		<p>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>(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</p>	

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		outsourced public toilet cleansing services.	
4. 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 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&amp;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>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<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&amp;ED, to conduct inspections on certified production units and retailers of organic food products for ensuring compliance with relevant certification standards and labelling 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>	
<p>5. Survey results and control strategy against biting midges</p>	<p>8 January 2019</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) a copy of (i) the technical guidelines formulated by FEHD on the prevention and control of biting midges for relevant departments' reference and (ii) the survey report on the</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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		<p>territory-wide study on biting midges conducted by FEHD between July 2017 and July 2018;</p> <p>(b) the follow-up actions to be taken by FEHD and relevant departments against the infestation of biting midges, particularly at locations where biting midges were prevalent according to the survey results;</p> <p>(c) whether consideration would be given to placing light traps for catching biting midges at parks and rural areas where the presence of biting midges was higher and if yes, details of the plan;</p> <p>(d) whether FEHD would consider issuing guidelines on the safety use of insect repellent (e.g. DEET-containing insect repellent) for public reference; and</p> <p>(e) the strategies and measures (including the allocation of manpower and resources) for preventing proliferation of biting midges as recommended by the Pest Control Steering Committee.</p>	

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6. Establishment of an Agricultural Park ("Agri-Park") (Phase 1) in Kwu Tung South	8 January 2019	<p>The Administration was requested to provide, the Panel and in its paper to be submitted to the Public Works Subcommittee, more detailed information on the following:</p> <p>(a) the reasons for not adopting the road alignment proposal as originally stated in the consultancy brief for establishment of the Agri-Park; and</p> <p>(b) the justifications for and necessity of the proposed construction of a 7.3 metres wide single two-lane carriageway, as gazetted on 3 and 10 November 2017, connecting the Agri-Park with Tsiu Keng Road and Fan Kam Road; the considerations taken into account by the Administration in proposing the road works; and the estimated impact of the construction works on existing farmers, farmland and environment.</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.