

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 10 April 2019)

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
1. Public consultation on the proposals to enhance animal welfare	May 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 wild pigs.</p>	
2. Creation of directorate posts in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for better managing and upgrading municipal infrastructure	May 2019
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to consult members on the above staffing proposal.</p>	
3. 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</p>	

Subject

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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)).

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 ("work plan meeting") held on 1 November 2018, it was tentatively agreed that the Administration would give members an overall update on the food safety surveillance mechanism for imported food in the second quarter of 2019.

In her letter dated 30 November 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(2)361/18-19(01)), Dr Hon Helena WONG referred to Chapters 1 and 2 in Report No. 71 of the Director of Audit on the results of value for money audits ("Director of Audit's Report") tabled in the Council on 28 November 2018 respectively on the subjects of "Centre for Food Safety: Management of food safety" and "Centre for Food Safety: Import control of foods", and suggested that the Panel should, after the Public Accounts Committee ("PAC") has conducted its public hearings and completed the report in respect of the subjects covered in the above two Chapters of the Director of Audit's Report, follow up the relevant policy issues and further discuss with the Administration at a Panel meeting how the work of CFS in relation to food surveillance and import control could be enhanced.

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<p>PAC's report on Chapter 1 concerning matters relating to CFS' management of food safety was published and presented to the Council on 20 February 2019 (PAC Report No. 71 – Chapter 1 of Part 9 refers).</p>	
<p>4. Report on the Food Surveillance Programme for 2018</p>	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 made in the Ombudsman's direct investigation report on "Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's System of Safety Control for Imported Fruits and Vegetables".</p>	
<p>Separately, 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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	

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5. Outcome of the review of food-safety related penalties	2 nd quarter of 2019
<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) refer).</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) refer).</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>	
6. Government's policy on bazaar activities	2 nd or 3 rd quarter of 2019
<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>	

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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.

7. Use of veterinary drugs in food animals and cultured fish and surveillance of veterinary drug residues in food and food animals

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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

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<p>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.</p> <p>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 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.</p>	
<p>8. Outcome of the study on "cooking oils in use" and the formulation of the guidelines on good practice of using frying oils</p> <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, having noted that the study would only be completed in mid-2019, the Chairman requested the Administration to report to the Panel on the subject matter in the third or fourth quarter of 2019.</p>	<p>3rd or 4th quarter of 2019</p>
<p>9. Outcome of the review of the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations</p> <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</p>	<p>4th quarter of 2019</p>

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tentatively scheduled for discussion in the second quarter of 2019.	
10. Regulatory control of genetically modified food	To be confirmed
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
11. Government Laboratory's work in respect of food safety and other services	To be confirmed
<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.</p>	
12. Animal Management and Animal Welfare Building Complex at Kai Tak Development	To be confirmed
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to consult members on the above public works project when ready.</p>	

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13. Liquor licence fee adjustment: outcome of consultation	To be confirmed
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
14. Issues relating to liquor licensing	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 8 January 2019, Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan expressed concern about the liquor licensing policy in Hong Kong and suggested that the Panel should discuss the licensing criteria at a future meeting.</p> <p>According to the Administration, it would explain the liquor licensing regime in the information paper on liquor licence fee adjustment in one go.</p>	

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15. Regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture in Hong Kong	To be confirmed
<p>At previous meetings of the Panel, concern was expressed about the over-expansion of oyster culture in Shenzhen Bay and the need of introducing in Hong Kong a licensing mechanism for regulating the activities of oyster culture. There was a suggestion that the issue of regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture in Hong Kong should be discussed by the Panel.</p>	
16. Implementation of the human-poultry segregation measures at retail outlets for the live poultry trade	To be confirmed
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
17. 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>	

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18. 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>	
19. 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 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.</p> <p>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 Agriculture Policy.</p>	
20. Issues relating to the relocation of Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar to Tung Chau Street Market	To be confirmed
<p>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</p>	

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<p>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.</p>	
<p>21. Enforcement strategy and operational guidelines for handling street obstruction/environmental hygiene issues involving scavengers</p>	<p>To be confirmed</p>
<p>At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Hon SHIU Ka-chun considered that the Administration should review Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("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.</p>	
<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>22. Provision of water dispensers at venues of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department</p>	<p>To be confirmed</p>
<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 whether the matter should be brought up for discussion at a Panel meeting.</p>	

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23. Licensing conditions and requirements for food factory licence	To be confirmed
<p>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.</p>	
24. Establishment of an Agricultural Park	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 8 January 2019, the Administration consulted members on the proposed construction of Phase 1 of the Agricultural Park ("Agri-Park") in Kwu Tung South. Noting that the Agri-Park is planned to be implemented in two phases, members, after taking into account its proposed scale, considered it necessary for the Administration to regularly report to the Panel on the progress of this works project.</p>	
<p>To facilitate members' better understanding of the scope and nature of the project, the Panel conducted a visit on 28 February 2019 to the proposed site for establishing the Agri-Park.</p>	

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25. Issues relating to the management of public markets and the implementation of the Market Modernization Programme	To be confirmed

The Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets has completed its work and provided the Panel with a report (LC Paper No. CB(2)1000/18-19), recommending the Panel to follow up with the Administration on various issues relating to the implementation of the Market Modernization Programme and the management reform of public markets (paragraphs 49 and 50 of the report refer).

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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