

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 7 May 2019)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
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. Certification system for organic food	11 December 2018	The Administration was requested to provide the following information: (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;	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<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 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>	

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3. Issues relating to the proposed arrangements for re-allocation of vacant hawker pitches	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. The Administration was requested 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.	Response from the Administration awaited.
4. Supply of niches and issues relating to the implementation of the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630)	12 March 2019	The Administration was requested to provide the following information: (a) the estimated supply of niches in the coming 10 years with a breakdown by source of supply/provider covering (i) public niches provided by FEHD and (ii) private niches provided by private columbaria or (iii) niches provided in columbarium facilities of non-government bodies;	The Administration's response was circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1347/18-19 on 2 May 2019.

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		<p>(b) the number of applicants who were not allocated with a new public niche in the last major allocation exercise completed in 2016, and the estimated average "waiting/queuing" time for these unsuccessful applicants be allocated with a public niche through future allocation exercises;</p> <p>(c) whether the Administration had assessed the overall demand for niches in the coming 10 years and if yes, the projection with relevant details; and whether the projected supply of public and private niches within the same period could meet the demand; and</p> <p>(d) the numbers of (i) inspections conducted to private columbaria, (ii) enforcement actions taken against illegal operation of private columbaria and (iii) prosecution instituted against operators suspected of engaging in illegal operation, since the implementation of the Private Columbaria Ordinance.</p>	

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5. Initiatives on the reduction of salt and sugar in food	12 March 2019	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) enforcement actions taken over the past few years against false claims of "low salt", "no salt", "low sugar" and "no sugar" on the packaging labels (including nutrition labels or the specific display labels used under the voluntary "Salt/Sugar" Label Scheme for Prepackaged Food Products) of prepackaged food products for breach of the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap. 132W); and</p> <p>(b) the resources deployed by government departments and the Committee on Reduction of Salt and Sugar in Food for promoting territory-wide salt and sugar reduction over the past few years.</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.
6. Food safety of online food sale	12 March 2019	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) the number of food samples taken for chemical and microbiological tests from food premises/food factories which supplied food to ultimate consumers</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>through online platforms over the past few years, and the actions taken in those cases with food tested to have contained pesticide residue or metallic contamination exceeding the relevant statutory standards; and</p> <p>(b) the numbers of (i) inspections/ investigations (including decoy operations) conducted over the past few years to the place of business of 395 online food sale platforms which had obtained permits for sale of restricted food online and to the food premises/food factories supplying food for purchase online; (ii) checks against food suppliers on whether the food purchased online was stored at a safe and proper temperature during the transportation/delivery process to customers; and (iii) the enforcement actions taken against cases involving breaches of the food safety laws.</p>	
7. Use of fish feed	2 April 2019	When discussing the proposal to strengthen the management of licensed marine fish farms, the Administration was requested to provide the following information:	Response from the Administration awaited.

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		<p>(a) the differences between using trash fish and dry pellet feed in fish farming in respect of cost, nutritional content, hygiene, availability, effectiveness in fish culturing and impact on the environment and ecology (backed up with scientific and technical information where available); and</p> <p>(b) types of dry pellet feed available in the local market.</p>	
<p>8. Refurbishment of public toilets managed by FEHD</p>	<p>16 April 2019</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) regarding the 240-odd FEHD-managed public toilets which would commence refurbishment or facelifting works by phases in the coming five years (i.e. from 2019-2020 to 2023-2024), (i) the respective number of public toilets that would be refurbished or facelifted, (ii) the location and geographical distribution as well as the estimated cost range of individual toilets undertaking full-scale refurbishment or smaller-scale facelifting works, and (iii) the tender specifications/ requirements for providing the public toilets refurbishment works;</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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		<p>(b) regarding the 231 existing public toilets provided with attendant services and attendant rooms, (i) the standard fittings and facilities in those attendant rooms; (ii) the number of attendant rooms that could meet the standard room size of 30 square feet; and (iii) how the Administration would improve the provisions for attendant rooms, particularly for those which were below standard, when the public toilets were refurbished; and</p> <p>(c) a breakdown of follow-up actions taken in the past three years by FEHD against outsourced service contractors found to be in breach of contract provisions in performing cleansing services for public toilets, including the issuance of verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices, the withholding or deduction of monthly payment of service charge.</p>	
<p>9. Proposed construction of a columbarium and a Garden of Remembrance at On Hing Lane, Shek Mun in Sha Tin</p>	<p>16 April 2019</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to advise whether special bus services would be arranged between designated points (such as Shek Mun MTR Station) and the proposed columbarium at On Hing Lane during the</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

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		grave sweeping seasons, in order to cater for the anticipated increase in the number of visitors for the proposed columbarium development.	
10. Handling illegal importation of cats and dogs	16 April 2019	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) regarding animal euthanasia, the total expenditure incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD") over the past three years and the percentage share of the expenditure on euthanizing illegally imported cats or dogs; and</p> <p>(b) in three months' time, the outcome of AFCD's review of the procedures and arrangements for handling special cases of illegal animal importation.</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.