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Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 11 June 2019**

Audit reports on the work of the Centre for Food Safety

The Audit Commission conducted a review of the work of the Centre for Food Safety ("CFS") in respect of (a) management and control of food safety and (b) import control of foods. The findings, observations and recommendations of the Audit Commission were set out in Chapters 1 and 2 of 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 2018.¹

2. The Public Accounts Committee ("PAC") subsequently conducted public hearings and completed its report ("PAC's Report") in respect of, among others, the subjects covered in Chapters 1 and 2 of the Director of Audit's Report. PAC's Report on matters relating to CFS' management of food safety ("the food safety management report") was published and presented to the Council on 20 February 2019;² and that on matters relating to CFS' import control of foods ("the import control report") was published and presented to the Council on 8 May 2019.³

¹ The full report and executive summary of the Director of Audit's Report are accessible at: https://www.aud.gov.hk/eng/pubpr_arpt/rpt_71.htm

² See PAC's Report No. 71 – Chapter 1 of Part 9, which is accessible at: https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr18-19/english/pac/reports/71/m_9a.pdf

³ See PAC's Report No. 71A – Part 4, which is accessible at: https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr18-19/english/pac/reports/71a/m_4.pdf

3. PAC has examined a wide range of issues relating to the work of CFS. The food safety management report covers:

- (a) the assessment of food safety risks (paragraphs 10 to 33);
- (b) the Food Surveillance Programme (paragraphs 34 to 55);
- (c) the management of food incidents and complaints (paragraphs 56 to 76); and
- (d) communicating with the public on food safety risks (paragraphs 77 to 88).

The relevant conclusions and recommendations are set out in paragraphs 89 to 91.

4. Separately, the import control report covers the following:

- (a) control of foods imported by air (paragraphs 15 to 37);
- (b) control of foods imported by road (paragraphs 38 to 57);
- (c) control of foods imported by sea (paragraphs 58 to 75);
- (d) control of live food animals and live aquatic products (paragraphs 76 to 95);
- (e) registration and inspection of food traders (paragraphs 96 to 113); and
- (f) other issues relating to import control of foods and way forward (paragraphs 114 to 122).

The relevant conclusions and recommendations on this part are set out in paragraphs 123 to 125.

5. Members of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the Panel") consider it necessary to follow up the issues relating to CFS' work raised in the Director of Audit's Report and the PAC's Report, and to further discuss with the Administration how the work of CFS in relation to food safety management and import control could be enhanced. The Panel will receive the Administration's briefing at the meeting on 11 June 2019 on its response to PAC's recommendations.