

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 4 December 2019)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
1. 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.
2. Proposed creation of two directorate posts in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for planning and implementation of municipal facility projects	14 May 2019	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following supplementary information:</p> <p>(a) given that a five-year supernumerary directorate Administrative Officer Staff Grade C ("AOSGC") post (designated as Assistant Director (Market Special Duties) ("AD(MSD)")) upon creation and proposed to be retitled as Assistant Director (Market Review) ("AD(MR)")) under the current</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<p>exercise) was already created in January 2018 to take forward a fundamental review and oversee the implementation of various measures for improving the facilities and management of public markets, the justification for creating a permanent AOSGC post (to be designated as Assistant Director (Market Development) ("AD(MD)")) to take forward measures on market modernization and development of new public markets;</p> <p>(b) the major differences in job duties of AD(MR) and AD(MD) and the proposed delineation of work and responsibilities between the two posts, as well as the performance indicators to be adopted for evaluating the performance of the two post holders;</p> <p>(c) the work progress of the dedicated team led by the existing AD(MSD) in respect of taking forward the review of the facilities as well as management of public markets and the implementation of enhancement measures for revitalizing and modernizing the operation and management of markets (including the progress of the improvement</p>	

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<p>works at the six representative markets selected by the consultant for detailed study and specific improvement recommendations);</p> <p>(d) whether the Administration would consider members' suggestion to create the AD(MD) post on a supernumerary basis (say, for three or five years) and examine the need for extending the post or converting it into permanent basis before the expiry of the initial period taking into account the work progress of the tasks concerned; and</p> <p>(e) a written response to the questions raised in Hon SHIU Ka-chun's letter dated 14 May 2019 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1440/18-19(01)).</p>	
<p>3. Financial commitment for culling of pigs and follow-up work due to African Swine Fever ("ASF")</p>	<p>11 June 2019</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on the estimated number of practitioners involved in the supply chain of live pigs in Hong Kong (including the respective number of pig farmers, slaughterhouse operators, livestock agents, buyers, workers in pig farms/slaughterhouses/meat transportation companies as well as meat stall owners/operators).</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
	12 November 2019	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) whether the Administration would consider devising long-term plans/measures to ease the financial pressure on industries affected by ASF and the reduced supply of Mainland live pigs (e.g. extending the rental reduction period for meat stalls in public markets);</p> <p>(b) whether any enhanced measures would be taken to support the local pig rearing industry (e.g. lifting the existing control on the licensed rearing capacity of local pig farms and providing subsidies to farmers); and</p> <p>(c) whether and how the Administration would explore different importing sources to increase the supply of pork and stabilize the retail price.</p>	Response from the Administration awaited.
4. Policy initiatives of the Food Branch of the Food and Health Bureau	29 October 2019	During the meeting to receive the briefing by the Secretary for Food and Health on the Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address in respect of the portfolio of food safety, environmental hygiene as well as agriculture and fisheries, the Administration was requested to provide the following information:	Response from the Administration awaited.

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<p><u>Provision and management of public markets</u></p> <p>(a) details of the implementation progress of each of the seven new public market projects (including (i) when and how the design and layout plans were/would be drawn up, (ii) their scope of development, (iii) at what stages were such markets being developed, and (iv) the anticipated date of completion of each of the proposed projects);</p> <p>(b) in relation to the temporary market to be built at the open space adjacent to Tin Sau Road Park in Tin Shui Wai, (i) the mode of operation to be adopted (e.g. whether the management and operation of the temporary market would be outsourced to private firm(s)) and measures to be adopted by the Administration to prevent monopolization of the stalls situated in the temporary market; and (ii) whether the Administration would consider setting up an advisory committee comprising members of the local communities, in order to monitor and assess the operating effectiveness of the temporary market;</p>	

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<p><u>Issues relating to food safety</u></p> <p>(c) whether the Centre for Food Safety ("CFS") would collect fresh fruit samples from markets located in or close to areas where the Police had deployed tear gas rounds in dispersal operations (in particular, from Yau Ma Tei Wholesale Fruit Market) for testing of harmful substances to ascertain whether the fruits had been contaminated by tear gas chemicals/residues and whether the fruits were safe for human consumption;</p> <p>(d) whether AFCD and relevant departments would conduct inspections and studies to find out if the sea water at Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter and near Aberdeen was polluted by dyed/coloured water sprayed out by the Police's Specialised Crowd Management Vehicles in recent dispersal operations; and whether the Administration would assess the impact of the dyed/coloured water on marine environment and fish culture operations, if and when such water was discharged to the sea;</p>	

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<p><u>Food safety management</u></p> <p>(e) regarding the recommendations of the Audit Commission and The Ombudsman on CFS' import control of foods, set out in detail in table form (i) the progress of CFS in implementing those recommendations which had been taken on board and (ii) recommendations which had not been accepted (if any) and the issues considered by the Administration in drawing up such a decision;</p> <p><u>Promotion of the mariculture industry</u></p> <p>(f) whether the Administration would consider (i) setting up a "natural disasters protection mechanism" for the mariculture industry, which included an insurance scheme for the mariculture industry, interest-free loans for post-disaster business resumption, etc.; and (ii) reviewing the eligibility criteria and application procedures for financial assistance for fishermen under the Emergency Relief Fund and if yes, the timetable of the review;</p>	

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<p><u>Management of public toilets</u></p> <p>(g) whether the Administration would consider outsourcing the management of some public toilets to private operators; and</p> <p><u>Rodent control</u></p> <p>(h) statistics about rodent infestation in Hong Kong (including average lifespan of common species of commensal rodent found in Hong Kong, their reproduction rates and the projected position (in 10 years' time) of rodent infestation in the territory).</p>	
<p>5. Issues relating to animal welfare</p>	<p>12 November 2019</p>	<p>During the discussion on the proposed construction of the Animal Management and Animal Welfare Building Complex ("AMAWBC") in Kai Tak Development, the Administration was requested to provide, the Panel and in its paper to be submitted to the Public Works Subcommittee, the following information:</p> <p>(a) the respective numbers and types of complaints received and handled in 2018 by each of the four existing Animal Management Centres;</p>	<p>Response from the Administration awaited.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<p>(b) whether the Administration would consider (i) providing spay and neuter services for animals kept in AMAWBC and (ii) establishing a public animal clinic/hospital in the new building complex, so as to provide pet owners with an option other than private veterinary clinics; and, if the answers to these questions were in the negative, the issues considered by the Administration in coming up with its decisions;</p> <p>(c) detailed information on the area size of various facilities to be provided in AMAWBC in relation to animal welfare and animal management; and how well they were improved as compared with those in the existing Animal Management Centre in Kowloon located in To Kwa Wan;</p> <p>(d) floor plan and cross-section plan of AMAWBC, showing the proposed use of the space to be provided therein; and</p> <p>(e) whether any animal welfare organizations had ever applied for the use of vacant government sites under the Development</p>	

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		Bureau's "Funding Scheme to Support the Use of Vacant Government Sites by Non-government Organizations" for setting up support centres for animals in the community and if yes, details of the plan(s) (including the scale of the project(s) and the number(s) of animal keeping facilities provided in the animal centre(s)).	