

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 15 March 2024)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Measures to enhance refuse collection points in rural areas

April 2024

Item proposed by the Administration.

Since 2022, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) has put in place fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design at over 100 rural locations, and will progressively set up similar facilities at about 400 other locations between 2024 and 2026 to make continued improvement in refuse collection infrastructure and overall environmental hygiene in rural areas. The Administration proposes to report to members the outcome of such measures.

2. Enhancing the food business licensing regime

April 2024

At the Panel meeting on 16 January 2024, Hon Steven HO suggested that the Administration should report to the Panel the work progress in streamlining the food business licensing regime (including setting more lenient terms on food permits/licences to promote diversified agricultural development). Hon HO also expressed concern about the fees of various types of food business-related licences.

3. Proposal to amend the Dogs and Cats Ordinance (Cap. 167) and the progress of amending the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169)

Second quarter of
2024

Item proposed by the Administration.

In the light of public concern about illegal consumption

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

and sale of dog and cat flesh, the Administration proposes to amend the Dogs and Cats Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation to raise the penalty. The Administration will also report to members the latest progress of amending the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance.

4. Reprovisioning of cremators and related works at Kwai Chung Crematorium

Second quarter of
2024

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Kwai Chung Crematorium was recommissioned after the reprovisioning and expansion works in 2003, and all four cremators have reached the end of their serviceable life of 20 years by now, rendering it necessary to replace new cremators and other relevant facilities to avoid affecting cremation service.

5. Outcome of consultation on proposed amendments to the Preservatives in Food Regulation (Cap. 132BD)

Second quarter of
2024

Item proposed by the Administration.

Regarding the proposed amendments to the Preservatives in Food Regulation, the Administration consulted the Panel in May 2023 and completed the public consultation in September 2023. The Administration plans to expound the consultation outcome to members after collating and considering the views collected from the consultation, and amend the legislation afterwards.

6. Building a new public market in Kwu Tung North New Development Area

Second/third
quarter of 2024

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration plans to build a new public market in Area 19 in Kwu Tung North New Development Area (“KTN NDA”) to serve residents of the future KTN

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

NDA. The Administration is working on the detailed design of the new public market and other preliminary work, and plans to consult the Panel on the relevant project, to be followed by a funding application.

7. Outcome of public consultation on the review of the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630)

Second half of
2024

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration proposes to amend the Private Columbaria Ordinance according to the review outcome, and has consulted the Panel on the direction of proposed amendments at the meeting on 19 February 2024. The Administration plans to commence public consultation on the proposed amendments in the first half of 2024.

8. Review on the regulation of veterinary drug residues in food (and food animals)

Second half of
2024

Item proposed by the Administration.

At the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022, Hon TANG Ka-piu and Hon JoePHY CHAN expressed concern as to whether the Centre for Food Safety would review the current standards for maximum permitted residue limits for ractopamine in food animals (including pork and related products) and the action levels for ractopamine residue in food animals.

At the meeting between the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the then Secretary for Food and Health on 2 March 2022 to discuss the work plan of the Panel (“work plan meeting on 2 March 2022”), the Administration advised that it planned to brief members on the work progress of its review on the standards for veterinary drug residues (including ractopamine) in food under the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap. 132AF), existing relevant legislation and regulatory arrangements.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

9. Urban farming

Second half of
2024

Item proposed by the Administration.

To properly utilize urban environment for farming production, the Administration will introduce urban farming elements into NDAs at the planning stage. The Administration plans to brief members on the latest progress of the pilot project on modern urban farming within the Ma On Shan Sai Sha Road Garden and relevant measures to promote urban farming.

10. Proposed amendments to the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V)

Second half of
2024

Item proposed by the Administration.

The relevant standards for metallic contamination in food updated under the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) (Amendment) Regulation 2018 (“the Amendment Regulation”) took full effect on 1 November 2020, and all kinds of foods must comply with the requirements under the Amendment Regulation.

Considering the development of relevant standards in recent years, including the latest updates of the standards of Codex Alimentarius Commission and that of the Mainland, the Administration proposes further updates to relevant standards in the Amendment Regulation.

11. Briefing on the 2024 Policy Address

Second half of
2024

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration proposes to brief members on the policy initiatives set out in the 2024 Policy Address concerning agricultural and fisheries development, environmental hygiene, food safety and animal welfare.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

**12. Recommendations of the consultancy study on
Agricultural Priority Areas**

Second half of
2024

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration is commissioning a consultancy study on Agricultural Priority Areas (“APAs”) to explore the feasibility of zoning relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as APAs, and promote the use of APAs for long-term active farming through appropriate measures, as well as release the remaining farmland for other developments. The Administration plans to report to members relevant recommendations of the consultancy study.

**13. Proposed amendments to the Sweeteners in Food
Regulations (Cap. 132U)**

Second half of
2024

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration is reviewing the food safety standard of sweeteners in food, and plans to consult the Panel on the proposed legislative amendments and carry out a public consultation afterwards.

**14. Regulation, monitoring and development of oyster
farming**

To be confirmed

Members expressed concern about the over-expansion of oyster farming in Shenzhen Bay and the need for introducing in Hong Kong a licensing mechanism for regulating oyster farming activities.

At the Panel meeting on 16 January 2024, Hon Steven HO suggested that issues related to the development of oyster farming be discussed.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

15. Measures to improve environmental hygiene in the community

To be confirmed

In his letter dated 26 January 2022 (LC Paper No. CB(2)57/2022(01)), Hon Holden CHOW suggested that the Panel should discuss the remuneration package for outsourced cleansing workers of FEHD, and the situation of “unequal pay for equal work” between Workmen II of FEHD and cleansing workers employed by outsourced contractors.

At the work plan meeting on 2 March 2022, the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman requested the Administration to brief the Panel on how FEHD would enhance environmental hygiene in the community (including stepping up the cleansing of streets, public markets and public toilets, etc.) upon easing of the epidemic, and report to members how it would improve the remuneration package and working environment for outsourced cleansing workers of FEHD.

At the joint meeting of the Panel on Financial Affairs and the Panel on Manpower on 8 May 2023, Members discussed issues related to improving the treatment for and working environment of non-skilled workers under government service contracts (including outsourced cleansing workers of FEHD). At the Panel meeting on 19 December 2023, the Administration reported measures to improve the resting environment for toilet attendants.

16. Progress on the “Trap-Neuter-Return” Programme for Stray Dogs

To be confirmed

At the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022, Hon CHAN Hak-kan suggested that the Administration should report to the Panel on the implementation of the above programme.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

17. Implementation of daily clearance arrangement at slaughterhouses

To be confirmed

In his letters dated 26 July and 9 October 2023 respectively (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)758/2023(01) and CB(2)894/2023(01)), Hon Steven HO suggested that the Panel should discuss the above subject.

18. Measures for improving the business environment for licensed hawkers

To be confirmed

In his letter dated 17 October 2023 (LC Paper No. CB(2)929/2023(01)), Hon SHIU Ka-fai suggested that the Panel should discuss how to improve the business environment for licensed newspaper hawkers.

At the Panel meeting on 16 January 2024, Hon TANG Ka-piu suggested that issues related to the business environment for licensed hawkers be discussed.

19. Creation of a directorate post in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to enhance planning and promotion of municipal infrastructure projects

To be confirmed

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration plans to consult members on the above staffing proposal.

To improve existing municipal infrastructures and provide new ones as soon as possible, including building new and/or improving existing public toilets, food control facilities and public funeral facilities, it is necessary for FEHD to strengthen directorate support to coordinate and collaborate the delivery of various works projects. The Administration therefore proposes to create a post of senior principal executive officer to ensure smooth and timely completion of the projects.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

20. Possible impacts on the environmental hygiene of the community associated with the implementation of municipal solid waste charging and the recycling of domestic food waste

To be confirmed

At the Panel meeting on 16 January 2024, Hon Steven HO, Hon Vincent CHENG, Hon CHAN Hoi-yan and Hon JoePHY CHAN expressed concerns about possible impacts on the environmental hygiene of the community associated with (a) the implementation of municipal solid waste charging and (b) the recycling of domestic food waste.

21. Implementation of the Market Modernisation Programme and business environment for public market stalls

To be confirmed

At the Panel meeting on 16 January 2024, Hon SHIU Ka-fai suggested that the Administration report to members the implementation of the Market Modernisation Programme; and Hon Steven HO, Hon Vincent CHENG, Hon JoePHY CHAN and Hon TANG Ka-piu expressed various concerns about the business environment for public market stalls, including FEHD's regulation on public market stalls, and how to improve the business environment for such stalls.

22. Policies and measures on bazaars

To be confirmed

At the Panel meeting on 16 January 2024, Hon Steven HO, Hon Vincent CHENG, Hon CHAN Hoi-yan and Hon TANG Ka-piu expressed concern about policies and measures on bazaars, including (a) division of responsibilities among relevant government departments, and (b) when organizing bazaar activities, the requisite government licences/permits, possible constraints and difficulties (such as requirements of legislation relating to environmental hygiene) encountered and possible impacts on nearby shops.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

23. Supply of live poultry imported from the Mainland

To be confirmed

At the Panel meeting on 16 January 2024, Hon SHIU Ka-fai suggested that the above subject be discussed.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
15 March 2024