

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of outstanding items for discussion

(position as at 16 April 2025)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

**1. Quarantine arrangement for imported cats and dogs
and the microchip standard for dogs**

May 2025

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration will brief members on the latest progress in optimizing the quarantine arrangement for imported cats and dogs, and consult the Panel on the planned introduction of ISO microchips to facilitate international movement of pet dogs.

At the meeting between the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the Secretary for Environment and Ecology on 10 February 2025 to discuss the work plan of the Panel (“work plan meeting on 10 February 2025”), the Deputy Chairman requested the Administration to provide the enforcement figures and relevant information on combating illegal importation and sale of dogs and cats in recent years in the relevant meeting paper for members’ reference.

**2. Creation of a supernumerary directorate post in the
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for
overseeing private columbaria and planning of
municipal infrastructure projects upon the lapse of
two supernumerary directorate posts**

May 2025

Item proposed by the Administration.

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

3. Leisure farming and fisheries

Second quarter of
2025

Item proposed by the Administration.

To encourage diversified development of the agriculture and fisheries industries, the Government will promote the development of leisure farming and fisheries. The Administration plans to brief members on the various measures to promote the development of leisure farming and fisheries and the latest progress.

| | Proposed timing for discussion |
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| <p>4. The Second Hong Kong Total Diet Study</p> <p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Second Hong Kong Total Diet Study aims to estimate the latest dietary exposure of the Hong Kong population and various population subgroups to some chemical substances of potential food safety concern, and in turn assess the associated health risks. The Administration will brief members on the progress of the above study.</p> | Second quarter of 2025 |
| <p>5. Proposed amendments to the Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Cap. 132U)</p> <p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>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.</p> | Second half of 2025 |
| <p>6. Urban farming</p> <p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>To properly utilize urban environment for farming production, the Administration will introduce urban farming elements into New Development Areas 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.</p> | Second half of 2025 |
| <p>7. Utilization of regulations and technologies to improve environmental hygiene</p> <p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to report to members on the implementation and advancement of the legislative amendment exercise on environmental hygiene, as well as to report on the progress and achievements of a number of other efforts to improve environmental hygiene, including rodent prevention and control and utilization of technologies.</p> | Second half of 2025 |

[Note: At the work plan meeting on 10 February 2025, the Administration proposed to discuss this item together with (a) “Measures to improve environmental hygiene in the community”, (b) “Progress of the Government’s work on tackling hygiene black spots, rodent control and cityscape improvement” and (c) “Implementation and effectiveness of the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570)” (items 10, 11 and 12 below).]

8. New fish culture zones

Second half of
2025

Item proposed by the Administration.

Four new fish culture zones located in Wong Chuk Kok Hoi, Mirs Bay, Outer Tap Mun and Po Toi (Southeast) will come into operation in phases. The Administration plans to brief members on the latest progress of the work related to the new fish culture zones and other measures to promote sustainable development of the mariculture industry.

9. Briefing on the 2025 Policy Address

Second half of
2025

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration proposes to brief members on the policy initiatives set out in the 2025 Policy Address concerning agricultural and fisheries development, environmental hygiene, food safety and animal welfare.

10. Measures to improve environmental hygiene in the community

[see Note]

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 the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”), and the situation of “unequal pay for equal work” between Workmen II of FEHD and cleansing workers employed by outsourced contractors.

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 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) 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.

[Note: At the work plan meeting on 10 February 2025, the Administration proposed to discuss “Utilization of regulations and technologies to improve environmental hygiene” (item 7 above) together with (a) this item, (b) “Progress of the Government’s work on tackling hygiene black spots, rodent control and cityscape improvement” and (c) “Implementation and effectiveness of the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570)” (items 11 and 12 below).]

11. Progress of the Government’s work on tackling hygiene black spots, rodent control and cityscape improvement

[see Note]

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, Hon Tony TSE and Hon YANG Wing-kit suggested that the above subject be discussed.

[Note: At the work plan meeting on 10 February 2025, the Administration proposed to discuss “Utilization of regulations and technologies to improve environmental hygiene” (item 7 above) together with (a) this item, (b) “Measures to improve environmental hygiene in the community” and (c) “Implementation and effectiveness of the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570)” (items 10 above and 12 below).]

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

12. Implementation and effectiveness of the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570)

[see Note]

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, Hon Vincent CHENG was concerned about the implementation and effectiveness of the above ordinance.

[Note: At the work plan meeting on 10 February 2025, the Administration proposed to discuss “Utilization of regulations and technologies to improve environmental hygiene” (item 7 above) together with (a) this item, (b) “Measures to improve environmental hygiene in the community” and (c) “Progress of the Government’s work on tackling hygiene black spots, rodent control and cityscape improvement” (items 10 and 11 above).]

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

To be confirmed

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 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.

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

To be confirmed

Item proposed by the Administration.

In the light of public concern about illegal consumption 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.

15. Management of stray dogs and cats

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 “Trap-Neuter-Return” Programme for Stray Dogs.

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, Hon LEUNG Man-kwong expressed concern about the above subject, including the progress on the above programme.

16. Implementation of daily clearance arrangement at slaughterhouses

To be confirmed

In his letters dated 26 July and 9 October 2023 (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.

17. Management of and 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.

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, Hon Vincent CHENG and Hon LEUNG Man-kwong suggested that the management of licensed hawkers (including the categories and issues around inheritance/transfer of hawker licences) and the business environment for such hawkers be discussed.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

18. 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.

At the Panel meeting on 26 March 2024, Hon Steven HO suggested that the subject be discussed in the 2024 session.

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, Hon Steven HO was concerned about the management and facilities of public markets and the business environment for stalls.

19. 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) required government licences/approvals, potential constraints and difficulties (such as requirements of legislation relating to environmental hygiene) and possible impacts on nearby shops when organizing bazaar activities.

[Note: At the work plan meeting on 10 February 2025, the Administration advised that it would provide an information paper on this item for members' reference.]

20. 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.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

21. Combating illegal fishing

To be confirmed

In his letter dated 28 October 2024 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1326/2024(01)), Hon Steven HO suggested that the above subject be discussed.

[Note: At the work plan meeting on 10 February 2025, the Administration advised that it would provide an information paper on this item for members' reference.]

22. Safety of pet food products

To be confirmed

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, Hon Steven HO expressed concern about the recent detection of H5N1 avian influenza virus in an item of imported frozen cat food and suggested that the above subject be discussed.

[Note: At the work plan meeting on 10 February 2025, the Administration advised that it would provide an information paper on this item for members' reference.]

23. Customs clearance and inspection arrangements for food supplied from the Mainland

To be confirmed

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, Hon YIM Kong proposed to discuss how to simplify the customs clearance and inspection arrangements for food supplied from the Mainland.

24. Development of multi-storey livestock farms

To be confirmed

At the work plan meeting on 10 February 2025, the Deputy Chairman requested the Administration to update the Panel on the latest progress in encouraging the livestock sector to build the first multi-storey, modernized, environment-friendly livestock farm.

Council Business Divisions
Legislative Council Secretariat
16 April 2025