

Subcommittee on Three Pieces of Subsidiary Legislation Relating to Fees Payable for Marine Fish Culture Licences and Renewal of Livestock Keeping Licences

At the meeting of Subcommittee on Three Pieces of Subsidiary Legislation Relating to Fees Payable for Marine Fish Culture Licences and Renewal of Livestock Keeping Licences on 3 November 2020, the Government was asked about the rationale of the waivers proposed under the subsidiary legislation and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the marine fish culture and livestock keeping sectors.

2. The Government's response is as follows-

The Financial Secretary announced a package of relief measures in August 2019 to support the business (especially small and medium enterprises), relieve people's financial burden and stimulate the economy with a view to countering the challenging external economic environment and softening local economy. The measures include waiving 27 groups of government fees and charges for one year to benefit a wide range of sectors, which include the fees payable for marine fish culture licences and renewal of livestock keeping licences. Then, in September 2020, to sustain the support for businesses and relieve individuals' financial burden to benefit a wide range of sectors, the Government announced the extension of 27 groups and one group of fee waivers/concessions for one more year and four more months respectively, and further roll out seven new groups of fee waivers for one year.

The marine fish culture sector and the livestock keeping sector, which mainly supply to the local market (including the catering business), have been affected by the overall economic situation, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, the monthly average of live marine fish traded in the wholesale fish markets of the Fish Marketing Organization ("FMO") has dropped over 50% in terms of both quantity and value in 2020, as compared with 2019.

**Food and Health Bureau
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