

(Translation)

**Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (2024) of the
Kwai Tsing District Council**

Date: 13 August 2024
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 3:44 p.m.
Venue: Kwai Tsing District Office (“K&T DO”) Conference Room

<u>Present</u>	<u>Time of Arrival</u>	<u>Time of Departure</u>
Ms KWOK Fu-yung, MH (Chairman)	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr CHAN Chi-wing, MH (Vice Chairman)	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr NG Chi-wah	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr NG King-wah	2:33 p.m.	End of Meeting
Miss CHU Lai-ling, MH	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr LEE Wai-lok	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Miss CHAU Kit-ying	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Ms LAM Chui-ling, MH, JP	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr TSUI Hiu-kit	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr YUEN Yun-hung	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Ms CHAN On-ni	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Ms Miranda CHAN Oi-yi	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr PANG Yap-ming	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr WONG Chun-yeung	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Miss WONG Shuk-man	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr WONG Siu-kwan	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr LAU Hing-wah, James, BBS, MH, JP	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Ms TANG Lai-ling	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Miss LO Yuen-ting, MH	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Ms YU Ching-tong, Eva (Co-opted Member)	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr LEUNG Wai-man, MH (Co-opted Member)	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting

Standing Representatives of Departments and Institutions

Miss CHIU Yu-ying, Janice	Acting Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)4, Environmental Protection Department
Ms LAM Hang-ling, Sara	Acting Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department

Representatives of Departments and Institutions Attending by Invitation

Mr KAO Hsi-chiang	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Kwai Tsing), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Miss YIU So-kin	Health Inspector (Pest Control) Kwai Tsing, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr YEUNG Quen-son	Police Community Relations Officer, Kwai Tsing Police District, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHOR Chun-hay, Elvis	Building Surveyor/D4-1, Buildings Department
Mr MAK Man-pong	Housing Manager/Kwai Chung 5, Housing Department
Mr CHUNG Ho-yan, Adam	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Kwai Tsing)2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Secretary

Miss LUI Chiu-tai, Judy	Executive Officer (District Council) 3, Kwai Tsing District Office
-------------------------	---

Absentee

Ms LAU Mei-lo	(On sick leave)
---------------	-----------------

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the 4th meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”) (2024) of Kwai Tsing District Council (“K&T DC”).

2. Members unanimously endorsed the application for absence submitted by Ms LAU Mei-lo.

Confirmation of Minutes of the 3rd Meeting (2024) held on 11 June 2024

3. Members endorsed the minutes unanimously.

Discussion Item

Enquiry about the Statuses of Combating Street Obstruction by Shops and Cooperation with Private Housing Estates to Tackle Rodent Infestation in Kwai Tsing District

(Proposed by Mr LEE Wai-lok, Ms CHAN On-ni, Miss CHAU Kit-ying, Mr PANG Yap-ming and Ms LAU Mei-lo)

(FEHC Paper Nos. 8/D/2024, 8a/D/2024, 8b/D/2024, 8c/D/2024 and 8d/D/2024)

4. Members discussed the aforesaid matter, and put forth enquiries and opinions as follows:

- (i) Since the Government launched a territory-wide clean-up campaign, the hygiene conditions on streets had significantly improved, but there was still room for improvement in the hygiene condition of Kwai Tsing District;
- (ii) Enquired of the Department about the specific figures on combating street obstruction by shops in Kwai Tsing District;
- (iii) Enquired of the Department about the effectiveness of overnight rodent control roving teams in Kwai Tsing District and the Department’s latest rodent control strategy in the district, e.g. whether more advanced rodent control technologies and equipment (such as thermal imaging cameras) would be adopted in the district;

- (iv) Enquired of the Department about the ways to strengthen cooperation with private housing estates for rodent control, and whether it would provide rodent control training or talks for local property management companies;
- (v) Air-conditioners for recycling were illegally placed on the pavements in the area of Kwong Fai Lane, Kwai Hing. Since air-conditioners are relatively large in size, placing them on pavements can pose certain degree of danger to nearby residents. It was thus hoped that relevant departments could conduct removal actions;
- (vi) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) was commended for carrying out rodent and mosquito control work in the vicinity of Tai Ha Street in Tai Wo Hau, as well as quickly addressing the environmental hygiene problems caused by the underground water main burst at Sun Kwai Hing Plaza; and
- (vii) Noted that there was a significant increase in the number of trapped live rodents between 2023 and the first half of 2024. Therefore, Members enquired of the Department about the reasons behind it and whether new rodent trapping methods or technologies had been introduced.

5. District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Kwai Tsing), FEHD, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) Overnight anti-rodent operations in Kwai Tsing District was remarkably effective. The Department would introduce 2 more overnight rodent control teams in the future to strengthen pest control efforts;
- (ii) In the future, the Department will conduct infrared detection at designated locations and collect relevant data, so as to enhance rodent control effectiveness;
- (iii) Noted Members’ account of the illegal placement of air-conditioners for recycling on the pavements. FEHD will regularly conduct joint operations with relevant government departments against street obstruction and strengthen deployment to such joint operations in the future; and
- (iv) The Department set up a new overnight rodent control roving team during the

period from 2023 to February 2024, and its operational effectiveness was reflected in the number of live rodents trapped over the period. Due to the nocturnal habit of rodents, the operational effectiveness will even be more remarkable when night rodent control work is intensified.

6. Acting Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department (“LandsD”), said that the District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (“DLO”), was happy to participate in joint operations with relevant departments to combat street obstruction in Kwong Fai Lane, Kwai Hing.

7. Police Community Relations Officer, Kwai Tsing District, Hong Kong Police Force, expressed the Police’s willingness to facilitate joint operations led by FEHD.

8. Building Surveyor/D4-1, Buildings Department (“BD”), said that the Department would take enforcement actions under the Buildings Ordinance and its main responsibility is to supervise building works on private lands and in private properties. Street obstruction is generally not under the purview of BD. If necessary, BD will facilitate joint operations with other departments to combat street obstruction by shops.

9. Deputy District Leisure Manager (Kwai Tsing)², Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”), said the Department would examine the situation of street obstruction in Kwong Fai Lane in Kwai Hing after the meeting and enhance inspections or surprise checks in a timely manner.

Concern about the Matters Regarding Water Dripping from Air-conditioners in Kwai Tsing District

(Proposed by Ms TANG Lai-ling)

(FEHC Paper Nos. 9/D/2024 and 9a/D/2024)

10. Members discussed the aforesaid matter, and put forth enquiries and opinions as follows:

- (i) The issue of dripping air-conditioners does not only cause nuisance to others, but also affect neighbour relationships and environmental hygiene. An enquiry was raised about the number and distribution of dripping air-conditioner blackspots in Kwai Tsing District. The Department was requested to enhance inspections of relevant blackspots for relieving the problem of dripping air-conditioners;

- (ii) Enquired of the Department about the time normally required to deploy personnel for inspection after receiving complaints against dripping air-conditioners;
- (iii) Enquired of the Department whether inspections would be conducted at night time given that the issue of dripping air-conditioners usually occurs at night;
- (iv) Enquired of the Department about the evidence or actions required for facilitating the Department's enforcement actions if members of the public intend to file complaints against dripping air-conditioners;
- (v) Enquired about the time normally required for the Department to initiate prosecution against the persons/households involved in a complaint against dripping air-conditioner after the complaint had been received and substantiated. It was remarked that the deterrent effect of prosecutions would be undermined by prolonged investigations; and
- (vi) Enquired about the number of nuisance notices issued by the Department regarding dripping air-conditioners and the number of relevant prosecutions initiated in 2024.

11. District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Kwai Tsing), FEHD, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) As the majority of the residential buildings in Kwai Tsing District have been properly installed with pipes for air-conditioners, there was no dripping air-conditioner blackspot in the district at that time. The Department would carry out prompt investigation and follow-up upon discovery of dripping air-conditioner;
- (ii) Upon receipt of a complaint against dripping air-conditioners from the public, the Department would normally conduct an investigation within 6 working days, including an inspection of relevant district or a test for the air-conditioner in the flat suspected to have caused the dripping. In the event that the water dripping issue involves more than one floor, the Department would require longer time to conduct investigation. In case the complaint is substantiated, the Department will issue a nuisance notice to the owner/household of the premises in accordance with relevant guidelines;

- (iii) In the event that inspection officers of the Department are unable to enter relevant unit for investigation, they will leave a “Notice of Appointment” outside the flat for the household to make an investigation appointment. If the household still cannot be reached, the Department will conduct inspection again having regard to actual circumstances. Meanwhile, the Department will contact the estate management office for requesting its personnel to help keep an eye on the flat. The Department may also arrange for staff to conduct investigation at night, with a view to handling the complaint as soon as possible;
- (iv) The Department had received a total of 968 complaints against dripping air-conditioners in Kwai Tsing District in 2023 and received 323 related complaints so far in 2024. According to FEHD’s online data, there was a total of 31 135 complaints against dripping air-conditioners in Hong Kong in 2023. Among those complaints, the complaints related to Kwai Tsing District accounted for about 3%. As most residents of Kwai Tsing District managed to make immediate improvement after receiving verbal warnings, the Department only issued a total of 22 nuisance notices for dripping air-conditioners in 2023. The Department instigated prosecutions against 2 cases that had occurred in industrial area because no improvement was observed after the issuance of nuisance notices. As regards the cases of dripping air-conditioners throughout the territory, FEHD issued a total of 3 032 nuisance notices in 2023, among which 86 cases were prosecuted and 61 were convicted;
- (v) In May this year, the Department launched a pilot scheme codenamed “CLEARSKY” to concentrate efforts on addressing the issue of dripping air-conditioners. Details of the project had been uploaded to FEHD’s website; and
- (vi) In the future, the Department will strengthen co-operation with the management offices of housing estates or the owners’ corporations of buildings and invite them to assist in handling complaints against dripping air-conditioners. Compared with the investigation carried out by the Department staff, it will be easier for management office personnel to collect the data on dripping air-conditioners over different time slots (such as during late night), through which the sources of water dripping can be identified. Management offices can help greatly reduce the time required for investigation conducted

by the Department, thereby allowing the Department to prepare for the subsequent step as soon as possible, such as issuing nuisance notices. Besides, the Department would also provide management offices with guidelines, including the procedures of photo-taking when a dripping air-conditioner is spotted and forms-filling prior to submission to FEHD for follow-ups. The Department encourages residents' organisations or District Council members to assist in publicising the aforesaid co-operation plan, so as to improve the issue of dripping air-conditioners in the district.

Exploration of Measures to Minimise Mosquito and Biting Midge Infestations in Kwai Tsing District

(Proposed by Ms KWOK Fu-yung, MH, Mr YUEN Yun-hung, Miss LO Yuen-ting, MH and Mr NG King-wah)

(FEHC Paper Nos. 10/D/2024, 10a/D/2024, 10b/D/2024 and 10c/D/2024)

12. Members discussed the aforesaid matter, and put forth enquiries and opinions as follows:

- (i) Hong Kong had entered the peak season of mosquito infestation. It was hoped that government departments could alleviate mosquito infestation in Kwai Tsing District. Besides, an enquiry was made about the distribution of gravidtraps in the district;
- (ii) Data indicated that Lai King was the area with the most severe mosquito infestation in the district from 2023 to 2024. However, previous joint operations on prevention and control of mosquitoes were primarily performed in Tsing Yi District. Enquiries were thus raised about the reason why there had been no joint operation of the same type in Kwai Chung District, as well as the factors or standards considered by government departments when deciding to perform joint anti-mosquito operations;
- (iii) Recommended drawing up mosquito infestation blackspots in Kwai Tsing District to raise the residents' awareness of mosquito prevention, as well as to perform focused anti-mosquito work in places with severe mosquito infestation;
- (iv) The anti-mosquito measures carried out at that time were outdated and ineffective. The Government was recommended to collaborate with local

universities in developing more effective anti-mosquito methods. An example was cited that scientists had applied gene editing technology to disrupt mosquito reproduction in Africa and greatly reduced the risk of mosquito-borne diseases;

- (v) FEHD and Housing Department (“HD”) were commended for their anti-mosquito efforts. In particular, pest control staff of FEHD were praised for frequently replenishing larvicidal oil in anti-mosquito facilities and actively removing stagnant water in rainy season. However, mosquito infestation in the district remained severe. Many residents (especially young children) were bitten by mosquitoes as they went out. Therefore, it was hoped that the Department could step up publicity efforts in mosquito prevention and control;
- (vi) *Aedes albopictus* are often seen in many housing estates (e.g. Shek Lei (II) Estate). Though HD stated that pesticides had been sprayed in housing estates, no improvement was observed. Enquiries were made of HD about the gravidtrap indices for *Aedes albopictus* (“GI”) in different housing estates, whether mosquito trapping devices were installed in housing estates, and whether newer anti-mosquito measures were taken;
- (vii) Enquired of HD and LCSD about the details of anti-mosquito work in recreation and sports facilities where greater numbers of the elderly and children congregated (e.g. parks, pitches/courts or playgrounds), and whether the operation of anti-mosquito devices in the venues were monitored;
- (viii) Owing to insufficient installation of In2Care new mosquito traps in both the venues of LCSD and HD, a significantly greater number of such devices ought to be installed in the venues concerned;
- (ix) Hoped that FEHD would provide the district’s GI-related data. Members also hoped that FEHD would issue warnings to the public and inform District Council members or district personalities when GI reached the alert level, so that the awareness of mosquito infestation could be heightened among the parents and schools in the district;
- (x) Hoped that FEHD would step up publicity and education on the alert levels of GI, as well as put up posters in places such as schools and estate offices;

- (xi) As it is essential to publicise anti-mosquito information among students, Members enquired whether FEHD would carry out publicity on such information at schools. Moreover, they pointed out that urban residents might not have sufficient knowledge of mosquito breeding cycles and thus recommended the Department enhance relevant education;
- (xii) Education Bureau or FEHD would issue warning letters to schools with GI exceeding the alert level. It was hoped that FEHD would organise talks about mosquito prevention and control at the schools;
- (xiii) Weeds often grew near the minibus stand at Hong Cheung House on Chung Mei Road in Tsing Yi and on the slope along the access road connecting Central Kwai Chung Park with Wing Yip Street, which resulted in mosquito breeding. Members hoped that the relevant section of LandsD could regularly remove the weeds or pave the roads with materials to inhibit weeds. In addition, an enquiry was made of LandsD about the details of the anti-mosquito measures (such as vegetation management on slopes) implemented in its places, as well as its mechanism details for preventing and controlling mosquito and biting midge infestations;
- (xiv) Miscellaneous articles were often illegally placed in the vicinity of Nga Ying Chau Garden and the space underneath the bridge at Maritime Square. Relevant departments were thus requested to clear them for the prevention of mosquito breeding; and
- (xv) Biting midge infestation has a huge impact on residents' lives. The Government was recommended to introduce an indicator to monitor biting midge infestation.

13. District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Kwai Tsing), FEHD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) Considering that *Aedes albopictus* is a vector of dengue fever, the gravidtraps installed by the Government across all districts at that time were primarily used for monitoring *Aedes albopictus* in order to prevent dengue fever from developing into an endemic disease;
- (ii) An exceedance occurred in the GI of *Aedes albopictus* from April to June this

year, during which the index of Lai King reached the alert level of 20.4%. In that regard, the Department adopted a series of mosquito preventive measures in the area around Lai King;

- (iii) The main anti-mosquito measures implemented by the Department at that time included stagnant water removal, weed clearance, and larvicidal oil spraying. Although such measures were traditional methods for controlling and preventing mosquitoes, their effectiveness was remarkable;
- (iv) As for new anti-mosquito measure, FEHD has adopted a new type of mosquito traps (i.e. In2Care). The powder embedded in the mosquito traps would attract egg-laying by female mosquitoes inside such traps, but the hatched larvae would be unable to grow into adult mosquitoes. The adult mosquitoes that have laid eggs in the mosquito traps would be contaminated with the powder. When they fly elsewhere, the powder on their bodies would spread and kill other mosquitoes in contact. That method could minimise the damage caused to the environment;
- (v) The Department installed approximately 100 new mosquito traps of In2Care at the public areas in the district. As the Department had to allocate corresponding resources (such as manpower and insecticides) to manage and monitor the operation of the mosquito traps, excessive installation of mosquito traps could not be entertained. At that time, the new mosquito traps of In2Care were primarily installed at areas facing severe mosquito infestation in the district. The Department would identify suitable locations within the district for installing mosquito traps and increase the number of In2Care mosquito traps in due course;
- (vi) Generally, areas with sudden outbreaks of severe mosquito infestations (such as some parts of Africa) would adopt large-scale anti-mosquito measures. As far as the situation of mosquito infestation in Hong Kong was concerned, it was believed that, through the concerted efforts of all sectors and the adoption of the effectual anti-mosquito methods mentioned above, effective control of mosquito infestation could be attained;
- (vii) When the Department's personnel discover severe mosquito infestation in the district during regular inspections, they would immediately notify relevant management offices or resident representatives and then arrange inspections

with those representatives in relevant areas to eradicate mosquito breeding grounds as soon as possible. The Department would conduct co-inspections with other government departments in places under their purview and would provide corresponding technical support in order to solve the mosquito issue as soon as possible;

- (viii) The Department would regularly announce the alert level of the GI for *Aedes albopictus* of the district. When severe exceedance of GI is found in a district, the Government will issue press releases to notify the public in due course;
- (ix) The Department noted the accumulation of miscellaneous articles in the vicinity of Nga Ying Chau Garden as well as in the space underneath the bridge at Maritime Square, and would conduct follow-ups after the meeting;
- (x) Regarding publicity and education, the website of the FEHD contains a huge amount of information on mosquito control. The Department had already printed a considerable number of relevant promotional leaflets, which could be delivered to DC Members' offices or building management offices for public distribution. The Department would be happy to visit local schools to carry out mosquito prevention publicity (e.g. specimen displays of mosquitoes, or introduction of the methodology used in identifying *Aedes albopictus*) among the students and school staff. The Department would also conduct school inspections during summer vacations and remind school staff to clear stagnant water for preventing mosquito infestation; and
- (xi) As for biting midge infestation, biting midges usually appear in swarms so those who got bitten would usually develop dozens of red and swollen bite marks on bodies. It is relatively easy to prevent and control biting midges. Generally, effective prevention of midge infestation can be achieved by loosening silt, keeping soil dry and applying insecticides. The Department would strengthen efforts in removing silt in the breeding places of biting midges. Since biting midges are not vectors of vector-borne diseases, World Health Organization does not set any guidelines for systematic monitoring of biting midges, whilst other places (e.g. Mainland China, Taiwan, Singapore, Europe and USA) also do not establish any monitoring scheme for biting midges. After reviewing the practices of other countries, the Government decided not to develop any plan to establish monitoring indicator for biting midge infestation.

14. Deputy District Leisure Manager (Kwai Tsing)2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) Although the Department had not carried out joint operations against mosquito infestation in the vicinity of Lai King, it performed a large amount of work on the prevention and control of mosquitoes and biting midges at the area's LCSD venues and facilities, including the installation of numerous In2Care new mosquito traps at Lai King Hill Road Playground and Lai King Soccer Pitch. In addition, LCSD's staff would also take the initiative to carry out mosquito and biting midge prevention work, e.g. spraying insecticides over mosquito breeding places and clearing stagnant water during rainy season;
- (ii) The Department would conduct joint operations in areas where mosquito control is required. Since the Department received greater number of requests for mosquito control from Tsing Yi, joint anti-mosquito operations were carried out in Tsing Yi more frequently. The Department keeps an open mind on performing joint operations and would participate in such operations where necessary;
- (iii) Apart from the In2Care new mosquito traps, the Department has also installed different types of mosquito traps in local parks, e.g. mosquito traps powered by solar energy or LPG. The Department would strictly monitor the operation of mosquito traps. Besides hiring contractors to regularly replace the insecticide used in the traps, the Department would also arrange venue staff to check the traps at least once to twice a week, and to record the effectiveness of such traps; and
- (iv) The Department had installed 102 In2Care new mosquito traps in the district. The Department keeps an open mind to the quantity of the In2Care new mosquito traps and would install more In2Care new mosquito traps in suitable spots when required. After reviewing the situation of mosquito infestation, the Department had already installed 8 In2Care new mosquito traps in Liu To Road Garden where the area was relatively smaller.

15. Housing Manager/Kwai Chung 5, Housing Department, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) The Housing Department (“HD”) has all along been proactively co-operating with other government departments, especially the FEHD, in joint anti-mosquito operations. Due to the relatively high GI in Lai King area in 2023, HD and other government departments carried out joint operations in the same year to decrease the index to the normal level. The Department thanked FEHD for providing professional advice and guidance on mosquito prevention and control;
- (ii) The Department would carry out daily mosquito prevention and control work in public housing estates, including regular weeding, removal of miscellaneous articles, clearing of stagnant water in ditches, spraying of mosquito larvicidal oil, and installation of In2Care new mosquito traps. The Department would regularly review the quantity of In2Care new mosquito traps installed in public housing estates and would adjust the quantity of the new mosquito traps with reference to actual circumstances;
- (iii) The Department would make reference to the GI of each area for conducting joint operations. In 2024, HD and FEHD conducted 3 joint anti-mosquito operations in Lai Yiu Estate, where the GI was relatively high; and
- (iv) The Department noted the situation of mosquito infestation in Shek Lei (II) Estate and would conduct follow-ups after the meeting.

16. Acting Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) The Department noted the overgrown grass issue near the Hong Cheung House minibus stand on Chung Mei Road in Tsing Yi as well as on the slope near Central Kwai Chung Park, and would follow up the issue after confirming actual locations; and
- (ii) LandsD’s Special Duties Task Force is responsible for the vegetation maintenance work on unallocated government lands. At that time, there were about 40 pieces of government land in Kwai Tsing District and the Special Duties Task Force would arrange for grass cutting when necessary. Regarding the fenced-off government lands managed by LandsD in Kwai Tsing District, LandsD would make arrangements such as grass cutting and spraying of larvicidal oil by making reference to the complaints received from

the public and the opinions given by relevant government departments. The owners of private lands in Kwai Tsing District are responsible for the vegetation maintenance work on their lands.

Any Other Business

17. There was no other business.

Date of Next Meeting

18. The next meeting was scheduled to be held on 15 October 2024.

Kwai Tsing District Council Secretariat
August 2024