

**Urgent by Fax**

**Letterhead of Health and Welfare Bureau Government Secretariat, Government of the  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region The People's Republic of China**

*Our ref:*HWB/M(P)/34/48 Pt. 4(98)

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22 December 2000

**By Fax: 2509 9055**

Clerk to LegCo Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

(Attn: Ms Doris Chan)

Dear Doris,

**LegCo Panel on Health Services  
Relocation of the Accident and Emergency Department  
of Tang Shiu Kin Hospital to Ruttonjee Hospital**

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2000 requesting us to respond to the questions raised by the Hon Law Chi-kwong on LC Paper No. CB(2)412/00-01(04). Our reply is as follows:

1. At present, the annual recurrent expenditure in respect of the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department of Tang Shiu Kin Hospital (TSKH) is about \$66 million. We expect the annual recurrent expenditure for running the A&E Department relocated to Ruttonjee Hospital (RH) to remain more or less the same.
2. The hospital beds in TSKH were for the provision of specialist in-patient services (including rehabilitation, infirmary and hospice care), and its bed occupancy rate was in the region of 75%. Under

the service rationalisation programme, these beds were relocated to RH in October 1999. The number of hospital beds in RH remains basically the same after such rationalisation. And the rehabilitation beds in RH previously reserved for patients of Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital (PYNEH) have been transferred back to PYNEH. Upon rationalisation, the occupancy rate of hospital beds in RH has increased from 80 to 90%.

3. The recurrent expenditure budget for the in-patient beds in TSKH in 1999-2000 was in the region of \$28 million. The budget for these beds has been transferred to RH when it took over the beds from TSKH in October 1999.
4. The purpose of relocating the in-patient allied health departments of TSKH to RH is to rationalise the in-patient allied health services currently provided at these two hospitals and to avoid duplication in the provision of such services. Prior to April 1998, TSKH and RH each had one laboratory, but the two laboratories have already been merged into the one and is located in RH.
5. Consequent upon such service rationalisation, the ward staff of TSKH have been redeployed to RH or other hospitals. Staff of the A&E Department and the allied health departments of TSKH will likewise be redeployed to RH or other hospitals as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

(Miss Joanna Choi)  
for Secretary for Health and Welfare

**cc**

Hon Law Chi-kwong (Fax: 2509 9688)