

Letterhead of LABOUR DEPARTMENT (Headquarters)

Your reference:

Our reference:

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19 October, 2000

Clerk to the LegCo Panel on Manpower,
Legislative Council Secretariat,
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Central,
Hong Kong.

Dear Madam,

Employment Figures of People with Disabilities

During the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Manpower held on 13 October 2000, the Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah asked for the figures on the employment services provided for people with disabilities by the Labour Department in the past few years, and Mrs. TAN KAM Mi-wah, the Commissioner for Labour, promised to give a written reply to his question. The relevant information is now forwarded to you as below.

First of all, the Labour Department do not have the total employment figure of people with disabilities in Hong Kong. However, according to the statistics kept by the Selective Placement Division of the Department dedicated to assisting people with disabilities in open employment, the number of people with disabilities registered with the Division, the number of vacancies received, referrals and placements made from 1995 to the end of September 2000 are as follows:

| Year | No. of Job Registrants | No. of Vacancies | No. of Referrals | No. of Placements | Placement Rate |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1995 | 3,334 | 2,428 | 3,499 | 1,422 | 42.7% |
| 1996 | 3,482 | 2,126 | 3,883 | 1,430 | 41.1% |
| 1997 | 3,100 | 2,379 | 4,590 | 1,476 | 47.6% |
| 1998 | 3,598 | 1,795 | 5,316 | 1,455 | 40.4% |
| 1999 | 3,462 | 1,725 | 6,236 | 1,511 | 43.6% |
| 2000 (Jan.-Sept.) | 2,789 | 2,768 | 6,815 | 1,528 | 54.8% |

The above table reveals that from 1995 to 1997, the Selective Placement Division received some 2 000 vacancies and made some 1 400 placements for people with disabilities each year. In 1998 and 1999, the number of registrants rose while the number of vacancies fell sharply to around 1 700 amid the downturn of the local economy due to the Asian financial turmoil. Nevertheless, during that period, the placement rate maintained at the usual level of over 40%, reflecting the hard work of the staff of the Division and their efforts to keep close contacts with employers in all sectors.

In the first nine months of this year, 2 789 job seekers with disabilities were registered with the Selective Placement Division. With the economy picking up gradually, the implementation of computerization in the Division and the sustained efforts of our staff, a total of 2 768 vacancies was obtained. This figure is 217% of that for the same period in 1999. The Division made 6 815 referrals and 1 528 placements which represented a placement rate of 55%. It is expected that the Division will have the highest placement figure for people with disabilities this year since its establishment 20 years ago.

I should be grateful if you would pass the above information on to the Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah. Should you have any enquiries or need any further information, please contact Mr SIU Lap-kei, Senior Labour Officer (Selective Placement) on 2852 4160.

Yours sincerely,

(Alfred W.K. Chan)
for Commissioner for Labour