

in EMB CR 4/3051/79

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7 December, 2001

Clerk to Panel on Manpower
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
(Attn: Ms Dora WAI)

Dear Ms Wai,

LegCo Panel on Manpower

List of follow-up actions required of the Administration

At the Manpower Panel meeting on 2 November 2001, Members requested the Administration to provide information on: -

- (i) the number of local and expatriate employers allowing foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) to live outside of their residence; and
- (ii) the standards of accommodation to be provided to FDHs.

According to the Immigration Department, it is from this year onwards that the statistics on the number of local and expatriate employers, who are approved to allow their FDHs to live outside of their residence, are kept. From January up to 26 November 2001, a total of 103 FDHs were approved of live-out arrangement – 85 of them work for local employers and 18 others serve expatriates.

On (ii), the standard of accommodation to be provided to FDHs is

mentioned in item 3 of the ‘Schedule of Accommodation and Domestic Duties’ of the FDH employment contract which stipulates that:

“While the average flat size in Hong Kong is relatively small and the availability of separate servant room is not common, the Employer should provide accommodation with reasonable privacy. Examples of unsuitable accommodation are: the Helper having to sleep on made-do beds in the corridor with little privacy and sharing a room with an adult of opposite sex.”

The employer is also required to specify the size of the servant room or the sleeping arrangement in the Schedule for the understanding and information of the FDH.

Yours sincerely,

(K K Lam)

for Secretary for Education & Manpower