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13 April 2007

Ms Mary So  
Clerk to Panel  
Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council  
8 Jackson Road  
Central

Dear Ms So,

**Impact of use of obstetric services by Mainland women  
on public hospital resources**

At the meeting of the Health Services Panel held on 8 January 2007, in discussing LC Paper No. CB(2)761/06-07(03), Members asked for additional information on a number of issues. Further to our previous reply vide LC Paper No. CB(2)833/06-07(01), we would like to provide information on the following issues as requested by Members :

- (a) Government's estimate on the fertility rate in Hong Kong on the assumption that local women would have three children;
- (b) operation of the companies offering services to arrange for Mainland pregnant women to come to Hong Kong to give birth; and

- (c) breakdown of the births by local and Non-eligible women fathered by Hong Kong and non-Hong Kong residents in each public hospital from 2001 to 2006.

### *Fertility Rate*

We have consulted the Census and Statistics Department which advised that projection of the total fertility rate (TFR)<sup>1</sup> is subject to a number of variables or factors. These include the number of births by female migrants; the number of deaths amongst women in childbearing age; the timing when women choose to have children; and the number of women who remain single during their childbearing age.

Given a simple assumption that every local woman in Hong Kong gives birth to three children during their lifetime, the TFR would be 3 000 (per 1 000 women) which should nevertheless be taken as a theoretical figure for variables mentioned above. For reference, the TFR in Hong Kong was 2 480 in 1976, 1 367 in 1986, 1 191 in 1996 and 989 (provisional figure) in 2006.

### *Operation of companies which help Mainland pregnant women arrange for child delivery in Hong Kong*

The Administration is aware that some companies and individuals are helping Mainland pregnant women to arrange for child delivery in Hong Kong. However, there is so far no indication of any syndicated illegal activities seeking to arrange illegal immigrants or overstayers to give birth here. The law enforcement agencies will continue to monitor the situation and will take proactive combating measures where necessary.

### *Breakdown of the births in public hospitals from 2001 to 2006*

A breakdown of the number of births in each public hospital from 2001 to 2006 by local women (i.e. eligible persons (EPs) who are holders of Hong Kong Identity Card) and non-local women (i.e. non-eligible persons (NEPs) who are not holders of Hong Kong Identity Card) is at the **Annex**.

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<sup>1</sup> The average number of children that would be born alive to 1 000 women during their lifetime if they were to pass through their childbearing age between 15 and 49 experiencing the age specific fertility rates prevailing in a given year.

However, due to privacy reasons, the Hospital Authority does not require compulsory information on the resident status of the babies' fathers and therefore no accurate information is available.

Yours sincerely,

( Ms Ernestina Wong )  
for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

c.c. Director (Cluster Services), Hospital Authority  
(Attn : Dr Cheung Wai Lun)

**Live Births in Public Hospitals between 2001 and 2006**  
(breakdown by mothers who are EPs and NEPs)

		AHNH	KWH	PMH	PWH	PYNEH	QEH	QMH	TMH	TYH	UCH	Total
2001	<b>Total</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>0</b>	<b>5 626</b>	<b>3 916</b>	<b>5 536</b>	<b>3 730</b>	<b>4 165</b>	<b>1 162</b>	<b>5 499</b>	<b>2 913</b>	<b>3 546</b>	<b>36 093</b>
2002	EPs	156	4 615	2 873	4 231	3 261	3 554	2 942	4 491	0	2 816	28 939
	NEPs <sup>2</sup>	16	1 443	1 104	1 267	807	780	613	1 201	0	1 017	8 248
	<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>6 058</b>	<b>3 977</b>	<b>5 498</b>	<b>4 068</b>	<b>4 334</b>	<b>3 555</b>	<b>5 692</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3 833</b>	<b>37 187</b>
2003	EPs	369	4 372	1 889	3 279	2 839	4 158	2 950	4 176	0	2 670	26 702
	NEPs <sup>2</sup>	139	1 425	839	1 222	934	1 269	578	1 244	0	1 143	8 793
	<b>Total</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>5 797</b>	<b>2 728</b>	<b>4 501</b>	<b>3 773</b>	<b>5 427</b>	<b>3 528</b>	<b>5 420</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3 813</b>	<b>35 495</b>
2004	EPs	0	3 840	2 666	3 837	2 564	3 816	2 887	3 992	0	3 073	26 675
	NEPs	0	1 390	1 554	1 714	1 167	1 353	589	1 710	0	1 515	10 992
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5 230</b>	<b>4 220</b>	<b>5 551</b>	<b>3 731</b>	<b>5 169</b>	<b>3 476</b>	<b>5 702</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4 588</b>	<b>37 667</b>
2005	EPs	0	4 053	2 757	4 033	2 586	3 929	3 072	3 979	0	2 938	27 347
	NEPs	0	1 952	1 963	2 321	1 297	1 426	726	2 064	0	2 162	13 911
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6 005</b>	<b>4 720</b>	<b>6 354</b>	<b>3 883</b>	<b>5 355</b>	<b>3 798</b>	<b>6 043</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5 100</b>	<b>41 258</b>
2006	EPs	0	4 402	2 679	4 623	2 487	4 295	3 382	3 838	0	2 732	28 438
	NEPs	0	1 830	1 638	2 269	1 066	1 192	588	1 915	0	1 549	12 047
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6 232</b>	<b>4 317</b>	<b>6 892</b>	<b>3 553</b>	<b>5 487</b>	<b>3 970</b>	<b>5 753</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4 281</b>	<b>40 485</b>

- Notes : 1. A breakdown by EPs and NEPs is not available as the relevant computer system was not yet operational at that time.  
2. Figures provided include non-local women whose spouses were holders of Hong Kong Identity Card. These women were considered EPs before the amendment of the definition of "EPs" in April 2003.

AHNH – Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital  
PYNEH – Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital  
QMH – Queen Mary Hospital  
UCH – United Christian Hospital

KWH – Kwong Wah Hospital  
QEH – Queen Elizabeth Hospital  
TMH – Tuen Mun Hospital

PMH – Princess Margaret Hospital  
PWH – Prince of Wales Hospital  
TYH – Tsan Yuk Hospital