



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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

Dear Ms So,

Interim review outcome of pilot Doctor Work Reform programmes

I refer to item 8 of LC Paper No. CB(2)1740/08-09(02). At the Panel meeting held on 11 May 2009, the Administration was requested to provide information on the average number of public hospital medical and nursing staff on each night shift and the average weekly work hours of public hospital doctors at different ranks.

Medical and nursing staff working during out-of-hours

According to an internal survey conducted by the Hospital Authority (HA) in September 2006, it was estimated that there were around 380 on-site on-call doctors (excluding interns) and specialists, and 540 off-site on-call specialists to provide care for patients during out-of-hours in HA hospitals each night.

As for nursing staff, there were on average about 1,650 nurses (including senior nurses in the rank of Nursing Officer or Advanced Practice Nurse) on each night shift in HA hospitals in 2008-09.

Average weekly work hours of public hospital doctors

According to the internal surveys conducted by HA in December 2008 and September 2006, the average weekly work hours of doctors in various ranks serving in

different pressurized specialties are generally decreasing. According to the 2006 survey, it was estimated that 18% of HA doctors of different specialties (including 3% of Consultants, 4% of Senior Medical Officers/Associate Consultants and 24% of Medical Officers/Residents) worked for over 65 hours per week on average. According to the survey conducted in 2008 in one hospital cluster where pilot doctor work reform programmes were launched, it was estimated that only 4.8% of doctors (including less than 1% of Consultants, Senior Medical Officers/Associate Consultants and 7% of Medical Officers/Residents) worked for over 65 hours per week on average.

HA has started monitoring doctors' working hours systematically since January 2009. The work hour data of HA doctors will be available by end of the third quarter of 2009.

Yours sincerely,



(Kirk Yip)

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Hospital Authority