

政府總部
香港下亞厘畢道



GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
LOWER ALBERT ROAD
HONG KONG

本函檔號 OUR REF.:
() in SBCR 1/2366/02
來函檔號 YOUR REF.:

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6 October 2009

Clerk to the Panel on Security
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr Raymond LAM)

Dear Mr LAM,

Supplementary Information for the Meeting on 6 July 2009

I refer to the minutes of meeting of the Panel on Security held on 6 July 2009, and the requests by Members on the Administration to provide supplementary information. The requested information is set out below:

- (a) With reference to paragraph 38(d) of the minutes, the Fire Services Department (FSD) commenced a sample survey in March 2009 to collect relevant information and data to better understand the problem of improper use of emergency ambulance service (EAS). The FSD selected some 10 000 cases by random sampling from the ambulance calls received in 2008 for examination. It analysed the information contained in "ambulance journey records" on the basis of objective standards (including clinical features of patients, cause and course of sickness or injury, vital signs and the treatments required, etc) drawn up by the Medical Directors of the Department.

According to the findings of the survey, about 10% of the patients in the sampled cases did not require basic life support from ambulance personnel before they were taken to the Accident and Emergency

Department (A&E) of hospitals by ambulance. Their clinical features, medical histories, cause and course of sickness or injury and vital signs also indicated that the cases were non-critical. In addition, the Medical Directors had made reference to hospital records which showed that these patients did not require A&E Services after being taken to hospitals, nor did they require immediate referral to specialist clinics for further examination and treatment or in-patient admission. In other words, they did not have an obvious need to use EAS. In fact, some patients suffered only from minor abrasion, itchy skin, tooth pain or minor sunburn.

The FSD will make use of the findings of the survey to enhance public education and remind the public to make judicious use of EAS, so that the ambulance resources can be used to achieve maximum benefit.

- (b) Regarding paragraph 53 of the Minutes of Meeting, according to the Department's records, FSD handled a total of around 9 600 suspected cases of cardiac arrests in 2008. The introduction of the Medical Priority Dispatch System will increase the chance of survival of such patients by providing them with a more timely ambulance service.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul Cheng', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

(Paul CHENG)
for Secretary for Security