

香港特別行政區政府
保安局



The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Security Bureau

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Mrs Sharon Tong
Clerk to Security Panel
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Hong Kong

22 June 2012

Dear Mrs Tong,

Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong

With reference to the “List of follow-up actions” of the Security Panel as at 30 May, I write to provide further information in respect of item 21, namely, Mainland pregnant women giving birth in Hong Kong.

Manpower deployment at control points

Since end 2011, the Immigration Department (ImmD) has enhanced the complementary immigration control measures on non-local pregnant women. The number of Mainland pregnant women (with no obstetric booking) gate-crashing Accident and Emergency Departments (A&ED) of local hospitals has significantly dropped from the peak of a monthly average of 150 in the last four months in 2011 to a monthly average of 90 from January to April this year. The number further dropped to 45 in May.

There will be a net increase of 162 posts in the ImmD in 2012/13, of which 93 posts are for carrying out immigration control duties at control points. As these measures are part of the regular immigration control duties, the ImmD does not have detailed breakdowns of the manpower and expenditure involved.

At control points, Health Surveillance Assistants (HSA) identify non-local pregnant women mainly by visual inspection, with relevant training provided by the Department of Health (DH). Since this February, the DH increased the number of HSAs deployed to control points from 24 to 42, and their service hours tally with the operating hours thereat.

The effect of “multiple-entry” Individual Visit Scheme

Since April 2009, Shenzhen residents may apply for multiple-entry endorsements for Hong Kong under the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS). Since the implementation, there has been no obvious change in the number of non-local pregnant women gate-crashing A&EDs, hence no particular effect on Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong.

Application for Certificate of Entitlement

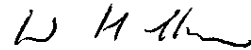
Eligible Mainland residents born to Hong Kong parents may apply for One-way Permit (OWP) and Certificate of Entitlement (COE) from the Exit and Entry Administration Offices at the places of their household registration. The COE applications will be referred to the ImmD for verification. COE issued by the ImmD will be sent to the Mainland authorities for follow-up on the OWP application. In general, the applications for OWP and COE could be completed within six months upon receipt of all required information. The processing time would be longer if information is in doubt or genetic test is required.

Overseas measures

In general, there are boarding restrictions imposed by airlines on pregnant passengers. For instance, passengers at an advanced stage of pregnancy would be refused boarding, and

those reaching 28-week pregnancy would be required to produce a medical certificate stating that they are fit for travel. In addition, many overseas countries impose particular restrictions on pregnant visitors who are believed to be giving birth after entry. Please see Annex for relevant information on some of the countries.

Yours sincerely,



(W H CHOW)
for Secretary for Security

**Immigration measures on non-local pregnant women
in some overseas countries**

Country	Measures
New Zealand	Non-local pregnant women who intend to give birth in Zealand are required to apply for a entry visa for temporary stay, regardless of whether they come from a visa-free country or region. They are required to produce financial proofs and should be able to pay for the maternity health services.
Singapore	Non-local pregnant women who intend to give birth in Singapore are required to apply for a visa for temporary stay, regardless of whether they come from a visa-free country or region. A security deposit may be imposed on the local sponsor.
Malaysia	Visitors who are pregnant for 6 months or more may not be allowed entry.