
INFORMATION NOTE

Measures to tackle the problem of pregnant Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong

1. Background

1.1 At the meeting of the Panel on Security held on 7 February 2012, members raised concerns over the recent upsurge in pregnant Mainland women, particularly "doubly non-permanent resident pregnant women", giving birth in Hong Kong. A special meeting of the Panel will be held on 9 March 2012 to discuss the measures to address the issue. To facilitate members' discussion, this information note examines the measures taken and proposed by the Government to tackle the problem of non-local women¹ giving birth in Hong Kong, and summarizes the past deliberations on the problem at the Legislative Council ("LegCo").

2. Problems of non-local women giving birth in Hong Kong

2.1 On 20 July 2001, the Court of Final Appeal ("CFA") ruled against the Director of Immigration in his appeal against the claim of Chong Fung-yuen² that he was a permanent resident of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region by virtue of the provision contained in Article 24(2)(1) of the Basic Law.³ CFA ruled that Chinese citizens born in Hong Kong had the right of abode in Hong Kong according to the Basic Law regardless of the status of their parents.

¹ The Government does not differentiate non-local women giving birth in Hong Kong between "singly non-permanent resident pregnant women" and "doubly non-permanent resident pregnant women" for different treatment, such as different charges for the use of obstetric services.

² See *Director of Immigration v Chong Fung Yuen* (FACV No 26 of 2000). Chong Fung-yuen was born on 29 September 1997, shortly after his parents came to Hong Kong on a Two-way Permit. Chong's parents were lawfully in Hong Kong at that time, but neither his father nor his mother was settled in Hong Kong or had right of abode in Hong Kong at the time of his birth.

³ Article 24(2)(1) of the Basic Law provides that the permanent residents of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall be Chinese citizens born in Hong Kong before or after the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

2.2 Since the CFA judgement, the number of births given by Mainland women in Hong Kong has increased rapidly from 7 810 in 2001 to 27 574 in 2007, and further to 40 648 in 2010 (**Appendix I**). In 2011, 43 982 pregnant Mainland women delivered in Hong Kong. The percentage of "doubly non-permanent resident pregnant women" giving birth in Hong Kong has also been on the rise. Among the babies born to Mainland women in Hong Kong in 2001, there were 7.9% with fathers being not Hong Kong residents. The percentage share surged to 81.3% in 2011 (**Appendix II**).

2.3 The boom in births by Mainland women has strained public resources, particularly the healthcare system. The influx of pregnant Mainland women makes it hard for local expectant mothers to book obstetrics services at local hospitals. It also increases the workload in the obstetrics wards at public hospitals, which has already suffered from shortage of staff. In addition, as most of the private hospitals are not providing neonatal intensive care services, newborns requiring these services in private hospitals will be transferred to public hospitals for treatment, adding further pressure to the medical personnel there.

2.4 To manage the use of obstetric services by non-local women, the Hospital Authority has implemented a revised arrangement since 1 February 2007 under which only those who have made prior booking and attended antenatal examinations will be admitted. However, the number of Mainland women "gate-crashing" the accident and emergency ("A&E") departments of hospitals to give birth has increased sharply to 1 657 people in 2011, which doubled the figure seen a year earlier. Gate-crashing disrupts the normal operations of local emergency wards, particularly at the public hospitals in the New Territories clusters. It also endangers both the mother and the baby as the facilities and equipment in local emergency wards are different from standard obstetrics wards.

3. Measures taken by the Government to tackle the problem

3.1 In recent years, relevant government departments have implemented a number of measures to tackle the problem of pregnant Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong. Most recently, during the Question and Answer Session at the LegCo meeting on 19 January 2012, the Chief Executive announced the following four measures to deter the gate-crashing pregnant Mainland women:

- (a) more immigration officers and medical staff to be deployed at immigration control points to help stop the influx of pregnant Mainlanders without bookings at local hospitals;
- (b) local and Mainland authorities to work together on clamping down on intermediaries and cross-boundary vehicles that assist expectant Mainland women in gaining entry into Hong Kong;
- (c) the Home Affairs Department to step up measures on banning unlicensed hostels that put up pregnant Mainland women; and
- (d) the Hospital Authority to review the fees for non-local pregnant women giving birth at A&E departments.

Measures taken and proposed by the Government to curb the rising tide of pregnant Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong are summarized in the paragraphs below.

Immigration control

Arrival clearance checks

3.2 From 1 February 2007, all pregnant Mainland women planning to deliver in Hong Kong are required to make prior booking with local hospitals. Non-local pregnant women who intend to have deliveries in private hospitals are also required to undergo antenatal check-ups by obstetricians in Hong Kong at an appropriate stage to assess if they are suitable to give birth in the territory. In this connection, the Hong Kong College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists issued professional guidelines on the projection of high-risk pregnancy in September 2011. The Department of Health has standardized the "Certificate on confirmed antenatal and delivery booking" ("the Certificate") for issuance by hospitals to pregnant women who are suitable to give birth in Hong Kong. The Certificate enables the Government to monitor the utilization of delivery places.

3.3 To ensure that adequate obstetric and neonatal care services are available for Hong Kong residents, and that local pregnant women are given priority for obstetric services, the number of non-local pregnant women giving birth in Hong Kong in 2012 is limited to 35 000, including 3 400 places in public hospitals and around 31 000 in private hospitals. The Hospital Authority is reviewing the delivery quota for non-local pregnant women in 2013, which is expected to be announced in April 2012.⁴ Subject to local women's demand for obstetric services, the Government will further reduce or even remove the above quota entirely when necessary. The Government will also discuss with private hospitals to determine the number of non-local women to be allowed to give birth in Hong Kong in 2013.

3.4 Meanwhile, the Immigration Department has stepped up arrival clearance checks for all non-local pregnant women who are at an advanced stage of pregnancy.⁵ Pregnant Mainland women who are suspected of entering Hong Kong to give birth will be asked by the immigration officers upon entry to produce the Certificate. Those who fail to do so may be denied entry. The Department of Health also deploys health surveillance assistants to assist the immigration officers with conducting arrival clearance checks of non-local women, including the assessment of the stage of pregnancy and screening of passengers. In 2011, the Immigration Department checked 44 600 non-local pregnant women at various control points, and about 1 930 were subsequently declined entry, which was about 300 more than the figure in 2010.

3.5 As mentioned above, the Chief Executive has pledged to deploy more immigration officers and medical staff at immigration control points to help stop the influx of pregnant Mainlanders without bookings. Indeed, there have been calls from immigration workers' unions for 400 more officers to address, among other things, the problem of pregnant Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong. The Director of Immigration has pointed out that the increased workload at the frontline is unlikely to be matched by a proportional increase in workforce.

⁴ The Hospital Authority Taskforce on Obstetric Services for Non-eligible Persons has proposed that in 2013, half of the eight public hospitals with obstetric services should stop admitting non-local pregnant women and the quota for the remaining four hospitals should be reduced to below 3 000 in total.

⁵ Women who have been pregnant for 28 weeks or above will be deemed to be at an advanced stage of pregnancy.

Checks on cross-boundary vehicles

3.6 To prevent non-local pregnant women from entering Hong Kong for delivery without being intercepted by taking cross-boundary private vehicles, the Immigration Department has collaborated with other departments to carry out checks. For example, the Hong Kong Police Force ("Police") has stepped up random checks on cross-boundary vehicles to combat non-compliant commercial use of cross-boundary vehicles for carriage of passengers⁶, including carrying "doubly non-permanent resident pregnant women" to Hong Kong. The Police also sends the relevant information to the Mainland authorities for follow-up. If necessary, it will seek assistance from the Mainland authorities in the investigation.

3.7 The first phase of the ad-hoc quota trial scheme for cross-boundary private vehicles ("the Scheme") will be launched in late March 2012.⁷ According to the reply given by the Secretary for Transport and Housing at the Council meeting of 15 February 2012, as the case of other cross-boundary vehicles, if a private car under the Scheme is found to be carrying a pregnant Mainland woman, the immigration officers will interrogate the person concerned and ask her to present the Certificate issued by a hospital in Hong Kong. If the persons concerned are unable to produce the Certificate, they will probably be refused entry.

⁶ Cross-boundary vehicles are not allowed to carry passengers for hire or reward unless the vehicles have been issued the cross-boundary hire car quota by both the Hong Kong and Guangdong authorities.

⁷ Under the Scheme, qualified owners of Hong Kong private cars with five seats or less are allowed to apply for one-off quotas for self-drive tour to enter Guangdong for a short stay of not longer than seven days. Reciprocal arrangements for Mainland private cars to enter Hong Kong with ad-hoc quotas fall under the second phase of the Scheme, of which there is no concrete timetable.

Combat on illegal intermediaries

3.8 Some intermediaries are involved in arranging non-local pregnant women to "gate-crash" into Hong Kong for delivery. The Police has been closely monitoring the modus operandi and promotion tactics of these agencies in Hong Kong. If any unlawful acts are detected, enforcement actions will be taken in accordance with the relevant legislation. For agencies operating on the Mainland, the Police has been conducting joint investigations with the Mainland authorities to combat cross-boundary illegal practices. Recently, there is a precedent case of successful prosecution by the Immigration Department against an agent aiding pregnant Mainland women to deliver in Hong Kong.⁸

Working with the Mainland authorities

3.9 The Government has passed on the names of agencies that help arrange pregnant Mainland women to cross the border, and the number plates of vehicles used for carrying the women, to the Guangdong authorities for follow-up action. The Immigration Department also shares the names of women who were denied entry on pregnancy grounds with the Mainland authorities, as well as maintaining close liaison with them to deter non-local pregnant women from seeking entry shortly before labour.

3.10 During his duty visit to Beijing at end-December 2011, the Chief Executive discussed the problem of pregnant Mainland women with Premier Wen Jiabao. This was the first time the issue had been raised at central government level. The Chief Executive sought greater co-operation from the Mainland authorities in combating the illegal services offered by intermediaries. He also discussed ways to handle the problem with the Mainland departments concerned. During the Question and Answer Session at the Council meeting of 19 January 2012, the Chief Executive reiterated that the Government would work with the Mainland authorities to crack down on the agencies and cross-boundary vehicles that help pregnant Mainlanders cross the border.

⁸ On 15 January 2012, a 29-year-old woman was stopped for examination at Lok Ma Chau Control Point. She was caught by an immigration officer while assisting a pregnant Mainland woman who had no Certificate issued by a hospital in Hong Kong. The defendant was sentenced by Shatin Magistrates' Court on 13 February 2012 to 10 months in jail, on charges of violating the conditions of her stay and making a false statement to immigration officers.

3.11 In early 2012, Guangdong Governor Zhu Xiaodan pledged that the provincial government would take necessary measures to intercept pregnant women trying to cross the border to give birth in Hong Kong. But he fell short of providing any details on the measures. Recently, the Guangdong provincial committee on family planning has emphasized that regardless of where the child is born, couples having a second child without permission are considered to have contravened the country's policies and the provincial regulations. These couples will be fined, and those who are government employees will even be dismissed from their posts.

3.12 In response to a question over the illegal influx of pregnant Mainland women into Hong Kong at a press conference ahead of the annual session of the National People's Congress ("NPC"), NPC's spokesman Li Zhaoxing said on 4 March 2012 that relevant departments of the central government would continue to collaborate and communicate with the Hong Kong authorities to address the problem. In particular, the Mainland police has started cracking down on illegal activities related to intermediaries.

Enforcement against unlicensed guesthouses

3.13 Pregnant Mainland women without quota to deliver in Hong Kong often gate-crash local public hospitals just before labour. Another means for them is to overstay after they have come legally to Hong Kong at an early stage of pregnancy and then rush to A&E departments. The Office of the Licensing Authority of the Home Affairs Department has received reports on premises suspected of offering short-term rental accommodation to pregnant Mainland women. These premises are classified and handled as cases of "suspected unlicensed operation of guesthouses". The Office of the Licensing Authority has pledged to actively follow up on the reports on suspected premises and institute prosecution once sufficient evidence is obtained. In February 2012, it conducted several large-scale enforcement actions targeting at premises suspected of being illegally used as hostels for pregnant women from the Mainland.⁹

⁹ Subsequent to the operation held on 2 February 2012, the Government charged two suspects for being involved in unlicensed guesthouse operation and breaching their conditions of stay under the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance and the Immigration Ordinance respectively.

3.14 Meanwhile, the Housing Department has stepped up publicity and education to encourage public rental housing ("PRH") tenants to report suspected abusive use of PRH flats, including letting flats to pregnant Mainland women. It will detect and follow up any suspected tenancy abuses cases through routine and surprise flat inspections.

Charges for non-local women giving birth in Hong Kong

3.15 To address the increasing use of obstetric services in Hong Kong by non-local women, the Hospital Authority introduced an obstetric package charge for Non-Eligible Persons ("NEPs")¹⁰ at a rate of HK\$20,000 for a stay of three days and two nights in all public hospitals on 1 September 2005. Since 1 February 2007, the Hospital Authority has implemented revised arrangements for obstetric service for non-local women. The revised arrangement requires all non-local women who wish to seek obstetric service in public hospitals to make prior booking and pay for a package charge of HK\$39,000. The fee for cases without booking and/or who have not attended any antenatal check-up at a Hospital Authority specialist outpatient clinic is HK\$48,000. The Hospital Authority will review the fees for non-local pregnant women giving birth at A&E departments, so as to deter gate-crashing Mainlanders.

3.16 According to the reply given by the Secretary for Food and Health at the Council meeting of 22 February 2012¹¹, the Government has no plan to differentiate the charge for the use of obstetric services between "singly non-permanent resident pregnant women" and "doubly non-permanent resident pregnant women" giving birth in Hong Kong. Fees are based on the status of the pregnant women, and no consideration is given to whether their husbands are Hong Kong residents or not. Therefore, non-local women who are spouses of Hong Kong residents are required to pay charges applicable to NEPs when using the obstetric services in Hong Kong.

¹⁰ NEPs refer to persons who are not holders of Hong Kong Identity Cards and children under 11 years of age who are not Hong Kong residents.

¹¹ See Government Press Release, 22 February 2012.

4. Deliberations at the Legislative Council

4.1 The Panel on Security discussed the issues relating to pregnant Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong at its meetings held on 19 January 2005 and 8 May 2007 respectively. The Panel on Health Services also held 11 meetings between December 2004 and February 2012 to discuss, among other things, the use of obstetric services amid increasing demand from both local and non-local women. Some Members have also raised questions and moved motion debates on several occasions during the Council meetings to inquire the Government about the influx of pregnant Mainland women into Hong Kong.

Deliberations of the Panel on Security

4.2 At the meeting on 19 January 2005, issues relating to Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong were raised during the briefing by the Secretary for Security on the Chief Executive's 2004-2005 Policy Address. Members expressed concern about the upsurge in the number of cases where neither parent of the babies born to Mainland women in Hong Kong was a Hong Kong resident. They were also concerned that many of these Mainland women had not settled their hospital fees after giving birth in Hong Kong, thus creating a heavy burden on the medical system in Hong Kong. They asked whether the Government had discussed with the Mainland authorities the measures that might be adopted to address the problem, such as restricting the issue of exit permits to such persons.

4.3 The Government advised that it had discussed with the Mainland authorities the possible measures to address the above problem, including requiring Mainland women to settle all payments before their discharge from hospitals. The Mainland authorities subsequently prohibited the visits of pregnant Mainland women to Hong Kong. However, the measure was discontinued when the Mainland authorities found that they could not refuse an exit permit application solely on the ground of pregnancy.

4.4 At its meeting on 8 May 2007, the Panel on Security discussed the complementary immigration measures required to tie in with the new obstetric arrangements for non-local women. Members expressed concern about reports that a pregnant Mainland woman had successfully entered Hong Kong through the control point at Sha Tau Kok without undergoing any arrival checking. Further, they requested for information on the percentage share of pregnant visitors entering Hong Kong through the arrangement of intermediaries, as well as questioning whether the Government had adopted any measures to combat such activities.

4.5 The Government replied that the complementary immigration measures had been implemented at all immigration control points. As most pregnant visitors entered Hong Kong through the Lo Wu and Lok Ma Chau control points, medical staff of the Department of Health were deployed at these two control points to assist in conducting arrival checking. Where necessary, arrangements could be made for such medical staff to conduct checking at other control points. While there was no information on the percentage share of pregnant visitors entering Hong Kong through the arrangement of intermediaries, the Government stressed that the Immigration Department had been closely monitoring such activities with the Mainland authorities. There was so far no indication of any syndicated illegal activities seeking to arrange illegal immigrants or overstayers to give birth in Hong Kong.

Deliberations of the Panel on Health Services

4.6 At the meetings held on 13 December 2004, 17 May 2005 and 13 June 2005, the Panel on Health Services discussed the Government's proposed minimum maternity package fee for NEPs giving birth in public hospitals. Members were concerned that the increasing use of public medical services by NEPs had created very heavy pressure on the frontline staff of the obstetrics and gynaecology departments of public hospitals and agreed that it was necessary to address the problem. However, they expressed doubt about the effectiveness of the proposed package charge and pointed to a probable rise in the number of defaulting cases. They urged the Government to explore solutions to the problem of outstanding payments by Mainlanders.

4.7 The impact of the use of obstetric services by Mainland women on resources of public hospitals and the new obstetric service arrangements were discussed at the meetings on 8 January 2007, 16 April 2007, 30 April 2007 and 18 February 2008 respectively. The Government advised that it was necessary for the Hospital Authority to revise its obstetric service charge for NEPs so that public hospitals were less attractive to non-local mothers.

4.8 At the afore-mentioned meetings held during 2007-2008, members also expressed concerns about the tight manpower situation amongst midwives and neonatal intensive care nurses and the obstetric service charges for NEPs whose spouses were Hong Kong residents. The Government reiterated that sufficient places in public hospitals would be reserved for local women and would only accept booking from non-local women when spare service capacity was available. In addition, the Immigration Department had stepped up arrival checking of all visitors who were at an advanced stage of pregnancy in order to tie in with the new obstetric service arrangements.

4.9 At the meetings held on 11 April, 13 June and 20 October 2011, members expressed concern about the surge in demand for obstetric services in Hong Kong by non-local women and the tremendous pressure on the public neonatal intensive care services. They asked whether administrative measures would be put in place to limit private hospitals' admission of non-local women for obstetric services, as well as questioning whether the charge for emergency admission through the A&E departments by non-local women would be increased in order to enhance deterrence against such cases. Members also questioned whether consideration could be given to assigning a higher priority to non-local women whose spouses were Hong Kong residents.

4.10 The Government advised that private hospitals were required to obtain prior approval from the Department of Health for the expansion of their obstetric services. Approval would only be granted if the hospitals concerned were equipped with appropriate hardware and software supportive facilities. The Food and Health Bureau would line up further discussion with the public and private sectors with a view to jointly exploring every possible means to tackle the problem of rising demand for obstetrics and neonatal services from non-local women. The Government also reiterated the policy to ensure that Hong Kong residents were given proper and adequate obstetric services, and the need to closely monitor the manpower situation with regard to public obstetric and paediatric services. However, it needed to carefully consider whether an increase in the charge for emergency admissions through the A&E departments would be effective in deterring gate-crashing Mainlanders.

4.11 At the meeting held on 28 February 2012, the Government reiterated that adequate obstetric services would be provided to Hong Kong residents and local pregnant women would be given priority in using the services. However, pregnant Mainland women married to Hong Kong residents would continue to be subject to the delivery quota for non-local women, since eligibility for using the public obstetric services is based on the status of women. Members called on the Government to change the definition of eligibility.

Council questions

4.12 A number of questions relating to Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong were raised by Members at various Council meetings. A list of these questions is in **Appendix III**.

Motion debates

4.13 Three motions relating to the subject were moved for debate at the Council meetings of 10 January 2007, 11 January 2012 and 22 February 2012 respectively.

4.14 At the Council meeting of 10 January 2007, Dr Hon Joseph Lee moved a motion urging the Government to expeditiously formulate feasible and effective policies and measures to re-allocate public resources to resolve the problem brought about by non-local pregnant women giving birth in Hong Kong. Dr Hon Kwok Ka-ki and Hon Andrew Cheng moved amendments to the motion. The motion as amended by the two Members was carried. The motion carried by the Council is in **Appendix IV**.

4.15 At the Council meeting of 11 January 2012, Hon Vincent Fang moved a motion urging the Government to comprehensively review the existing population policy and include in the scope of the review the current problems in the four major areas of welfare, education, housing and Comprehensive Social Security Allowance arising from Mainland pregnant women giving birth in Hong Kong. Hon Albert Ho, Hon Ip Kwok-him, Hon Wong Kwok-hing, Hon Paul Tse and Hon Alan Leong moved amendments to the motion. The original motion and all the motions as amended were negatived.

4.16 At the Council meeting of 22 February 2012, Hon Ronny Tong moved a motion urging the Government to reiterate Hong Kong's core values by adopting measures to, among other things, allocate additional resources for improving obstetric services, suspend the quota for "doubly non-permanent resident pregnant women" and step up law enforcement and enhance entry restrictions to comprehensively block the entry of "doubly non-permanent resident pregnant women". Hon James To, Hon Wong Kwok-kin, Hon Cyd Ho, Hon Wong Sing-chi, Hon Chan Hak-kan, Dr Hon Leung Ka-lau and Hon Albert Chan moved amendments to the motion. The original motion and all the motions as amended were negatived.

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Appendix I**Number of births given by Mainland women in Hong Kong**

Year	Number of births
2001	7 810
2002	8 506
2003	10 128
2004	13 209
2005	19 538
2006	26 132
2007	27 574
2008	33 565
2009	37 253
2010	40 648
2011	43 982

Source: Census and Statistics Department.

Appendix II**Number and percentage of births given by Mainland women whose spouses are not Hong Kong Permanent Residents**

Year	Number of births	Percentage⁽¹⁾
2001	620	7.9
2002	1 250	14.7
2003	2 070	20.4
2004	4 102	31.1
2005	9 273	47.5
2006	16 044	61.4
2007	18 816	68.2
2008	25 269	75.3
2009	29 766	79.9
2010	32 653	80.3
2011	35 736	81.3

Note: (1) Among births given by Mainland women in Hong Kong.

Source: Census and Statistics Department.

Appendix III**List of questions raised by Members at Council meetings relating to pregnant Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong**Council meeting of 12 May 2004

1. At the Council meeting of 12 May 2004, Dr Hon David Chu asked a question on the number of non-Hong Kong residents giving birth in Hong Kong and the number of cases involving default on payment of hospital charges. The question and the reply are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0512ti-translat e-e.pdf>.

Council meeting of 7 July 2004

2. At the Council meeting of 7 July 2004, Dr Hon Law Chi-kwong asked a question on the number of Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong and the number among which the spouse was a Hong Kong resident. The question and the reply are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0707ti-translat e-e.pdf>.

Council meeting of 27 October 2004

3. At the Council meeting of 27 October 2004, Hon Li Kwok-ying asked a question on the number of Mainland women giving birth in public hospitals, the resources involved, the number of cases in default of payment and the total amount involved. The question and the reply are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/counmtg/hansard/cm1027ti-translat e-e.pdf>.

Council meeting of 10 November 2004

4. At the Council meeting of 10 November 2004, Hon James Tien asked a question on the percentage of Mainland people among the users of obstetrician and neonatal services provided in public hospitals in New Territories East and New Territories West, and the staffing arrangement in the provision of such services. The question and the reply are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/counmtg/hansard/cm1110ti-translat e-e.pdf>.

Appendix III (cont'd)

List of questions raised by Members at Council meetings relating to pregnant Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong

Council meeting of 8 June 2005

5. At the Council meeting of 8 June 2005, Dr Hon Kwok Ka-ki asked a question on the number of Mainland women who gave birth in public hospitals, the number of cases in which they defaulted on payment of medical charges, and the measures adopted to resolve the problems. The question and the reply are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0608ti-translate-e-e.pdf>.

Council meeting of 5 July 2006

6. At the Council meeting of 5 July 2006, Hon Chan Kam-lam asked a question on whether all the children born in Hong Kong to Mainland women have applied for Hong Kong Certificate of Registration of Birth, the impact on the Hong Kong society, and the measures to prevent Mainland women from coming to Hong Kong for childbirth. The question and the reply are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0705-translate-e.pdf>.

Council meeting of 25 October 2006

7. At the Council meeting of 25 October 2006, Hon Li Fung-ying asked a question on the number of Mainland women who gave birth in public and private hospitals, and the impact on public services in Hong Kong. The question and the reply are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/counmtg/hansard/cm1025-translate-e.pdf>.

Appendix III (cont'd)**List of questions raised by Members at Council meetings relating to pregnant Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong**Council meeting of 15 November 2006

8. At the Council meeting of 15 November 2006, Hon Albert Chan, Dr Hon Joseph Lee and Dr Hon Kwok Ka-ki respectively asked questions relating to Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong, the default on payment of hospital charges by such persons, and the impacts on long-term population policy. The questions and the replies are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/counmtg/hansard/cm1115-translate-e.pdf>.

Council meeting of 6 December 2006

9. At the Council meeting of 6 December 2006, Dr Hon Kwok Ka-ki asked a question on the impacts of Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong on long-term population policy. The question and the reply are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/counmtg/hansard/cm1206-translate-e.pdf>.

Council meeting of 10 December 2008

10. At the Council meeting of 10 December 2008, Hon Cheung Kwok-che asked a question on the use of public hospitals' obstetric services by non-local pregnant women. The question and the reply are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/counmtg/hansard/cm1210-translate-e.pdf>.

Council meeting of 11 November 2009

11. At the Council meeting of 11 November 2009, Hon Abraham Shek asked a question on the number of babies born to Mainland women in public and private hospitals, and whether the Government had assessed the intention of such children to receive education in Hong Kong. The question and the reply are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/counmtg/hansard/cm1111-translate-e.pdf>.

Appendix III (cont'd)**List of questions raised by Members at Council meetings relating to pregnant Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong**Council meeting of 13 April 2011

12. At the Council meeting of 13 April 2011, Hon Abraham Shek asked a question on the number of Mainland pregnant women who returned to the Mainland and those who stayed behind after giving birth in Hong Kong, and whether the Government would further review the existing policy on the provision of obstetric services to Mainland pregnant women. The question and the reply are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0413-translate-e.pdf>.

Council meeting of 11 May 2011

13. At the Council meeting of 11 May 2011, Hon Cheung Man-kwong asked a question on the implementation of the measures to alleviate the pressure on the healthcare system caused by Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong. The question and the reply are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0511-translate-e.pdf>.

Council meeting of 8 February 2012

14. At the Council meeting of 8 February 2012, Hon Chan Hak-kan and Hon Paul Tse respectively asked questions relating to the implementation of the new measures to tackle the problem of continuing influx of pregnant Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong, and the measures to combat pregnant Mainland women renting and staying in unlicensed guesthouses in Hong Kong. The questions and the replies are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/chinese/counmtg/floor/cm0208-confirm-ec.pdf>.

Appendix III (cont'd)

List of questions raised by Members at Council meetings relating to pregnant Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong

Council meeting of 15 February 2012

15. At the Council meeting of 15 February 2012, Hon Tanya Chan asked a question on the impact of the cross-boundary private cars ad-hoc quota trial scheme on the problem of Mainland women giving birth in Hong Kong. The question and the reply are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/chinese/counmtg/floor/cm0215-confirm-ec.pdf>.

Council meeting of 22 February 2012

16. At the Council meeting of 22 February 2012, Dr Hon Margaret Ng asked a question on the number of babies born in Hong Kong to "singly non-permanent resident pregnant women" and whether the Government would formulate different policies on "singly non-permanent resident pregnant women" and "doubly non-permanent resident pregnant women" giving birth in Hong Kong. The question and the reply are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/chinese/counmtg/floor/cm0222-confirm-ec.pdf>.

Appendix IV**Motion on "Non-local pregnant women giving birth in Hong Kong" carried at the Legislative Council meeting of 10 January 2007**

"That, as the number of Mainland pregnant women giving birth in Hong Kong has multiplied since the Chong Fung-yuen case in 2001, public hospital services are so overloaded that local pregnant women are unable to receive the public health care services to which they are entitled, and Hong Kong's health care services, population, education, housing, social welfare, etc are also adversely affected, this Council urges the Government to immediately:

- (a) provide additional resources for the Hospital Authority to tackle the problems brought to Hong Kong's entire public health care system by the large number of Mainland pregnant women flocking to Hong Kong to give birth, as well as to alleviate the tremendous work pressure on frontline health care workers;
- (b) conduct a comprehensive study on the implications of the large number of Mainland pregnant women giving birth in Hong Kong on the territory's various public services and financial commitments, and formulate feasible and effective policies and measures to re-allocate public resources, so as to resolve the problems brought about by Mainland pregnant women giving birth in Hong Kong;
- (c) collect information in order to understand the future implications on the territory of the large number of non-local pregnant women giving birth in Hong Kong;
- (d) crack down on the syndicates which arrange for the Mainlanders to overstay in Hong Kong to wait for childbirth, so as to resolve the problems brought about by non-local pregnant women giving birth in Hong Kong; and
- (e) provide additional public resources to ensure that the health care services for local pregnant women will not be affected."

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