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**Legislative Council**

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**Panel on Health Services**

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for the meeting on 19 November 2012**

**Construction of Tin Shui Wai Hospital**

The Chief Executive announced in his 2008-2009 Policy Address the construction of a public hospital in Tin Shui Wai to meet the needs for hospital services in the district. At the special meetings of the Panel on Health Services ("the Panel") on 16 October 2009, 15 October 2010 and 20 October 2011 to receive briefings from the Secretary for Food and Health on the Policy Agenda in relation to health matters, members noted that the Yuen Long District Council ("YLDC") supported the Tin Shui Wai Hospital project and the construction of the Hospital in Area 32 of Tin Shui Wai. Members further noted that the Administration planned to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee based on the tender price and aimed to complete the construction works in mid 2016.

2. Two questions in relation to the construction of Tin Shui Wai Hospital were raised at the Council meetings of 17 November 2010 and 23 November 2011 respectively. The questions and the Administration's replies are in **Appendices I and II** respectively.

## Press Releases

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LCQ5: Tin Shui Wai Hospital  
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Following is a question by the Hon Wong Kwok-hing and a reply by the Secretary for Food and Health, Dr York Chow, in the Legislative Council today (November 17):

Question:

In his Policy Address delivered on October 13, 2010, the Chief Executive has mentioned that to meet the increasing demand for healthcare services in Tin Shui Wai, the authorities have decided to build a new hospital in the area, which is expected to be completed in 2016. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(a) given that the Secretary for Food and Health said last year that Tin Shui Wai Hospital was expected to be completed and to come into operation in 2015, but now the expected completion date will be delayed for one year, of the reasons for that; whether the authorities have corresponding measures to meet residents' needs for public healthcare services during the extended period for completion of the hospital, and to shorten the construction time of the hospital to strive for its completion in 2015;

(b) when the authorities will make a decision on the site of the hospital; of the details of the hospital's design as well as the facilities and services to be provided, including the number of beds and whether out-patient services for traditional Chinese medicine will be available, etc.; the estimated number of residents the hospital can serve, and whether it can meet the needs of the population in Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai; and

(c) whether the authorities will consider recruiting, as far as possible, suitable candidates from the unemployed in the district for the jobs created by the hospital in the future, so as to alleviate the employment problems in the district?

Reply:

President,

(a) To strengthen the provision of healthcare services in Tin Shui Wai (TSW) New Town, which has seen rapid development in recent years, we plan to build a public hospital in TSW. As the proposed hospital site is situated in an area which may contain marble cavity, a longer construction period is usually required for completion of the foundation works. Under such circumstances, it is expected that the completion date of the hospital will be slightly put back for a few months to mid-2016. We will expedite the planning of the works as far as circumstances permit in an effort to complete the construction works as early as possible.

Before completion of the new hospital, healthcare services for TSW residents will continue to be provided by hospitals and related specialist out-patient clinics and general out-patient clinics under the New Territories West Cluster (NTWC). In the past few years, the Hospital Authority (HA) has provided additional funding to NTWC to enhance the healthcare services for residents of New Territories West. For instance, in the two

years of 2009-10 and 2010-11, services provided by Pok Oi Hospital and Tuen Mun Hospital have been expanded, including provision of some 220 additional beds, an increase of 20 operating theatre sessions per week in Pok Oi Hospital, installation of a second magnetic resonance imaging scanner in Tuen Mun Hospital to shorten patients' waiting time for examination, and strengthening of cataract service.

Besides, NTWC has strengthened its ambulatory and community-based services such as expansion of its haemodialysis services and services provided by its chemotherapy day centre, implementation of a community-based Case Management Programme for persons with severe mental illness, strengthening of psychiatric specialist out-patient services for children and youths, expansion of psychogeriatric outreach services for the elderly to cover private residential care homes for the elderly, implementation of an integrated discharge support programme to provide post-discharge support services to those high-risk elderly who have difficulty in taking care of themselves, and enhancement of the services of the substance abuse clinic.

NTWC will continue to closely monitor TSW residents' demand for healthcare services and ensure that they can receive appropriate treatment before the completion of the new hospital.

(b) On November 4, 2010, we obtained the support of the Yuen Long District Council (the Culture, Recreation, Community Service and Housing Committee) to construct the TSW Hospital at the site in TSW Area 32. To expedite the project works, the Architectural Services Department will adopt a "design-and-build" approach (both design and construction to be undertaken by the same contractor) for the construction of TSW Hospital. In addition, for more accurate project cost estimation, we will first conduct a contractor prequalification exercise for the project, and proceed with the tendering procedures upon completion of the prequalification exercise. We will then seek funding approval from the Legislative Council based on the tender price.

Upon commissioning, TSW Hospital will become one of the hospitals under NTWC, which serves Yuen Long and Tuen Mun districts. NTWC will continue to make optimal use of its resources to provide services according to priorities based on the needs for medical services in the community. The development potentials of NTWC will also be maximised by utilising the strengths of TSW Hospital and other hospitals under NTWC to complement each other to provide the most appropriate treatment to local residents. Under the current plan, the main facilities and services to be provided at TSW Hospital include: 250 to 300 beds to provide in-patient services (for emergency medicine, rehabilitation, convalescent and palliative care); an accident and emergency department; a number of ambulatory services (including a specialist out-patient clinic (which provides family medicine and psychiatric services), a general out-patient clinic, a haemodialysis centre, a geriatric day hospital, a psychiatric day hospital, hospice day care, daytime rehabilitation services and an endoscopy suite); various community care services (including community nursing/community geriatric assessment, community rehabilitation services, psychiatric outreach services, medical social work, and a health resource centre); and such support services as laboratory and diagnostic radiological services. Based on the projected population growth in NTWC, the total number of beds within the cluster upon completion of the new hospital should be able to meet the service demands arising from the increase in population.

On Chinese medicine services, the Government's objectives are to develop standards in Chinese medicine practice, to systematise the knowledge base of Chinese medicine through, amongst others, clinical research and to provide training in "evidence-based" Chinese medicine. To achieve these objectives, the Government will establish in phases one public Chinese medicine clinic (CMC) in each of the 18 districts in Hong Kong. The CMC serving Yuen Long district (including TSW) is located on 3/F, Yuen Long Madam Yung Fung Shee Health Centre. As there is already a CMC in Yuen Long district, we have no plan to set up an additional CMC in TSW Hospital.

Apart from the construction of TSW Hospital, NTWC has also launched new mode of service delivery by setting up a nurse and allied health clinic inside a general out-patient clinic to follow-up on the treatment of chronic patients, setting up a Centre for Healthy Life to enhance psychosocial services for patients suffering from cancer and other chronic illnesses.

To cope with the increasing demand for healthcare services in Yuen Long and TSW, NTWC will in the coming years continue to closely monitor and assess the residents' demand and enhance its services, including provision of additional beds in Pok Oi Hospital by phases, and construction of an integrated building in TSW Area 109. The integrated building is scheduled to come into full operation in 2012-13 for provision of a general out-patient clinic, a family medicine integrated clinic, visiting services by community nurses and community psychiatric nurses, and an allied health clinic offering physiotherapy service, occupational therapy service and services provided by registered dietitians.

(c) On the recruitment of staff, HA will choose suitable and capable candidates to take up the posts. The entry requirements are different for different grades of HA staff, including healthcare personnel and clerical staff, general services and technical services assistants, etc. We understand that most of the job seekers prefer to work in the area where they live, especially those unemployed who are usually engaged in supporting work. HA will keep the matter in view and welcome suitable persons to join and work in TSW Hospital in future.

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## Press Releases

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LCQ10: Public primary care services in Tin Shui Wai  
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Following is a question by the Dr Hon Joseph Lee and a written reply by the Secretary for Food and Health, Dr York Chow, in the Legislative Council today (November 23):

Question:

At present, the New Territories West (NTW) has a population of about two million, and the development of Tin Shui Wai (TSW) in that region is particularly rapid, resulting in an increasing demand for healthcare services from the residents in that area. Yet, it will be quite a long time before the planned TSW Hospital will be completed. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(a) of the respective population figures in the various districts in NTW; whether it knows the numbers of attendances of the various public out-patient clinics in NTW in each of the past three years, and among them, the respective numbers of attendances of the TSW North General Out-Patient Clinic and the TSW Health Centre respectively; whether the authorities have assessed if these two clinics can cope with the service demand from the residents in that area;

(b) given that the TSW Hospital has not yet been completed and the public out-patient services in TSW are normally available until 10 pm only, whether it knows if the Hospital Authority (HA) will consider introducing 24-hour public out-patient services in TSW, so as to meet the needs of the residents there; if HA will do so, of the details, if not, the reasons for that; and

(c) whether, according to the latest assessment by the authorities, the needs of the residents in the area can be fully met after the completion of TSW Hospital; and whether there is any plan to provide other healthcare services in the area so as to cope with the demand?

Reply:

President,

(a) The Planning Department's information shows that the New Territories West Cluster (NTWC) of the Hospital Authority (HA) currently covers about 1.06 million population, of which about 560 000 are in the Yuen Long District and close to 500 000 in the Tuen Mun District. HA has within the NTWC four public hospitals including the Tuen Mun Hospital and the Pok Oi Hospital, eight general out-patient clinics (GOPCs), four family medicine specialist clinics (FMSCs) and four specialist out-patient clinics (SOPCs). The number of attendances recorded for these services over the past three years is tabulated in annex.

Public general out-patient services are primarily targeted at the low income and underprivileged groups, including the chronically ill, poor and frail or disabled elders, and low income families. At present, public general out-patient services in Tin Shui Wai are mainly provided by the Tin Shui Wai Health Centre located on Tin Shui Road. As a transitional measure to

cope with service need in the district, HA has set up one temporary consultation room inside the Pok Oi Hospital Chinese Medicine Clinic in Tin Wah Estate as the Tin Shui Wai North General Out-patient Clinic since 2006. The two GOPCs together provide about 165 000 attendances of general out-patient services annually over the past three financial years.

To further enhance public primary care services in Tin Shui Wai, HA has implemented the "Tin Shui Wai Primary Care Partnership Project" since June 2008, under which patients suffering from specific chronic diseases with stable medical conditions in need of follow-up treatment at the Tin Shui Wai GOPCs can opt to receive out-patient services from private medical practitioners (PMPs) in the district. The Project has now been extended to the entire Tin Shui Wai area, with 10 PMPs and over 1 600 patients enrolled in the programme.

According to HA's statistics, nearly 90% of the target users of general out-patient services, including elders, recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and medical fee waivers, are able to secure a consultation timeslot at the two GOPCs mentioned above through HA's Telephone Appointment Service System. Public GOPCs aside, there are over 30 PMPs in Tin Shui Wai providing convenient out-patient services to the community.

(b) Patients under the care of HA's GOPCs mainly comprise chronic disease patients with stable medical conditions (such as patients with diabetes mellitus or hypertension) and episodic disease patients with relatively mild symptoms (such as those suffering from flu, cold, fever or gastroenteritis). For chronic disease patients, they will be assigned a timeslot for the next consultation in advance without having to make separate appointments. Enhanced support is also provided to chronic disease patients through a series of chronic diseases management programmes implemented by HA. For episodic disease patients, consultation timeslots in the next 24 hours are available for booking through HA's Telephone Appointment Service System.

As emergency cases normally require the support of specialty and other related services in hospitals, acute patients in genuine need of immediate medical attention should go to the accident and emergency departments of hospitals for triage of cases and treatment and support according to their needs. GOPCs are not equipped for the provision of emergency services, and extending general out-patient services to late evening hours or round-the-clock is not cost-effective and would not be efficient use of general out-patient resources. The Administration has no plan at this juncture to set up general out-patients services at late evening hours or round-the-clock.

(c) HA provides services on a cluster basis. For planning and provision of appropriate services to the community, each cluster will take into account relevant considerations including the demographic profiles of the district, residents' mode of service consumption and the service areas of the underpinning hospitals. Hospitals within the same cluster are assigned separate roles to complement and support each other in the delivery of services.

To cope with the increasing demand for healthcare services arising from population growth in the NTWC including Tin Shui Wai, the Administration is taking forward the plan to develop the Tin Shui Wai Hospital as a community hospital in the area. Expected for completion in 2016, the Tin Shui Wai Hospital will provide an additional 260 beds for the NTWC and in-patient

services including emergency medicine, rehabilitation, convalescent and palliative care. Upon commissioning, the Tin Shui Wai Hospital will collaborate with the Pok Oi Hospital and the Tuen Mun Hospital of the NTWC to provide appropriate hospital services to the community.

On the primary care front, the first community health centre (CHC) in the territory designed according to the primary care development strategy and service model situated on Tin Yip Road in Tin Shui Wai is scheduled for commissioning in the first half of 2012 to provide integrated and comprehensive primary care services. The existing Tin Shui Wai North General Out-patient Clinic will be relocated to the Tin Shui Wai CHC. The new Tin Shui Wai CHC, together with the existing Tin Shui Wai Health Centre, are expected to provide over 200 000 attendances of general out-patient services for the area per annum. The CHC will also provide nurse and allied health and other primary care support services as appropriate to meet the need of the local community.

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## Legislative Council Q10

### Annex

The number of attendances recorded for the services of the general out-patient clinics (GOPCs), family medicine specialist clinics (FMSCs) and specialist out-patient clinics (SOPCs) of the New Territories West Cluster over the past three years

<b>Number of attendances</b>		<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>
<b>Yuen Long district</b>	GOPCs	396 198	391 849	391 299
	FMSCs	31 221	34 677	34 561
	SOPCs	47 396	62 679	77 866
	<b>Total</b>	<b>474 815</b>	<b>489 205</b>	<b>503 726</b>
<b>Tuen Mun district</b>	GOPCs	322 295	269 467 <sup>#</sup>	316 329 <sup>#</sup>
	FMSCs	16 534	19 337	20 096
	SOPCs	670 328	717 060	754 245
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1 009 157</b>	<b>1 005 864<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>1 090 670<sup>#</sup></b>
<b>NTWC Total</b>	GOPCs	718 493	661 316 <sup>#</sup>	707 628 <sup>#</sup>
	FMSCs	47 755	54 014	54 657
	SOPCs	717 724	779 739	832 111
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1 483 972</b>	<b>1 495 069<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>1 594 396<sup>#</sup></b>

#Note: The Yan Oi General Out-patient Clinic was designated as a Human Swine Flu (Influenza A H1N1) Clinic between June 13, 2009 and May 23, 2010. Attendances at the flu clinic during the period are not counted in the figures above for 2009-10 and 2010-11.