



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

Our Ref. : FHB/H/1/5
Your Ref. :

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7 October 2015

Ms Maisie LAM
Clerk to Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council
1, Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms LAM,

Panel on Health Services

Follow-up to the meeting on 16 March 2015

At the captioned meeting, the Administration was requested to provide supplementary information on “the proportion of practitioners in the beauty industry who had participated and obtained qualifications recognized under the Qualifications Framework, and measures to increase the participation rate”.

2. The requested supplementary information is provided at **Annex**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bill Li', written in a cursive style.

(Bill Li)

for Secretary for Food and Health

Encl.

c.c.

Secretary for Education (Attention: Ms Adeline CHAN)

Director of Health (Attention: Dr Yuen-kong WAN)

**Supplementary Information Requested by the Panel on Health
Services at its Meeting on 16 March 2015**

Follow-up action required

The Administration was requested to provide information on the proportion of practitioners in the beauty industry who had participated and obtained qualifications recognized under the Qualifications Framework (QF), and measures to increase the participation rate.

Administration's response

Launched in 2008, the QF is a platform covering academic, vocational and continuing education sectors to promote lifelong learning with a view to continuously enhancing the quality, professionalism and competitiveness of our workforce. To ensure wide acceptance of the qualifications conferred by educational and training bodies, QF is underpinned by a robust quality assurance mechanism. All qualifications recognized under QF are quality assured and registered on the Qualifications Register - a web-based public database containing information on QF-recognized qualifications and their respective learning programmes.

2. In respect of the beauty industry, as at end-May 2015, about 280 qualifications have been recognized under the QF and registered on the QR since the launch of QF in 2008. The Employees Retraining Board (ERB), which is a qualification granting body under QF, is providing about half of the current beauty-related learning programmes under QF. We understand that as at February 2015, about 12,800 participants have graduated from the beauty programmes provided by ERB in the past three financial years since April 2012. On the other hand, as some of the beauty-related programmes are provided by various education and training institutions on a self-financing basis, the Government does not have information on the number of people who have enrolled in/completed these programmes.

3. In addition, the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) mechanism is established under QF to enable employees of various backgrounds to receive formal recognition of the knowledge, skills and experience already acquired. The mechanism helps practitioners determine their starting

point for further learning and progression, and reduce duplication in training for the same skills. The RPL mechanism for the beauty industry was launched in July 2014. As at end-May 2015, a total of 100 practitioners in the beauty industry have been awarded about 740 statements of attainment through the mechanism.

4. The QF Fund of \$1 billion was established on 1 September 2014 to support the sustainable development and implementation of QF. Under the QF Fund, reimbursement for RPL assessment fees is provided to practitioners who have successfully completed the assessment so as to encourage their participation under QF. The Government will continue to work closely with the Beauty and Hairdressing Industry Training Advisory Committee set up under QF to assist the beauty industry in enhancing the competency of the practitioners who participate in the QF platform.