



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

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

Dear Ms Lam,

**HIV and AIDS Response Measures Formulated in relation to the
Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2017-2021)**

During the discussion on the captioned subject at the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Health Services held on 4 January 2018, Members requested the Administration to provide supplementary information. Our response is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Number of healthcare staff providing treatment services for HIV infected patients

2. From 2010 to 2017, there are a total of 25 healthcare staff providing treatment services for HIV infected patients at the Integrated Treatment Centre of the Department of Health (“DH”). Breakdown of the number of staff by rank is as follows -

Rank	Senior medical and Health Officer	Medical and Health Officer	Senior Nursing Officer	Nursing Officer	Registered Nurse
Number of staff	2	2	1	9	11

3. As the healthcare staff of the Hospital Authority (“HA”) providing treatment services for HIV infected patients also provide clinical services for other patients, therefore it is unable to work out the number of healthcare staff involved specifically for providing treatment services for HIV infected patients.

Funding applications of the AIDS Trust Fund

4. Based on the “Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2012-2016” issued by the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS, the AIDS Trust Fund (“the Fund”) has accorded priority to provide funding to programmes targeted at the 5 highest risk groups. These 5 high risk groups are (1) men who have sex with men (“MSM”); (2) male clients of female sex workers (“MCFSW”); (3) people who inject drug (“PWID”); (4) sex workers (“SW”) and (5) people living with HIV (“PLHIV”). The Fund also supported projects other than the 5 high risk groups, to prevent HIV transmission through heterosexual contacts, these include cross border travellers, prisoners, ethnic minorities and general public.

5. From October 2012 to 2016/17, the Fund had approved a total of \$5.4 million for 4 projects targeted at MCFSW. Other than the 5 high risk groups, the Fund also granted a total of \$15.1 million for 19 projects, for the prevention of HIV transmission through heterosexual contacts. Besides, the Fund also granted a total of \$10.3 million for 4 projects which served multiple target groups including MCFSW. The number of approved applications and the amount of approved fund related to heterosexual men in the past five years are at Annex I.

6. Ethnic minorities was considered as a high risk group in the “Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2017-2021” (“the Strategies”). Before that, 2 applications targeted specifically at ethnic minorities, with a total of \$1.9 million, were supported in 2013/14 and 2016/17. Besides, from October 2012 to 2016/17, 4 projects targeted at high risk groups (MSM and PWID) also provided services to ethnic minorities with high risk behaviours with the amount of \$6.6 million.

7. A total of 214 Publicity and Public Education project-applications (“PPE”) were processed by the Council from 2012/13 to 2016/17. The Council provided funding support to 133 projects, which accounted for 62% of the total applications. A table summarizing the number of project application is at Annex II.

8. Funding application for a PPE project shall go through a three-tier system: (1) Assessment by Technical Review Panel; (2) Deliberation at the PPE Sub-Committee and (3) Final approval at the Council for the ATF. The Council will take into account comments from the technical reviewer on the application's priority, recommendations from the sub-committee, ATF's cash flow projection and target spending in deciding whether the funding should be approved to the application.

Issues related to needle sharing among drug users

9. The number of infection among PWID remained low and stable in the past

few years. However, a survey by DH showed that the needle sharing rate among opiate abusers was around 13% in 2015. There are HIV outbreaks among PWID in other countries such as Greece and Romania in 2012 and Indiana and USA in 2015 which remind us of the potential risk of rapid HIV transmission among this community. Therefore, continued vigilance of the HIV situation and prevention needs of the PWID community is necessary. Nowadays, methadone clinics (“MCs”) of DH provide methadone treatment to opiate abusers as part of the overall Government service for abusers. There are 19 methadone clinics that offer methadone treatment. The service treatment does not require prior appointment or referral and the service charge is only \$1 per visit (\$23 for non-eligible person). MCs provide a readily accessible, legal, medically safe and effective alternative to continued illicit self-administration of opiate drugs; so as to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour due to illicit drug use, and enable drug abusers to lead a normal productive life. The methadone treatment help the drug users to reduce intravenous drug use and hence reducing the sharing of needles and thereby preventing the spread of diseases like AIDS, hepatitis B and tetanus etc.

10. Moreover, some non-governmental organisations (“NGOs”) will approach drug users as their target population to promote the methadone treatment services, convey messages of avoiding needle sharing and using new needles for injecting drugs among drug users.

Application from elderly HIV infected patients for residential care services

11. In the past 5 years, the number of HIV infected patients aged 60 or above who received clinical services is set out in the table below:

Year	Number of HIV patients aged 60 or above	
	DH	HA
2013	218	172
2014	238	202
2015	268	213
2016	300	234
2017	343	248

12. From 2013 to 2017, there were a total of 12 HIV infected elderly patients on the Central Waiting List (“CWL”) applied for subsidised residential care services for the elderly. While three applicants have passed away, two applicants have been admitted into subsidised residential care homes. The remaining seven applicants are still on the CWL waiting for service allocations.

Training provided for frontline social workers

13. DH has been providing training on HIV/AIDS to health care workers, staff of residential care homes and NGOs, including social workers. Some of the training workshops were organized in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department or NGOs. The number of workshops organised and attendees is set out

in the table below:

Year	Number of training workshops organised	Number of attendees
2013	6	257
2014	11	861
2015	4	463
2016	4	198
2017	9	511

14. The content of training includes basic HIV knowledge (e.g. route of transmission, symptoms and signs) and counselling skills. It also emphasised that standard precaution is sufficient to prevent HIV in medical settings in general. Acceptance of PLHIV and sensitivity training to raise the awareness of the needs of PLHIV was also included.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr Anita CHENG)
for Secretary for Food and Health

cc. Director of Health
(Attn.: Controller (Centre for Health Protection))

Number of Publicity and Public Education Project-applications and Amount of Approved Fund related to Heterosexual Men

Target groups of applications (by projects)		Heterosexual Men			Total
		MCFSW	Multiple Target Groups*	Others#	
Oct 2012 - Mar 2013	Number of approved projects	0	0	0	0
	Amount approved for projects	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2013/14	Number of approved projects	0	1	4	5
	Amount approved for projects	\$0	\$3,865,783	\$5,577,658	\$9,443,441
2014/15	Number of approved projects	1	2	7	10
	Amount approved for projects	\$1,991,798	\$5,964,930	\$3,839,816	\$11,796,544
2015/16	Number of approved projects	2	0	3	5
	Amount approved for projects	\$3,019,139	\$0	\$1,207,475	\$4,226,614
2016/17	Number of approved projects	1	1	5	7
	Amount approved for projects	\$364,091	\$461,906	\$4,432,426	\$5,258,423
Oct 2012 - 2016/17	Number of approved projects	4	4	19	27
	Amount approved for projects	\$5,375,028	\$10,292,619	\$15,057,375	\$30,725,022

Note: MCFSW - Male clients of female sex workers

* Services for MCFSW also provided in projects under Multiple Target Groups

Others include cross-border travellers, prisoners, ethnic minorities, transgender, the deaf, blind & people with physical disabilities and general public (students, young people, those at high risk of infection & those with risk behaviours including their spouses or partners).

**Number of Publicity and Public Education Projects Processed by the Council
From 2012/13 to 2016/17**

Financial Year	Number of Projects Approved (a)	Number of Projects Rejected (b)	Number of Projects being withdrawn by the applicant (c)	Total number of Project Processed (d)	Successful Rate (a)/(d)
2012/13	25	21	2	48	52.1%
2013/14	20	4	1	25	80.0%
2014/15	36	5	0	41	87.8%
2015/16	25	14	0	39	64.1%
2016/17	27	32	2	61	44.3%
Total	133	76	5	214	62.1%