



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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Our Ref. : FHB/H/16/123/9  
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17 February 2021

Ms Anita Sit  
Legislative Council Finance Committee Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road, Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Sit,

**Legislative Council  
Finance Committee Item FCR(2020-21)77**

**Follow-up on “Anti-epidemic Fund”**

We refer to your email of 23 December 2020 on the subject matter to the Financial Services and Treasury Bureau. The reply from Food and Health Bureau is at **Annex** for members' reference.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Ms Sarah Ng)  
for Secretary for Food and Health

**Finance Committee**  
**Follow-up to meeting on 21 December 2020**

Information/written response provided by the Government for the following-

FCR(2020-21)77 Injection of \$6.4 billion into the Anti-epidemic Fund to provide funding for various relief measures targeted at eligible individuals and businesses hard hit by the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic

**Follow-up Action**

- (b) Manpower deployed by the Government for anti-epidemic work, and additional manpower requirement for enhancing control measures in order to combat the epidemic

*(Request raised by Hon LAU Kwok-fan; Meeting time at 10:25:44)*

(Note: The Chief Secretary for Administration indicated that the information requested by Member would be provided after the meeting.)

**Reply:**

Officers of different grades from all bureaux and departments are contributing their best efforts to fight the pandemic. The Government will continue to stay vigilant and act swiftly to adopt various control measures in order to combat the pandemic.

2. As the major government department responsible for combating the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Health (DH), along with its entire workforce, is working at full capacity in fighting the pandemic. Ever since the response level in Hong Kong was raised from “Serious” to “Emergency”, the DH has reduced non-emergency and non-clinical services so as to redeploy manpower internally (2 860 staff members in total including medical and non-medical staff, accounting for around 38% of its strength) to different positions to help combat the pandemic.

3. Moreover, to implement the various anti-pandemic prevention and control measures, as at 24 December 2020, the DH has recruited about 940 contract staff (including doctors, nurses and other staff on non-civil service contract and post-retirement service contract terms).

Through the coordination of the Civil Service Bureau, about 200 general grade staff members have been deployed from various government departments and about 1 100 volunteers have been recruited from serving and retired civil servants in different phases to support the DH in its anti-epidemic work (including home quarantine monitoring and hotline operation).

4. The DH will continue to closely monitor the development of the COVID-19 pandemic and will seek additional resources, if necessary, through the established procedures.

5. In addition, staff have been deployed from different departments to support various anti-epidemic work. For example, about 180 staff members have been deployed from the disciplined services to assist in contact tracing, while an average of about 450 staff members are deployed from the Civil Aid Service and the Auxiliary Medical Service per day for the management of quarantine centres and the transportation of close contacts. As for the 26 “restriction-testing declarations” operations conducted from 23 January to 10 February 2021, nearly 12 000 man-time of civil servants, including those from disciplinary forces and clerical staff members, from over 40 government bureaux and departments were mobilised.

6. Meanwhile, around 4 700 out of 30 000 time-limited posts created under the Anti-epidemic Fund are related to anti-epidemic work. These include Contract Doctors, Nurses, Scientific Officers, Medical Laboratory Technologists and Dispensers of the DH, time-limited positions required by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer to provide technical support related to anti-epidemic work, and cleansing and supporting staff for enhancing the cleansing work in various districts for anti-epidemic purpose.

7. Various departments will continue to deploy manpower and resources flexibly in an all-out effort to combat the pandemic and contain the disease as soon as possible.

**Food and Health Bureau  
Civil Service Bureau  
Department of Health  
February 2021**