



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau

Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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21 June 2021

Ms Angel WONG
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Panel on Education
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms WONG,

Panel on Education
Follow-up to Meeting on 7 May 2021

Thank you for your letter dated 7 May 2021. On Member's request for the Education Bureau (EDB) to provide information on keeping, using and releasing information regarding teacher registration, our reply is as follows:

Pursuant to the Education Ordinance (Cap.279), the EDB is the authority for registration of teachers. EDB has the responsibility to play a gatekeeping role in ensuring that all teachers are fit and proper persons to teach. Hence, the EDB needs to maintain teacher registration information and relevant records, including whether the teachers have been reprimanded, warned or advised because of professional misconduct. We will consider cancelling their registration should they commit professional misconduct acts again. Teachers who are not registered or have had their teacher registration cancelled shall not teach in any school. Such registration information is maintained in the EDB's information system.

To safeguard the well-being of students, schools as employers should know about the potential appointees' teacher registration information and relevant records in the appointment of teachers. Hence, upon seeking the consent of their prospective employees, schools are required to check with the EDB concerning their teacher registration information. As set out in the EDB Circular No. 3/2020 issued on 22 May 2020, the EDB will provide information on validity of the teacher's registration, whether the registration/application has been cancelled/refused, and whether reprimand/warning/advisory letter has been issued in connection with the teacher registration or circumstances under EDB's examination of his/her registration status.

Besides, the EDB will also compile related statistics and release to the public in due course. For instance, from June 2019 to December 2020, we received 269 complaints about professional misconduct of teachers related to social turmoil. We have released from time to time the numbers of teachers whose registrations have been cancelled, the reprimand letters, warning letters, advisory letters or verbal warnings issued. At the Legislative Council Panel on Education Meeting of 7 May this year, we briefed Members on the analysis of the cases from January 2019 to April 2021, to enhance the public's understanding about teachers' conduct and the follow-up actions taken by the EDB. They also serve as reference for teachers, reminding them to be cautious about their words and deeds. To enhance transparency, the EDB plans to release the numbers of completed cases and cases being followed-up on a regular basis. We will also provide examples of cases to illustrate the penalties on misconducted teachers and the considerations involved for general information of the public and reference of schools. This would also help schools strengthen the management of teachers, enhance the sensitivity of teachers, be cautious about their words and deeds, and compliance with rules and laws.

In gist, for protecting students' well-being, it is essential for the EDB to maintain teacher registration information and relevant records to exercise the power authorized by the Education Ordinance and properly enforce the relevant provisions.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms W P LEE)
for Secretary for Education