立法會

調查政府與醫院管理局 對嚴重急性呼吸系統綜合症爆發的處理手法 專責委員會

第二十九次公開研訊的逐字紀錄本

日期: 2004年4月20日(星期二)

時間: 上午9時正

地點: 立法會會議廳

出席委員

羅致光議員, JP (主席)

丁午壽議員, JP

朱幼麟議員, JP

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第一部分

衞生福利及食物局局長楊永強醫生, JP

第二部分

大埔醫院病房經理

杜興權先生

(杜興權先生拒絕對其證供的逐字紀錄本置評或提出任何更正。)

第三部分

沙田醫院內科及老人科部門運作經理

徐若萍女士

(徐若萍女士拒絕對其證供的逐字紀錄本置評或提出任何更正。)

第四部分

大埔醫院護理總經理

李玉蓮女士

(李玉蓮女士拒絕對其證供的逐字紀錄本置評或提出任何更正。)

第五部分

大埔醫院行政總監

董秀英醫生

(董秀英醫生拒絕對其證供的逐字紀錄本置評或提出任何更正。)

Legislative Council

Select Committee to inquire into the handling of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak by the Government and the Hospital Authority

Verbatim Transcript of the Twenty-ninth Public Hearing held on Tuesday, 20 April 2004 at 9:00 am in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building

Members present

Dr Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP (Chairman)
Hon Kenneth TING Woo-shou, JP
Dr Hon David CHU Yu-lin, JP
Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP
Hon CHAN Kwok-keung, JP
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung
Dr Hon LO Wing-lok, JP

Members absent

Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman) Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Witnesses

Part I

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong, JP Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Part II

Mr Boris TO Hing-kuen Ward Manager, Tai Po Hospital (Mr Boris TO Hing-kuen has declined to make any comments on or propose any corrections to this verbatim transcript of his evidence.)

Part III

Ms Maria CHUI Yeuk-ping

Department Operations Manager, Department of Medicine and Geriatrics, Shatin Hospital

(Ms Maria CHUI Yeuk-ping has declined to make any comments on or propose any corrections to this verbatim transcript of her evidence.)

Part IV

Ms Helena LI Yuk-lin

General Manager (Nursing), Tai Po Hospital

(Ms Helena LI Yuk-lin has declined to make any comments on or propose any corrections to this verbatim transcript of her evidence.)

Part V

Dr TUNG Sau-ying

Hospital Chief Executive, Tai Po Hospital

(Dr TUNG Sau-ying has declined to make any comments on or propose any corrections to this verbatim transcript of her evidence.)

主席:

開始了。首先歡迎各位出席調查政府與醫院管理局對嚴重急性呼吸系統綜合症爆發的處理手法專責委員會第二十九次公開研訊的上午部分。

提醒各位委員,整個研訊過程必須有足夠的法定人數,連主 席在內是4位委員。

亦藉此機會提醒旁聽今天研訊的公眾人士及傳媒,在研訊過程以外場合披露研訊中所提及的證據,是不受《立法會(權力及特權)條例》所保障。所以,如有需要,各位列席人士及傳媒應就他們的法律責任,徵詢法律意見。

我現在宣布研訊開始。上午的研訊會繼續向衞生福利及食物 局局長楊永強醫生索取證供。

楊醫生,多謝你出席今天的研訊。我亦要提醒,你在3月13日 上次作供前已經宣誓,所以現在你是繼續在宣誓的情況之下作 供。陪同你的兩位人士亦不可向委員會發言。

想問問題的委員,請舉手示意。首先是李柱銘議員。

李柱銘議員:

多謝主席。楊醫生,上次我還有幾點未問,但是不會長的。 上次我問關於Stephen NG —— 吳醫生的陳述書,我希望有一份他 的陳述書放在你面前,因為我還未問完。

上次我是問關於它的Appendix III — 附件三。他2003年4月7日給了你一封信。其實,關於那一封信,已經問完了,不過我想你再看回最後那一段,倒數第2段,倒數第3行,那裏說:"While I know there are political and administrative difficulties that I may not comprehend, I think "see no evil" is a greater moral lapse than "say no evil". Moreover, researchers in other countries may soon find out what we have found."這裏我已問過了,不過我只是再提你這一段,OK?這封信是寫給你的,去年4月7日。

下一個Appendix,即第四個附件,其實不是寫給你的,是寫給Thomas TSANG,你可以看到,日期都是2003年4月7日,不過是下午3時49分。我想你看第1段,有一句特別的,第4行那裏說:"This investigation must go on, at full speed, without interference from

political considerations. Whether the results will be announced is immaterial to collecting the data and documenting carefully what actually happened. We owe it to posterity and history to do the right things."這一段,剛才我讀的這幾行和他寫給你的那封信,我亦再提你,亦是說到"political and administrative difficulties",這裏就說到"interference from political considerations"。你同不同意大致上都是說這些東西?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong, Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food:

Mr Chairman, it does appear that Dr NG at that stage had some perception that there were some political reasons in terms of the investigation. So it does appear that there is some perception that he had relating to some of the political considerations.

李柱銘議員:

是,謝謝。同日,其實Dr Thomas TSANG已回覆了他。再下一個,第2頁,你看到的了。你看到那個日期亦是去年4月7日,這個是下午,寫的是16:36,即下午4時36分。早一點的那一個,他收的時間是下午3時49分。他只是說:"Thanks, Stephen. Your experience in rodent behavior is most valuable. I've relayed your message to the rodent control people. Wish them a good catch!"即是他沒有回答他所說的"without interference from political considerations",你同不同意?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, obviously I think here the reply is very simple. Obviously, I don't know what Dr Thomas TSANG actually relayed to the rodent control people but he did relay the message to them but obviously there was no reference in this to any political considerations and certainly I did not get a copy of this email and I was not aware of it.

李柱銘議員:

好,謝謝你。楊醫生,我想問你,在那個時間,即4月4日、 5日、6日、7日那個時間,你在那時候見吳醫生,那時你是否認為 蟑螂可能是其中一個因素,即傳染這個病菌的其中一個因素?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, during the investigation of Amoy Gardens, we were looking for different causes. And on the 1st of April, after the preliminary investigations

done by Department of Health and the Environment and Transport Bureau, my colleague, Dr Sarah LIAO, we came to the preliminary conclusion that environmental factors were one of the reasons why the infection had been amplified. We were thinking that it could be due to a person to person contact. Still it also was relevant to the spread in Amoy Gardens because a large number of people were infected. The large outbreak was thought to be due to the problems in sewer systems and there was evidence of environmental And we were of the hypothesis then that because of the environmental contamination, cats were contaminated like people. subsequently found that cockroaches and rats.....both were found to have evidence of contamination by the coronavirus. And I think subsequently we also found that there were environmental swabs that also showed evidence of this So the information at that time pointed out to be that it all emanated from the sewer system and that rats and cockroaches, perhaps having been exposed to the sewer systems, would spread the infection passively to the environment. that was the thinking at that time.

李柱銘議員:

你見吳醫生的時候,即是在那個會議的時候,你自己覺得蟑螂的可能性大一點呢?還是老鼠的可能性大一點?還是同樣都有可能性?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

At that time, I remember in the discussion, the pest control expert, Mr YUEN, came to the meeting and he described the two populations of rats and two populations of cockroaches. He was describing that for the rodent population, there are the sewer rodents, and the household or the roof rodents. according to Mr YUEN, he told us that the two rodents were very territorial. And in the Amoy Gardens context, obviously there were sewer rodents but sewer rodents normally don't go up to the buildings. My recollection is that they probably go up one or two floors so they certainly didn't fit the description and there was no evidence of rat infestation in the buildings. So he was telling us that it was very unlikely the household rats or the roof rats were a main factor in the spread. But he also described the two populations of cockroaches – the household cockroaches and the sewer cockroaches and he was of the view that because the sewer cockroaches did go up the drain pipes and although they would not stay in the houses, they would go up the drain pipes and they may explore the kitchen areas or the related areas for short periods of time. So we were at that time thinking that probably the two were relevant but probably the more important pest was cockroaches. So at that time we thought even if there was going to be a widespread environmental contamination, it was more likely that it would be.....cockroaches would be more important than rats.

我想你看看吳醫生的陳述書第五個附件。我要問你的只是很少而已。在那一頁近結尾部分,你看到他有一個email寫着"Update April 4,03",再給一個date就是"Fri,4 Apr 2003 10:38" in the morning,alright?接着寫着"Dear All",我不需要太詳細問你了,但他有說到早一天見了特首,接着見到你。你看到這裏了嗎?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes.

李柱銘議員:

好了。翻到第2頁,中間那處有第三個問題。在正中間,第三個問題。你沒有那一頁呀?對不起,可不可以......

主席:

那個是貼着"MSN Hotmail",左上角那個label,是嗎?

李柱銘議員:

是了,是了。

主席:

是那份嗎?

李柱銘議員:

是了,是了。

好,不好意思。這第2頁,在正中間那處,你看不看到那個問題: "Is this single contamination of sufficient quantity to deliver sufficient dose to infect over 200 people?"你看到這條問題了嗎?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes.

這個是吳醫生自己寫了問題出來,他自己回答的。他說:"I guess if it is airborne, waterborne or foodborne this is possible. Any other method, such as passive carriage by rodents or insects (as suggested by EK) would probably need amplification of dose, ie infection of the carrier. EK does not believe in infection of the carrier. He thinks the patient left enough virus for cockroaches to carry around to all the blocks. His theory is that roaches were the carriers and visited all the infected household to spread the disease by contact."這一句,他在這裏這樣寫,是否把你當時的看法相當準確地寫出來呢?還是你是不同意的呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, this does not reflect totally what we were thinking at that stage. I think the issue was the amplification was done in the sewer system because I think at that time, the sewage system was thought to be the main reason why there was such widespread infection and we still did not completely understand the total picture. At that time, the working hypothesis was that because there were a number of people infected in E Block and on that particular day, the flushing system of E Block broke down so there was a hold-up of the sewage material in the sewer systems and there were a number of people infected. So there was thought to be a multiplicity of factors that led to the spread. think the cockroaches and rats were part of the contamination. Because there was widespread contamination so the cockroaches – they were going around all over the place - would have been one additional mode of spread. obviously the sewer system, the U traps, the chimney effect, all those were also thought to be relevant. I remember in our discussions with Dr LIAO, she was explaining the sewer systems through Amoy Gardens. So Blocks C, D, E and F was a downstream system because that's the way that the sewer systems worked, that if there was flushing, there could be negative pressure back into the flats.

李柱銘議員:

或者我們不需要太詳細,因為這些證供我們已聽過了。我只是問你這裏是否正確反映你那時的看法,你就說"not completely"。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

No.

你說不是全面,是嗎?那即是......但你不是說他錯嘛。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, certainly the implication that it was the cockroaches is not correct. I mean I do not wish to give the impression that we thought that cockroaches were the main reason for the spread. We were postulating that cockroaches and rodents could have played a part in the spread.

李柱銘議員:

OK。好,我現在問你另一個問題。我想你向我們說一說,對 SARS這一仗,你認為誰是總司令?是你呢?還是另有其人呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, in the total SARS epidemic, obviously when the Chief Executive set up the Steering Committee, he took overall steer of the total control because as I gave evidence in my previous sessions that the impact of SARS extended beyond the health sector. But as far as the health sector response was concerned, I was still providing......I continued to provide the leadership. Because there were issues that extended beyond the health sector and that's where the Chief Executive's Steering Committee took the steer to provide the leadership for the overall handling of SARS. But for the health sector responses, I continued to provide that leadership and continued with that responsibility.

李柱铭議員:

就算是health那方面,你就說你仍然是領導人,但你還是要向 特首報告的,是嗎?在那些督導委員會那裏。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, that's certainly correct.

李柱銘議員:

而且特首有權告訴你他的意見,或者認為這裏做得不是太好。他是可以這樣做的,是嗎?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, that's absolutely correct.

所以,如果說到這場仗的總司令,你會說是你自己,還是特首呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, in terms of the overall handling of SARS, obviously the whole.....how the whole thing was managed and steered, it was obviously the Chief Executive through the Steering Committee, but still, in the health sector, I was primarily responsible.

李柱銘議員:

就算是說到health那方面,特首也會有他自己的意見,是嗎? 譬如關於隔離、quarantine,或者口罩那些事情,他都有自己強烈 的意見的,是嗎?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, certainly in the SARS outbreak, many of my colleagues would have opinions and obviously the Chief Executive would have a view, but they would have been discussed, and of course, my being the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food, my views would be considered to be very important. Obviously, in many decisions, the considerations are not purely health. are other considerations where views would be useful and I think yes, as the Honourable Mr LEE was saying, in the context of quarantine, obviously there were issues relating to quarantine which we all discussed and this was not just the Chief Executive but all the Members of the Steering Committee had views because there was very little experience of quarantine and we all recognized that quarantine could have reverse effects of what it was intended. discussions were constructive and they were discussed at the Steering Committee and obviously the Chief Executive had a view, Members of the Committee had views and I presented what the experts' opinions were relating to quarantine and their concerns and the decisions were then made at the Steering Committee relating to what we should be doing because none of us were completely certain of what possible effects there would be and it was a collective decision in those instances relating to quarantine orders.

李柱銘議員:

你覺得特首在這些督導委員會做主席時所講的說話是怎樣呢?你用"active"來形容?還是用"passive"來形容?主動或者被動。

Well, Mr Chairman, I would say that in the context of those discussions, obviously the Chief Executive would have questions and views on certain areas. In certain areas I would be reporting in terms of the situation and to give advice relating to what was happening. So it would be a mix of both, Mr LEE.

李柱銘議員:

或者用另外一個字,用"hands-on approach",你會不會同意呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I think I'm not certain what hands-on actually infers but obviously the Chief Executive had many interactions with me because he was very concerned as we were all were during the epidemic and I kept him updated. Obviously he was......we would have all liked that the infection never happened and that when it happened, we could control it within one day so there was a great urgency. So he was very, very concerned relating to the evolution of the epidemic and he wanted to make sure that I was doing everything that could be done to control the outbreak so he was obviously constantly asking me questions relating to what was being done, whether we were doing enough. Sometimes he would ask questions like whether we should quarantine. But these were all in the context of......that he recognized that I was still providing the leadership for the control of the health sector because Mr TUNG not being a doctor or a health professional could only ask questions and give advice in the broader context but the decisions for the health sector would still have to reside in me.

李柱銘議員:

但是,就算是關於health sector那方面,衛生那方面,每一件 大事你都會即時向他報告的,對不對?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes, Mr Chairman. For any major decisions, I would certainly inform him or consult him.

李柱铭議員:

而且是即時告訴他的。

As soon as possible, yes.

李柱銘議員:

即是有時他問你,但有時他沒有問你,你自己都會找他的, 對不對?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, if there are major issues, certainly I would. I would either inform him or consult him.

李柱銘議員:

那麼,你會去找他,還是打電話?還是兩者皆有?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Both, Mr Chairman.

李柱銘議員:

你回想起來,你可有想起任何一件事情或者一個決定,是這個督導委員會和特首的意見不一致的?你想不想到?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

I think, Mr Chairman, most of the decisions were taken after discussion in the Steering Committee and having all views being considered then they will be taken. Obviously, I think we all tried our best to provide the best advice we could but I don't think there was an instance where the Committee had sort of voiced on a certain thing and then he would just override it.

李柱銘議員:

他……I see,即是特首沒有override那個督導委員會的決定,你剛才的意思是否這樣?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

My recollection is yes, he has not. It has not happened.

有沒有倒過來特首有一個很強烈的意見要這樣做,而督導委員會其他人卻不同意他這樣做,所以便跟隨了督導委員會的方法去做。有沒有呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

I think in the context of discussions, generally we considered all views and then the decision was taken, and we all abided by it. But I think there was an instance where the converse as Mr LEE described happened.

李柱銘議員:

OK。最後一樣東西,我還是想問,鍾尚志教授和你在3月20日在停車場談過,而且後來那個停車場......我只是給你那個時間,即3月20日,他和你走往停車場的時候大約有5至10分鐘的談話。之後,他說你有和他通過電話。你是否同意,之後你有和他通過電話?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I think it was the reverse. I spoke to him, my recollection is after he did the press interview and I rang him up to enquire the concerns of Professor CHUNG and, as I said last time, to understand the information that he was providing, whether was similar to what I had because I was concerned that the information flow may have been problematic.

李柱銘議員:

你就覺得是他和你通完電話,然後才有一個......開完會之後, 他送你去停車場?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, it was two different events. On the 18th of March, I recall that I telephoned Professor CHUNG because on the 17th of March, he did a press conference.

李柱銘議員:

是了。

So I talked to him on the 18th relating to his concerns about community outbreak.

李柱銘議員:

現在就是問這點,不如......現在清楚一點好了,3月18日那個電話的內容,好不好?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes.

李柱銘議員:

好,謝謝你。他向我們說,你在電話中曾經說過,鍾教授這個講法,即是說在社區有爆發,可能會引起恐慌。這是第一件事。還有,接着他又說過,又是你跟他說的,如果他鍾尚志教授以醫學院院長的身份跟別人說話呢,就會有人相信的。你是否記得有跟他說過這些話?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I certainly cannot recall those exact words but I may have discussed this with him in the context of the information given to the public because at that time obviously we were trying to be as honest and transparent as possible. As I said, my main reasons for speaking to him was two. One is of course to get any information that he may have had that I was not in possession of. So after checking with him that, in fact, the information we had given out to the public was very similar to what Professor CHUNG had referred to. The second reason obviously is that because at that time it was a very new disease and there was concern in the public. So obviously we didn't want to cause any unnecessary concern to the public. It was important that our information given to the public was credible and obviously if Professor CHUNG and ourselves were of the same views and the information was similar, then it would help in our communication to the public. So I may have discussed these issues with him but I don't actually recall that part of the conversation and certainly I don't recall using the words that were described.

李柱銘議員:

但是,如果他說你有用過這些字眼,你會不會很肯定地告訴 我們,他一定是錯了,你沒有用過?

Mr Chairman, I think certainly I would not have used those words. But in the context of some of the things that I said, he may have perceived them to be in that.....I would accept that he may have perceived that I would have been concerned about that. But, as I said, I think it would have been reasonable that I may have discussed some of these issues to share my concerns with him but maybe not in those......probably not in those words.

李柱銘議員:

但是,我問你的第一樣東西就是,他向我們表示,你在電話中說,鍾教授這樣說可能會引起恐慌。其實,這是很合乎你現在對我們所說的,是不是呢?因為如果他說在社區已經爆發了,而你當時卻覺得不是,那麼他這樣說不就可能會引起恐慌嗎?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I would have been more likely to say that it is important that we are giving the same information and that our information is correct and that there is no inconsistency in terms of the health communications. I would have probably put it more in that manner but he may have recalled that in the way that he described.

李柱銘議員:

但是會不會......因為現在你給口供,在一年多之後再給口供, 當然你回看那件事,可能你會覺得你當時說的話,是比你當時真 正說過的話更小心的,會不會呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Well, I think, Mr Chairman, I think we can only go back on our best memories. But my recollection is that I would have been more likely to talk about it in a more general way than to.....I think people that know how I interact would also know that I am generally more diplomatic than that. But I may have given Professor CHUNG that impression but it would have been more likely that I would have put it in a different way.

李柱銘議員:

即是剛才你跟我們說,你和他通過電話,是因為早一天,即 3月17日,他有一個記者招待會,是不是?

Yes.

李柱銘議員:

你有沒有看過他在電視上說過話?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, yes, in fact my Press Secretary did report to me the key information of what he described in the press conference.

李柱銘議員:

那麼,是否因為你不大同意他所說的話,所以便打電話給他呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

No, Mr Chairman, in fact it was absolutely the opposite. Because what I saw Professor CHUNG describing relating to what he described as community outbreak, the information that was provided in the newspapers, was not dissimilar to the information that we had just given out on the same day. So that's why I was a bit concerned relating to Professor CHUNG's concerns and that's why I rang him.

李柱銘議員:

我不是很明白。如果他所說的話顯示他得到的資料是和你們的相同,那麼為甚麼還要打電話給他呢?是不是恭喜他,說他說得對,還是怎樣?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

No, Mr Chairman, because I was a bit surprised because if we had already provided that information and Professor CHUNG was using the same information, I really couldn't understand why he was sort of implying that we were not concerned about the situation and we seemed not to be aware of the situation. Or maybe that perhaps he thought that we were trying to play it down.

所以你看回他在電視上和記者說的話,以及看回那些剪報,你覺得他是暗示你們有些東西隱臟,是不是?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I did not see Professor CHUNG's press conference on television. Just my Press Secretary read to me the reports but I was concerned relating to, as I said initially, some of the information which we may not have had and the second thing is really to make sure that we were talking on the same wavelength to the public.

李柱銘議員:

因為你得到那些剪報,你的新聞秘書告訴你他說過些甚麼, 亦有報道出來。你是否因為不同意他有這樣的暗示,所以要打個 電話跟他談呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

No, Mr Chairman, I think there are two reasons why I rang Professor CHUNG. Obviously one is because, as I said previously, I have a great deal of respect for Professor CHUNG and I know that he would not say things that he didn't believe in, so that's why I rang him up really, to establish the information base. The second, obviously, it was important that we would, at that stage, be able to present information which is credible to the public. So obviously as Professor CHUNG is Dean of Medicine and he is the frontline person working in the Prince of Wales, it was important that we understood the outbreak and that the information that we provided should be consistent as far as the facts were concerned.

李柱銘議員:

那麼,你是否在暗示呢?你現在向我們這樣說,你剛剛給我們的口供,你是否覺得他所說的話,雖然他是一定相信那是真的,但可能你的感覺就是"not credible to the public",我用回你的字眼吧,你是否覺得他這樣說是"not credible to the public"呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

No, Mr Chairman, my inference was that because, as the person responsible for the health sector, one of the key things that we wanted to do was to provide credible information to the public because the best way for us really to allay the

anxieties of the public was to give as accurate and as good information as we had, which needed to be credible. Obviously it's very important because as the person responsible for tackling the outbreak, the information we give must be credible to the public.

李柱銘議員:

你是甚麼意思呢?"Information must be credible",你是否暗示他所說的話不是"credible"呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

No, Mr Chairman, I was saying that our information must be credible to the public. I think in the context of our community, I think, generally the people.....my impression is that the public generally feel that the academic information.....they accept that it generally tends to be more credible.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Than the Government's?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes.

李柱銘議員:

這……不,因為我現在還是想理解,你為甚麼要……那個電話 是你打給他的,是不是?18日那個電話不是他打給你的。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes, sure, yes.

李柱銘議員:

那麼,你為甚麼覺得有需要打個電話給他呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I already said I thought the most important reason was for me to really understand whether there was information that I was not in possession of. Because in the early part of the outbreak, I already detected that the information flow between the frontline and the centre was not as smooth as we would like. There were gaps because of the time required to establish diagnosis, to report and all the logistics in terms of doing the work. So there

was always this information gap which was very important that we narrowed it as fast as possible. That was the main reason why I rang up Professor CHUNG to really ask him his concerns relating to his comments on the community outbreak.

李柱銘議員:

你說"early part of the outbreak",你所指的是甚麼時候?是2月、2月尾還是3月初?還是甚麼時候?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, in the first few days of the outbreak, things were happening so quickly because.....

李柱銘議員:

即是大概甚麼時候?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

This was when the outbreak was recognized in the Prince of Wales on the 10th so when it came to light on the 11th of March. And until the time when we had established all the information systems, the information flow wasn't as rapid as I would have liked. And that's why I devised the system to get the information on the real time basis.

李柱銘議員:

你就覺得……當然,你回答過我很多次了,我又問了你幾次了。你就覺得,你打那個電話是想拿一些……你想看看你得到的資料和他得到的資料是否相同?是不是?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes. Mr Chairman.

李柱銘議員:

但我還是要問你,為甚麼你覺得有需要呢?你知道他早一天 說過甚麼了,你的新聞秘書已向你報告了。你想知道他的資料和 你的資料是否相同?

Mr Chairman, because what the newspapers reported.....because I wasn't in the press conference so I could only go by what the newspapers reported and what the newspapers reported relating to the number of the cases were not very dissimilar to the number that we had and the people that were infected were also not very dissimilar. Based on the newspaper reports, I couldn't really just go on the newspaper reports so I really then had to verify with him and whether there was other information that the newspapers had not reported. So it was not just what was reported but what may not have been reported.

李柱銘議員:

你說的那幾個字,我想再提你,你剛才的答案用"not very dissimilar",意思是不是都有少許是"dissimilar"?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, the "not dissimilar" in the context, because he was, my recollection is that there were a number of cases that he was talking about, were something like 100. I can't remember the exact numbers. The numbers that we had given out on that day were like 95, so the margin of error was like 5% and I said "not dissimilar" because, as you know, in the reports, normally we have a cut-off time when we had the report cases, and then Professor CHUNG gave his press conference, I believe, was later in the same day. So the numbers would not have been exact but they were in the sort of ballpark figures that we would expect, that in that 12-hour period or 6-hour period, there would have been more cases.

李柱銘議員:

那麼,是不是因為他提供的數字,較你掌握到的數字為多, 所以你覺得有需要澄清、打個電話給他呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

No, Mr Chairman, as I said, the figures were already in the ballpark figures. So in fact to me it would have been. That's why I rang him. Because first I wanted to establish that the information given in the reports was what was actually said. But the figures were very similar to what we had given. So I really want to understand whether there was other information that he was in possession of that I was not.

因為你感覺到他給了香港市民一個感覺,就是他可能是暗示 政府有些東西隱瞞,是不是這樣呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, my main concern wasn't that I was concerned that he was giving the impression that the Government was hiding anything. My main concern was really to establish the information and especially our understanding of the outbreak situation.

李柱銘議員:

哦,你只是想拿資料而已?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

That was the main reason. The other reason, as I said, was to be able, if the information was the same, for us to have a better understanding of the picture so that in our communication to the public, we would be communicating along the same lines.

李柱銘議員:

Mr Chairman, I think in fact I absolutely agree that it was very important that we provide the public with the information, all the facts of the outbreak and in fact that is what we tried to do. So in my discussions with him, that was my main intention, is to be able to give the public the facts as they were, and also to forge the partnership with Professor CHUNG in providing the information. So I had absolutely no disagreement, Mr LEE. And although people may have different perceptions and opinions but in fact we did try our best to provide information, the facts as they appeared to us.

李柱銘議員:

所以你是覺得,就算你還未有答案也好,都應該讓市民知道?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Absolutely, Mr Chairman.

李柱銘議員:

這就是……我現在為甚麼要問你呢?就是因為鍾教授向我們說時,他覺得他的看法和政府的看法不同,而政府是不想他繼續這樣說的。你明白我的意思嗎?所以我要問你這些東西。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes, Mr Chairman, unfortunately, that may have been Professor CHUNG's impression at that time but, in fact he did not discuss this with me. I mean, he gave the press conference to the media and, as I said, I took the initiative to speak to him and, of course, I was very concerned because I was trying to provide as honest information and as transparent as we could based on all the knowns and unknowns at that stage and I did try to share with him our information. And in fact, my recollection is that, when I discussed with him, I found that our information was very similar in the context of the number of cases, who were infected, etc.

李柱銘議員:

是了。但你是否覺得他和傳媒說的那番話,跟你自己掌握到 的資料和你的看法......你的看法和他的看法,有任何地方不同 呢?

Mr Chairman, not in the context of the actual information that was described. He may have had perception otherwise, of why the information was giving our context of the community outbreak. But in the discussions, in my recollection, I did tell him that in fact we had already provided information in our press briefing, the similar information that he had provided.

李柱銘議員:

你覺得他和傳媒說的話,跟你和傳媒說的話是一樣的嗎?沒 有分別嗎?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

In the description of the cases and how the people were infected, yes.

李柱铭議員:

不,是全部呀。即是你有沒有覺得他和傳媒說的話,是有一 些不妥的地方、任何不妥的地方?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I do not. Certainly in the description of the outbreak, there wasn't anything, in terms of facts, there weren't very.....there wasn't any discrepancy in the facts that we were presenting.

李柱銘議員:

最後一樣東西,我想問你,你今天回答我的問題,即大概15分鐘前,你說到"credible information to the public",你的意思是否指,政府就算掌握到一些資料,但如果政府自己也覺得不credible,就不應該告訴市民,是不是這樣呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

No, Mr Chairman, I think when I talk about the credibility, obviously it's the perception of the public. The information we have provided, we have always been, as Mr LEE you were asking just now, sometimes we would provide information that was factual, sometimes we would provide information that was based on hypothesis like in the context of the outbreak of Amoy Gardens because we were still investigating, but we felt it was important to provide information as they arose and obviously, some of this information was not verified and we would say so that these were initial findings and that we found some of the

coronavirus in the rat droppings and in cockroaches. So we would give qualifications. So in the credibility of the information, obviously the information that we give must be factual and we must be as transparent as possible and if there are things that we are uncertain of, to let the public know, so that the public will continue to have the belief that our information is credible. So I think it was very important that the public's perception and that the information that we are giving to the public was credible.

李柱銘議員:

即是說,市民聽了你們所說的話,都覺得你們所說的是可信,你才會說。是否這樣的意思?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

No, Mr Chairman.

李柱銘議員:

為何你用"credible"這個字?這不是我作出來,是由你說的。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

I know, Mr Chairman, I said that it is very important because when you give information to people then the individual that gets information will have a judgment relating to the information. And of course for us to be able to control the outbreak, that information on the perception of the public must be credible.

李柱铭議員:

即是說,如果你覺得不可信,便不應該告訴市民大眾?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

No. Mr Chairman.

李柱铭議員:

不,其實我覺得這是很對的......

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman.....

……我現在是同意你所說,但你反而不接受。我又以你所採用的那個字來問你,你反而又不接受。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

But I guess, Mr Chairman, in the context of the information, obviously, I don't really understand what Mr LEE is trying to drive at. Obviously the information that we give must be credible in the context that it must come from reliable sources and that it must be based on facts. But if there are things, as you know in the outbreak that you cannot establish the facts, I mean there are lots of hypotheses, we have findings and the findings are facts but to draw a conclusion from that may require much more work. So it's in that context that some of the information may be preliminary and, of course, sometimes when you do a test, for instance, with the virus, it can be due to contamination. So some of the findings initially may be preliminary and later on you might find that the fact that we thought was a fact was not a fact but because we had those initial findings, we still presented them to the public. So it's in that context that I was saying that we would provide as much information even if it is preliminary.

李柱銘議員:

那我更不明白為何你自己用"credible"一字?因為那個字是你採用的,並不是我。既然preliminary那些你也說出來 —— 我覺得這做法很對,透明度很高,你都未證實是與否,但既然有初步的結論,都讓市民知道,我現在是同意你的。我只是問你為何……其實我再問你那件事,可能由我問你,比較難接受,否則我想不到你為何會感覺到那麼困難。這是你自己說的 —— credible information to the public。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes, Mr Chairman, I said that the information to the public must be credible, not credible information.

李柱銘議員:

有甚麼分別呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

The difference is, information that is credible implies first the information must be credible and second, the perception of it must be credible.

你覺得那兩個字是不同嗎?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

That's.....

李柱銘議員:

你覺得credible information......

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

That is my, perhaps that is my understanding of the English language because there are two components to the credibility of information. First is that the information that's provided, how it's provided and then the perception of the receiver that the information is credible.

李柱銘議員:

其實無論你怎樣比較,還是以英文說明,你說"information is provided"和"how information is provided",我可以告訴你,是 irrelevant的。These are irrelevant in the context of your evidence which is, you only want to give credible information to the public. Why is there a difference between evidence.....sorry, information given to the public which is credible and credible information given to the public?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Well, Mr Chairman.....

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

One is active voice, the other is passive voice, that's all.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Well, Mr Chairman.....

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

What's the difference?

The difference is that, as I was saying that I was trying to describe the phenomenon. First obviously for us when we provide the information, to provide the facts and then to provide the caveats of some of the information that we provide. They may be preliminary, that we might find different findings later on because these are.....they have not been confirmed. And of course, it is important that we still provide the preliminary information.

The second is that when you provide the information, although we say it's credible but the perception may be that the information is not credible.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

But you still provide it.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

We still provide but it is.....

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

So what's the problem?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

.....important not just that the information provided is credible but that the information is credible to the receiver.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

But Doctor, how can you tell in advance whether the information you give to the public would be believed by them? You cannot prejudge because there are so many recipients of the information out there. It's the whole of Hong Kong. Some may believe, some may not believe, so I don't understand your, your.....

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Exactly, Mr Chairman, I just want to clarify if Mr LEE is concerned that we are only giving information which is credible, that certainly is not the case. First, as you said, we would establish that the information that we give must be credible information, okay. Then the second would be obviously the way it is presented would certainly need to be credible to the public on the perception. So, that is on the receiving side which we have no control. But, obviously, the more important is that when we provide the information, the most accurate and

the most honest and update, and giving all the things that we don't know, the preliminary information that would help in the credibility to the public.....

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Then.....

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

.....That's not the only factor that would influence the public's perception of the credibility.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

So, in other words, your use of the adjective "credible information to the public", the word "credible" —— the adjective, was wrongly used. You should have said "accurate" information or "the best information you could gather", isn't it?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I was referring to two things – one is obviously the information, the credible information, must be information that how we present it must be credible to the public. The second is that because the credibility of the information would depend on many factors, as you say, in the community, the perception of the individual, the understanding of words, whether there are other sources of information which may not be consistent. I was describing in the context that if we could foster a partnership with our academic colleagues and if we understood the same terms and if the information is provided in the same manner, then there will be fewer inconsistencies from the public of the information that we are providing. So what I was describing was when I was talking to Professor CHUNG, that if you are providing the same information but the perception of it was different, then there will obviously be some concern relating to the credibility of the information that the Government is providing.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

I see. So are you saying that the way he presented the information differed from the way you presented the information and therefore that would give a wrong perception to the public?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, not necessarily the way, but even in terms of that, when having the same information, perhaps our understanding of the information was different. And also when our understanding was different, if Professor CHUNG

went to do a press conference with the implication that the Government is trying to hide information, obviously, that would have an impact on the credibility of the information that we are providing.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Precisely. That was precisely how I started this line of questioning, that you somehow felt that he gave the impression to the public that you were hiding something.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman.....

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

That's why you rang him up.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I think that was only after that. Because I said that the main reason why I want to ring him up was to establish the information that I was.....that our understanding was the same. That was the main reason. That was my main concern.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Your understanding of what is the same?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Understanding of the information relating to the outbreak – the number of cases, how the infection was spreading.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

So afterwards, after you rang him up, you came to the conclusion that your understanding and his understanding in fact were the same?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

You see, my recollection of the conversation.....

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

But, is that right? Were the same?

The information that we had was the same.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

But the understanding was the same or not?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

And when I talked to him, I think then, I didn't really understand Professor CHUNG's concerns because then I was trying to describe to him that we were already described, seeing the same phenomenon. My recollection is that he was concerned at that time because prior to that, the information that was being provided, because of the time lag of reporting, and then the large number of cases we were seeing on a day-to-day basis, there were, to him, discrepancies in the numbers that he was seeing in the hospital and the numbers we were reporting.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Ah, so in other words, he actually being on the ground, is it right?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

He got more up-to-date information.....

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

.....than the information the Government released to the public.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Right. So that information, as we remember that the outbreak occurred on the 11th and we started doing the press conferences on the 13^{th*}. So in that period from 14th to 17th, many things were happening in the hospital and

^{*} The witness clarified after the hearing that it should be "13th" instead of "14th" as mentioned at the hearing.

information flow was not rapid enough and because each day the number of cases was accumulating very quickly in the first few days. So the number of cases we were seeing in the hospital was far more than the cases we were reporting. So when I talked to him, that emerged. But then I described to him that in fact by the 17th, we were already seeing very similar things. That's why I said it wasn't dissimilar.....

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

So he wasn't wrong then?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Sorry?

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

He wasn't wrong?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Wasn't wrong in?

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

He wasn't wrong in thinking that the Government seemed to be suppressing some of those figures.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, that was absolutely not correct. The Government was not suppressing. It's just the information flow from.....

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

But he.....down in the front line, would have every reason to believe that the figures being released by the Government happened to be always less than the figures that he had.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I think, simply because if he didn't understand or he was not.....certainly there were problems in the information flow in the first few days and also that if he was not aware of the cut-off times and dates of the report, obviously there would be a discrepancy in the information. So he would have that impression that we were not giving the figures.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Exactly. That was the impression he gave to the public that he thought that the Government did not come up with the true figures.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, on the 17th, in fact, the figures were very similar.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

So why was it necessary for you to ring him then? If they were already similar.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

I know, Mr Chairman, but I had to establish that the information was similar because I only read it from the newspaper reports.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

I see. So you mean on the 17th, you had no.....you didn't understand why he would make any complaint during the press conference.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I was just trying to establish the facts because I knew that the information flow was an issue in the first few days of the outbreak.....

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Alright.....

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

.....so I wanted to make sure that I was in possession of all the information that Professor CHUNG was in possession of.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Now, let me ask you one more time. You found it necessary to ring him on the 18th as a result of what had been reported to you as having been said by him to the press the day before, is that correct?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

And you found it necessary because you wanted to make sure that his information and your information were the same?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I wanted to make sure that I was in possession of the information that Professor CHUNG was in possession of. Because I knew that in the first few days of the outbreak, things were happening very quickly and I was very concerned in the outbreak control that I was aware of actually everything that was happening in the frontline.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

So you wanted to assure him that you in fact knew everything he knew by ringing him up?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, in fact I wanted to assure myself that I had all the information that was necessary to control the outbreak.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Alright. So I'm still at a loss, because unless you had the impression on the 18th that what he said the day before would make you feel that he had more information than you had, I still couldn't understand the logic of your ringing him up on the 18th.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, the logic is very simple. It's that because I was very concerned about the outbreak and I wanted to make sure that I had all the information available to help me control the outbreak at the earliest possible time.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

But if that was the reason, then you should ring him everyday to make sure that you had all the information directly from him, from the frontline.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I was in contact with Dr FUNG Hong and Dr William HO, and Dr P Y LEUNG who was in charge of the outbreak control at that time and

that information was provided to me a few times a day so all that information was available.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

So why was it necessary to ring him up then?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, if you remember, on the 14th I also went personally with the Chief Executive to the Prince of Wales Hospital to actually understand what was happening in the field, so I did all measures. But because Professor CHUNG had provided that information to the public, I wanted to make sure, in addition, that I had information from Professor CHUNG. Professor CHUNG was not actually managing the outbreak, he was the Dean responsible for the Faculty. The person actually doing the work was Professor Joseph SUNG but of course, in our Task Groups, we had inputs from the Hospital as well. So I wanted to get as much information from as many sources as possible.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Then, if that is the logic, you would have.....you should have rung him up everyday, yes or no?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, not necessarily, because Professor CHUNG was not the person responsible for containing the outbreak in the hospital.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Alright, I give up. Dr YEOH, you won, alright. Now, did you ever tell the public through the mass media that in your view, there was an outbreak of SARS in the community? Did you ever tell them that? Because you told them before that there was no outbreak in the community.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I may not have used those terms but certainly I did say that there were SARS cases in the community and that I described the phenomenon of the cases going into the community. And I described the situation as it was that there were cases in the community. They went back. The cases of SARS obviously were in the community......

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

But you didn't use the word "outbreak".

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Sorry?

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

You did not use "outbreak".

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

I did not use the term "outbreak"......

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Why not?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

.....but I described the occasion.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Why not? Bearing in mind that earlier, you had told the public that there was no outbreak in the community. When you were satisfied later on that there was such an outbreak, why did you shy away from using the same word?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I think the difficulty at that time, when I said there wasn't a community outbreak, as I gave in my evidence and in the transcripts, I was talking about the background Atypical Pneumonia. So it is the generic group of Atypical Pneumonia. Because at that time, there was confusion of terms and I didn't want to continue to use the confusion, so that was the main reason why I did not talk about the community outbreak. Obviously there was, in the context of the cases that were of SARS, it's really the extent of the outbreak that one was concerned about, so it was something that we didn't need really to describe.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

But, Doctor, I don't care the difference in terms, alright. It may be important in other contexts. But here you told the public there was no outbreak of this disease, alright. And later on, you were satisfied there was an outbreak of this disease. So why didn't you correct the information you told them?

Mr Chairman, I think I differ to......I really differ in the conclusion. I was talking about the disease, it was Atypical Pneumonia which we see 1,500 cases......about hundreds of cases every month. The other disease was a specific subset of the disease which is SARS coronavirus, which is a very, very small subset of Atypical Pneumonia.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Doctor, I don't want to argue with you but I'm giving you this last chance to explain to us why you never told the public there was, in your view, the outbreak of SARS? And if you don't want to make use of this opportunity, I'll leave it.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I did not hide the fact that there was an outbreak of SARS.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Why didn't you tell them?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

I described it on a day-to-day basis everyday. I talked about the SARS cases and the cases that were spreading in the community.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

But did it ever occur to you that some days ago, you told them there was no outbreak in the community and therefore, later on when there was an outbreak, you should tell them right away? "Now there is an outbreak".....

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman.....

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

.....isn't that your job to tell them that?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, on the first day, there was already an outbreak of SARS, there was an outbreak of SARS......

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Which was?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

.....on day 1.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Which was?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Which was when we recognized it, which was on the.....at that time we didn't know it was SARS but we already suspected an outbreak of something when it occurred in the Prince of Wales Hospital on the 10th.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

On the 10th?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Right. Mr Chairman, I just want to re-emphasise again and again that when I was asked on the 14th, we were referring to the background Atypical Pneumonia. It's a different entity. When I referred to it, it was not the entity that we now know as SARS. I was referring to, when you look at the transcripts.....time and again I talked about the 1,500 to 2,000 cases of pneumonia that we see on a monthly basis. And of these, about half are Atypical Pneumonia. So I was describing to clarify to the public that we were not talking about these background Atypical Pneumonia because at that time there was no disease called SARS and the media were just mixing up this Atypical Pneumonia with this new phenomenon.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

So don't let us go back to that again, we have covered that days ago. Now, so on the 10th.....your evidence now is on the 10th, there was an outbreak of this disease which we now call SARS—— on the 10th of March, right? Yes or no?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

That was a direct quote from your earlier.....

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes, Mr Chairman.....

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Thank you.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

......obviously there was an outbreak but we were describing the phenomenon.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Right. So there was an outbreak on the 10th. But you didn't say there was an outbreak on the 14th, did you?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

I was not talking about the outbreak of this and when you look at the transcripts, I tried to clarify the Atypical Pneumonia and the phenomenon that you were seeing.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

You did, you did do that.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

I did.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

But I suggest to you that it is not very helpful to the public.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Well, Mr Chairman, as I said, I was trying to explain the situation so that people will not be equating this phenomenon with the number of cases that we saw about Atypical Pneumonia.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Now, I suggest to you that by giving the same old figures again, obviously the impression you tried to create to the public was that there was nothing to fear, when on the contrary, you should let them know that there was something for them to fear because there was an outbreak from the community which led to doctors and nurses being struck down in the hospitals.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, obviously we were giving the figures that we had, the number of cases of this new disease which was terrifying. But if the number of cases that we were seeing on the start were 1,000, or whether they were 10 or 15, would have been very different. So we were trying to give the information as accurate as possible, under very difficult circumstances. And I accept the difficulty the public had in understanding the picture but we did try our best, Mr LEE.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Thank you, Doctor. No further questions, Mr Chairman.

主席:

其他委員如果有問題,可以舉手示意。麥國風,你在舉手嗎?

麥國風議員:

是。

主席:

麥國風議員。

麥國風議員:

多謝主席。楊醫生,我們曾在上星期問林煥光先生關於特首對於處理SARS的態度。林煥光先生告訴我們的其中一項事情,我有很大的感受,但我證實不了那種感受,就是特首對於醫護人員的感染,他表示相當重視。但是,特首沒有任何方法讓我瞭解到他如何重視。譬如督導委員會的紀錄,我找來找去都看不到任何資料顯示他重視醫護人員的感染。所以,楊局長可否告訴我們,有甚麼證據 —— 我們現在搜集資料或證據 —— 說明他是重視醫護人員受到感染?

Mr Chairman, in the Chief Executive's steer of the outbreak, obviously he was concerned, relating to how the outbreak was evolving and what measures were available to help in controlling the spread. And my recollection is that the first time that he described this was when he visited the Prince of Wales Hospital with me on the 14th of March, where in fact he learnt first-hand the things that were being done in infection control and where he gave me and the Hospital and the public an assurance that the Government would be doing everything possible to assist the Hospital in dealing with the infection and that whatever resources would be available. And of course, then, as the epidemic evolved, initially there was concern relating to the adequacy of the protective gear, and he then charged our Government Supplies Department to really source protective gear to see whether we could access from other sources. And it's also reflected in the minutes of the Steering Committee where Mr MA, my colleague, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury reported, relating to his visits to Shanghai to access the protective gear. And right through during the Steering Committee, there were descriptions relating to the infections that were occurring in healthcare workers, the infection control procedures that were being taken. And I also recollect that in some of the meetings, both I and Dr C H LEONG reported on the control measures that were being taken in the hospitals, both in terms of the infected staff and patients. And obviously he was concerned about the whole thing, and in our interactions I would update him on what was being done and this occurred both in the Steering Committee and in my report to him on a verbal So most of the things were ongoing things and they may not have been explicitly stated in the minutes of the Committee meetings. But because these were things that we were doing on a day-to-day basis, so it did reflect in fact his concerns and the things that were being done to control the infection. I mean, the fact that Dr Sarah LIAO, my colleague, herself then personally got involved in helping the Hospital Authority look at the facilities and how we could further improve on the facilities in the hospitals was a reflection of Mr TUNG's concerns. So all the things were reflected in fact in the minutes of the Steering Committee although they may not have been explicit.

麥國風議員:

特首是否掌握有關的統計數字?楊局長,你可以看看A35文件。

好的,楊局長。我不知道當時你是否採用這個形式向特首匯報,你或者採用其他方法。你可以看到,我們的醫護人員受到感染,是一浪接一浪。我想初期所看到的情況都很驚人,是嗎?但到了後期 —— 你可以看到 —— 到了4月初,情況似乎沒怎麼

樣。但到了4月5日,又開始回升到10個;接着在6日,有9個;在8日,又升到18個;其後有15個、12個,都維持在相當高的水平。到了4月15日,仍然有11個;接着到了4月22日,又有10個。之後的情況似乎慢慢滑落,相當不錯。其實特首怎樣掌握這些數字?以及他表示他相當緊張或關注,你是怎樣令到他關注呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-Kiong:

Mr Chairman, my recollection is that we did present to the Steering Committee the breakdowns of the categories that were infected. Obviously the healthcare workers was one category that was presented separately. And if one goes to some of the minutes, one will see some of the reference I made in terms of the phenomena. As Mr MAK has very rightly pointed out, the initial parts of the healthcare workers that were infected, particularly in the first two weeks, really came from the Prince of Wales outbreak. So those were cases that related to the Prince of Wales outbreak, and then the subsequent infections that we saw, after they were taking care of the patients. After the 26th of March, I think those cases started to arise in the other hospitals after the cases in the Amoy Gardens were recognized. And Amoy Gardens was a very difficult problem for us because of the large numbers of people that were infected. And then the patients started to be admitted to different hospitals, initially to the Princess Margaret and then by the later part of March and early April, we started seeing what we call "cryptic patients", what we later call 隱形病人, where many of the patients that were admitted did not present with the typical symptoms and in fact many patients were.....one patient, I remember, was admitted to the Surgical Ward, one patient to an Orthopaedic Ward, one patient was admitted to a Medical Ward who did not have a fever. We had confusion. So that started the whole issue that some of these patients presented in an atypical fashion. And of course, when staff started taking care of them, they may not have the same level of alertness and their protection may not have been adequate so then we started seeing those cases. And then when we started having large number of cases admitted to the hospitals in different settings, it created a problem of infections in healthcare staff. So the events that occurred subsequently were related to those factors and then we had difficulty, it took us some time before we were able to control the infections in the total number of infections and then the infections in staff. So some of these things were discussed in the Chief Executive's Steering Committee and I did explain to him the phenomenon that we were seeing. Obviously we were all concerned relating to the control of the outbreak and also the infections in healthcare workers and how we could reduce the infections in the hospitals and healthcare workers.

局長,你表示不停地令特首知道最新的情況。如果再看看4月21日,當時你們……應該是局長,給了一個presentation to the AP Steering Committee on the hospital capacity to cope with more SARS cases。我不知道你有沒有那份文件?

Dr YEOH Eng-Kiong:

Yes.

麥國風議員:

有了?

主席:

你可否說出那個編號?

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Annex G, page 111.

主席:

你是說那個.....

麥國風議員:

Presentation. Paper tabled at the AP Steering Committee meeting on Monday, 21 April, 2003, 4:00 PM on that day.

我似乎看不到當時你怎樣把同工受感染......在那裏,你似乎沒有提出來,為甚麼?

Dr YEOH Eng-Kiong:

Mr Chairman, that paper was mainly presenting relating to the planning scenarios. As Members were aware, we were really trying to plan for the worst, so those were projections to see how we were able to cope with more cases of SARS and it was not focused in terms of the protective gear because that was not the issue that was described. We also looked in terms of the staff requirements but it did not deal specifically with protection of staff.

其實你在Background那部分略有提及。我不知道當時其他…… 督導委員會,尤其是特首,對這個問題有甚麼看法。"Infection of frontline medical staff (170) exacerbated the problem"。我想瞭解, 當時你做這個簡介時,特首怎樣給你們意見?或者怎樣責承你管 轄的局去處理這個問題?

Dr YEOH Eng-Kiong:

Mr Chairman, obviously, we were all concerned. It's not just Mr TUNG. The hospitals were concerned, I was concerned relating to infections in medical staff and right through, we had been interacting with the Hospital Authority to understand what was being done and to see what more could be done. In fact in that same meeting on the 21st of April that Mr MAK referred to, on page 107, we did discuss in page 107 in para 1. There is a note saying "In view of the recent healthcare workers cases, SHWF and D of H would also review protective measures with those personnel". So those were the things that were ongoing in the context of working with the Hospital Authority and what they were actually doing to protect staff. In the first part of the outbreak, it was the adequacy of the protective gear. Subsequently, it was how the protective gear was being I remember that the Hospital Authority started providing training to healthcare staff towards the end of March and beginning of April. I think we all recognize that wearing protective gear itself is not going to solve the problem. It's a question of people's understanding of infection control procedures, how the protective gear is being put on and taken off. So those were the things that the Hospital Authority was doing towards the end of March and the beginning of April. Then when we started the infections of these so called "cryptic cases" – the patients that were not obvious – the infection control procedures had to be universal. So the Hospital Authority was applying universal precautions in all the other wards because, originally, they were only providing the guidelines and protection to healthcare workers taking care of SARS patients and different set of guidelines for patients in other wards. But when we started seeing cases presenting in different specialties, obviously the guidelines would have been So I then worked with the Hospital Authority to make sure that all those appropriate changes were done. And subsequent to that, obviously there were other issues relating to the ventilation systems, the design systems of our facilities where Hepa filters had to be put in, ventilations systems had to be improved. So it was a whole host of things that had been done during the outbreak and these were continuing. They were not necessarily described in the minutes of the meeting but they were things that I was working very closely with Hospital Authority. And I also then started working with them in terms of all their systems, how they were enforcing the infection control procedures, the feedback systems that were in place to audit and evaluate how the systems were

working. So these were all the work that I did. It may not have been captured in the notes of the meeting.

麥國風議員:

主席,其實我上次問林煥光主任,以及今天問楊局長的問題,都是差不多。我不太明白為何做了這麼多工作,但竟然連兩句的描述也沒有。那我們怎麼能夠證實他們做了,又或正在關注或正在做有關的工作?局長,你可否向我們解釋一下?

上次林煥光局長表示……對不起,是林煥光主任才對。他表示,這些很多都是運作上的事,由醫院管理局有關部門負責去做。但我想從你的口中瞭解一下,你覺得為何這麼重要或者……對我來說,我認為重要的事情,以及特首表示相當關注,他老人家……林主任告訴我們,特首說到他的陳述書,即是寫給我們的陳述書,他都有很大的感觸。我不知道當時究竟……如果是這樣的情緒、這樣的關注程度,為何無法從任何一方面看到 —— 所指的主要是紀錄上,尤其是書面紀錄 —— 能夠把這方面反映出來?局長,你怎樣幫我們瞭解這個情況?

Dr YEOH Eng-Kiong:

Mr Chairman, obviously I think in the outbreak, there is so much information that needs to be collated and looked at. The minutes of the meeting necessarily just collect really the very, very precise information and I think at that time, most of us thought that we didn't want to put too much time in writing very long minutes and documentation because the documentation was already done. But when you look through the minutes, there are references which do reflect his concern. On the 1st of May, for instance, the minutes, Annex G, page 122, you find that in fact Dr C H LEONG was asked to attend the meeting of the Steering Committee and there, in paragraph 1A, in the middle, it refers to "Dr LEONG confirmed that all healthcare workers infection cases had been carefully analysed. For around 80%, they were able to pinpoint the incident resulting in The information was widely shared by frontline healthcare transmission. workers by daily bulletins. Protective gear supplies were generally adequate." And then it goes on to say "SHWF, Dr LEUNG, DDCE, SSA will follow up to minimize exposure risk for patients and visitors with Dr LEONG, etc." So these all in fact reflect the things that were actually happening. They may not have captured the details but I believe that the thrust of his concerns relating to how we were dealing with infection, it also reflects in fact that we were all doing as much as possible to deal with the issue. And on the 16th of April, there is also reference, 16th of April, page 64, in para 3, towards the end, under A.O.B. para 4, it says "SETW" which is Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works

"would follow up on improving ventilation, air-conditioning systems in all hospitals". So all these really reflect his concerns but they may not have been captured in detail. So what we are trying to do is to understand how infections were occurring in healthcare workers, how we were able to analyse the causes and the things that were put in place to minimize infections, which were really the protective gear, the training of staff, the identification of patients who were infected or likely to be infected and the improvements in the environments in the hospitals.

麥國風議員:

主席,剛才局長所說的,即是廖秀冬局長在4月16日需要做某些工作,改善醫院的通風系統之類……又看看同日的會議紀錄——4月16日。其實當日很清楚,有trends and statistics,即是第一個議題。如果說關注員工受到感染,那麼為何不在statistics——統計數字那裏說一說近來的問題呢?我其實不明白。如果真是關注的話,是否就在其他方面表示關注?其他方面是整體的。局長剛才表示,是在A.O.B.那部分。那裏所說的是整體問題,並非特別關注員工受到感染。第一個問題,我想局長回答我這一點。為何你不在統計數字那裏反映多一點呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-Kiong:

Mr Chairman, the figures that were given did give breakdowns of healthcare workers. It was not specifically mentioned in that particular minutes of the meeting but in the meetings, the information presented did present healthcare workers.

麥國風議員:

嗯。即是說,沒有記錄下來,但你曾提及,是不是這樣?

Dr YEOH Eng-Kiong:

Mr Chairman, in all the information, my recollection is that I don't remember the exact time frame but certainly by that time, we would have given breakdowns of infections by healthcare workers.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

By what means?

In the statistics.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

You mean in table form or oral type of presentation?

Dr YEOH Eng-Kiong:

It would have been in table form.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

In table form. That means in writing, right?

Dr YEOH Eng-Kiong:

Yes, statistical information. We would have given the breakdowns of the number of cases.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

I see. Then, Mr Chairman, do you think we have to get those tables for our reference?

主席:

麥國風議員,你的問題是問,當時他們提供給這一個督導委員會的那些統計數字圖表......

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Exactly. You know, all these are only.....

主席:

……麥議員你應該知悉,我們每一天就算在電視上,我們都看到那些數字。那些數字每天在所謂公眾的層面上都有公布。所以,你要確認那個圖表,當然我不知道局長是否很容易可以交出每一天交上督導委員會那些文件,讓我們看到,但似乎大家都知道那些數字,是每一天都可以讓香港每一個人都知悉的數字。

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

No, Mr Chairman, that's totally different. You know, we are trying to get evidence from Dr E K YEOH.

主席:

或者這樣吧,麥議員,我問一問局長......

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Maybe.

主席:

……在每一天督導委員會所提交的文件,現在你會否有些拷本可供我們參考?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I do not have the copies here. But as I said, it would be very similar to the information that we provided to the public.

主席:

麥議員。

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

But at least for the 16th of April, do you think you can provide the information on that date?

主席:

局長你會否有當天當時一份特別的文件是交給督導委員會, 其中是有這份圖表呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I cannot be certain. I think, certainly, my recollection is that there were two sets of information that we presented. I don't recall the exact format, but certainly we would have provided information relating to healthcare workers. Whether it was the same information that we provided to the public in our press conferences, I am not certain.

主席:

或者我們這樣吧,回去可否看看,當時在這些會議中,有關 這些數字所提供的圖表,是否都可以在紀錄中找出來,給我們一 個版本,好嗎?

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Then for Dr C H LEONG to attend the meeting on the 1st of May, I would like to ask Dr E K YEOH why he was invited to that meeting at the rather late stage of the SARS?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, it is because there were the ongoing discussions relating to how we do the overall control. By that time, the Amoy Gardens issue had been We were still concerned about the other sources of infection, and one of which was infections occurring in hospitals, both in terms of infections occurring to staff and to patients in hospitals. And right through, obviously, I kept reporting to the Chief Executive: my monitoring infections in the Hospital Authority, what they were doing to deal with the problem. And when you look through the minutes, you will see references to my reporting to the Chief Executive as to what I thought was happening. As I said, I described the phenomenon, that the infections that were occurring went through a phase in April of the cryptic or the not-obvious cases, which was causing a problem for both patients and staff, and that the hospital was doing a lot to try to manage it. But the Chief Executive obviously wanted to hear first-hand at the later stage. Because as I said, the numbers of healthcare workers still hovered around 10 or so during that period. So, by the time it's already been reduced, he was still concerned that we were still seeing infections in healthcare workers. So he asked Dr LEONG to report in terms of what was being done.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Why was he, I mean Dr C H LEONG, not invited earlier to give a better picture of the overall situation? Especially, you know, I mean in mid-April, the infection of healthcare workers was still quite serious?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, in fact there was also a meeting with Dr C H LEONG on the 8th of April, after which Mr TUNG gave a press briefing to talk about his concern about medical nursing staff. And he noted that there was an increasing number who had been sick. He also described in that press conference that the

Government would mobilize all resources to give them support. He did describe that on that day he had discussions with Dr C H LEONG and myself.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

But it was not the Steering Committee meeting, right?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

No, but he did give a press briefing after that meeting with Dr LEONG.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Did you have any notes of the meeting between Dr C H LEONG and

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, we did not have notes but we can provide transcripts of the remarks made by Mr TUNG after the meeting with Dr LEONG and myself.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Oh, exactly. Sorry. Maybe I shift to ask another question on PMH. The decision of.....to use PMH as a SARS hospital, as a designated SARS hospital, was made in your Task Force on 26th of March, right?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, that's correct.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

And I would like to know when that meeting was held? I mean, in the morning, was it in the morning?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, my recollection is that that recommendation was made on the 26th and my recollection is probably around midday. I don't remember the exact time but I think it was around midday.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Well, in the afternoon you had that Steering Committee meeting but you didn't report it to the Steering Committee of such a critical decision in managing SARS.

Well, Mr Chairman, in the Steering Committee the Director of Health presented the basket of measures. But we did not specifically refer to Princess Margaret as the designated hospital. This was an operational thing, which was recommendation made by the Department of Health which I endorsed after discussion. But the decision really was left to the Hospital Authority to implement.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

That means you still consider that such a major decision in SARS management does not have to be reported to the CE or the SARS Steering Committee? Do you consider it a very major decision in the SARS management?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Well, I think, Mr Chairman, every decision is important in the dealing with the SARS outbreak. But the information that is provided, obviously at the Steering Committee must be at a higher level and this was an operational issue which we discussed at the Steering Committee......It was in the Task Force but the actual operational arrangements were left to the Hospital Authority. Because at that time we had made......the recommendation was made by the Department of Health and I did not disagree with it, and the Hospital Authority accepted it. And then the Hospital Authority went back to see how this could be implemented.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

You told us that you are always at frequent discussion, or talk with Mr C H TUNG. Then when was he informed of such, although not formally, in the Steering Committee?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I do not recall when I informed Mr TUNG but certainly in the context of the discussions, I would have mentioned it to him relating to the arrangements. But that would be in the context of the arrangement, the detailed arrangements for the Designated Medical Centres because this was one of the arrangements, one of the recommendations made by the Department of Health that we would have Designated Medical Centres. And I would have informed him of how the arrangements were made but not necessarily in detail.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Was DMC not an operational issue?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Well, this was the.....

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Then, why was it reported to Mr C H TUNG?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, because this was one of the basket of measures which was proposed by the Director of Health to tackle the overall outbreak control. And it's in the context of the Designated Medical Centres that the designation, or the referral of the patients to Princess Margaret Hospital was something that flowed from that decision in public health.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Oh, I see, you mean it's the side product of the DMC, right?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, it was recommended in the context of the consequence of the DMC.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Then is it logical to say that you should so conveniently report it to the Steering Committee, or C H TUNG, formally I mean.

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Well, Mr Chairman, I think, obviously it's a question of judgment in terms of whether it's operational or not.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

I certainly do not think so. It is both.

主席:

麥議員,我相信你是不同意那個判斷,多於你對那個事實還 想提問問題,不過這一點,你是否還有一些事實想澄清一下?

主席,我覺得奇怪,我想多取證,因為我們現在暫時看不到 我們有很大機會能請來董先生,暫時。希望他來吧。那我們將來 怎樣寫報告呢?又沒有,即是等於零和......

主席:

麥議員,我並不是想和你討論,我只想問問題.....

麥國風議員:

所以便要繼續問,看看有甚麼蛛絲馬跡能給我,他又給不了。 他每天和特首談話。

主席:

你還有甚麼問題要在這部分提問?

麥國風議員:

這個問題問不了,就等於剛才李柱銘要give up。不如問一問別的問題,局長。這主要是上星期,李柱銘議員問林煥光主任,為甚麼特首不來這個研訊。當時林煥光主任談到憲制原因,加上香港特區的決定 —— 特區政府的決定,決定之時問過很多高官之類。我想問這個決定,特首有沒有詢問你,關於他是否來這裏作證?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, my recollection is that there was some discussion relating to the evidence that would be given to this Select Committee. I don't recall exactly the timing, I remember that there were other colleagues present, but I don't remember exactly who were present. But certainly I think, Mr W K LAM and myself, and there were several other people present. But I don't remember exactly who. And there were discussions relating to some of these constitutional issues that you referred to, so I was aware of that discussion. But in that meeting, I don't remember expressing any express views because I was just there as part of that meeting, listening to some of these issues that were talked about.

麥國風議員:

那個會議甚麼時候召開,楊局長?

I don't remember when this occurred, but it was in the Chief Executive's office. And I don't remember whether it was in the context of other issues. I don't think it was specifically to deal with this issue. I think it was to talk about the Select Committee's work and how we would be providing the support and the assistance to the Select Committee. And of course, in that context, the issue of how the Chief Executive would support the Committee's work arose, and some of these constitutional issues were then raised and discussed. But I don't have a very strong recollection.

麥國風議員:

是近來的事,還是最初我們要成立這個專責委員會的時候?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

I think, Mr Chairman, my recollection is that it is probably some time ago. It is probably before the Select Committee started its hearing. I must say that I can't be clear, but certainly it's not recently. It's not recent.

麥國風議員:

那麼有沒有在其他會議,例如行政會議,曾討論特首出席與 否的問題?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I'm afraid I can't disclose what we discussed at the Executive Council.

主席:

楊醫生,在研訊中如果是相關的,除非你覺得有違公眾利益, 否則我們都會要求楊局長你答覆問題。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I think it's probably in the public interest for me not to disclose the discussions at the Executive Council but I will have to seek advice otherwise.

主席,我們是否需要暫時休會,讓楊局長去找......指引,我不知道。

主席:

麥議員你純粹想問......

麥國風議員:

很簡單的問題。有沒有在任何的行政會議中討論過特首應否 出席?

主席:

或者我們休息12分鐘,到11時我們繼續研訊,好嗎?

麥國風議員:

好。

(研訊於上午10時47分暫停)

(研訊於上午11時09分恢復進行)

主席:

各位委員,我們可以繼續研訊,我相信麥國風的問題都清楚了,不如讓局長你回答。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

I just want to give evidence to help Members. I hope Members will accept this. Based on my recollection, the meeting that I described was the only meeting where, in my recollection, the issue relating to the constitutional role of the Chief Executive in giving evidence to the Select Committee was discussed.

主席:

謝謝。麥國風議員。

為甚麼剛才我問局長時,他好像是那麼猶疑說行政會議沒有 討論過?似乎根據局長所說,你是記得而已,你如何協助你記得?

主席:

楊局長,你有沒有一些可以協助你回答這個問題,你用甚麼 方法幫助你的記憶?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I can only base it on my recollections and generally, on this important issue, I think my recollection would be fairly accurate. But obviously I cannot necessarily convince Members of this.

麥國風議員:

但是如果剛才我問你行政會議有沒有討論過,應該當時你很清楚可以說,你不需要根據保密,你都可以說沒有討論過,可不可以這樣說?

主席:

麥議員,我相信他已答覆了之前的問題,我們現時不是研訊 有關這個部分。

麥國風議員:

我想除了正式局長記得一次是討論過,其實他私底下有沒有和你談論過他是否出席這個研訊?

主席:

局長。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I do not have recollection of discussions other than in that single meeting.

即是我們現在取的證供是,特首和你,加上林煥光局長及其他人士,至少有一次討論,尤其是你在場的,是不是?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, that's correct.

麥國風議員:

可不可以再講清楚當時的決定是甚麼?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, my recollection is that we discussed the issue. My recollection is that there wasn't a conclusion, there were issues that were discussed.

麥國風議員:

沒有結論?是否沒有結論出席與否?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes, I think, Mr Chairman, the issues that were raised were, how to assist the Select Committee in its work, and in the context also of the constitutional factors that were involved. So there were pros and cons on the various issues that were discussed.

麥國風議員:

可否告訴我所謂憲制是甚麼,以及討論了甚麼憲制上的問題?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I'm afraid I don't actually recall the details of that discussion and I am not familiar with......I don't have the information at hand relating to the relevant sections of the Basic Law. But my recollection is there were discussions relating to the constitutional factors and how the Chief Executive could best give evidence to the Select Committee.

主席:

麥議員,第一,你應該知道我們委員會已決定問特首辦公室 有關他們考慮的資料。

麥國風議員:

不,我不過是想向這位證人多取一些資料而已。局長,特首 是督導委員會最高領導人,你個人認為特首有沒有需要親身出席 這個研訊?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I think this is obviously the decision of this Select Committee and not the opinion that I can give but I am aware that the Chief Executive has indicated in that meeting and I think he has always held that position that he would assist the Select Committee in any way that he thought was appropriate.

麥國風議員:

特首給我們的書面陳述書,你閣下有沒有協助書寫陳述書的 過程?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, the submissions to the Select Committee are done by the Secretariat. Mr Patrick NIP, my colleague on the left, is responsible for coordinating. So he's responsible for getting the information from everyone concerned and also to coordinate the information because some information that may relate to my work or the work of the Bureau has to be clarified by me to confirm the accuracy of the information, the factual nature. But the other information is provided by the respective individuals. In the context of the Chief Executive, it is provided by the Chief Executive's office. And I have no input into that submission except to verify the facts of things that affect me or the work of my Bureau.

麥國風議員:

即是說他給我們陳述書之前,你是未曾過目的,除了你剛才 說關於你那部分,你去證實而已?

Mr Chairman, certainly when the things are prepared, obviously there are many things that affect my work in my Bureau and they are then passed to me to verify the accuracy of the information that is provided. But I certainly have no influence on the information that's being submitted to this Select Committee by any other member of the Government.

麥國風議員:

據你所知,坐在你左手邊的聶先生曾否過目?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Oh, Mr Chairman, I think he would have, I would imagine that he would have to look at all the information but I think I cannot answer for Mr NIP. But he's responsible for making sure that all the information that is sent to the Select Committee is the information that is required and to try as far as possible to get the information from all the relevant sources.

主席:

或者楊局長,你可以很簡單的,我作為主席,可以容許你問 一問你身邊那一位,然後你直接回答這個問題。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

He informs me that in fact he has seen the draft but the decision of what information is being provided is still made by the Chief Executive's Office.

麥國風議員:

楊局長,特首有沒有和你討論過內容?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I had no discussions with the Chief Executive on the submissions.

麥國風議員:

即任何途徑都沒有討論過?

Mr Chairman, not in my recollection that we had discussions relating to what he was submitting to the Select Committee.

麥國風議員:

OK,主席,我沒有其他問題。謝謝。

主席:

局長,我也有幾條問題,想逐一搞清楚事實的部分。第一個是關於3月28日,你打了電話給曾浩輝醫生。有兩點我想澄清:第一,關於逐家逐戶在淘大花園E座拍門這個建議,是曾浩輝的建議,還是局長本人的建議?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, that was my instruction.

主席:

局長,如果是你的instruction,當時有沒有討論過是由曾浩輝醫生和前署長討論這個問題,還是由你去和前署長溝通?這在電話上有沒有討論過?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, in fact the instruction was not given to Dr TSANG. In fact the instruction was.....I gave the instruction to Dr Margaret CHAN myself personally.

主席:

另外一個是關於你和曾浩輝醫生溝通的時候,也提及跨部門小組去研究有關淘大花園E座的環境問題。這個建議 —— 本身成立一個跨……即找其他部門同事幫手,是你的建議,還是曾浩輝的建議?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, when I discussed the investigations with Dr TSANG on the evening of 28th, I think obviously he had already had people from other government departments to help him, but this was the usual practice that we would have people from Buildings Department, etc, the relevant departments,

and they would assist the Department. So they had already some form of inter-departmental group, but it wasn't......the level may not have been necessarily been what was needed. And so that's why when I asked him again, because I was very concerned about these units, 7 and 8, that I thought that we need, maybe to involve people at a higher level to make sure that we had the support. Because really, I wasn't very familiar with the types of people that had the knowledge and the expertise and I wanted to make sure that we would investigate thoroughly and had all the support required. So I then asked him to get this inter-departmental working group to make sure that we had the right level of people, and that if there was any.....if there was a need, then I would also get the assistance of Dr Sarah LIAO to help in the investigations because I know that Dr LIAO has that background and she would be able then to provide that support to the Committee through her team.

主席:

有關這個要請更高層的其他部門幫助,這個工作是曾浩輝醫生自己去跟進,還是你私人或者你的局跟進這工作?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, my recollection is that in fact I did speak to Dr Sarah LIAO – but I don't remember exactly when I did – and also get the other colleagues to help. So we probably did that in parallel. I think Dr Thomas TSANG would have gone back to the departments to ask for support and I also did speak to Dr Sarah LIAO. But I don't recall exactly when I did. I would imagine that I would have done it the next morning.

主席:

謝謝。另外一個問題是關於4月1日你和廖局長早上有一個商談有關淘大花園E座的情況。其中,廖秀冬局長在研訊中提及一點,我想澄清,就是她提到因為這是呼吸系統的疾病,所以初期沒有考慮到測試病人的糞便是否帶有這個病毒。似乎她給我們的感覺,好像提出這個檢查是和楊局長有關。局長,你可否告訴我們,就着病人的糞便去看有沒有SARS病毒的工作,是和你開始這個測試,和你有沒有直接關係?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, the investigations on learning more about the virus was primarily done by the universities, Department of Health and the Hospital Authority. Most of the basic research was done by Professor John TAM, Professor YUEN's team and Dr Wilina LIM. I think they were trying to see

where the virus could be found. Finding the virus by PCR in the stools really was just the first step. First, they needed to confirm that it was the SARS coronavirus. They needed to confirm that the virus was viable because the presence of PCR doesn't mean that there is viable virus because the virus could be dead. It's just empty sequences. And then even having the presence of the virus there, we would still need to know whether the virus was infectious through that route. So in fact there was a lot of information at that stage that was not available. All we knew on the 1st was that the researchers had found the coronavirus in one of the stool specimens through PCR, so even whether the virus was viable or not, I think at that stage we were not clear.

主席:

不過這個調查和局長當時沒有直接的關係,這是部門有關的 工作,謝謝你。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes.

主席:

在4月2日督導委員會的紀錄中有這樣的描述,說那些貓 —— "the cats are infected",我想局長澄清這個紀錄,說貓受感染是否不正確,因為我們得到的資料,都是描述貓只不過是一個所謂 passive carrier,但在4月2日第4段的會議紀錄說:"It was worth noting that a cat had been found to be infected with the germs",這個紀錄是否不正確?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I cannot give you the time when we were verifying all the information but the fact was that initially we found the virus through swabs in cats, and then I think in dogs. Then we found it in cockroaches and in rats. And all the time we were wondering whether this was a passive transfer or whether they were going to be infected. And later on, I think we did establish in one cat there was serial conversion. So when we took the blood specimens after two weeks, the cat serial converted but it probably wasn't on April the 2nd. But I cannot be sure because my guess would be that probably it wasn't established at that stage because for the serial conversion of the antibodies to occur, we usually have to wait for about two weeks so it would be unlikely at that time we were able to establish that it was infection in cats. That was probably just passive transfer.

主席:

換言之,當天的會議紀錄說貓受到感染,只是一個假設,是 未證實的事實,是嗎?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I think that would be my opinion at this stage in time, but if you are interested we can go back and see when we are able.....when we established the serial conversion in the cat.

主席:

我相信局這個也可以幫我們瞭解有關調查的工作。謝謝你。此外,有一個問題至今老是翻來覆去,是關於威爾斯,對不起,是瑪嘉烈醫院成為指定醫院的證據,有一點一直有一些地方會有些矛盾,是關於在3月26日,究竟衞生署的建議,具體只是要求瑪嘉烈醫院接收designated medical centres的轉介個案,還是接收所有新的SARS病人?我們覺得在一些紀錄上是不太清楚。在Task Force的會議紀錄,描述把瑪嘉烈醫院成為指定醫院,接收所有新的SARS個案,是basket of recommendations。究竟根據楊局長的記憶,究竟是哪一項正確?3月16日,你看看那個會議紀錄。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, based on my recollection, because I think we......as said, there were some disagreements between the two organizations of what was actually said. But my own recollection is that it is probably more likely that it was SARS cases. This was the discussion of the information that would be conducive to the departments' work. Because I remember in that discussion, I also did ask relating to the capacity and the arrangements that were made for the hospital to receive the SARS cases. Because if it was just the DMC cases, I probably would not have asked those questions. So, my recollection is that it was more in the context of new SARS cases.

主席:

所以局長你是傾向相信3月26日那個紀錄,有關衞生署的建議是包括所有新SARS個案交給瑪嘉烈醫院,你是傾向相信這是正確的。

This was the recommendation made by the Department but obviously how it is being done and the feasibility would still be the decision of the Hospital Authority. It's their responsibility to make sure that the recommendations are feasible.

主席:

另外還有一點,在較早之前,局長你作證時,特別涉及吳錦祥 —— Dr Stephen NG,我們有委員問你是否認識他。這個問題的背後是因為吳錦祥醫生來到研訊時,他是表達認識你。局長,我想問,當你作證時表達你不認識Dr Stephen NG,你可否解釋多一點你的所謂指不認識他,是指甚麼?意思是你以前完全記得不認識他,還是純粹記不起你以前認識他?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, before Dr Stephen NG was referred to me by the Chief Executive......after he was referred to me, I certainly had no recollection of this doctor that I had any associations with him in the University.

主席:

你的意思是當董先生介紹他給你認識時,你是沒有任何記憶 是你之前認識這位吳先生。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes, that's correct, Mr Chairman.

主席:

OK,各位委員,大家還有否其他問題?鄭家富議員。

鄭家富議員:

主席,我只是有幾條問題想跟進一下,即特首來不來這個專責委員會,以及剛才局長提及一點,在麥國風議員問局長,說曾經有會議討論特首應否來專責會議時,局長用了兩個字"pros and cons",即好處和不好處,來或不來。我想跟進這點,請說一說當時討論過,如果特首來這個專責委員會,好處是甚麼?

Mr Chairman, I just remember these two points relating to that discussion. One is of course, as I said, the cons was the concern about the constitutional implications. I don't remember exactly what those implications were. The pros was obviously that it would be perceived, from the Chief Executive perspective, that he was willing to meet with Members of the Select Committee. So I think in terms of the pros, it was obviously the public relations perspective of the Chief Executive. But, I think that discussion related to how we could provide information to the Select Committee. Those were my recollection of some of the other issues discussed.

鄭家富議員:

這即是說,如果當你們當時討論好處的時候,是不是不論我們專責委員會用一個邀請,甚至好像平時傳召局長來這裏,我們出一個傳召,希望特首來協助專責委員會提供證據的時候,這一個所謂公眾的"public relations" —— 你用這個字眼 —— 是特首當時覺得,如果出席,就算被傳召,他覺得在公共關係或者公關方面,都比較好?是不是這樣的意思?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, as I said, the discussions were relating to how best to provide support to the Select Committee. I don't think we did discuss about the mechanics of how the request would come to the Chief Executive but my recollection is that the main.....because I think the discussions on the information provided would still have supported the Select Committee in its work. But the pros that I remembered was obviously the public perception from the public relations perspective of the Chief Executive.

鄭家富議員:

這換言之,如談到cons,即不好處,你們談到的憲制不恰當, 是不是基於......今天很明顯,現在暫時來說,特首來了信說不恰當,是不是在討論當中,覺得壞處大於好處?壞處就是不恰當, 因為特首作為一個特區之首,是不便像其他證人受傳票傳訊到專 責委員會,因為面子的問題而不想出席。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, as I said, there was no conclusion in that meeting. These were issues that were discussed so there was no conclusion at the meeting.

主席:

鄭議員,我想提醒大家兩件事,或者你們才再想如何跟進問題。第一,我們現在提問董先生來不來研訊的問題,純粹是方便我們委員會決定日後的安排,所以我覺得容許大家去問,不過,大家都要按所謂比例來考慮我們用多少時間來處理這件事,因為始終是我們的工作和責任,多過取證部分。

鄭家富議員:

好。其實我也不會問很長時間......

主席:

同時,我相信你明白我們亦出了信給特首辦,要求解釋理由 這一部分。

鄭家富議員:

明白。其實局長當時的討論,是把好處和壞處講出來,就算沒有結論,當時有沒有討論過我剛才所說,把好處、壞處說出來後,特首的地位、面子問題,就算沒有結論,都是其實有討論過呢?

主席:

局長。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I think the discussions were in the context of the constitutional factors. I'm not clear what Mr CHENG wants me to answer in the context of that. But my recollection is......I don't remember the exact details of that discussion except the concerns of the constitutional factors was discussed briefly at that meeting.

主席:

或者試一試這樣問吧,鄭議員。剛才鄭議員的問題有一個元素是關於面子那一部分,即特首的面子問題,在這個討論中有沒有討論過?

鄭家富議員:

主席,你追問得好,我希望局長……我知道局長的中文並不是那麼精通,我稍作解釋。面子的意思,因為你們討論過壞處是憲制不妥當,憲制不妥當的原因是不是大家討論過?因為特首是特區之首,堂堂一個特首,怎能隨便由立法會專責委員會傳召"我"來呢!是不是這樣所謂憲制的不恰當呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I don't recall the exact details. Certainly, it was not a question of Mr TUNG himself but I think it was really the question of the context of the Chief Executive and how he should be interacting with the Select Committee.

鄭家富議員:

主席,我最後一個問題。在整個抗疫的工作中,局長你是否同意特首的責任是整體的?特首的責任比你作為一個衞生福利局局長的責任,是更加廣泛,更加重大,你是否同意這個說法?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, as I gave evidence before, obviously for the overall epidemic and the impact of SARS on Hong Kong, Mr TUNG provided the leadership in the Steering Committee. But for the managing of the SARS outbreak in the health sector, I was still primarily responsible.

鄭家富議員:

主席,我希望局長可以直接回答我的問題,似乎局長是在刻意迴避。你雖然有說到特首是一個領導,但我現在說的是責任,即是說你是否覺得在整個抗疫的工作過程裏面,你雖然在你公共衛生,或者是福利、衞生.....醫療.....在抗疫這方面,你亦是有作出一定的領導,不過,整體SARS這場戰役,特首的責任比你更廣泛、更重大,你是否同意?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I am not trying to evade the answer but I am just trying to honestly put it as I understand my responsibilities. I can never evade my responsibilities as Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food so whatever decisions are made at different levels, I still have responsibility for any decision that is made relating to the epidemic control. Because if it is contrary to what I believe

is best, then it's my responsibility to influence that decision. In the context of the SARS outbreak, I have always felt that it's my responsibility to get the outbreak under control and that has been my own belief from the beginning to the end. When the Chief Executive set up the Steering Committee, then he provided another mechanism where decisions were made relating to the total outbreak control, and it was to this Steering Committee that we then carried out our responsibility. I think Mr TUNG at the Steering Committee would provide his views and his leadership, etc. but the decisions were still made in the Steering Committee. So in that Steering Committee, it would have been the collective responsibility of all the officials in the Government for the management of the total outbreak.

主席:

鄭議員,因為你要求證人同意你一些字眼,這是一個意見, 所以我就無法要求局長直接去回答是否同意你所用的那些字眼。 鄭議員,你有沒有跟進......

鄭家富議員:

不過,局長剛才回答這個題目時說了collective leadership,即集體的領導,是不是?我有沒有聽錯了?看看是不是collective,因為旁邊的聶先生搖頭,我想先搞清楚這個字眼。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, Mr TUNG provided the leadership in being the Chairman and the head of the whole SAR but I would say collective responsibility for decisions made in the Chief Executive's Steering Committee.

鄭家富議員:

好,謝謝這個澄清,那即是一個集體的負責 —— 集體負責制,但局長你是否同意,打一場仗,雖然是集體負責,但最終都有一個人在領導之餘,最終的得與失都是由一個人有最大的、最廣泛的一個責任。這個你們到這一刻,局長你是否不同意 —— 如果你用集體責任的話?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, obviously for the health sector's responsibility, I am the person that has the ultimate responsibility. For the total responsibility for the Governance of Hong Kong, it must be the Chief Executive of Hong Kong.

鄭家富議員:

那即是,行政長官就是SARS抗疫這個戰役裏面的總指揮和總 負責人,你是否同意?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, as I said, the total responsibility of what happens in Hong Kong must be the Chief Executive's and whether it's SARS or whether it's an economic crisis, the responsibility must always go back to the Chief Executive because he appoints us and we have responsibility for our work. But for the specific portfolios, it's the Secretaries that are responsible. How one proportions one's responsibilities and accountability, I think it's a matter of opinion and judgment.

鄭家富議員:

沒有問題了,主席。

主席:

李柱銘議員。

李柱銘議員:

很少的,主席。局長,我想問你淘大那個隔離.....隔離那個,你有沒有參與.....即是這個決定,你有沒有參與?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, in fact as I gave in my evidence, on both the isolation of E block and then the subsequent decision to move the residents out of the E block, those were based on my recommendations.

李柱銘議員:

你自己有沒有到過那裏去 —— 當時有沒有到過那裏去?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, during the outbreak, I did not visit Amoy Gardens.

李柱銘議員:

是。而當時衞生署的陳醫生 —— Dr Margaret CHAN,有沒有到過那裏去?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I wasn't aware that Dr Margaret CHAN went to Amoy Gardens.

李柱銘議員:

還有那個隔離的統籌,也不是由衞生署處理的,是不是?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, the primary responsibility for the isolation rests with the Department of Health but there are factors that.....there are a lot of implications relating to the isolation that requires the support from the other Government departments, and there my Permanent Secretary, Mrs Carrie YAU, coordinated the other support functions required for the Isolation Order.

李柱銘議員:

但是那個coordination為甚麼不是衞生署負責的呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, because of the involvements of other parties, it was thought it would be better facilitated, because you are working with other government departments. So very often in these other inter-departmental working groups, either the Department can chair it in the context, as you said, the Director of Health could have done it or it could be done by the Bureau. So, my Permanent Secretary thought that it would be better for the Bureau to coordinate for two reasons. One is, of course, it is easier for the Bureau to move other departments. And the second is also that because the Department of Health had already a lot of work that they were doing. So some of these logistic issues could be done by other professionals, they could then share with the work in tackling the outbreak.

李柱铭議員:

但是,看來好像何志平局長在這個問題上,他做的事比衞生 署和你們還要多,是不是?

Mr LEE, I don't know why Mr LEE has that impression. My Permanent Secretary, Mrs Carrie YAU, is the Permanent Secretary in charge of Health, Welfare and Food. I am not aware that the Secretary for Home Affairs had any role in coordinating the efforts but the Home Affairs Department was one of the departments that helped us in providing support to the residents. So we had support from Home Affairs Department, from the Police, from Social Welfare Department, Food and Environmental and Hygiene Department, Buildings Department, Housing Authority. So quite a lot of government departments were involved.

李柱銘議員:

就是因為這樣,統籌應該是你負責的,是不是?因為何志平 局長又是局長,你又是局長,如果你想要兩個部門一起工作的時 候,起碼你自己也要參與才對,是不是?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, that's exactly what happened. The Secretary for Home Affairs was not involved in coordination.

李柱銘議員:

但你說是你的Permanent Secretary做的。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Yes, Mr Chairman.

李柱銘議員:

為甚麼不是你自己呢?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

I mean, Mr Chairman, it's simply a question of dividing up the work at that time as the epidemic was of such a scale that we really needed to divide up the work. And otherwise what would my Permanent Secretary be doing?

李柱銘議員:

何志平局長 —— 以你的理解,當時有沒有到過淘大去呢?

Mr Chairman, I am afraid that I cannot answer but I am not aware that he visited Amoy Gardens during the outbreak. Because the main investigation was done by the Department of Health to investigate how the outbreak occurred in Amoy Gardens. And then we had the inter-departmental working group with professionals from Buildings Department, from the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau. So the two main Bureaux that were involved in the investigation of the outbreak were the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau through the Department of Health and Dr Sarah LIAO's Bureau in investigating the outbreak. But in providing support, then we had many government departments providing the support. But I am not aware that the Secretary for Home Affairs was coordinating any of these support systems.

李柱銘議員:

何志平局長有沒有到過那裏去,你就不知道;廖秀冬局長有沒有到過那裏去,你知不知道呢?我現在說的是去淘大,當時去淘大。

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman, I think, my recollection.....my information.....I am not clear, I cannot answer but I think Dr Sarah LIAO went on the subsequently, after I spoke to Dr Sarah LIAO to get her support in doing investigations. My understanding is that she did go down on one of the.....subsequent to the initial investigations, so some time on 31st or 1st of April, she did go down.

李柱銘議員:

所以她……廖秀冬局長到那裏去的時候,是比你到淘大那裏去要早,是不是?

Dr YEOH Eng-kiong:

Mr Chairman because Dr Sarah LIAO's expertise is in the environment. My expertise is not in that area so my work was really in terms of looking at the health sector's response. The investigations that were done in Amoy Gardens were very.....

主席:

對不起,各位委員。勞議員你要停一停,sorry,繼續吧。

李柱銘議員:

我沒有問題了。

主席:

OK。各位委員,如果大家都沒有問題問局長,我們今天研訊的這一部分就到此為止。我們多謝楊局長出席了我們很多個小時的研訊。如果有任何需要,日後我們可能都要再找局長,不過,這個機會相信不會很大。我們今天早上的研訊到此為止,我們下午的研訊是在二時正開始,不是在二時半開始,是在二時正開始。我們今天早上到此為止,多謝大家。

對不起,秘書提醒了我,我們先去一去C房,好嗎?不好意思。

(研訊於上午11時50分暫停)

(研訊於下午2時01分恢復進行)

主席:

開始我們的會議了。首先歡迎各位出席調查政府與醫院管理局對嚴重急性呼吸系統綜合症爆發的處理手法專責委員會第二十九次公開研訊的下午部分。

提醒各位委員,整個研訊過程必須有足夠的法定人數,包括 主席在內共4位委員。

每次開始時,我都要藉此機會提醒旁聽今天研訊的公眾人士 及傳媒,在研訊過程以外場合披露研訊中提供的證據,是不受《立 法會(權力及特權)條例》所保障。所以,如有需要,各位列席人士 和傳媒應就他們的法律責任,徵詢法律意見。另外,委員會亦決 定證人須在宣誓後才接受訊問,所以我會在研訊開始時,根據《立 法會(權力及特權)條例》第11條監誓。

我現在宣布研訊開始。今天下午,專責委員會在這部分會就有關大埔醫院在2003年4月21日之前所實施的感染控制措施事宜向證人取證。現時在座的那位是大埔醫院病房經理杜興權先生。

杜先生,多謝你出席今天的研訊。專責委員會傳召你今天到 委員會作證及提交證人陳述書。首先,委員會決定證人須宣誓作 供,我現以專責委員會主席的身份為你監誓。

你可選擇以手按聖經以宗教形式宣誓,或以非宗教形式宣誓。請你依照放在你面前的誓詞宣誓。

大埔醫院病房經理 村 興權 先生:

本人杜興權,謹對全能上帝宣誓,我所作的證供全屬真實, 及為事實之全部,並無虛言。

主席:

多謝你,請坐。杜先生,你曾向專責委員會秘書提供證人陳述書,你現在可否正式向專責委員會出示有關證人陳述書作為證據?

杜興權先生:

是,有的,我亦帶來了。

主席:

好,謝謝你。杜先生,為了方便列席人士跟隨本委員會的程序,我們會派發閣下的陳述書給今天在場的公眾人士和記者。你即時對你的陳述書有沒有一些地方想作補充?

杜興權先生:

沒有。

主席:

謝謝。應專責委員會的要求,你亦向專責委員會提供閣下的 專業資格及經驗的資料,你現在可否確認這些資料都是正確的?

杜興權先生:

是,可以確認。

主席:

多謝你。杜先生,不如我將時間交給我們的委員。哪位委員 想問問題,請舉手示意。首先是勞永樂議員。

勞永樂議員:

是,多謝主席。首先我要申報,我在SARS爆發期間曾到大埔醫院探訪。我不記得有沒有見過杜先生,不過也歡迎你來協助我們委員會進行這個研訊。

第一個問題想問一問你的就是,你是當時4DR和4BR的病房經理,是否正確?

村興權先生:

梨。

勞永樂議員:

是。除了做這兩個病房的病房經理之外,當時在大埔醫院, 你有沒有其他職務?

杜興權先生:

我在98年到大埔醫院擔任病房經理這個職位的。

勞永樂議員:

是。

杜興權先生:

當時 —— 我所指的是03年的時候 —— 我們的部門一共有 11個病房,我自己本人需要負責其中3個內科病房。

勞永樂議員:

是。

杜興權先生:

其中兩個,即剛才提到的4DR和4BR,主要是作為中風病人的復康病房;我還須負責的另外一個病房,主要是作為一個寧養安舒的病房。

勞永樂議員:

是。

當時,那些病房大約有38張床左右,我需要負責這方面的工作。

勞永樂議員:

你負責300張床,還是300張床的一部分?

杜興權先生:

是38張床。

勞永樂議員:

38張床。即4DR、4BR,加上寧養病房共有38張,抑或......

杜興權先生:

每一個病房有38張床。

勞永樂議員:

是。即4DR有38張,4BR又有38張。關於寧養病房,你可否告訴我那個編號?

杜興權先生:

是4BL。

勞永樂議員:

 $4BL \circ$

杜興權先生:

是。

勞永樂議員:

是,你負責這3個病房。除了以中風來分類之外,譬如說4DR或者4BR,有沒有根據其他準則來分類,譬如說男病房或者女病房?那些有沒有的?

我們那兩個病房其實都會有男病人和女病人,主要是接收我們自己新界東聯網,即支援我們自己新界東聯網的急症醫院。我們主要接收那些急症醫院送過來、需要做復康的病人,我們便會編到.....主要是中風的病人,我便會編到那兩個病房。

勞永樂議員:

是,所以其實4DR和4BR的性質是完全一樣的。男病人會接收,女病人也接收,只要是中風的康復病人就會接收。

杜興權先生:

主要是中風的。

勞永樂議員:

好的。醫院亦為委員會提供了有關病房的分布圖,是文件 H137。不知道你手邊有沒有呢?

杜興權先生:

我手邊現在未有。

勞永樂議員:

是。

你看看文件的最後兩頁,是有關4DR和4BR病房的。你看到沒有?

杜興權先生:

看到。

勞永樂議員:

我們可以數到有38個病床,有兩個是隔離病床,另外再分開4格,每格有9張病床。兩個病房的分布都是這樣,是否正確?

杜興權先生:

是的。

勞永樂議員:

是。可否告訴委員會 —— 不計算隔離病房 —— 外面有9張 病床的那4格,病床與病床之間的距離是怎樣的?

杜興權先生:

從這裏可以看到……我們看看這幅圖,這裏大約每一個……可以分為4個cubicles來看。你可以看到,每一個cubicle大約有9張床,從這幅圖可以看到。

勞永樂議員:

是。

杜興權先生:

我們其實基本上,床與床之間.....因為我們的同事也要幫病人整理床鋪,協助他們上或下病床。還有,我們會在床邊放置locker。基本上,床與床那方面,病人與病人之間一定會有3呎的距離。

勞永樂議員:

3呎距離。

杜興權先生:

是。

勞永樂議員:

那即是說,病人的鼻子與鼻子.....我們經常說鼻子與鼻子之間的距離,應該不止3呎了?因為床邊與床邊之間是有3呎。

杜興權先生:

其實那時候,你所指的時間,即是4......

勞永樂議員:

SARS爆發期間。

……那段時間,4張床那些的準確……即如何量度3呎與3呎的距離那方面,因為我自己不會拿一把尺來量度,但我們每天工作的時候,我們的同事協助病人……我們要扶他們到櫈上坐,以及要安排他們下床做物理治療,坐在輪椅上等,其實那個空間……你說是不是有3呎?我自己沒有拿一把尺來量度,但我的感覺是,他們工作的時候不會覺得很狹窄。所以,病人的鼻尖之間的距離,其實一定不止3呎。

勞永樂議員:

是。我們亦看到醫院和你們的同事向我們提供的資料,在4月 之前,你已經開始做一些提升感染控制的工作。你可否告訴委員 會,在4月11日之前,這兩個病房有沒有做過任何提升感染控制水 平的工作?

杜興權先生:

其實,關於我負責的病房,那兩個病房……我要說一說我們其實如何逐步逐步知道有SARS這東西,然後將防感染措施和PPE逐步提高。在醫院內,我們有ICN的同事,他們會有些關於感染的最新資料,並會透過電郵發給我們。此外,我們大埔醫院亦在開院的時候,其實已經有一個我們所謂的Infection Control Link System。每一個病房有一個護士同事,會跟負責infection control的同事有一個很緊密的聯繫,將這些有關感染的資料透過這個link 發放到我們的病房。我最早收到、知道我們當時所說的肺炎 ——社區型肺炎,其實大約是在2月底左右,我們其實已經收到這方面的消息。同時,infection control的同事,其實說的也是在2月底,安排了一次training,讓那些Infection Control Link Nurse把這個訊息帶回去。

直至在威爾斯 — 我們知道 — 有很多同事……有個傳染病來臨,傳染了我們很多同事,他們都病倒了,其實聯網很快便……我自己記得應該是在3月中出了一些指引,要同事需要戴口罩,病人及其家人要戴口罩;如果在接觸病人時會沾上體液的情況,他們便需要戴手套;如果做procedures時,我們指的是那些體液會飛濺出來的情況,他們便需要穿袍和戴上護眼罩。當時是我們最早收到的第一份關於提高防感染的文件。一直按着時間的發展,其實新界東亦曾發出更新指引,我們亦按指引發出的時間來

評估病房當時的情況而逐步提升。說的其實是3月底至4月初,我們內科病房已經提升至一個很高規格,需要穿着PPE。此外,病人方面,我們需要他們戴口罩。探病者到來時,我們亦要派surgical mask給他們,而且我們很早已經告訴他們,當他們離開病房時,一定要洗手。

勞永樂議員:

是,在4月11日,為何我總是提及4月11日呢?現在我們都知道,4月11日是4DR病房的源頭病人入院之日,即是轉來大埔醫院當天。在那天期間,病房內的醫護人員防感染裝備的規格是怎樣的?可否讓委員會知道?

村興權先生:

我或者說一說,在4月11日的時候,我們的同事......這要說到當時我們病房所定的規格是一個很高規格的防護......

勞永樂議員:

是。

村興權先生:

我再說有關PPE所需要用的東西。

勞永樂議員:

好。

村興權先生:

N95口罩是我們同事必須佩戴的口罩,以及他們進入病房時需要戴手套、穿袍。當需要做一些我們所謂的高危工序,或者一些體液會飛濺的工序時,便需要戴護眼罩,而且當時還有提供帽子給他們,就是這樣。還有他們.....當時我們很強調要洗手。

勞永樂議員:

嗯,這些是規格和指引,有甚麼機制確保當時的醫護人員都 遵守這些保護裝備的規格和程序呢?

我想要說到……其實硬件方面,我們已經給了他們,即是那些PPE。至於他們如何使用,即是軟件執行的情況如何,其實這方面,當時我們十分依靠的,第一,就是同事的互相監察,因為我們當時已經採用了buddy system,而且我自己會巡房,觀察同事所穿的PPE怎樣,問他們:"你要做那些程序,那你需要甚麼東西?"還有我們醫院的同事每天按shift上班,分為三更,我們每班shift的那個ward的shift IC要負責在同事上班之前check了他們的所有事項,有最新的防感染資料和訊息會向大家brief,然後才讓他們工作。

此外,我記得在4月初,在我們自己的醫院中,其實已經有一隊SARS Prevention Team到來,跟我們無論在環境上、同事所用的PPE,以及他們真的要check我們的同事,在旁監察他們如何工作、做得如何,評估他們是否熟悉指引,是否真的遵行。當時已經成立了這些制度,確保同事除了有足夠的PPE給他們使用之外,還需要完全做到我們實在所指的防感染精神。

勞永樂議員:

嗯。作為病房的護理主管,在那段時間,4月11日或者之後, 有沒有同事曾向你報告有任何醫護人員不遵守感染控制的守則, 那些保護自己的工夫沒有做齊呢?你曾否聽過這些報告?

村興權先生:

當時沒有同事……就我記憶所及,沒有同事向我提過。不過,如果你說到我自己在巡房時,回想起來,我曾遇見一些同事在吃飯的地方……當時我們要求同事在吃飯時脫下口罩,不要談話,集中精神吃飯,吃完便戴回口罩才談話。有時他們可能在那些時候一時忘記了,忘記戴回口罩便談話,在那些地方我也曾觀察到那些人。但如果你問有沒有同事沒有遵守指引,我當時則沒有收過任何報告。

勞永樂議員:

4DR和4BR病房有3名醫護人員受到感染,4DR病房有一名醫生和一名護士,4BR病房則有一名支援人員受感染。有一個傳聞說,這些醫護人員其中有人進入病房時沒有戴口罩去照顧病人,因此而受感染,你曾否聽過有關傳聞?

我本人沒有聽過這個傳聞,我亦沒有見過有同事可以不戴口 罩而能夠進入病房。

勞永樂議員:

你可否向委員會證實,這個傳聞在你自己的觀察和聽聞下並 非事實呢?

杜興權先生:

可以。

勞永樂議員:

可以,好的。如果真的有一些這樣的傳聞,你覺得為何會有這些傳聞出現呢?你可否嘗試向委員會解答這個問題呢?

杜興權先生:

我想這個問題我答不來,因為在3月中,其實我們已經很嚴格地要求同事遵守那些PPE的防感染指引。但至於你說為何會有這個傳聞,其實我也不太明白。

勞永樂議員:

好的。說完了醫護人員在這兩個病房的保護衣物規格,除了 在這方面,譬如其他病房的環境,在4月1日或者之前曾否做過甚 麼改善措施呢?

杜興權先生:

我想在4月之前,我要翻看,因為我們根據指引,其實有些地方我們需要根據指引,作某些改動,因為我們在4月之前,其實已經要set up了,我們指的是要同事穿上gown,gown up和gown down那些地方已經要為同事準備。此外,在環境方面,我們要視乎……也建議要在cubicle —— 病室,其實即是在病人的範圍內,病人的牌板等很多東西,我們要抽出來,不要在病人……因為以往我們醫院會把病人紀錄和牌板都放在病人的"床尾籃",那時我們亦把所有病人的文件抽了出來,遠離病人的範圍。

至於環境方面,其實我們不是要有很大工程如鑿牆、建造很多特別的設備,但在環境的清潔方面,卻做了很多工夫,病人的廁所、病室內的家具、電腦、電話都根據指引,其實每天都要用漂白水重複地清潔很多次。還有在空氣方面,我們admin的同事曾找E&M那邊的同事上來給我們再看一看,當時曾經加大 —— 即是將空氣的換氣量作出了調節,是加大了的,讓多一點新鮮的空氣進來,以及提高了換風率,這些是有做的。同時,那個環境……其實硬件我們沒有甚麼大改動,但是在執行那些軟件方面,收集垃圾、很多事情我們是看過的,次數是增加了,在這方面反而是……令到那個環境更加……即是不要讓太多東西留在病房內。

勞永樂議員:

好的,你甚麼時候得悉大埔那打素醫院有SARS爆發?

杜興權先生:

呃……確實的時間就不太記得了,其實是大約在4月初左右,當我們醫院需要……其實我們在4月初曾經開設過一個病房,要接收當時那打素E1那裏的病人,在那裏我們曾經知道,那打素E1有些病人感染了,有些同事感染了。

勞永樂議員:

當時大埔醫院都會支援那打素醫院接收那打素醫院那些康復病人,以及你剛才說的,接收一些從E1轉送過來觀察的病人。你作為病房經理,當時有否考慮,如果萬一那打素醫院有一個感染了SARS的病人,轉送了過來你的病房,你的病房當時的設備、處理等,是否足夠可以安全地接收這些病人呢?

杜興權先生:

呃……其實我們知道威爾斯有同事感染到一個傳染病的時候,我們的部門亦看過我們自己病房當時的情況,因為我們其實在3月中,我們都有接收威爾斯那邊的病人,即是在說3月初送過來。當時我們知道威爾斯有病人染病,有同事染病,我們已經根據那個指引,其實同事當時使用的PPE,遵守的guideline,其實我們是提高到一個很高的程度。就在4月初、3月底那段時間,我可以說我們那個規格是很高的。

勞永樂議員:

嗯。

杜興權先生:

我們當時所做的事,我想是說回我們所用的東西,是僅次於 SARS病房,應該這樣說。

勞永樂議員:

是。在4月11日,4DR病房的源頭病人就是由那打素醫院的F5病房轉送過來的,你是否記得這個病人?

杜興權先生:

呃……如果你說要很詳細地記得那個病人……因為我們現在 說的事情其實都已過了一段時間了。

勞永樂議員:

是。

杜興權先生:

很多病人會進入我們的醫院,其實我是事後聽到,才知道4月 11日那打素有一個病人送進我們的病房———是一個源頭病人。

勞永樂議員:

是,你是稍遲一點才知道。

杜興權先生:

是。

勞永樂議員:

是。其實我們現在從我們那些紀錄亦看到,大埔那打素醫院那段時間在不同的病房一直都有醫護人員受到感染。F5病房就在4月15日已經有一個護士懷疑受到感染;至於F6病房,4月10日就有一個醫護人員亦懷疑受到感染。在這些源頭病房發生的事,當時你是否得悉呢?

如果你說有沒有人通知過我,說F5、F6有一些同事受到感染, 我是沒有收過這個通知的。

勞永樂議員:

嗯。

杜興權先生:

但是我們一直安排病人轉送過來時,其實是會很小心地處理 的。

勞永樂議員:

沒有收到通知,甚麼時候才收到通知呢?

杜興權先生:

其實比較……你說實際的那個時間,我就真的記不起來,因為 其實我自己真的沒有正式收到說F5、F6有一個爆發,我是沒有收 到的。其實我知道的時候,都是……我想是很多人都會知道的了, 就是這樣。

勞永樂議員:

是。即是在記憶之中,你就在那段時間......

杜興權先生:

記不起那個時間......

勞永樂議員:

......未接獲過任何通知,抑或記不起是甚麼時候?

村興權先生:

沒有,沒有。

勞永樂議員:

沒有通知過你?

沒有.....沒有通知過我。

勞永樂議員:

你的病房是一些一般的中風康復病房而已,當時並不是SARS病房。

杜興權先生:

是。

勞永樂議員:

那你覺得如果在那打素醫院那邊已經有爆發,病人在當時再轉送過來大埔醫院,就算他們沒有SARS的病徵,是否需要特別的處理呢?

杜興權先生:

或者我嘗試一下說回我們……其實支援那打素,即我們主要是 支援那打素醫院轉送過來的急症病人,在我們的病房做一個復康 的治療。其實在那時候,即那些病人轉送過來,我們是有一個 screening的。在那打素那邊,他們自己本身的physician會看一看那 些病人,即他們有沒有一些他們覺得是危險、擔心的徵狀,因為 我們的病房是不會收SARS病人的。他們refer過來的時候,我們自 己的部門,我自己的上司 —— 我們的DOM亦掌握了......因為那 打素是要向我們的DOM提供資料的,讓他看一看那個病人當時的 情況,他有一些甚麼治療上的需要,他去再看一看那個病人送過 來 第一,我們這裏是否需要有一些特別的安排,例如說,有 一些是需要氧氣的,或者有一些要氣管造口之類,我們有很多方 面的資料是要他們提供給我們的。如果DOM有懷疑,那些事情他 覺得都不是太放心的,他會找我們的COSM去再看一看,他們會用 電話去聯絡。至於你說這個是否特別的安排,我覺得其實當時同 事 —— 即兩間醫院的同事都做得很好,是很小心地處理轉送過 來的病人的那個安排。

勞永樂議員:

其實我們現在大家都知道在4月3日,大埔醫院接收了E1病房的14個病人過來作組羣觀察 —— cohort他們來觀察。既然那時候

F5和F6病房都開始有爆發,你覺得當時如果有這兩個病房的病人送過來,是否有需要是等同4月3日E1病房送過來的病人那種做法,將他們cohort,而不是將他們分布在不同的病房呢?

杜興權先生:

那些病人送到我們大埔醫院……我想在時間上,他們送過來,我們在自己大埔醫院送進我們的病房時,我們的同事會看一看病人的情況,同時會替他們量度體溫,然後才會安排病人進入病房,看一看病床,他有甚麼需要。如果是有發燒的,我們盡量安置他入隔離房;如果是需要氧氣的,我們亦看一看我們有沒有氧氣位。其實我們一直在做的事,最重要的是同事的警覺性很高,就是當我們知道威爾斯那裏有同事感染時,有SARS這個病時,其實同事的警覺性一直都很高。我們處理病人時,一直都是用這個方式,用這個態度去看。其實,他們當時在病房處理病人的時候,已經全部按照所有的指引去做。

勞永樂議員:

是。

杜興權先生:

如果你說這樣會不會好一點,那樣會不會好一點呢?其實他 們當時已經做得很好。

勞永樂議員:

是。但大家都知道4月3日那個時候已經有cohorting的處理辦法,而根據我們的紀錄,F6的醫護人員知道有感染,即病房有爆發——4月10日;F5知道有爆發,有醫護人員受感染,是4月15日;這些病人——F6的病人和F5的病人,大致上都是在那段時間過了大埔醫院,而分布在不同的病房。如果知道這些資訊之後,你是否感覺到是應該像E1病房那批病人一樣統一處理,將他們cohort,而不是將他們分布在不同病房呢?或許那個時候……到你們知道的時候,有沒有時間或者是否可能做一些補救,再將他們cohort、分開呢?

我相信,其實當時我們處理病人的方式,包括我的同事,都已做得很好了——在保護病人、保護同事和保護病人家屬方面。其實,為何我們有信心這樣說呢?因為病人……我們是根據指引,最重要的是我們要懂得怎樣去保護三者,我們同事的PPE、所有的東西、他們的行為等,已做到guideline所需要的東西。病人方面,我們讓他們全部戴上口罩,我們亦加強了他們很多的個人衞生。探病方面,當家屬到來時,我們當時在那個時候,向他們提供的用品跟同事用的是一樣的。所以,這三方面我們都有考慮過,同事當時都做得很好,所以我有信心他們在防感染方面是做得很好的。

勞永樂議員:

是。但經過這次經驗,如果不幸地你要再做,可能要再收這 類病人,你覺得那打素醫院和大埔醫院之間的病人轉介政策,或 者當時的措施,有哪些地方是可以做得更好的?

杜興權先生:

嗯。我自己亦有想過這個問題。我相信,如果再有機會做一次,其實我們大埔醫院的同事和那打素那邊的同事,我相信他們都會好像現在一樣做得那麼好的。

勞永樂議員:

是。我們都聽到你剛才說是很嚴格、很小心,我亦親自體會 過你們工作的辛勞。但數據讓我們看到的是,4DR病房共有7名病 人受到SARS感染,兩名訪客受到感染,兩名醫護人員受到感染。 4BR病房有9名病人受到感染,一名訪客受到感染,一名醫護人員 受到感染。為何做得那麼好,還有這些事情發生?

村興權先生:

呃……我想是這樣的,我們所說的是由威爾斯知道有個傳染病直至SARS,其實我們大家對這個病的認識,真的不是很多。而當時有很多病人轉送過來我們大埔醫院,我們亦見到,病徵是不是我們那麼容易……即是那麼明顯呢?不是的。但如果你說同事……我們回看,因為我們是根據指引,不論是同事、病人或家屬也好,當時他們是很切實地根據防感染的措施做足工夫,他們當時是做

得很辛苦,所以我相信他們是做得很好的。至於你說為何還會有 人受到感染,直到現在,我仍然不知道答案。

勞永樂議員:

好。譬如談談你們的探訪政策。4月十幾號那時,醫管局的大部分醫院其實差不多都已不准探病,但那個時候,剛才你亦說仍然是容許探病的,只不過是要求訪客戴口罩或者做一些感染控制措施。為何到了4月11日的時間,仍然容許病人的家屬或者朋友到這些病房探病呢?

杜興權先生:

我想大家要明白,我們是一間復康醫院,住在我們醫院的病人的住院時間會相對地較長。我想大家都會明白,如果是照顧一個病人,家屬的探訪和支持,其實對病人是重要的。所以我覺得,那個時候的決定或者我們所做的事情,我自己並不感覺到有太大問題。

勞永樂議員:

是。

杜興權先生:

而且,當時我們亦見到我們的病人和家屬,他們其實亦很盡力完全依照醫院同事教導他們的方法,即他們進來探訪的時候是完全依照程序、佩戴所需的保護裝置,就是這樣。我覺得我對這方面的政策沒有特別的懷疑。

勞永樂議員:

是。這些病房是否最終亦有一段時間是不准探病的?

杜興權先生:

是。

勞永樂議員:

何時決定不准探病?

呃......我記憶中是在我們有同事開始感染SARS的那段時間。

勞永樂議員:

是。即是4月......

杜興權先生:

4月.....

勞永樂議員:

4月21日左右。

杜興權先生:

4月21、22日左右。

勞永樂議員:

那個時候就開始不准探病了?

杜興權先生:

是。

勞永樂議員:

好。4DR病房在當時那段時間,你記憶中病房是已經滿了還是未滿的?當時病人的密度有多高呢?

村興權先生:

我想大家都明白,其實在那段時間,新界東對內科病床的需求,其實是很大的,當時我們的病房使用率,即病人使用率可以 說是滿的。

勞永樂議員:

滿的,即是38個病人,經常都差不多有的。

是。

勞永樂議員:

當時有沒有加床?有沒有可能加床?

村興權先生:

在4月22日的時候,你問有沒有加床,我自己記憶所及,曾經有一段很短時間是增加過一兩張床的。

勞永樂議員:

增加過一兩張床。

杜興權先生:

是。

勞永樂議員:

那麼,你是否感覺到,這個病房擠迫,是當時4DR病房有7個病人感染、4BR病房有9個病人感染的原因?

杜興權先生:

呃.....

勞永樂議員:

或者是其中一個原因呢?

杜興權先生:

其實,當時病房是否很擠迫呢?我又不是這麼想。因為剛才我亦提過,其實在3月,我們知道威爾斯有同事感染的時候,我們回看我們的cubicle —— 病室那裏,我們其實是將很多不需要的,例如牌板、傢俬等移開。其實,當時病房 —— cubicle那裏相對的空間較之前……感覺上是不會像之前那麼擠迫的。

勞永樂議員:

即其他不需要的雜物反而搬走了。好,主席,我暫停發問。

主席:

各位委員如果有問題,請舉手示意。我想問杜先生,這些病房,譬如4BR及4DR的病房接收從那打素過來的那些我們所謂源頭病人,他們來自譬如那打素的F5病房。當時,你記憶中,你是否知悉F5病房在那打素有爆發SARS?

杜興權先生:

其實我之前已經回答過......

主席:

是,你可不可以再說?

杜興權先生:

我未有收過正式通知,說那打素F5那裏有同事感染到SARS。

主席:

那麼你是甚麼時候知道的?

杜興權先生:

我是......實際的日子我記不起,但那是之後的事。

主席:

意思是即使你們的病房已經有爆發,譬如4BR及4DR病房爆發的時候,還未知道當時那打素譬如F5病房曾經爆發SARS?

杜興權先生:

我當時沒有收過通知指有SARS爆發。

主席:

OK。就算你自己的病房出現爆發情況,你仍未知道那些源頭病人所來自的源頭曾經爆發SARS,是不是這個意思?

呃……或者我要指出,其實我在之後才聽到我們的源頭病人來 自F5。

主席:

嗯,OK。是後來才知道的?

村興權先生:

嗯。

主席:

後來才知道的,OK。有兩位議員已舉手示意 —— 麥國風和鄭家富。麥國風議員。

麥國風議員:

多謝主席。我要申報,我是認識證人的。杜先生,歡迎你到立法會。我想瞭解一下,你們何時開始有隱形病人這個概念呢?

杜興權先生:

關於隱形病人這個概念,其實,我應該怎樣說呢?隱形病人, 其實我們亦都收過一些消息說,一些老人 —— 即年長的病人, 他們如果有SARS,病徵通常沒有那麼明顯。

麥國風議員:

嗯。

村興權先生:

但是,至於實際的時間,我不是很清楚記得,但一定是威爾斯有同事受感染之後的事。

麥國風議員:

嗯。那麼,是在你那兩個病房接收這兩位index patients —— 即源頭病人之前,還是之後呢?你大概是否掌握到?

關於實際的時間,我真的記不起,但在我的印象中,曾經收過消息指他們的病徵不是那麼明顯。

麥國風議員:

嗯。即是說,其實最終你也應該知道有隱形病人這回事?

村興權先生:

是。

麥國風議員:

如果有隱形病人,我想瞭解一下,你如何提高你的感染控制措施?

杜興權先生:

讓我再說一說,其實我剛才亦提到,我們的感染控制措施已經是很高規格的裝備,最重要的其實是同事的警覺性。我之前也說過,病人被送入我們的病房時,其實在他們進入病房之前,我們的同事會在門口替他們量度體溫,看看他們有否發燒。此外,當時有關監察病人那方面,我們已經有一些……即fever charts那些東西,作用是在醫生巡房時提醒醫生有病人發燒。如果我們發覺病人發燒,便會立即call他們來。此外,當時醫生一知道病人發燒,他們亦會做一些檢查。當時,我所看到的是,就是照X光和替病人抽血。那個時候,這些工作都做得相當多。

麥國風議昌:

可否這樣說,大家已做足感染控制措施?是不是已經完全做足了?

杜興權先生:

是。

麥國風議員:

OK。當時......你剛才回答勞永樂議員,似乎你們的病床使用率都"爆"了,是完全100%的使用率,是嗎?

呃……根據我的記憶 —— 因為這已是差不多一年前的事 —— 當時,病床使用率是很高的。至於是否每天都達100%,我無法回答你,不過那是很高的。

麥國風議員:

總言之,使用率是高的,不會是零星落索,即不會在38張床當中,只使用了10多張。我相信不會出現這種現象......

杜興權先生:

不會。

麥國風議員:

即必定很接近100%了。

杜興權先生:

是。

麥國風議員:

那麼人手方面,尤其是護士的人手又如何?

杜興權先生:

當時,我們的護士人手其實……讓我說一說,除了我之外,我們每間病房都有一個護士主任,以及13個護士。另外,在病房中,所說的主要是照顧病人的supporting staff,即HCA,我們則有8個。此外,當時每個病房大約有一個負責支援的同事,協助病人下床坐一坐,每個病房會有一個左右。

麥國風議員:

你個人認為,這樣的人手負責照顧或提供專業服務給病人, 是否足夠呢?

我再看看,其實當時的人手與我們自開院以來,沒有特別減少,反而在支援方面,正如我剛才提到,會多了一個我們叫GSA的職員。與之前我們開院時的情況比較,人手還多了一點。

麥國風議員:

但這些多數是負責照顧老人家之類,他們在服務上有很多其他的需要,譬如大小便,餵飯等。對於護理人員來說,其實這些是否構成相當大的壓力?

村興權先生:

關於我們的服務是否足夠和做得好不好的問題,其實病人也可以告訴我們。我當時看到的是,他們 —— 即我們的同事,其實他們是很......

主席:

對不起。勞議員,請坐,請坐。

杜興權先生:

我們的同事做得很好。對於病人的要求,他們都做到了。此外,病人其實都相當滿意我們大埔醫院所提供的服務。

麥國風議員:

你有否收到一些同事對於當時的工作壓力、工作量等方面向 你作出的反映或投訴?

村興權先生:

我想我不會用"壓力"一詞。其實,有同事曾向我表示,穿上PPE 及戴了口罩後,面部會很痕癢。甚至乎一些女同事向我表示,連 塗口紅也不行,會有一些暗瘡等。關於這些方面,曾有同事向我 提過。

麥國風議員:

關於PPE的提供,有沒有向你反映並不足夠,或者尤其是N95口罩的size不合他們使用?有沒有向你作出這些反映?我不知道這是否算是投訴。

杜興權先生:

到底有沒有呢?其實我們也是有的。關於N95或者PPE,我們都會按新界東的指引讓同事們使用。我記不起大概的時間,但其實有一段時間,細碼N95.....或者我說得清楚一點,我們經常說的N95,其實同事所說的是3M出產的一種口罩 —— 1860S。當時,那個型號的口罩相對來說是緊張的。如果是說細碼N95口罩,除了那個型號的口罩外,其實我們有其他的口罩,一些好像鴨咀型.....

麥國風議員:

嗯。

杜興權先生:

.....的那些,是有供應給他們的。

麥國風議員:

你認為是足夠的,即PPE是足夠的?

杜興權先生:

是。

麥國風議員:

關於PPE的提供,應該是沒有問題的?所指的是整個SARS疫症期間,貴院的情況。

杜興權先生:

是。

麥國風議員:

應該是沒有問題的?

学 。

麥國風議員:

OK。鄭夏恩醫生是否在其中一間病房受感染?

村興權先生:

鄭夏恩醫生是我們4DR病房的......

麥國風議員:

不。即是說,在你們的一間病房中受感染?

村興權先生:

是的。但她如何受感染,我則不太清楚。

麥國風議員:

我知道。她會不會在其他病房工作?

杜興權先生:

我們都知道,醫生需要……即我們所說的on call,她便有機會到其他病房工作。

麥國風議員:

嗯。其實你那兩個病房分別有一位護士及一位醫生受感染。 你之後有沒有進行事後的評估及做一份報告給有關當局,就受感 染的可能性作出分析?

村興權先生:

其實,當時我們知道我們的病房有同事受感染,在那時候,我們的醫院亦決定病房不准探病的安排,因為其實在很短時間…… 其實在同一時間,都看到一些病人有些SARS的病徵。當時,我的 所有時間是要處理……那個時候有很多很急切的問題,例如不准 探病、同事的安排等,而且我們在那時候,亦要再提高PPE的規格, 就是這樣。我當時用了很多時間去處理這裏的事,就沒有寫甚麼 報告。

麥國風議員:

即是之後沒有做過評估?

杜興權先生:

嗯。

麥國風議員:

OK

杜興權先生:

但是我們也有......我不知道這個是否當作評估,其實我都有問一問......即我們的同事都有問一問,因為我們也有一位護士同事染了病,都打了電話給他,看看有沒有一些特別的事,他也不記得有些甚麼特別的事。

麥國風議員:

或者護士同事你有問過,那麼,鄭夏恩醫生,你有沒有問過 她究竟是如何感染到的?

杜興權先生:

我本人沒有問過她。

麥國風議員:

你沒有.....

杜興權先生:

因為我和鄭醫生並不是說……有很熟稔的關係,因為我和她只 是工作上的關係。

麥國風議昌:

請杜先生看一看我們的文件H21。請你翻到serial no.130054。 其實,或者請你先翻到serial no.130053,即先知道那份是甚麼文件。杜先生,你看到了吧?

是。

麥國風議員:

130053......那份文件,就是說醫院管理局的檢討委員會 — SARS爆發檢討委員會接見病人關注組織。你看看其中一處,大概 在第6、7行左右, "Son and daughter of",接着應該是病人的名字, 現在當然刪去了, "(A deceased patient of Tai Po Hospital)", 其實 當時接見了很多病人。接着請你翻到後面那一頁,130054,我就 是說這頁。接着下面那裏: "Infection control",括號b —— (b)段, 這個報告這樣說:"The healthcare workers of Tai Po Hospital did not wear full protective gears in late April, just wearing masks while handling suspected SARS patients"。那(c)段就說: "Tai Po Hospital had not taken the necessary precautions in preventing cross infection, e.g., not informing relatives that the patient had contracted SARS, still allowing them to visit the patient when he was confirmed to have contracted SARS, and putting the patient's body in a busy hallway for a long time when he was certified dead"。請問你之前 —— 來這個委員會之前,有沒有見過這些這樣的......即是意見...... 這份.....或者這份紀錄,或者這些意見?

杜興權先生:

沒有。

麥國風議員:

沒有。那你……其實剛才,較早前勞永樂議員也大概問過你,這些……我不敢說是否叫全面或者怎麼樣,至少當時我估計這位……似乎病人家屬向檢討委員會反映了。你是否介意說一說,就看到這些意見之後,你有甚麼向我們反映呢?

杜興權先生:

我想就着(b)段那裏,我剛才也說過,其實我們在4……即是在3月底的時候,我們那個防感染的規格,其實已經是提升到一個很高的程度。當時,我們說的是SARS病房低一級。在這裏寫着說,在late April那處,其實在那個時間,即我們說的是我們大埔醫院已經有同事感染SARS,在當時那些所有的內科病房以及我負責的病房,是全部要穿上最高規格的PPE的。

麥國風議員:

"Infection control", (c)段那裏說到:"……putting the patient's body in a busy hallway for a long time when he was certified dead", 其實你可否……至少在你的印象中,有沒有這樣的情況曾經出現過呢?

杜興權先生:

沒有。

麥國風議員:

即把屍首擺放在走廊那裏?

杜興權先生:

是,沒有。因為我們……即病人過世之後,我們其實習慣都會盡快……如果是不准探病的時候,其實我們都是不鼓勵他來看的,但是如果你說那些家人真的想……最後一面了,我要……我們的同事是要在病者家屬,即那些家人或者過世了的病人的家屬進入有關病房之前,我們要跟他說一次,怎樣穿上PPE,還有重要注意的事項,然後才准許他進入。其實,我們病房的習慣是,大約在病人過世後1個小時左右,我們都會將那個病人處理好,然後送去殮房。我看回這裏,我就不清楚它是否在說我們的病房,因為其實大埔醫院不是只有我們內科的病床。據我瞭解,我們內科的病房當時在4月後期 —— late April,我們全部是用了最高規格的PPE的。

麥國風議員:

主席,對了,如果我看到,我個人也不認同有沒有機會.....可能性.....至少.....不過,這是我的個人意見,所以我都想取證,不過證人都告訴我了,應該出現的可能性是真的微乎其微。因為屍首......

主席:

不要討論了,麥議員。你還有沒有問題要問?因為時間要緊。

麥國風議員:

OK, OK, 謝謝你。我沒有其他問題了, 謝謝。

主席:

鄭家富議員。

鄭家富議員:

主席,杜先生,我有一、兩個簡單的問題想跟進、瞭解一下,因為剛才你回答我們兩位同事的時候,以及你的陳述書都很簡單、亦很清楚說明了,那個感染控制的工作程度都是相當高的。但是不幸有幾位醫護人員和同事受到感染,而卻不知道原因。我想問一問,這個會否和大埔醫院只是作為一間復康醫院有關。當時,譬如說到4月初,即是接收那打素醫院一些病人的時候,以及剛才你所說,對甚麼叫做隱形病人,都沒有甚麼太大的概念,因為大家都知道他們,即在那時候深信,或者你們是否相信,當時轉介過來的是一些復康的病人。雖然你們有一些很高程度的防備,但是會否在警覺性方面,基於大埔醫院是一間復康醫院,而這樣是有所......即那個警覺性是沒有那麼大呢?你可否在這方面提供一下你的意見呢?

杜興權先生:

我或者再說清楚,因為我剛才回答麥議員的時候,其實所謂隱形病人,我們是收到這方面的一些消息的,知道有這種事。而且我想說的是,其實我們的同事在3月中,即當威爾斯有同事感染的時候,他們的警覺性已經提高了。因為我們……我剛才都說過,就是我們是有威爾斯的病人的,在3月中的時候,我們的同事當時已經需要佩戴N95口罩。但是如果你說,同事們是否警覺性低呢?我自己每天去巡房,看到他們工作,其實是很能夠看到他們工作時候的那個方式、那個態度,其實我們是很多……我或者再說一說為甚麼他們的警覺性是高的。我們很多工作的流程,怎樣安排那些病人下來坐,下來sit out,同事們都要很小心。每一個工序,在那個時候,是每樣事情逐一去看看,怎樣做才對整個照顧的流程,對病人、對同事,都是很安全地做到出來。或者我簡單地說,當時其實連病人吃飯,我們的同事也替病人在飯前飯後洗手,是用一些消毒液……

鄭家富議員:

嗯。

杜興權先生:

很多這些工作流程,我們都再去想,同時看看怎樣配合去做, 去減低那個風險。所以我不覺得那時候同事們的警覺性低。其實, 我們是一直在3月中,同事們工作的時候,警覺性是很高的。

鄭家富議員:

謝謝你,杜先生。澄清一點,可不可以再談談大埔醫院在4月 之中,是不是仍然容許探訪病人?即病人的親屬來到醫院探病, 是直至幾號才決定禁止探病的?可不可以說出日子?

杜興權先生:

我們是根據指引,其實復康醫院是容許病人家屬探病的。當 我們知道有同事感染到SARS病的時候,我們大約在22日,我是記 得......即我的記憶不知道有沒有記錯,大約是在22日左右,我們醫 院不准探病。

鄭家富議員:

我的問題是4月22日,就先當作是這個日子吧,我相信都是雖不中亦不遠,即21、22日。其實4月至21、22日這段時間,我剛才所說的警覺性問題,即包括了如果一間復康醫院因為不容許病人家屬來探病——剛才你回答勞永樂議員的時候,你亦說始終對病人不是太好,是不是?因為一間復康醫院要有些家屬來支持——會不會基於有病人的家屬來到醫院探病,偶然亦有可能發生病人家屬對醫院內的運作或者情況,因為這樣而警覺性減低,而導致有可能有些交叉感染呢?

杜興權先生:

我還是說回在3月底、4月初的時候,病人家屬,其實我們已告訴他們,進入病房的時候,他們需要做些甚麼,而4月初左右,那些病人家屬來醫院探病,我們亦有……即我們是有些紙張 ——特別要注意的事項 —— 給予那些家人的,亦要求同事向他們解釋明白,他們來探病要怎樣做。

鄭家富議員:

有沒有一些病人家屬,以你的瞭解,是沒有做足你們的所謂 預防工夫?

杜興權先生:

這裏……因為都過了很長時間,你問記不記得,我不是太記得……

鄭家富議員:

因為剛才你回答麥國風議員的時候說,你們雖然沒有一個檢討,但當去瞭解大埔醫院這個爆發問題的時候,你們都去調查成因。那麼,有沒有瞭解會不會是剛才我所說的病人家屬探病這個問題而出現了一些警覺性減低的情況?有沒有瞭解過有沒有病人家屬在這個問題上是警覺性不足的?

杜興權先生:

因為我自己沒有參與 —— 即是在之後 —— 檢討我們的同事、病人感染SARS那件事,所以我不能回答你他們有沒有考慮過這件事,因為我沒有參與檢討我們的同事、我們的病友染病的情況。

鄭家富議員:

因為4BR病房也有一名訪客受感染,即根據我們的資料顯示。你沒有參與,那譬如這一位訪客 —— 這個病人,我想這個也是病人的朋友或家屬,他是在4BR感染到SARS,哪一個曾經接觸過他、瞭解他的病情或者是有沒有做足準備工夫?你沒有,那麼誰有 —— 在大埔醫院?你可否提供資料?

杜興權先生:

我沒有這方面的資料。

鄭家富議員:

沒有這方面的資料?你都很難估計?有沒有做過這樣的瞭解?

因為我沒有參與......

鄭家富議員:

沒有參與......

村興權先生:

所以,你問哪些同事負責,我是不知道的。

鄭家富議員:

主席,多問一個問題,就是你的病房中,是不是如你所說的用full gear的protective measures,是包括甚麼?即是從頭穿到……即有齊……穿了gown的,是不是?

杜興權先生:

我想,因為都是根據指引,在不同時間,我們提升一些保護裝置。我想,如果說回22日之後,我們所有同事進入病房,是需要戴帽、要用N95的口罩......

鄭家富議員:

或者說22日之前,有沒有呢?

杜興權先生:

22日之前,他們進去的時候,與22日之後其實相差的只是一個face shield。

鄭家富議員:

Face shield?

村興權先生:

是,但因為根據……他們如果是做一些high risk procedure的項目,我們是有一些eye protection的shield給他們,他們便會立即使用那個。

鄭家富議員:

袍呢?袍就前後都有嗎?

杜興權先生:

袍,其實我們說的是很早之前,我們到了一個很高規格的時候,同事已經是要穿袍的了。

鄭家富議員:

是幾號開始?有沒有印象?

杜興權先生:

很早的。

鄭家富議員:

很早的。

杜興權先生:

一定是……即是我記憶所及,如果你說要穿袍,其實我們在知道威爾斯有同事感染,他們又需要做一些……我剛才說過是飛濺的程序時,他已經是要穿袍。再之後,其實實際日子我不記得,在之後,同事直接接觸病人的時候,其實已經需要穿袍了。

鄭家富議員:

謝謝,主席。

主席:

勞永樂議員。

勞永樂議員:

主席,我想瞭解一下進入4DR和4BR那兩個源頭病人的多一些資料。4月11日進入4DR病房的源頭病人,杜先生,你記不記得是何時診斷到他是SARS,或者何時開始懷疑他是SARS?

我也是事後聽回來的,就是4月11日在4DR那個源頭病人,其實我們發覺那些病房的病人有SARS病徵的時候,與我們的同事染病那個時間是很接近的。你問那個源頭病人大約是何時知道?是22日之後的。

勞永樂議員:

22日之後?

杜興權先生:

是。

勞永樂議員:

22日之後多久呢?

杜興權先生:

實際多少天,我就不太記得。因為在22日,我們在4DR那裏,我們有同事染了病之後,其實在同一兩天內,陸續有些病人有病徵出來,那個我所說的主要的源頭病人,其實亦是在那段時間發覺他有些SARS病徵的。

勞永樂議員:

是.....

主席:

勞議員,我建議你考慮.....因為似乎證人對於具體的日子、時間,這些暫時都是不掌握的。

勞永樂議員:

是。

主席:

所以如果需要知道這些資料,可能我們稍後問另外一位證 人,又或者補充,可能會比我們問一些具體的資料為佳。

勞永樂議員:

好的,因為現在他大概都有一個4月22日的日子,也讓我們有 一個瞭解。

主席:

是,沒錯。

勞永樂議員:

那麼,你那個病房何時認定是有爆發呢?你做病房經理沒理 由沒有那個日期?你何時會在醫院覺得你的病房有爆發了?譬如 先說4DR。

杜興權先生:

4DR,其實是在4月22日正式知道我們有同事染病。在那一天, 我們亦把病人入院出院的事全部停了。我想大約是那個時間。

勞永樂議員:

即4月22日便確定那個病房爆發,以及可以說是一個所謂關閉病房了,不准入,不准出。是否這樣?

杜興權先生:

可以這樣說。

勞永樂議員:

是。

杜興權先生:

22日左右。

勞永樂議員:

那個病房最終是有7個病人感染,這7個病人都是在那個4DR病房內病發的,是不是?

杜興權先生:

嗯,是的。

勞永樂議員:

是。

村興權先生:

因為我們……因為那件事,我記得是因為在4DR我們有同事感染了之後,其實在之後兩天,是陸續有些病人有些疑似SARS的病徵。當時我們大埔醫院有一個SARS team來替我們看看那些病人,就是這樣。

勞永樂議員:

是。雖然主席叫我不要問那麼多,但我都要多問一個日期。 在這7個病人之中,最後一個在病房病發,根據你的記憶或者手邊 的紀錄,是在何時發生呢?

杜興權先生:

呃……因為我自己的記憶,其實會記牽涉多人的事,他們絕大部分都是在我真的有同事染病之後的那兩、三天,陸續看到有些病人有SARS的病徵。至於最後的那一個,我沒有特意去記這件事,我只是覺得有關過程大約是這樣,我們知道我們的病房有些病人和同事感染到SARS。

勞永樂議員:

即是可以這樣說,如果我這樣理解,你覺得是否正確:在4月 22日那段時間前後,或者是傾向較後的時間,可能曾經有一段時間,在那個病房中,除了那個在4月11日入院的源頭病人之外,有 另外7個SARS病人在。你是否同意我這個說法?

杜興權先生:

我都是覺得,我們有同事感染了SARS之後,其實在之後那段 很短的時間......

開始病發了,是嗎?

杜興權先生:

是。

勞永樂議員:

所以,我這個說法大致上正確,可否這樣說?

杜興權先生:

呃.....我不會反對。

勞永樂議員:

好的。即是說,一個有38張病床的病房,都差不多住滿了,在那個時間,有8個SARS病人在。那麼高密度的病房有8個SARS病人在,你現在回想,那時候的情況可否算是非常嚴峻?

杜興權先生:

我剛才也說過,我們的醫生……當有同事染上SARS,即confirm患上SARS的時候,亦看過那些病人的情況,以及consult了SARS team。如果有一些我們懷疑患上SARS的病人,我們在那時候是會送走的。

勞永樂議員:

嗯。這班病人最終有沒有被送走?所指的是這8個最終證實患上SARS的病人。

杜興權先生:

4DR那些懷疑患上SARS的病人,最後全部要送走。

勞永樂議員:

全部送走。

杜興權先生:

因為在general ward,我們不會處理SARS病人。

勞永樂議員:

但都是在22日之後才送走的?

杜興權先生:

呃.....那幾個病人是在之後送走的。

勞永樂議員:

是,沒錯。可否這樣說,4BR病房那9個病人的情況,都大致 跟4DR病房的相似呢?

杜興權先生:

關於4BR,其實我們亦因為看到……我們如何察覺到SARS在那個病房出現呢?其實亦都是因為看到我們有一個workman的同事染了病 —— 在4BR那裏。

勞永樂議員:

是。

杜興權先生:

當我們有同事染病的時候,其實醫生亦會立即看看病人的情況。那段時間其實是很短的,你看一看那些日子便知道,亦陸續看到有些病人出現SARS的病徵。我們又consult我們SARS team的同事,叫他們下來再為我們看看那些病人。懷疑患上SARS的那些,是會被送走的。

勞永樂議員:

根據我們的紀錄,在4BR病房,你的同事在4月21日被懷疑患 LSARS。是否都是在那個時間,4BR病房被認定有爆發呢?

杜興權先生:

其實,那個時間是相若的,你看到兩個病房都是這樣。

是。那些病人最終都是被撤離、隔離,對嗎?

杜興權先生:

我們會consult SARS team,會送走那些病人。

勞永樂議員:

送走那些病人,好的。

你剛才曾回答麥國風議員關於你和鄭夏恩醫生......同事之間 的認識。當鄭醫生病倒之後,你有沒有探望過她?

杜興權先生:

我本人沒有探望過她。

勞永樂議員:

你本人沒有探望過她。其他的醫護人員,你有沒有探望過他們?

杜興權先生:

我曾致電給他們,因為當時我要問一問他們,即我們的護士 同事感到不適的時候,我要跟他們有電話聯絡。

勞永樂議員:

是。

杜興權先生:

之後,當confirm了患上SARS時,其實我都不可以去探望他們。此外,在那時候,我們的病房其實有很多病人、其他同事,需要我繼續去照顧他們、處理他們。當時,我把所有時間和精神放在如何處理……我們的病人染病,也有些同事染病。之後,便做了……即把全副心機和精神放在事後要處理的事,即之後要善後和安排的事。

換句說話,你的工作責任是,如果護理人員或者病房助理病了或者懷疑染病,你就會與他們電話聯絡。但是醫生方面,跟他們聯絡的責任並不是你的工作,是不是這樣?

杜興權先生:

因為我自己的職責主要是……我指的是所照顧的同事,我負責的同事是護士和支援照顧病人的supporting staff。

勞永樂議員:

好的。主席,我没有問題了。

主席:

各位委員,如果大家沒有其他問題的話,我們非常多謝杜先生今天出席研訊。如果我們日後有任何地方需要杜先生幫忙,我們會再接觸杜先生。

我們接下來的時間會邀請下一位證人作證。多謝你,杜先生。

我們現在請下一位證人,是沙田醫院部門運作經理(內科及老 人科)徐若萍女士。

(徐若萍女士進入會議廳)

徐女士,多謝你出席今天的研訊。專責委員會.....你可以先坐下,謝謝你。專責委員會邀請你今天到委員會席前作證及提交證人陳述書。首先,委員會決定證人須宣誓作供,我現以專責委員會主席的身份負責為你監誓。

你可選擇以手按聖經以宗教形式宣誓,或以非宗教形式宣誓。現在請你站立及依照放在你面前的誓詞宣誓。

沙田醫院內科及老人科部門運作經理徐若萍女士:

本人徐若萍,謹以至誠,據實聲明及確認本人所作之證供,均屬真實及為事實之全部,並無虚言。

主席:

多謝你,請坐。徐女士,你曾向專責委員會秘書提供證人陳述書,你現在可否正式向專責委員會出示有關證人陳述書作為證據?

徐若萍女士:

可以。

主席:

謝謝你。徐女士,為了方便列席人士跟隨委員會的程序,我 會派發閣下的陳述書給今天在場的公眾人士和記者。你即時對你 的陳述書有沒有地方想補充?

徐若萍女士:

沒有。

主席:

謝謝你。應專責委員會的要求,你亦向專責委員會提交閣下 專業資格及經驗的資料,你現在可否確認這些資料都是正確的?

徐若萍女士:

正確的。

主席:

謝謝你。徐女士,我會把時間交給我們的委員,向你提出一 些問題。勞永樂議員。

勞永樂議員:

• • • • • •

徐若萍女士:

聽不到。

聽不到?

徐若萍女士:

現在聽到了。

勞永樂議員:

現在聽不聽到?

徐若萍女士:

 $OK \circ$

勞永樂議員:

好的。歡迎你來立法會。可否告訴委員會,你在SARS爆發期間在大埔醫院的工作崗位是甚麼?

徐若萍女士:

我是大埔醫院內科部門的部門運作經理,所以我負責所有內 科病房的管理。

勞永樂議員:

是。可否告訴委員會,所有內科病房是指哪幾個呢?

徐若萍女士:

當時,應該是4BL、4BR、4DR,然後是4CR、4CL、4BR...... 我剛才已經說了?

勞永樂議員:

說了,說了。

徐若萍女士:

4DL、4DR。還有,4DL。

4DL,是。

徐若萍女士:

另外還有3AL、3AR......

勞永樂議員:

是。

徐若萍女士:

3BR.....

勞永樂議員:

是。

徐若萍女士:

3BL.....

勞永樂議員:

是。

徐若萍女士:

還有3DL和R,應該總共有13個病房。

勞永樂議員:

13個病房,是。我們剛才問了杜先生關於4BR和4DR兩個病房,另外3DR病房曾收過一些SARS的源頭病人。你是否記得那些病人當時的情況?或者你有沒有紀錄,使你能夠記得當時那幾個病人的情況?

徐若萍女士:

其實並不是紀錄。大概在4月23日左右,我們才開始發覺病房可能出現所謂的爆發,為甚麼呢?因為當時在4月23日,3DR有一個病人懷疑患上SARS,轉到SARS病房。

是。

徐若萍女士:

我們回看的時候,其實那個病房在之前,即4月.....應該是8日 收了一個病人,那個病人大概在4月11日就過身。

勞永樂議員:

是。

徐若萍女士:

當時,我們覺得在這麼短的時間……因為他是因中風而進來做復康的,我們的醫生要進行剖屍的化驗。大概應該在4月23日,便出了一個報告。根據我們收到的報告,lung tissues是PCR positive。

勞永樂議員:

是。

徐若萍女士:

另外,我們回頭再看,其實應該在16日和17日,兩個病人因發燒而相繼轉走了,因為我們覺得他們是疑似個案,所以把他們送往那打素。後來,應該大概在23、24日,他們證實為SARS的確診個案,所以我們當時便認定那個病房其實曾出現爆發。由於當時已經是23日,其實在22日,我們在某程度上把醫院關閉,即不接收病人,又不准病人出院。關於那個情況,剛才杜先生亦有講解箇中原因。

勞永樂議員:

即是說,其實到了4月22日、23日那些時間,當你收集到這些解剖的資料,以及在4月16日、17日轉往那打素的個案成為確診個案後,你們在那個階段才開始掌握大埔醫院出現爆發。

徐若萍女士:

是。

但其實我們現時的資料顯示,那些源頭病人都是來自那打素醫院的F6和F5病房。此外,現時我們從資料看到,4月10日已經知道F6病房有醫護人員懷疑受感染;至於F5病房,到了4月15日亦懷疑有醫護人員受感染。在那打素醫院發生的事情,譬如4月10日、4月15日那些時間有醫護人員受感染,你是否知悉他們那邊出現爆發?譬如是F6、F5。

徐若萍女士:

當時,我沒有收到這方面的資料,即是有關F5、F6有醫護人員受感染了。

勞永樂議員:

何時才有正式通知,告訴你F5、F6出現爆發?

徐若萍女士:

根據我的記憶,應該沒有正式告訴我們。

勞永樂議員:

從來沒有通知過?

徐若萍女士:

根據我的記憶,我自己沒有收過。

勞永樂議昌:

是。其實以你的職級,你也應該收到,你是內科病房的護理 主管。

徐若萍女士:

是,是。

勞永樂議員:

現在回想,有沒有甚麼原因你們不獲得知會呢?其實這是一個很重要的訊息。

其實應該……所說的是在那打素E1病房所謂出現爆發的時候,其實我們 —— 即是大埔醫院的內科部門 —— 與那打素曾商討過關於大家互相的溝通。當時的理解是,如果那打素有病房出現爆發,無論是病人的確診個案或者同事,那個病房的護士會通知我們相對的病房。當然,他們的相關部門主管亦會通知我們。不過,最主要的是病房與病房的聯絡,因為我們自己覺得,在當時這是最重要的。

勞永樂議員:

嗯,是。

徐若萍女士:

這應該是3月底、4月初左右,大家的一個understanding,所以如果我們沒有接收到任何資料,便不會特意經常問對方有沒有爆發。

勞永樂議員:

事實上,關於知會那方面,當E1那14個病人轉過來的時候, 是有知會的。

徐若萍女士:

有知會。

勞永樂議員:

但之後似乎便沒有了。

徐若萍女士:

料。

勞永樂議員:

好的。主席,我暫停發問。

主席:

其他委員有沒有問題想問?麥國風議員。

麥國風議員:

徐女士,我還是想問一問剛才我問杜先生關於隱形病人的問題。你們何時有隱形病人這個概念?

徐若萍女士:

如果沒有記錯,應該大概在3月底、4月初左右。因為關於資訊方面,大家都有透過互聯網去share一些information,關於其他地方所得到的資料,或者與大家分享一些資訊。根據我的記憶,當時亦有提及……那個概念應該在當時出現。特別是提到一些老人家,即他們的表徵比較沒有那麼明顯。例如發燒,他們可以是沒有發燒的,或者甚至乎肺片沒有變化。當時已經有這些資料。

麥國風議員:

大埔那打素醫院把一些病人轉到你們那裏。其實,當時你們是否擔心,或者作出了甚麼評估,擔心他們是隱形病人呢?因為你表示在3月底都似乎已經有這個概念。

徐若萍女士:

是的。其實當時,因為我們知道……所說的是E1,因為它出現爆發,其實可以說,同事是擔心的,可以這樣形容他們。接收那打素……即之後的那些病人,他們也有擔心。但當時我們都覺得,如果我們繼續都是要做這工作的時候,因為我們始終都是一間復康醫院,而且的確有些病人需要復康、需要照顧,我們其實當時提高了我們自己每個人的警覺,無論在篩選方面……關於篩選,其實當時據我們的理解,在那打素那方面,他們一定不會把一些懷疑個案轉過來,亦不會把SARS病人轉過來。此外,與平時比較,他們所加強的就是,除了醫生覺得某個病人需要復康而過來之外,亦會經senior physician篩選才過來。那方面已經設了一個關卡。

轉到我們這裏來的時候,其實當時究竟怎樣接收病人過來呢?他們在過來之前,我亦負責進行篩選。我其實需要他們提供資料,例如病人的診斷、過來復康需要些甚麼特別護理,我都需要這些資料。隨着疫情不斷演變,我們更要求他們提供血液的化

驗報告、肺片的報告,先進行篩選,覺得是安全的才轉過來,沒有那個風險才轉過來。即使轉過來以後,我們其實都會覺得可能仍未安全。所以,他們入住病房之前,在進入病房的門口,我們一定會替病人探熱。假設在探熱後,發覺病人有發燒,我們即時會把他與其他病人分隔開,然後亦會即時叫醫生來看他,甚至乎會由senior physician看他。如果發覺是疑似的,我們即時會把他送回所轉介過來的醫院。

麥國風議員:

你為病人編排病床時,有沒有甚麼特別的安排?如果你也不清楚……一定當他們不是SARS病人,是不是?

徐若萍女士:

是。

麥國風議員:

你如何編排病床?

徐若萍女士:

其實當時不是說編排病床,我們是會看看.....因為我們亦沒有一個特別的收症病房,所以我們是看看哪一間病房有空置的病床,而且亦是.....如果是轉送過來做中風復康的,我們就大多數安置在4BR和4DR這些病房,其餘那些就會安置在其他的病房。

麥國風議員:

嗯。請徐女士看H137文件。

徐若萍女士:

是。

麥國風議員:

有了吧,徐女士?關於第3頁......第3頁,3DR病房的圖。

徐若萍女士:

是。

麥國風議員:

是說這些源頭.....多個源頭病人A、B、C、D。

徐若萍女士:

是。

麥國風議員:

你覺得這個編排完全是沒有甚麼所謂的,是嗎?如果根據你們當時有的資料?

徐若萍女士:

因為......其實我們都是事後回看的......

麥國風議員:

對了,對了,其實......

徐若萍女士:

……因為我又負責篩選,後來又發覺有源頭病人進來了,我也會想想,是否自己篩選那方面有一些問題。我回看,其實所有的所謂源頭病人,當時進來時……無論診斷或者表徵,是完全所謂叫做低風險的。例如好像……如果我沒有記錯的話,回看那個Index B,即是Patient A那個patient,其實他進來是做中風復康的;而C那個亦是心臟科的病人過來做復康,B亦是……即那個Index B的patient又是做中風復康,唯一一個就是D那個patient,他就是慢性阻塞性肺病的病人轉過來,但是當時他亦沒有任何SARS的徵狀、表徵。所以,當時如果進入病房的時候,同事其實都是因應當時病床空置的情況,安置這些病人。除非當他們一進來,已經覺得有一些可疑的時候,就未必是這樣安置。可能如果有……盡量所謂隔離的時候,如果我們有一個side room,他們會安置在side room,然後等醫生先確診後,才會再去作出跟進。

麥國風議員:

你剛才提到低風險,即你說比較低風險,那是否表示其實可能有比較高風險的情況出現呢?

呃.....我們可以這樣說,但是這些全部都是事後回看的.....

麥國風議員:

嗯。

徐若萍女士:

……但是當時如果我們有一個責任,仍然都去provide一個復康的服務時,我們就要去接收這些病人,只不過我們盡量在其他的設施,或者在同事的警覺性方面去提高,去盡量做得最好。而我亦覺得我們的同事,不會因為很怕接……即有機會、亦有這樣的可能性接收到一些所謂的隱形病人,而抗拒不接收。

麥國風議員:

徐女士,你說你就是其中一個篩選的人員,是嗎?你們有沒有一個篩選的核對表,即是checklist,來篩選那些病人,才讓他可以來到大埔醫院呢?有沒有一個這樣的形式,很清晰的指示,所謂protocol —— 可以這樣說,有沒有……

徐若萍女士:

呃……沒有一個白紙黑字的protocol,但是有部門主管提過,當篩選的時候,要留意一些甚麼,尤其說的是在當時的疫情那段時間,我們很留意病人有沒有發燒的徵狀,即總之是SARS的徵狀,例如發燒或者是肺片方面有沒有變化、驗血的報告等。

麥國風議員:

嗯。接着你是怎樣去記錄你這些評估的資料呢?

徐若萍女士:

其實沒有特意去記錄的,因為轉介的醫院會提供這些資料給 我們,然後我們會在旁邊寫下安排去哪一個病房,或者拒絕不接 收。

麥國風議員:

那你有沒有嘗試過拒絕不接收?

曾經嘗試過,當我懷疑.....即是譬如他需要高流量氧氣的時候,我會有一點擔心。所以當時......我通常會先問對方病房的醫生,問他的情況,或者甚至乎我一定會問我自己的部門主管,或者顧問醫生,要他們提供一個支援、意見之類。

麥國風議員:

你是否直接去到大埔那打素醫院,還是.....

徐若萍女士:

不是的,不是的。

麥國風議員:

純粹靠他們打來的電話或者一般的fax文件?

徐若萍女士:

呃......應該.....是,一般的fax文件。

麥國風議員:

就這樣評估?

徐若萍女士:

是的。

麥國風議員:

接着你剛才說,送到病房之前,你都再多做一次......

徐若萍女士:

篩選。

麥國風議員:

......這樣的評估,可以這樣說,對吧?

料。

麥國風議員:

我想另外問一問,關於你的人手那方面。

徐若萍女士:

是。

麥國風議員:

人手那方面,當時在SARS期間,你是有足夠人手去預防的嗎?

徐若萍女士:

SARS期間......

麥國風議員:

是。

徐若萍女士:

.....你指的是哪一段時間?

麥國風議員:

不同期間你會有不同的嗎?你......我不知道......

徐若萍女士:

不是......

麥國風議員:

.....不如你告訴我究竟......

徐若萍女士:

……因為如果你說SARS病房,那是很不同的,因為我們後來在21日開設了一個SARS病房。那個SARS病房的人手和普通科病房的不同,所以我想問清楚一點。

麥國風議員:

那就是了,SARS之前......

徐若萍女士:

嗯。

麥國風議員:

人手是否足夠呢 —— 你覺得?

徐若萍女士:

我想我不可以說是否足夠,因為這些是不能比較的。而在我們新界東,其實亦有一個人手指標給每一個部門,所以,如果以當時來說,亦是.....用那個指標,是足夠的。

麥國風議員:

即是足夠的。

徐若萍女士:

是。

麥國風議員:

那接着SARS之後……SARS開始呢?是否足夠?

徐若萍女士:

SARS......因為它沒有改變,是SARS病房增加了人手而已。

麥國風議員:

都增加了人手?

徐若萍女士:

增加了人手,是.....

麥國風議員:

所以你那個......

.....因為新界東是有支援我們的。

麥國風議員:

你是否認為是適當的呢?即人手的增加,或者有關服務量的提升,或者不同形式、模式轉變了,是嗎?那個服務,你認為是否適切的呢 —— 在人手角度?

徐若萍女士:

在當時來說,我覺得是適切的。為甚麼呢?因為在SARS病房是提供了很多的……除了護士支援,還有其他的supporting staff的支援。所以當時我們其實……亦知道在SARS病房工作的時候,我們很多同事因為要穿着這麼多的保護衣物,其實他們是相當辛苦的。所以我們亦延長了他們的休息時間,所以那個休息時間的替換,我們是需要多一些護士,我們當時亦有這方面的補充。

麥國風議員:

嗯。那你有沒有收到關於PPE不足夠,或者有關的情況,向你反映呢?

徐若萍女士:

我當時沒有接收過這些任何表示不足夠的意見,或者.....所謂 投訴。

麥國風議員:

嗯。另外……不好意思。請你看……其實我想……如果你剛才在上面……應該知道我問哪一條問題。H21文件,也是關於那個醫院管理局檢討委員會 —— 就SARS爆發的檢討委員會,去接見那些病人團體時說的話。H21,130053,就是第1頁,看到大概中間:"Son and daughter of……"有一個病人的名字,不過刪去了,接着"……(A deceased patient of Tai Po Hospital)"。那應該是130054,就"Infection control"下半部,(b)段和(c)段,剛才你應該大概都聽過我說的了,是嗎?

嗯,嗯。

麥國風議員:

你有沒有收過一些這樣的、有關的、可以說是向你作出的反映呢?同時你來這個專責委員會的研訊之前,有沒有看過這份這樣的......

徐若萍女士:

呃.....沒有。

麥國風議員:

沒有看過這個紀錄?

徐若萍女士:

是。不過剛才都有聽到你問我的同事,如果你說到是late April,更加沒有可能。因為它提到……甚麼healthcare workers沒有穿上full PPE,應該肯定是不會的。尤其是說去handle一些根本是suspected SARS,那是更加不會的。

麥國風議員:

嗯。你是3DR的病房經理,當時你......

徐若萍女士:

不是,不是,我是部門主管。3DR本身原本有病房經理。

麥國風議員:

本身有病房經理。

徐若萍女士:

是,但因為當時那位負責3DR的病房經理要幫忙籌備開一個 SARS ward,所以我relieve了他的duty。

麥國風議員:

即是你兼任了?

徐若萍女士:

是的,我兼任了。

麥國風議員:

即是我想就.....

徐若萍女士:

OK, OK, OK, 明白。

麥國風議員:

……即是瞭解你當時其實都很能接觸到前線病房的工作,主要 是這樣。你的意思即是你兼任病房經理……

徐若萍女士:

是,是。

麥國風議員:

……同時是一個部門運作經理,那你可以說,十多個病房,你 是不時巡察的,是嗎?

徐若萍女士:

是的,是的。

麥國風議員:

你那個巡察的安排是如何的呢?

徐若萍女士:

其實我差不多每天都會到病房巡查,而最主要的是,我們知道設有很多硬件,例如guidelines等。剛才勞議員也問到一點,就是怎樣知道同事也有執行?除我在巡查時會看看同事有否做好防護措施外,我們本身亦設有system,互相提點,即buddy system,

以及policing,即如警察般周圍巡查,看看同事所做的是否足夠,因為我們其實也擔心他們在工作上會受到感染或交叉感染。

麥國風議員:

你有否進行稽核?除巡查外,你有否找人進行稽核?

徐若萍女士:

除我本人外,醫院本身設有一個所謂的compliance check team,協助進行巡查。

麥國風議員:

有何發現?即你剛才提到的compliance check team。

徐若萍女士:

其實整體都做得很好,當然我們有時會發現同事可能做得不 恰當,但並不表示他們不想依循指引,而是可能......譬如我們曾 經.....我本人曾經看到同事戴兩對手套,當我們發現時便會提示他 們。其實,他們並不明白戴兩對手套的目的,以為這樣做會較為 安全。在這情況下,我們便會提示他們。

麥國風議員:

另外,你們醫院有幾名同事受到感染,你們其後有否進行檢討,或研究他們究竟如何受到感染?

徐若萍女士:

其實,我們有同事受到感染後,亦有同事負責致電詢問他們可否recall到,之前有否做過一些認為是高風險的工作而令他們受到感染,但據我們所得的答案,他們似乎均recollect不到,當時做過甚麼特別高風險的程序而引致他們受到感染。同事亦覺得,當時已做足防感染措施,穿好保護衣物,故此也較難recall得到。因此,我們也有困難,究竟同事如何感染到這個病。

麥國風議員:

你剛才提到高風險護理程序,可否告訴我們何謂高風險護理程序?

例如抽痰。如果有病人患有很大的肉瘡、很深層的肉瘡,我們便要直接接觸,又或進行急救等,這些便是高風險程序。我們甚至認為餵食亦是......

麥國風議員:

1111 。

徐若萍女士:

因為他們有時嘔吐,亦有機會飛濺到我們同事的身上。

麥國風議員:

失禁亦可能是......

徐若萍女士:

對,失禁等也是。

麥國風議員:

主席,謝謝,我沒有其他問題。

主席:

另外有兩位委員舉了手,請大家把握時間。首先是勞永樂,接着是鄭家富。

勞永樂議員:

多謝主席。我想向徐女士瞭解一下3DR病房的情況。剛才我們也看過有關的病床分布,是否設有38張病床?

徐若萍女士:

是。

勞永樂議員:

在4月廿幾號那段時間,病房爆發的前後,你是否記得當時的 使用率?

如果說到......我沒有exact figures,但印象中應該是......

勞永樂議員:

是。

徐若萍女士:

在4月底左右,使用率應該還未到100%那麼高,因當時轉介過來大埔的病人,相對較先前少了很多。當然,當時我們的病床仍然只有38張,但未必每張床都有病人。

勞永樂議員:

但在知道爆發前的使用率是否接近百分之一百?

徐若萍女士:

我想……因為我真的沒有實際的figures,我很難推斷,但應該不到100%。

勞永樂議員:

這些數字,主席,其實可以請徐女士之後提供。

徐若萍女士:

是,是。

勞永樂議員:

我們在紀錄中亦看到有源頭病人,在4月9日有3個源頭病人入了3DR病房,而在4月11日有一個源頭病人入了3DR病房,合共4人。我們在紀錄中亦看到,在4月21日有第一個病人出現懷疑SARS的病徵。我們的資料亦顯示,到了4月30日,3DR病房把最後一個懷疑SARS的病人送走,即是說在4月21日至4月30日期間,病房中有為數超過一個的SARS病人。如果我們作出簡單計算,4個源頭病人合計4人,另外我們最後知道有6個病房的病人受到感染,合共有10個病人在病房中。那麼,可否這樣說,在4月21日至4月30日期間,3DR病房於同一時間內最多曾有10個SARS病人。

我們再看時,正如我剛才所說,當發覺病人有疑似徵狀出現,便會即時把他們轉走,而不會把他們留在病房觀察。因此,其實再看時,那些後來所謂被感染的病人,他們的徵狀在較後期才出現,即病人一有徵狀出現,便會立即被轉走,離開那個病房。

勞永樂議員:

嗯。

徐若萍女士:

因此,你說在同一時間有10個SARS病人,就當時而言,他們並無徵狀出現。

勞永樂議員:

是,即在同一時間有10個病徵可能不太明顯的病人。

徐若萍女士:

是。

勞永樂議員:

好的,你剛才提到亦有同事詢問那3個受感染的醫護人員懷疑 在甚麼地方受到感染,你是不是那位同事?你可否告知委員會由 誰負責這項工作?

徐若萍女士:

據我理解,在護士方面,我們的護士總經理曾問過他們;而 醫生方面,我們的顧問醫生亦曾問過他們。

勞永樂議員:

是。

徐若萍女十:

另外一個workman,他的部門主管 —— admin方面亦曾問過他。

你是否熟悉那3位受感染的醫護人員?

徐若萍女士:

我不熟悉,因我在2002年11月才調到大埔醫院,所以我跟同事不太熟悉。不過,為何我當時不主動去問呢?因為我知道已有同事去問,我不想太disturb那位同事,因為他染上此病,患病期間已很辛苦,所以我沒有再重複又重複地問他這件事。

勞永樂議員:

有傳聞指有醫護人員因沒有戴口罩進入病房而感染SARS,你有否聽過這個傳聞?

主席:

勞議員,剛才已問過這個問題。

勞永樂議員:

不,只是問過一個證人。

主席:

剛才麥議員已經問過。

勞永樂議員:

問過了嗎?好的,主席,我不問了,我停止了。

主席:

鄭家富議員。

鄭家富議員:

多謝主席。徐女士,你好,我想瞭解一下,當勞醫生 —— 勞 永樂議員 —— 第一次問你的時候,提到那打素醫院F5和F6病人 轉入大埔醫院3DR病房,而F5和F6在4月10日和15日分別開始有醫 護人員受到感染。我想請你看看文件H137,翻到第2頁,即370001 那一頁,清楚載明3DR病房那一欄,在4月11日,F5有一個病人由

那打素醫院轉往大埔醫院3DR病房。首先,你可否再詳細說明,大埔醫院和那打素醫院相互之間……因你們是一間復康醫院,病人由那打素醫院轉介過來的情況時有發生,亦屬必需,你們在護理訊息和資訊方面,有沒有既定的表格或既定的資料須互相傳遞及掌握?

徐若萍女士:

你所指的是當時抑或是一直以來?

鄭家富議員:

先說一直以來吧。

徐若萍女士:

一直以來,所謂的表格就是指對方轉介過來的病人的資料,例如姓名、診斷、需要特別護理等,這些資料便會在所謂的表格內載明。

鄭家富議員:

好了,這是一直以來都有,但在當時來說,即4月初或者是在 3月開始,你知道剛才你說3月底、4月初開始,你們瞭解到有隱形 病人這類的概念。在這些時間裏面,資訊的傳達和交換訊息,又 有沒有一些新的要求呢?

徐若萍女士:

新的要求就是我剛才有提過,就是說之前我們只有這麼多資料,就是說他要些甚麼特別護理、診斷。到後來,我們要求他還要有血的報告,或者他有沒有肺炎的象徵等這些報告。

鄭家富議員:

病房與病房之間那個……譬如說4月10日,照道理,F5已經開始……即是那打素已經瞭解到有醫護人員有感染,4月11日便轉介一個病人到你的病房。當時在你印象之中,4月11日是沒有給你們任何這方面的訊息,完全沒有?

徐若萍女士:

我收不到。

鄭家富議員:

呃……你們是否一直都是病房經理與經理之間的資料傳達? 即在過去而言。

徐若萍女士:

不是,是部門運作經理與部門運作經理。為何我會說是病房與病房呢?因為E1爆發了之後,我們覺得病房要第一時間立即知道,事後部門運作經理與部門運作經理,是可以稍後的,所以我們當時沒有要求先告知部門運作經理,因為我們覺得會有一個time delay存在,所以在病房與病房一定是要第一時間知道。

鄭家富議員:

即病房與病房從E1那個案例開始。可不可以提醒委員會那時候大約是幾號,主席?我不是太記得。

徐若萍女士:

你說E1?

鄭家富議員:

是,是。

徐若萍女士:

其實我們討論有這項事情的時候,應該是在4月3日......

鄭家富議員:

4月3日。

徐若萍女士:

......曾經作出一個這樣的......大家有個這樣的understanding存在。

鄭家富議員:

換言之,你的理解應該是4月3日,即4月初開始,病房經理之間應該除了病人的個人資料之外,是不是應該有一些額外資料,例如如果病房開始有醫護人員感染,大家都應該互通訊息?

是。

鄭家富議員:

但是直至F5沒有這樣做,你剛才回答勞醫生的時候,你是說不知道為何沒有這一個訊息的傳遞,我想掌握......

徐若萍女士:

我剛才說我沒有這個訊息的傳遞......

鄭家富議員:

沒有這個訊息的傳遞......

徐若萍女士:

即我沒有收到這個訊息的傳遞。

鄭家富議員:

之後一直沒有收過?

徐若萍女士:

沒有收過。

鄭家富議員:

那你有沒有去嘗試瞭解原因?

徐若萍女士:

因為我們一直沒有想過有爆發,是直至23日,不,是22日、23日開始,我們除了醫護人員感染,還陸續有些病人出現了徵狀,或者甚至確診了。當時我們亦看回,便好像是在F5、F6出現。當時,如果我沒有記錯,我也有去問過當時的部門經理。問起他,才知道之前有提過在某些日子有些醫護人員感染了,就是這樣,但這些是事後的事。

鄭家富議員:

我知道,即你現在記憶所及,其實你是有去問部門的主管......

徐若萍女士:

這是之後的事。

鄭家富議員:

是,之後,是了,那位.....你就是當時的部門運作經理.....

徐若萍女士:

是。

鄭家富議員:

......兼任3DR病房的病房經理,那之後你是問哪一位?

徐若萍女士:

部門運作經理。

鄭家富議員:

部門的運作經理,當時是另外一位?

徐若萍女士:

那打素的......

鄭家富議員:

那打素的,是,即那一刻你便知道了,那時候大概是何時?

徐若萍女士:

就是我們爆發之後。

鄭家富議員:

你們爆發了之後才去問。

因為之前我們沒有這個情況,因為縱使我們送走那些病人, 他們不是確診的......

鄭家富議員:

是,明白。

徐若萍女士:

我們只是懷疑他,以及他們發燒,我們便立即調走,所以沒 有在當時這樣去懷疑對方。

鄭家富議員:

明白,明白。當時你聽到這個消息,我相信你與勞醫生或者 我一樣,都覺得為何......第一個反應會不會是為何當時4月10日或 者11日轉介一個病人來的時候,不通知你們一聲。有沒有這樣問 過?

主席:

鄭家富議員,首先資料上,我一定要弄清楚......

鄭家富議員:

是,是。

主席:

這個F6就是在10日 —— 4月10日知道的;F5是15日才知道的。

鄭家富議員:

對不起,主席,我先寫下。剛才可能我弄錯了F5......

主席:

你剛才把兩個倒轉了。

鄭家富議員:

是,是。

主席:

所以在我們手上你拿着的文件,所謂的F5、F6轉介過來的日子之後才知道它是有爆發的。

鄭家富議員:

嗯,F6是4月15日,是不是?

主席:

是。

鄭家富議員:

F5就是4月10日。

主席:

15,對不起,F5是4月15日......

鄭家富議員:

F5是4月15日?

主席:

是,F6是10.....

鄭家富議員:

F6是4月10日,OK,好,多謝主席。

或者我先問一個問題,是一個很概括的問題,如果是這樣的話。因為除了日子之外,因為始終到了後期你們有感染個案之後才再問,那你有沒有問一個問題,為何當時你們不是 —— 譬如4月15日是F5,F6是4月10日 —— 不是立即告訴大埔醫院的部門經理,甚至是病房的經理呢?有沒有問過類似的問題?

因為隔了這麼久,其實我不是很記得我們當時談話的內容, 但是我是問過有沒有特別的事情發生過。但是我真的記不起我有 沒有說過你剛才的提問,即你說更詳細些的內容。

鄭家富議員:

嗯,但是這是不是一個十分重要的訊息呢?

徐若萍女士:

當然,我們會覺得是重要的訊息。

鄭家富議員:

是,是,一個這麼重要的訊息,當時部門與部門、病房與病 房之間的訊息交流,你覺得這是一個很重要的溝通和資料嗎?

徐若萍女士:

我們事後可以這樣說,但如果當我回看之前,是不是說他沒有說到這些資料,會改變那個後果呢?我又未必這樣看,因為當時其實在3月底、4月初,我們都覺得我們不是所謂低風險的地方。即是一間復康醫院,我們都覺得可能會有機會有一些所謂漏們的為一個來了,所以我們不斷去提醒我們的同事,我們要提高我們的問感染的警覺,以及對於病人的監察要提高。在探訪的……即visitors方面,我們亦提示他們如果來到的時候,他們不要與自己的家人有太過親密的接觸。因為以往是不同的,他們做很多親密的接觸,例如餵飯,或者是替家人洗澡,他們也會做,當時我們已經不鼓勵他們這樣做。而且我們也提示探訪者回家要注意個自己,因為始終我們都知道有風險存在,但即使有風險存在,我們不可能停止所有的服務。

主席:

各位委員,我提醒大家現在時間已經差不多,我們還有兩位 證人是我們會見的,所以就着事實那方面,如果大家有問題想問, 請提出來。不過,我希望,特別是不需要去問到證人有關的意見, 或者是分析的問題,即盡量去避免,好嗎?其他委員還有沒有問

題想問?如果沒有的話,我們非常多謝徐女士今天出席今天的研訊,很多謝你合作。如果委員會有需要的話,可能會再找你幫忙。

各位委員,我們需要過一過去C房,檢討一下那個......即我們接着還有兩位證人的處理重點和程序的部分。

我們接着的研訊應該在4時20分還是25分?20分鐘吧,好嗎? 20分鐘,4時20分繼續。

(研訊於下午4時02分暫停)

(研訊於下午4時21分恢復進行)

主席:

我們接下來這位證人是大埔醫院護理總經理李玉蓮女士。

李女士,很多謝你出席今天的研訊。專責委員會傳召你今天 來到委員會作證及提交證人陳述書。首先,委員會亦決定證人須 要宣誓作供。我現在以專責委員會主席的身份負責為你監誓。

你可選擇以手按聖經以宗教形式宣誓,或以非宗教形式宣誓。請你依照放在你面前的誓詞宣誓。

大埔醫院護理總經理李玉蓮女士:

好的。本人李玉蓮,謹以至誠,據實聲明及確認本人所作之證供,均屬真實及為事實之全部,並無虛言。

主席:

多謝你。請坐,李女士。

李女士,你亦曾向專責委員會秘書提供證人陳述書,你現在可否正式向專責委員會出示有關證人陳述書作為證據?

李玉蓮女士:

可以。

主席:

謝謝你。

李女士,為了方便列席人士跟隨本委員會的程序,我們會派發閣下的陳述書給今天在場的公眾人士和記者。你對於你的陳述書有沒有即時想補充的地方?

李玉蓮女士:

沒有。

主席:

謝謝你。應專責委員會的要求,你亦向專責委員會提供閣下 專業資格及經驗的資料,你現在可否確認這些資料都是正確的?

李玉蓮女士:

可以。

主席:

好,謝謝你。

各位委員,如果你們就李女士的......想提問的話,請舉手示意。首先是勞永樂議員。

勞永樂議員:

多謝主席。李女士,歡迎你來。4月3日,有14個病人由那打素醫院轉去大埔醫院的3AR病房。

李玉蓮女士:

嗯。

勞永樂議員:

當時,3AR病房有沒有其他病人在呢?

李玉蓮女士:

有幾位是EI的病人。

有幾位是E1的病人。即除了這14個之外,另外有幾位是E1的病人?

李玉蓮女士:

是。

勞永樂議昌:

那幾位E1的病人是否一早已經轉了過來?

李玉蓮女士:

他們應該大約在3月27日就轉了過來。因為那天他們轉過來的時候,我們的同事就覺得,同一時間有6個都是E1病房的病人轉過來,加上他們覺得在4CR病房有一些空床,於是便把他們放進去。

勞永樂議員:

是。所以,可以說是,3AR病房當時全部都是E1病房的病人,沒有其他病人在的?

李玉蓮女士:

我不敢很肯定,可能或者有一個半個是以前一直都在那裏的。因為我們的4CR在早期是一個空氣感染的病房。

勞永樂議員:

是。

李玉蓮女士:

那裏的病人……即我們會放一些需要隔離護理的病人。我不是太記得有沒有一個這樣的病人,可能或者會有一個。不過,如果以我記憶所及,應該是沒有的,全部都是E1的病人。

勞永樂議員:

好的。那麼,為甚麼、有何理由只放E1的病人,而不放其他病人呢?

李玉蓮女士:

因為我記得在3月27日當天,那打素送那些病人過來的時候,似乎我們那位.....因為3月27日那天好像是星期六。

勞永樂議員:

是。

李玉蓮女十:

他們下午有需要送一些病人過來。我們的護士長 —— Nursing Officer —— 留意到 referral 那裏好像寫了一句"please observe temperature"。她覺得,那裏有這麼一句,而且轉送過來的同事,那打……即是那些NEATS —— 非緊急服務的員工,身上都穿上一些防感染的裝備。他們覺得,既然是這樣,不如就小心點好了。見到我們的隔離病房有空床,他們便將這6個病人放了進去。

勞永樂議員:

3月27日的時候,你是要靠量體溫和靠看到救護車工作人員的裝備而有這樣的考慮,但當時那打素醫院有沒有直接通知你們,這幾個病人是來自一個正有SARS爆發的病房?

李玉蓮女士:

如果以我記憶所及,那打素醫院E1病房在3月27日仍未察覺到有的。如果我沒有記錯,好像他們第一位同事發燒入院,是在3月28日。不過,我不敢肯定,這是其他醫院的事情,我不敢肯定。但我只可以說,在3月27日,我們的NO去負責……即收人方面,他的直覺是很好的。他覺得,同一時間有6個病人,而其中有些病人的referral chart中寫了一句"please observe temperature",他的警覺性便立即提高了。他即時和DOM徐姑娘談過,將這6個病人收進我們的感染控制病房。

勞永樂議員:

這位護士,其實我們回想起來,都很值得讚揚。

李玉蓮女士:

是啊,他是真的做得很好。其實,當其時我們全院的護士和 醫生都很好。

勞永樂議員:

好的。我們的紀錄顯示,大埔那打素醫院第一個醫護人員開始發燒,是在3月25日。

李玉蓮女士:

是。

勞永樂議員:

3月25日。所以,當時都有可能知道E1病房有爆發。好了,3AR病房是一個怎樣的病房?

李玉蓮女士:

3AR病房的前身是一個普通病房,是用作護理一些護養的病人。

勞永樂議員:

是。

李玉蓮女十:

我們在早時接收到訊息,知道我們的Ward 4CR......其實我們大埔醫院在98年開院後不久,我們已經籌備將4CR轉為一個感染病房。這個病房在後面的兩格是很合規格的,有double door,即一道門打開,另一道門便會關上,每一格裏面都有自己的洗手間,所以它是一個很高規格的感染病房。

當其時,聯網有一個構思,就是會不會這個病房可以在這個時間發揮到它的功用呢?當其時,我們的行政總監亦跟部門主管、運作經理和我,還有其他醫生、有關的人士,一同去看看。我們發覺,如果那個病房就這樣即時使用,我們都覺得有些東西可以做得好些。譬如負壓方面,我們可以再做得好些,因為在以前來說,前面那兩格並沒有負壓的設備,但是我們找了E&M的同事 我不記得它的正確名稱是否"E&M"了,即是負責做

engineering的同事來看過,他們建議要做一些措施,譬如exhaust fan要加裝HEPA filter,我們病房的大門要多加一道門,使它create 一個pressure,變成慢慢越近病房裏面,pressure便會越negative,這樣對流量會控制得好些。還有,air的exchange......那個change rate又加強了。做完了這些事,我們才可以將它發揮功用。因此之故,我們便將4CR的病人搬下去3AR。

當其時,4CR病房內的病人只剩下那6個E1的病人。所以,他們大約在4月2日、3日搬了下去3CR。我們把3CR病房的病人搬到另一個……我們因為還有兩個新的……即是剩餘的病房,是空的、沒有人的,我們便將他們搬了下去。當其時亦已跟董醫生說,我們要將3AL這個病房 —— 在它的隔壁 —— 騰空了,讓同事用來做一個changing room、common room,讓他們有自己梳洗、用膳的地方,這樣同事便可以舒服一點。因為我們很明白,這個3AL病房,我們是用一個最高規格的程序去做的,所以我們希望護士的同事和支援的同事,可以自己一小隊,而不要和其他同事有一個mix。

勞永樂議員:

這是對於4月3日收這14個病人進去3AR病房的一種特別安排?

李玉蓮女士:

是了。

勞永樂議員:

你剛才也說過,4CR病房是一個高規格的隔離病房......

李玉蓮女士:

是,是。

勞永樂議員:

......亦在SARS爆發期間,提升了那些設施?

李玉蓮女士:

是,是。

勞永樂議員:

一共可以收多少人呢?那個4CR病房。

李玉蓮女士:

4CR病房在後面的兩格,加上一個side room,每一格有5張床可以放病人,side room可以放一張床。另外,在它後半部的另一邊,沒有隔離玻璃門的地方,可以有4張空床。它前面對開的兩格,即是沒有正式隔離措施的地方,可以每處放8張床。但是,我們在4月21日開了這個病房作為SARS病房,這個病房的bedstead,如果我沒有記錯,我們只接收25個病人而已,因為我們要盡量將病人space out。

勞永樂議員:

25個病人?

李玉蓮女士:

是。

勞永樂議員:

好的,行。大埔那打素一直都有不同的病房有爆發。

李玉蓮女士:

是。

勞永樂議員:

你是何時第一次知悉,大埔那打素醫院的F5和F6病房有SARS 爆發呢?

李玉蓮女士:

如果照我記憶所及,在......我剛才聽我兩位同事在這裏提供一些statements的時候,他說是在15日,F5有一位同事感染;在4月10日,F6有一位同事感染。如果照我記憶,那兩天我們沒有收到他的通知。

其實,我們那時的看法是,由威爾斯第一次有員工感染,即有些病人受到感染,再加上在4月3日,即那打素E1有感染,以及當時我們在報紙看到的情形,我們整間醫院的同事,由部門主管至基層,都已經很警覺,都明白我們其實隨時都可能會接收一些疑似或者沒有徵狀的SARS病人。加上我們大埔醫院……因為為又比較大,他們的徵狀便更難察覺。所以在威爾斯事件在3月15日爆發之後,部門主管,即內科部門主管已經立即提示了他們的病房同事和護士,如何處理一些有flu-like symptoms或者有一些fever,即myalgia的病人,他們應該如何處理。再加上那打素事件之後,我們在4月3日開會,我們答應接收他們送來的14個病人的時候,其實我們大家都已經強調雙方面一定要加強溝通。我們知道對方的醫生已經很盡力提高警覺,他可如何檢查病人,待已達致安全,才送來我們這兒。而他們的護士同事亦知道在有需要時,要直接通知我們這兒的同事。

不過,照我自己的看法,可能是……即他們……因為F5、F6相繼都有同事有事,而當時他們的病房亦很忙,因為我知道他們那打素當時亦肩負了整個威爾斯內科的病人(嗚咽),他們真的很忙,有些事情可能他們做得不太好。我不是說不太好,而是他們太忙,他們兼顧不了,事後到我們有事,我們雙方再傾談起來,我們才知道有這件事。

勞永樂議員:

即你在事後才知道。

李玉蓮女士:

是。

勞永樂議員:

你有沒有記憶,是何時第一次知道?

李玉蓮女士:

我相信我們第一次知道,應該大約在4月22日。

勞永樂議員:

之後才知道。

李玉蓮女士:

是。

勞永樂議員:

好了,主席,我暫停發問。

主席:

各位委員,如果大家沒有問題,我們便很多謝李女士今天出席這個研訊,好嗎?李女士,很多謝你今天出席,花了你很多時間。如果我們日後有需要,可能還需要請你幫忙......

李玉蓮女士:

好的。

主席:

多謝你。

我們接着會邀請下一位證人。我們今天研訊的最後一位證 人,是大埔醫院行政總監董秀英醫生。

(董秀英醫生進入會議廳)

董醫生,多謝你今天出席研訊。專責委員會傳召你今天到委員會作證及提交證人陳述書。首先,委員會決定證人需要宣誓作供,我現以專責委員會主席的身份負責為你監誓。

你可選擇以手按聖經以宗教形式宣誓,或以非宗教形式宣誓。請你站立及依照放在你面前的誓詞宣誓。

大埔醫院行政總監董秀英醫生:

本人董秀英,謹以至誠,據實聲明及確認本人所作之證供, 均屬真實及為事實之全部,並無虛言。

主席:

多謝你,請坐。董醫生,你曾向專責委員會秘書提供證人陳述書,你現在可否正式向專責委員會出示有關證人陳述書作為證據?

董秀英醫生:

可以。

主席:

好,謝謝你。董醫生,為了方便列席人士跟隨委員會的程序, 我們會派發閣下的陳述書給今天在場的公眾人士和記者。為了尊 重私隱和其他法律理由,部分內容已被遮蓋。你對你的陳述書有 沒有即時想補充的地方?

董秀英醫生:

沒有。

主席:

應專責委員會的要求,你已向專責委員會就大埔醫院在處理 嚴重急性呼吸系統綜合症爆發方面的表現及須承擔的責任提交了 意見書,你現在可否正式向專責委員會提交有關意見書作為證據 的一部分?

董秀英醫生:

可以。

主席:

謝謝你。應專責委員會的要求,你亦向專責委員會提供了閣下專業資格及經驗的資料。你現在可否確認這些資料都是正確的?

董秀英醫生:

可以。

主席:

好,謝謝你。董醫生,哪一位委員有問題想問董醫生,請舉 手示意。首先是勞永樂議員。

勞永樂議員:

多謝主席。董醫生,歡迎你來立法會。我再想瞭解一個問題,剛才我們也問過你的3位同事這問題了。究竟你何時第一次知悉在大埔那打素醫院的F5和F6病房有SARS爆發呢?

董秀英醫生:

如果你是說很肯定知道有關F5、F6的事,我相信是當我們醫院留意到我們有幾個病房有問題,我們亦再跟進、再追問。但是,我想強調一點,其實大埔醫院和那打素醫院一向都……即有關溝通方面,因為我們和它的關係很密切,我們一向都提供convalescence的support給那打素醫院。我們兩間醫院之間的溝通,其實一向都很密切。我的同事剛才提到,由從前的一些有關病人的資料,即是……譬如他患甚麼病、需要甚麼護理,後來提升到加強我們需要有關病人的……譬如他有沒有一些疑似SARS的病徵等這些資料。

我們亦在3月底知道那打素的病房有SARS的爆發,我們亦再提醒兩間醫院有關資訊方面的溝通。我亦明白,其實那打素醫院在這方面亦有一些跟進,希望大家醫院的溝通做得更好。剛才我們的徐姑娘也曾提到,以前是病房經理......即部門運作經理之間的溝通。為了希望這溝通更加efficient,會再提醒病房經理,可以再直接一點,無須再上一層或下一層,在E1轉送病人過來時亦有發揮這樣的溝通。但到了F5、F6,我們不是即時知道它的病房有事,是遲了數天,我們才知道。剛才我想李姑娘也提到,有可能他們當時真的因為有好幾個病房都有事,又有很多同事.....(嗚咽)受到感染,影響他們,可能是......即可能是這個原因。

勞永樂議員:

好的。你剛才所給的答案......有關原因,是不是你們事後也曾做過一個檢討?

董秀英醫生:

我們沒有即時檢討這個原因,因為其實我們在22日留意到幾個病房都已經有……即有跡象可能有SARS爆發,我們的3DR、4BR和4D……4BR。我們其實立即……我們已經完全停止3個病房的收症、discharge和visiting等。我們當時全間醫院的同事都集中處理那幾個病房,可能接着出現的……我們要做些甚麼工夫。所以,我們覺得,當時就算你再重新理解有沒有……為甚麼……記得說、不

記得說,這不是我們當時最需要做的工作。我們最需要做的工作 是,在那幾個病房內所看到的問題、看到的情況,我們需要做甚 麼,以及需要留意其他病房有沒有甚麼事情發生,因為突然發覺 有3個病房似乎可能出現爆發的情況,我們是非常擔心的。當時整 間醫院的同事,上上下下都把精神和精力放在那方面。

勞永樂議員:

譬如說到現在為止,事情已經過去了一段時間,大埔醫院或者醫管局有沒有就這3個病房的爆發進行檢討?

董秀英醫生:

我們自己之後都有看回那幾個病房的情況。至於怎樣才算是檢討呢?其實當時我們留意到幾個病房可能有事情出現,我們立即每天跟進有關病房內的病人和我們同事的身體狀況;關於感染控制措施方面,我們還有甚麼需要加強;其他的配套,我們有甚麼需要留意和執行。我們每天作出跟進,留意所有這些事情,其實這個過程都維持了一段時間。從我們呈交給專責委員會的一些資料中,也可以留意到,有些病房的最後一個疑似個案,是到了5月十幾號的。此外,因為發燒……譬如發燒是非常common,很多時候,我們從老人家中亦看到這個病徵。有些發燒的病人,我們可能需要跟進多幾天才知道他們原來不是的,沒有患上SARS,即使已把他們送到其他病房。我們在monitor整間醫院,尤其是那幾個病房的情形。到了5月底、6月初,我們仍然花很多精神監察着大埔醫院,看看有沒有事情是我們需要做的。

勞永樂議員:

到現在為止,有沒有向聯網或者醫管局發出文件或者報告, 講述有關大埔醫院當時爆發的情況。

董秀英醫生:

我們沒有正式的報告。

勞永樂議員:

好的。在SARS爆發期間,即3月至差不多5月這段時間,有很多訊息指大埔醫院可能要成為一間接收SARS病人的醫院。我們從有關紀錄看到,3月27日是第一次在新界東聯網非典型肺炎管理委

員會 —— 我不知道有沒有翻譯錯了 —— 作出這方面的討論。3 月27日這一次,是否第一次的討論?

董秀英醫生:

Exactly的日子,我忘記了,不過應該都是在3月底的時候,因為看到威爾斯的情況,亦看到那時候SARS病人的數目一直上升。我們大埔醫院當其時有一個病房 — 剛才李姑娘也提到 — 我們的4CR病房,其中半個病房有很高規格的……即是可用作隔離設施的一個病房。當時考慮到既然有這麼好的設備在那裏,會否考慮大埔醫院可以在當時SARS的疫情中給予幫忙呢?那時候,大概在3月底提出這件事。我回去亦要看看關於這個提議,我們的醫院是否可以做到。如果要做的話,又要做些甚麼工夫呢?

勞永樂議員:

4月9日,在同一個委員會的會議,紀錄顯示,曾提出由那打素醫院接收180個SARS病人,大埔醫院則接收60個病人。我們亦從紀錄中看到,大埔醫院認為在4月20日便準備就緒了。接着到了4月10日,即是翌日的會議上,鍾尚志教授提出應該把大埔醫院用作接收SARS病人。至於那些深切治療的病人,如有需要的話,便到那打素醫院。從10日的那次會議,我們看到,如果大埔醫院能夠成功把其他病人撤走,最多可以接收250個SARS病人。我的問題是,大家都知道,大埔醫院是一間規模那麼小的康復醫院,為何當時會有一個構思,需要接收那麼多的SARS病人呢?

董秀英醫生:

我首先要說一說,4月20日那一項,是在說我們的4CR。

勞永樂議員:

是。

董秀英醫生:

而不是說接收200多個病人這回事。由3月底提出,我們的4CR可否在這個SARS疫症中出一分力,到我們與我們的同事研究,如果我們有一個SARS ward,之前我們需要做些甚麼準備、有些甚麼條件我們需要達到,然後才可以做到這項工作呢?我們需要一些時間,譬如在那個病房中,我們需要進行一些工程、需要一些人

手、在人手方面的安排、一些training、其他各項等等。所以那時候,我們預計需要到4月20日,我們的SARS ward —— 即是4CR —— 才ready。事實上,我們的4CR病房在4月21日開始運作,作為一個SARS病房。

在我的印象之中,都是在4月 —— 現在說起來,可能是9日、 10日 — 都再提到……因為那時候,香港的SARS population,即 patient population是很大的,他們都在想,似乎每處都極不夠用, 那麼多病人,究竟有否足夠的設施來接收那些SARS病人。當時未 能掌握整個疫情、控制各方面的進度如何。所以,他們那時候都 在explore various options — 不同的方案,看看有些甚麼地方可 以幫忙,因為當其時新界東都算是有頗多SARS病人。所以那時 候,他們有這樣的一個構思。現在我不可以exactly recall為何會出 了250這些數字,但據我的估計,是因為當其時我們利用4CR接收 的時候,我們也覺得,由於SARS病人的傳染性是很高的,雖然我 們在SARS病房中,在整個病房內create一個負壓的條件,我們也 不想那個病房有其他病人,於是乎我們也安排一些護養的病人, 即是一些infirmary patients送到外面的安老院,希望在分流、分隔 病人方面,做得好一點。所以,我相信當其時他們作出一個很粗 略的計算,就是說,我們在每一樓層大概有8個病房,如果一個病 房接收20多人,也可以接收200多個。我相信那時候,有關討論的 精神就是這樣。但我要強調,這只是十分初步,帶出來讓大家 explore一下。事實上,譬如說,大埔醫院沒有深切治療的服務, 這些都是其他我們需要考慮的一些條件。所以,這樣的構想,我 也記得,很快便已經drop了,我們再沒有跟進應怎樣做。

勞永樂議員:

我也同意你所說有很多討論,但我們從紀錄看到,4月11日又這樣提出,表示大埔醫院要接收180個SARS病人。至於那打素,則接收20個需要ICU的SARS病人。我們亦從紀錄看到,也不是很短的時間,董醫生,4月26日的報紙有記載,沈祖堯教授向外表示,大埔醫院將會接收所有由威爾斯和大埔那打素醫院轉介的SARS病人,而最終他認為大埔醫院可以接收150個SARS病人。討論由3月27日開始,到了4月26日,仍然不斷地持續,同時有威爾斯醫院的部門主管自己出來對媒介說。我想問你,當時你是否有很大壓力,由威院方面施加,或者由有關的人士—— 我剛才提過的人士施加,要大埔醫院接收SARS病人呢?

董秀英醫生:

我自己都覺得,提出在大埔醫院接收SARS病人,他們最初為甚麼有這樣的一個想法,引發他們有這樣的一個想法呢?是因為我們有一個很高規格的隔離病房。如果你問我,我自己又不覺得這是一個很大的壓力。這事實上是我們有的一個條件——在病房內。我當時會想,如果有一個這樣的條件,有半個這樣的病房,我們在SARS的疫症中,可以有沒有甚麼contribution呢?當然,如果我們在其中的contribution,我亦有責任去保障,我們是做得到的,譬如隔離的設施、我們其他的配套,是否可以向病人提供?我們的員工是否可以做得到?我們有沒有專科醫生等等,這些全部都是我的考慮。但是,終於我們都見到,我們和同事討論,我們覺得我們的4CR病房是可以做得到的,如果有一個時間讓我們去預備。我們亦有差不多接近3至4個星期,如果是3月27日至4月21日。及至SARS病房真的接收病人,我們都有接近4個星期的預備。

如果你再問,在其他病房再收這麼多,我感覺不到一個很大的壓力。他們開始想到,已經有一個病房是做一個這樣的SARS工作,會有一個特別的隊伍,包括醫生、護士去處理這些病人,他們接着會否開始想,因為不是說這間醫院有一隊醫護人員,那間醫院又有一隊醫護人員這樣的考慮,會令到他們繼續考慮大埔醫院可能有機會去接收多些呢?我覺得,會議中可以有很多方案,如果大家有甚麼想法,是可以提出的。但是,我亦不覺得有一個壓力一一"你一定要應承"這個壓力,我不覺得有這樣的一個壓力存在。

勞永樂議員:

你的4CR病房是你們大埔醫院眾多病房的其中之一個......

董秀英醫生:

是。

勞永樂議員:

.....是一個傳染病房。

董秀英醫生:

是。

勞永樂議員:

加上在SARS期間做的改善措施,4CR可以接收多少個傳染病的病人?

董秀英醫生:

當時,我們的病房終於接收了28個病人,即放了28張床。

勞永樂議員:

放了28張床,但是遠遠不能做到150、250的。

董秀英醫生:

不是。如果他們說的是那些構想,便要深層一些再去想,究竟如果我們說的是接收150、180、200或者其他,究竟是怎樣的一回事。

勞永樂議員:

好。你雖然說不是壓力,但是當沈祖堯教授在26日見報之後, 先後我們的紀錄見到,4月28日,你出去否認過,說沒有這樣的計 劃;4月29日,馮康否認過,說不會這樣做;4月30日,高永文來 到立法會說,大埔醫院會否接收SARS病人、將來會怎樣,是尚未 決定的。如果不是壓力,為甚麼4月28日、4月29日、4月30日,3 位這麼高層的醫管局人員要出去向公眾否認呢?

董秀英醫生:

我記得沈教授在媒介有提到,大埔醫院要接收百幾個SARS病人。其實我都見到,都突然……為甚麼會有這樣的一個訊息出去呢?我自己……我不知道馮康醫生或者高永文醫生去立法會向你們的交代是怎樣,我不是太清楚是甚麼一回事,但是其實我自己在大埔醫院,我作為大埔醫院的行政總監,一個這樣的消息,其實在大埔區內很多居民已經有很大的關注。我也有責任……就算我自己,我也有責任去向區內的市民解釋,當時到了那裏並沒有一個這樣實實在在的一個決定,並不是這樣的。但是我不是很明白這和我的壓力的關係。

勞永樂議員:

好,或者我們換一個形式提問。沈教授的看法見報後,你有 沒有親自向他瞭解一下,他為甚麼會這樣說呢?

董秀英醫生:

我當時沒有親自向沈教授瞭解這件事。

勞永樂議員:

是,或者有沒有和......馮康可否說是你的上司呢?

董秀英醫生:

呃……我記得,可能我……現在我不記得exactly是怎樣……

勞永樂議員:

是。

董秀英醫生:

.....你這麼問,不過我相信應該是有......譬如就算我出去大埔 社區向他們解釋,我也要make sure,我的理解和cluster的理解是 一致的。我亦應該......你現在這樣問我,我相信我當時一定是有和 馮康醫生討論我的理解,當時這是一個構思,不是一個決定,這 一點我是沒有錯的。

勞永樂議員:

好,當時你或者你的同事,你大埔那打素醫院的上上下下的人,有沒有一個感覺是"大蝦細"呢?

董秀英醫生:

我沒有特別去問同事,有沒有覺得"畀人大蝦細"。我自己亦不是……當時,我的心情、心理亦不是這樣想。這些在整個SARS疫症中是誰欺負誰的事,我不覺得是有一個這樣的想法。我亦很多謝我們的同事,在那個時間,很專業、很沒有保留地付出,在這件事中,去發揮他們……但是在那個時間,其實,我們的精神是完全投放在大埔醫院有一個outbreak,我們如何盡我們最大的努力,在最短時間內contain它,不要讓疾病再影響其他同事,不要影響

其他的病人,不要出去社區,這是我們當時的關心。這個關心亦不是我個人的關心,我可以向各位說一聲,這個是我們全院同事 一致的關心,因為大家都有一個意識,大家一條心地去做。

勞永樂議員:

其實,不只是你多謝你的同事,香港人都應該很多謝你和你的同事。但是事實擺在眼前,4月廿幾號的時候,你們醫院是有3個病房正在爆發的。但是,你還有一個考慮,就是你的醫院有可能要成為SARS醫院,這個言論不斷從內部和媒介出來,你還可否說你不是面對一種很大的壓力?

董秀英醫生:

我可以說,是有壓力,媒介也給了我壓力。因為事實上,我也是要去……因為這是媒介很大的attention,他們很有興趣知道,這件事是甚麼。我除了面對自己醫院內發生的事情、盡量做好之外,我還有需要……我作為醫院的行政總監,我都有需要向媒介解釋究竟正發生甚麼事。當然,在那時候,我們可以想像,當時的工作量很大,這個工作量對我來說,即是我可以說,那個壓力是在這方面。但是,我也可以向各位說,雖然回想起來,那段時間真的頗辛苦,但我都覺得,我當時不是說……那個壓力我是很positively去面對的,不是說要有一個負面的感覺。當時的感覺是,真的應該要做的,大家便一起去做。

勞永樂議員:

好的。要大埔醫院做SARS醫院這個計劃,最終是甚麼原因被否決?最重要的原因是甚麼,可否告訴委員會?

董秀英醫生:

我想第一……我覺得大埔醫院要去接收……如果真的有近200人來說,其實第一,我想如果你真的要做到,譬如我們當作現在想這樣做,我想其實說的是一個很大的project,譬如要如何在設備方面upgrade,各方面等等。我當其時也沒有時間特別去想這個project究竟要怎樣做。

而另外一些考慮,當然,根本我們醫院本身的設備是一個 convalescent hospital,譬如ICU這些,我們是沒有的,那麼怎樣可

以提供ICU呢?對嗎?當然,另外,我們亦有精神科,我們自己有一個精神科的部門,如果有這麼多SARS的patients,會不會在精神科方面,我們的精神科病人不是那麼容易……譬如我們對他們enforce一些感染控制措施,並不是那麼容易的。這些都是一些困難,這些都是我們的一個很大的考慮……當其時,如果你問我,我相信這兩點都是一個很大的考慮因素。

勞永樂議員:

當時院內有多少精神科的病人?

董秀英醫生:

我們平時說的是300多個精神科病人,如果以床數來說。

勞永樂議員:

那時......

董秀英醫生:

但當其時沒有這麼多,因為大家都明白到,我們都已經知道,醫院其實是一個……不管我們做了多少工作也好,譬如screen out那些可能懷疑的個案等等也好,其實並不代表我們可以百分之一百保證沒有漏網之魚。所以,我們的同事當時都盡量不安排無需入院的病人入院。當時因為我們大埔醫院是新界東的一個gazetted……一個mental unit、mental hospital,我們只收那些非自願性而必需入院的精神科病人,所以當其時精神科病人的數目少了很多。

勞永樂議員:

這個精神科部門,是否亦是中文大學醫學院精神科的一個教學部門?

董秀英醫生:

其實,新界東聯網成立之後,我們都有很多醫院,不單止大埔醫院,而亦包括聯網的其他醫院,譬如那打素、北區等,都會安排醫學生作一些臨床的學習等等。而在2003年初,他們精神科的academic department的大本營亦搬來了大埔醫院。

勞永樂議員:

03年初,即是SARS爆發之前了?

董秀英醫生:

之前,是。

勞永樂議員:

這個事實,威院的其他部門是沒有理由不知道的,他們應該知道的,是嗎?

董秀英醫生:

知道,知道。

勞永樂議員:

既然知道有這麼多病人 — 精神科的病人在那裏,我很奇怪,為甚麼會有這個討論或者還有這麼大的聲音,要大埔醫院成為SARS醫院呢?

董秀英醫生:

這個答案,我不可以代表其他的同事回答你。但是,我想,當時因為見到有很多SARS病人,我想他們會把各個方案的可能性都提出來考慮一下吧。

勞永樂議員:

好的。問另一個問題了。有一個傳言說,在大埔醫院感染SARS的醫護人員,有人是因為沒有戴口罩進入病房而感染SARS,你有否聽過這個傳言?

董秀英醫生:

我有一次在報章上,其實是我們的同事特地拿來給我看的。 那報章上說,我們有同事沒有戴口罩,他有機會傳染給其他病人。 我們收到這樣的一個報章報道,都立刻詢問同事們,而同事們都 說沒有這回事。對於這個報章報道,其實我們都覺得它很不負責, 不知它基於甚麼原因、根據甚麼來作出這樣的報道。而我們醫院

亦特別去信這份報章,聲明它這個報道並無根據,而我們亦對它這個無根據的報道表示遺憾。

勞永樂議員:

嗯。你有否做過一些調查,或者在醫院內瞭解,為甚麼會有 這個訊息傳了給媒介?

董秀英醫生:

我沒有特意去問為何媒介會有一個這樣的訊息。

勞永樂議員:

好的。在3位醫護人員受感染之後,你有否跟他們3人聯絡過?

董秀英醫生:

那3位同事,在最初的時候,他們的supervisors曾分別打電話慰問他們,亦有瞭解過他們有沒有甚麼想到的可能性,導致他們染病。亦有一位同事,我後來也有跟她的父母接觸,以及陪他……有時探望一下她的親人。

勞永樂議員:

你說的是鄭醫生。

董秀英醫生:

是。

勞永樂議員:

好的。可否向委員會說說,鄭夏恩醫生在大埔醫院,在SARS期間她染病之前所負責的工作?

董秀英醫生:

她是4DR病房的一個resident。其實,那個病房有兩個resident doctor,而且亦有一個physician負責supervise他們。她應該與其他 resident的工作很相似,主要是照顧那個病房的病人。我相信,平時我們的部門主管亦有安排她譬如過去那打素那邊負責一些門診的服務。她與其他的醫生一樣,是會on call的。

勞永樂議員:

當時有沒有一個機制去安排,譬如哪些醫生要負責看SARS病人,哪些又在該段時間不必看SARS病人?有沒有一個這樣的安排?

董秀英醫生:

這方面,我們的一般病房,一早已經assign了哪個醫生負責甚麼病房,而那些病房亦不是SARS病房。但當然,我們提醒了所有同事,雖然那些不叫SARS病房,但我們一定要非常小心,尤其是我們見到……在3月底已經知道有些隱……即是比較cryptic的cases,所以大家一定要十分留意。

說到有關安排診治SARS的,就是4CR。如果在4月21日開始的時候,我們就要特別有一個隊伍去負責4CR病房的運作。因為我們不希望4CR病房的負責同事在工作上需要擔任不同的崗位,而有機會在這邊做做,在那邊做做,這是安全和感染控制方面的一個需要。當其時,我記得部門主管亦有……第一,威爾斯一些有SARS經驗的同事會調過來,因為我們原來的醫護人手不能夠運作一個SARS病房,例如你要兩team人,兩team人on call等,所以有些額外的人手被調來大埔醫院。我亦知道,部門主管曾問過有沒有同事想volunteer參與SARS病房的工作,而鄭醫生亦提出願意volunteer去4CR工作。

勞永樂議員:

很可惜,在4月20日,鄭醫生發燒,4月21日便入了醫院。湊 巧與現時相隔剛好一年。

董秀英醫生:

嗯。

勞永樂議員:

可否向委員會說一說鄭醫生的工作表現?

董秀英醫生:

我不是鄭醫生的直屬supervisor,平日亦沒有指導她,看看她的工作表現如何。但是,根據我與她的同事的接觸,與她的部門

主管的接觸,亦知道鄭醫生是一個非常負責任和很considerate的醫生。對於病人,她亦十分關懷。她很疼惜她的病人,是一個很負責任的醫生。

勞永樂議員:

好的。主席,我没有其他問題。

主席:

另外還有兩位委員,就是陳國強和鄭家富。陳議員。

陳國強議員:

是。董醫生,我想問一問,大埔醫院在4月10日之前有沒有SARS病人?

董秀英醫生:

4月10日之前,我們都曾試過有一些SARS病人,但他們之所以入院,並非特別是為了SARS而入院。他們是一些譬如我們所謂"走漏眼"的case。當我們懷疑他們患上SARS的時候,因他們發燒而懷疑他們患上SARS的時候,便把他們轉往別處,後來我們知道他們患上SARS,曾經有這些個案。

陳國強議員:

當時有沒有其他病人被他們傳染呢?

董秀英醫生:

譬如另外一個病房,即是3DL,我相信之前醫管局曾提交一個chronology關於這個病房。我們都記得,在3DL病房,我們在4月8日曾經有一個懷疑他有SARS跡象的病人,我們把他送走。後來在13日、14日,分別有另外4個懷疑患上SARS的病人,我們把他們transfer out,而後來我們知道這4位病人是患上SARS的。

陳國強議員:

當你知道那打素要將病人轉到你們的大埔醫院時,你有否考慮特地設立一個ward —— 即是病房,來接收這些病人呢?

董秀英醫生:

其實,當其時也有些所謂admission ward這類的想法,但在我們的醫院中,病人其實很多時候與急症醫院的不同。在急症醫院,他們可能住3、4天,或者4、5天便離開,或者transfer到一些convalescent hospital。但我們的病人,很多都會住很久的,他們會入住幾星期。所以接收後把病人放在某個病房多少天,然後又再把他們轉到其他病房,我們的同事也曾考慮過,覺得這不是一個很方便或者可行的做法。否則的話,便需要經常把病人移來移去,在服務上亦會令護士做很多額外的工作。此外,把病人移來移去,如果有一個病人進來,當他還未出現病徵的時候,但他可能是一個隱形病人,這樣做便有機會把他送到其他病房。

陳國強議員:

大埔醫院當時有沒有一個空置的病房呢?

董秀英醫生:

"當時"是指甚麼時候?

陳國強議員:

即是4月11日之後,你們才接收,是嗎?你們接收那打素的病人,發覺有事發生了。在接收之前,你們應該……你們都知道那打素已經有爆發,即是F5和F6有醫務人員受感染。他們transfer過來的人,很可能都會有SARS病人。那麼,你們有否考慮把他們放在一起,就像"過冷河"般,然後才送到其他病房。你們會否有這樣的考慮?

董秀英醫生:

我剛才也說過,如果是說"空位",我們的醫院是有的,也就是說,我們有空置的病房。但是,即使有空置的病房,究竟我們能否把它們利用呢?這還要視乎護士的人手,然後我們才可以開設一個病房、兩個病房。我剛才也提到,關於你說"過冷河"的事情,因為我們的病人留院時間很長,而且incubation period不是兩、三天,情況並非只要我們把他們放在某個地方3天,假如沒有事的話,便一定沒問題。Incubation period都可以是很長的,所以在我們的醫院,"過冷河"的安排未必那麼容易做到。

陳國強議員:

你表示病人的留院時間很長,意思是否指從那打素轉來的病 人留院時間很長?

董秀英醫生:

因為我們的那些是護養 — 即convalescent patient,他們部分的留院時間可以是……譬如一個曾經中風的病人,他需要復康,他並非像急症醫院的病人那樣,入住3、4天便可以出院。有些譬如需要入住幾星期,有些的留院時間甚至更長,因為當中有許多病人,他們的年紀很大。

陳國強議員:

3DR、4DR和4BR這幾個病房,你覺得它們的設施根本不可以接收SARS病人,對嗎?

董秀英醫生:

讓我重申,那幾個病房不是用作接收SARS病人,而後來有SARS病人出現,是因為有一些隱形病人。當他們轉過來的時候,無論是那打素醫院也好,我們的醫院也好,都留意不到或不覺得他們是SARS病人,我們不覺得他們似是SARS病人。他們是在這樣的情況下轉過來,所以,我首先要澄清這一點。

第二,我也想說一說,在3月底,其實我們知道SARS的presentation可以不明顯,亦不一定會有發燒,即可以是cryptic。我們也看到,那打素的病房有爆發,所以我們都已經提高了我們的戒備。在我們能夠做的地方,全都做了。例如我們把所有內科病房 —— 當其時的medical convalescent ward —— 的感染控制措施和裝置,即是provision —— 保護衣物全部提升了。我們亦不停提醒我們的同事需要嚴格遵守這些感染控制措施,亦要互相提醒。在我們的staff forum等,我們都表示,不論官階、職位,總之如果看到同事有甚麼忘記了,不守規矩,大家便要互相提點,因為這不是針對人,而是針對那件事情,是為大家着想的。同事的健康狀況,我們亦很留心。我們提醒所有同事,若有任何不適,一定要看醫生,不要上班。我們亦陸陸續續在病房,譬如ventilation方面,在許可的情況下加強。

即使我們讓訪客來探病也好,我們亦提醒所有探訪者,在進入病房時需要留意的地方,不要與病人有太多親密的接觸。我們亦discourage他們,不鼓勵他們那麼頻密到醫院來,如果可以的話,便減少來醫院的次數。我們提醒他們在離開病房時需要洗手,亦提醒他們回到家中時,他們在個人衞生方面需要注意甚麼。他們需要留意自己的健康狀況,如果有發燒或者其他一些可疑的病徵,便要看醫生。這些都是一些……即使我們覺得在screening of patient方面盡量去做,我們亦明白到,可能會有漏網之魚。我們在其他措施方面,盡量把可以做的都全做了。

陳國強議員:

剛才你提到在3月底,你已經知道有隱形病人了。

董秀英醫生:

. 圆

陳國強議員:

是嗎?

董秀英醫生:

是。

陳國強議員:

現在回想,如果當時把那些病人集中在同一個ward裏,便不會有那麼多感染,即是說,不會有那麼多其他病人受感染?

董秀英醫生:

但是,因為他們是隱形的時候,即是說他們入院的時候,我們不覺得他們有一個特別的風險存在。即是說,這一班後來turn out出來變成SARS的病人,跟其他沒事的病人,在他們入院的時候,我們覺得他們的風險是差不多的。我們不是因為知道……這與El不同,它是特意一班cohort過來,是這樣的做法。明知道他們的病房已經有一個outbreak,知道El,而我們幫它cohort了這十幾個病人過來,讓它在那邊可以清潔它的病房,是不同的。但這一些病人由那打素醫院轉過來的時候,他們並不知道他們的病房是有事的,那些病人轉過來的時候,我們亦……這些病人亦……我們看不

到,我們評估過,看不到他們比其他病人的風險更大,是這樣做 法的。所以,不會將他們集中在某一個病房。

陳國強議員:

主席,我沒有問題了。

主席:

接着是鄭家富議員。

鄭家富議員:

主席,董醫生,你好。主席,我想董醫生看一看H78那份文件。董醫生,那是新界東聯網的會議 —— H78。主席,我的問題的重心是,就着F5、F6在那打素醫院開始有醫護人員感染之後那幾天,聯網醫院,即新界東聯網的會議上的討論,請董醫生翻到080388,這個是4月11日的會議。4月10日應該知道那打素醫院有感染。我想先澄清一點紀錄,看看董醫生是否記得。在080388那一頁的第3點 —— "2 new health care workers of AHNH were admitted",是不是就是F6那兩位新的醫護人員感染?你估計會不會是?

董秀英醫生:

我不知道。

鄭家富議員:

不知道。

董秀英醫生:

不知道,因為那打素有很多醫護人員,當時我們醫院很多醫 護人員受感染,所以我們不知道說的是哪個病房。

鄭家富議員:

明白。因為我前前後後看過一些紀錄,當時如果是在那個階段,那打素應該有廿幾個醫護人員受感染。我想問一問,就以4月......譬如返回4月11日,因為剛才我們問你幾位同事和你閣下的陳述書,以及你的口供,我們都......我相信大家都不會否認那打素F5、F6那兩個感染的問題,而後來你們一直都不知道,在後期才掌握到。我想問,在這個新界東聯網的會議當中,因為閣下亦是

委員,還有那打素醫院的高層,其實當時在這一個會議的討論當中,是不是完全沒有在這些問題上接觸?譬如說……因為我翻看你們這個聯網的會議的重點,是希望大家在合作和operation的問題上有co-ordination。在那幾天裏面,我翻看會議紀錄,似乎確實你們接收一些非SARS病人,從那打素醫院到大埔醫院,那幾天重要的會議中,是不是完全沒有在會議上觸及到他們哪個病房有醫護人員感染這些問題?是沒有的?

董秀英醫生:

你現在問我那幾天他們怎樣談話,我也是看到minutes,我才......它說甚麼,我便......

鄭家富議員:

是。

董秀英醫生:

......我也記不起他們當時exactly講些甚麼。但是,我印象之中,我記得那打素初期,譬如它的E1那些,都會有提到的。但是,到了後面的F5、F6,我便recall不到有特別提到。

鄭家富議員:

當時E1有觸及到、提到,是不是因為人數比較多?

董秀英醫生:

我忘記了。

鄭家富議員:

你忘記了。

董秀英醫生:

我忘記了為甚麼會提到,或者為甚麼沒有提到。

鄭家富議員:

是。那麼,F5、F6完全沒有提到。但是,我想讓你再看一看 一天的minutes,那是080394。那一天是4月14日,4月14日的一個

會議紀錄。在24段那裏是關於那打素醫院,最後一句 —— "All medical wards in AHNH were upgraded to ultra high risk."那即是說,在14日開始,你已經掌握到其實那打素醫院所有病房都已經upgrade到ultra high risk的。那麼,4月這個整體……如果譬如4月15日 —— 當然你現在不知道他們當時有爆發 —— 當時,譬如開完會之後,或者開會當中,有沒有討論過,既然那打素醫院所有病房都已經是ultra high risk了,你們大埔醫院有沒有一些進一步的感染控制措施,基於這一個問題而提升呢?

董秀英醫生:

我重申,其實在3月底、4月初,我們留意到那打素有outbreak, 其實亦聽到它有很多醫護人員有感染,我們亦知道有隱形病人。 所以,其實我們在3月底、4月初,已經將我們所有內科病房提升 到high risk。如果根據一個......即譬如當時的指引,我們的內科病 房並非high risk ward,我們已經將所有病房提升到high risk ward。 為甚麼要這樣做呢?就是擔心,有時候,有些病人我們未必可以 一定捉拿出來,就算那打素有些senior的醫生screen過所有 patients, 我們亦有同事專責 screen這些接收的病人, 但不可以百分 之一百保證沒有漏網之魚。所以,除了在病房內提升之外,我們 的同事亦不斷提醒同事,要留意那些病人的病徵,譬如他們有沒 有發燒。有少許懷疑的時候,多做點抽血、X-ray等。以我所知道, 部門每一天都有跟他們的同事討論,有沒有留意到病房有甚麼異 樣。這些都是一些措施,幫助我們一日發現病房內有甚麼我們覺 得不對勁的事,可以盡快偵察到。我想提出一點,我們做了這些 措施之後,雖然各位反覆問我們,F5、F6有沒有即時......譬如在10 日或者15日,我們有否立即聽到呢?但是,我可以告訴你,就算 當時10日或者15日有通知我們F6、F5發生了的事情,對於後面我 們要做的事,是沒有分別的。

鄭家富議員:

你的意思是不是說,如果當時 —— 我跟進這個答覆 —— 如果當時有通知,你們那個措施及感染控制的工作可能都是一樣?

董秀英醫生:

是。

鄭家富議員:

嗯.....

董秀英醫生:

因為它知道自己有這些個案之後,它已經沒有將病人轉送給我們。這些病人是它還未知道自己的病房有問題的時候轉介過來的,而這些病人已經進了不同的病房。我們當時的感染控制規格亦已經很高。如果我知道,我仍會繼續叫他們留意病房有沒有不對勁的事情發生。如果一旦有,譬如我們在23日留意到有醫護人員有事,或者有其他病人有事,我們立即做的,就是停止接收新的病人進去病房,不discharge,不准探訪。

鄭家富議員:

主席,我想繼續很簡單跟進這一個答覆,可能要取得少許董醫生的個人意見,因為這裏看到一些意見的表達。但是,有沒有可能,如果當時通知你們之後,你們會傾向考慮一些譬如觀察的病房,先觀察一個階段呢?即是從那打素醫院轉介過來的病人,當時如果知道這個F5、F6曾經有醫護人員在那邊感染過了,你們會不會考慮用一個觀察的階段呢?

董秀英醫生:

其實,他們知道了,雖然他們沒有通知我們說那個F5、F6...... 即是並非即時,但他們已經沒有再送新的病人過來了。

鄭家富議員:

嗯。

董秀英醫生:

沒有再送病人過來。

鄭家富議員:

不,我的意思是說......

主席:

鄭議員,你的意思是不是可以將本來接收了F5、F6那些病人搬到另外一間clinic?

鄭家富議員:

是的,是的。

董秀英醫生:

但是,這個我們其實是有困難的。第一,我是不是可以又開一個新的病房,又有新的同事去那裏工作呢?其實,我們病房內不單止這幾個F5、F6的病人,還有其他F5、F6的病人,不過他們沒有發病,不是SARS而已。這些亦會牽涉……如果我要將他們group在一起,亦會將一些病人……即是會"撈來撈去",這個我們其實都是不想的。

鄭家富議員:

不過......

主席:

鄭議員,我嘗試稍為幫忙。董醫生,可不可以說3AR一共可以 接收多少病人?

董秀英醫生:

我們3AR其實在15日已經......

主席:

關閉了。

董秀英醫生:

……close了。而且你要明白,那一批病人在4月3日已經來了,我們等了十多天了,他們沒有事的了。那如果我們又將一些人……又安置入去,那些人住着住着,本來住着的那些人我又不敢放他們走,其實這對病人未必是好事。

鄭家富議員:

不過,這樣回看,我亦想現在尋找一個事實,就是當時其實沒有 —— 完全沒有考……這個因為大家都不知道,當時在聯網的會議上亦沒有討論這些你們大埔醫院的措施。

董秀英醫生:

因為其實聯網是留意到有這樣的需要去通知的。那打素醫院和大埔醫院亦明白有這個機制,不是沒有討論說,不需要通知其他醫院,是有這個機制的,但這個機制在執行時可能……即我剛才提到,有一些地方可能做得不是那麼完善。所以未必是……我們不是說,一定每一天在聯網那個層次上要去這樣做,因為亦有很多其他的issues要討論,我想這是其中一個考慮。

鄭家富議員:

從你作為大埔醫院的行政總監的角度去看,你剛才所說的那個……即是有一些問題令到資訊不能夠互通,即是F5、F6這個問題,你看其實是哪一方面導致這樣的事發生?

董秀英醫生:

我想……我估計,因為其實當時大家都很忙,大家都是經過了一段長的日子,因為那個SARS來臨,不是剛剛到來的,在3月中已經來了,經過一段長的日子,很努力地去應付SARS,雖然我們有很多問題都會覺得……很多地方我們都覺得要做,應該怎樣做,但是在這樣做的時候亦involve很多人,那會不會有時候在一個這樣的環境裏面,有時候是有一些地方做得不是那麼完善呢?我相信這些我想是我們要接受會出現的事。

鄭家富議員:

沒有問題,主席。

主席:

接下來是麥國風議員。

麥國風議員:

多謝主席,董醫生,我想跟進關於勞永樂議員之前問你的,關於有傳言說有一些同事沒有佩戴口罩,接着你也給有關的傳媒機構發出了一封信去澄清。此外,剛才我也問過你另外兩位同事關於H21號文件,即關於那個醫院管理局檢討委員會在7月10日接見一些病人組織,有關的病人提及關於貴院的情況。請問你有H21文件了嗎?

H21文件,130053,你應該看到了吧,董醫生?

董秀英醫生:

是。

麥國風議員:

中間那裏,這一頁的中間:"Son and daughter of……"一個病人的名字,不過刪去了,接着是"……(A deceased patient of Tai Po Hospital)",那你翻過去第2頁,130054那裏,"Infection control"——是在下半頁那裏,(b)、(c)其實都是指關於大埔醫院的問題。其實即是3件事,一件關於沒有佩戴口罩,另外(b)、(c)就是說沒有……(b)段就指沒有穿上全副保護裝備,即是個人防護裝備,尤其是在4月底;(c)段則指沒有通知病人的家屬,亦容許他們探病,更說曾經見過有病人的屍體擺放在公眾地方之類。其實可以說是有3項指責,你怎樣評論這3項指責,除了你曾經致函有關的傳媒?

董秀英醫生:

第一,我不相信這裏的指責是事實,我想其實這是不可能的, 尤其是在4月底,我的醫護人員不會肯不保護好自己便在病房內工 作。我們亦不會容許我們的醫護人員在不足夠地保護自己的情況 下在病房內工作。另外,關於說有一些家屬,他……我們難道…… 如果那個……我們有contract了SARS的,又容許他去探病,又或者 沒有告訴他,這些事情,在4月底,根本我們醫院已經是全院不准 探病。我不相信這些指責是事實。但是,你說這類這樣的……這 個focus group的資料,其實我是不知道的,我是到很後期才知道 的。

麥國風議員:

即是你之後都知道了?

董秀英醫生:

我大概知道曾經有一些focus group談論過,但這是很後期的事了。

麥國風議員:

但這整份會議紀錄就沒有給你們。

董秀英醫生:

沒有,沒有。

麥國風議員:

那你之後有沒有作出很簡單的跟進或者調查?

董秀英醫生:

沒有了,事情已經過了太久,亦沒有再......不是好像那份報紙一樣,對於他們的不實報道,我要去信表示遺憾。

麥國風議員:

我又不知道為甚麼,當時這個檢討委員會他們……或者沒有求 證而作出一些那樣的指責,我都不明所以,這個我想……

主席:

麥議員,你提問時可否......

麥國風議員:

.....要由公眾判斷了。

主席:

那個不是委員會的報告,那是一個紀錄。

麥國風議員:

是的,但至少給我看到了,給我看到了,所以我們就要求證。

主席:

是,你繼續你的問題吧。

麥國風議員:

另外請董醫生看一看A111號文件。

董秀英醫生:

A111.....

麥國風議員:

董醫生,有了吧?

董秀英醫生:

是。

麥國風議員:

這份文件主要提及各間醫院曾經處理的SARS病人,以及其後的死亡數目。你看見大埔醫院曾處理過57個SARS病人,有17個死亡,那個死亡率,如果根據這樣簡單的一個數字,剛好是三分一,相比其他醫院來說,處理.....你看到.....

主席:

麥議員,剛才你說17個死亡,應該是19個死亡,我想要澄清。

麥國風議員:

是,是19,剛好三分一,但比其他醫院好像高了一點。你可 否給我們評論一下這個現象?

董秀英醫生:

是,我想其實在很多報道中都有提到,SARS病人的死亡率跟 他們的年齡及是否有長期病患有直接的關係。而事實上,在我們

醫院的SARS病人的median age,比全港SARS patient的median age 大很多,他們達到79歲,而我們亦有超過90%的病人有長期病患。 我相信這個可以解釋到,為甚麼我們的SARS病人的死亡率比香港 的平均數為高。

麥國風議員:

即是當時其實閣下都掌握到那個情況來處理病人的,是嗎? 尤其是那些……你剛才告訴我的這些資料,是否當時你已經掌握了 呢?即是說那個年歲較為高一點,是嗎?

董秀英醫生:

當時我在臨床方面,即他們處理的病人,我不是直接親自去看着他們怎樣醫治,而是我們的部門主管專責監察整個臨床的處理。但對於麥議員你這個問題,我們也有問過,究竟我們……我也留意到我們的病人的死亡率好像比香港的平均數高一點,那我們亦有約略看過有甚麼可能的原因。我們也留意到我們病人的平均年齡較大,以及大部分的病人有其他長期病患。

麥國風議員:

那麼,整體上,你如何評價大埔醫院在今次疫情的表現呢?

董秀英醫生:

就算以今天來說,我回看去年,我覺得大埔醫院上上下下的同事,已付出了他們最大的努力(*哽咽*),亦已經做到他們最好的了。

主席:

沒有問題了嗎?麥議員。

李柱銘議員:

董醫生,我有一條題目,很簡單的。因為我未去過貴院,所以不知道譬如你們的"DR"——3DR、4DR、E1,其實是怎樣的?

主席:

E1不是他們的。

董秀英醫生:

E1不是大埔醫院的,E1是那打素醫院的。

李柱銘議員:

哦。那麼,你們的"DR"是怎樣分的?

董秀英醫生:

我們每一層,1、2、3、4是代表層數。

李柱銘議員:

是了。

董秀英醫生:

我們有4個wing,就是A、B、C、D。

李柱銘議員:

是。

董秀英醫生:

我們每個wing有一對病房。所以,譬如在A wing來說,我們的"R"、"L"是代表right和left。

李柱銘議員:

因為我見到的都是"R"而不見有"L",所以......

董秀英醫生:

只是巧合而已。

李柱銘議員:

謝謝你。

主席:

董醫生,我想簡單問一問,大埔醫院有沒有做過一個有關PPE的audit?

董秀英醫生:

PPE的audit?我們沒有做過PPE的audit。

主席:

有沒有一個有關整個infection control的audit?有沒有做過?

董秀英醫生:

我知道,那個infection control的audit是有做過的。

主席:

那個報告書可不可以交給我們?

董秀英醫生:

好的,我稍後交給你們。

主席:

謝謝。其他委員有沒有其他問題?如果沒有問題,我們很多 謝董醫生......

董秀英醫生:

謝謝。

主席:

……出席今天的研訊。如果有需要的話,我們日後再找你幫 忙。

各位委員,我們今天公開研訊的這部分結束了。我們返回C 房,謝謝。

(研訊於下午5時45分結束)