

政府總部  
香港下亞厘畢道



GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT  
LOWER ALBERT ROAD  
HONG KONG

本函檔號 OUR REF.: SBCR 983/2/2091/92  
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16 May 2008

Clerk to Finance Committee  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
3rd floor, Citibank Tower  
3 Garden Road  
Hong Kong

By Fax No. 28696794

(Attn: Mrs Constance Li)

Dear Mrs Li,

**Finance Committee**  
**Meeting on 14 May 2008**

At the Legislative Council Finance Committee meeting held on 14 May, Hon. LAU Kong-wah asked for details of the assistance cases received in connection with the Sichuan Earthquake e.g. nature of assistance sought and the whereabouts of assistance seekers. He also asked what kind of assistance was rendered to the affected Hong Kong residents e.g. whether the HKSAR Government could advance a certain amount of money to them. Our reply is set out below.

As at 0900 hours of 16 May, the Immigration Department (ImmD) has received a total of 118 requests for assistance involving 118 Hong Kong residents believed to be in the affected areas. The case breakdown is as follows:

Injured	Lost contact	Others (Lost travel document, stranded in the affected areas or financial assistance)	Total
1	94	23	118 <sup>(Note)</sup>

(Note) The communication in the affected areas has not resumed normal and most of the calls were made by their families in Hong Kong

After receiving the requests for assistance, ImmD has closely liaised with the Security Bureau and the Beijing Office of the HKSAR Government (BJO) to provide practical assistance to the affected Hong Kong residents and their families under the established mechanism. The assistance rendered includes verifying the personal particulars of the affected Hong Kong residents, issuing emergency travel documents to them, helping their families to proceed to the local hospital to visit the injured Hong Kong resident, liaising with relevant Mainland authorities to locate the lost contact Hong Kong residents. If the affected Hong Kong residents had encountered financial difficulties, BJO could advance a reasonable amount of money to meet their immediate needs subject to their undertaking to repay the advanced sum in full.

Of the 94 lost contact cases, 76 Hong Kong residents have already been contacted by ImmD or re-established contact with their family members. ImmD and BJO would continue to maintain close contact with the Mainland authorities to follow up the remaining 18 cases.

ImmD has also received 373 enquiries relating to the Sichuan Earthquake. Most of the enquirers asked about the recent situation of Sichuan province and flight information. The enquiries were dealt with at once and no further request for assistance was raised.

Yours faithfully,



( C Y Or )  
for Secretary for Security

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C.C.

Director of Administration

Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Attn: Mr Ivan K B Lee)

Director of Immigration (Attn: Mrs W Chung)

Director of Beijing Office (Attn: Mr Erick Tsang)