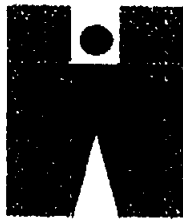


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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
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17 June 2011

Mr Raymond Lam
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council

Dear Mr Lam,

Panel on Security
Follow-up to meeting on 12 April 2011

Thank you for your letter dated 13 June 2011. Please find our reply as follows:

The Department of Health is of the view that medical examinations on torture claimants in relation to torture claim screening are essentially of medico-legal nature and should therefore fall within the expertise of the Forensic Pathology Service ("the Service") of this Department. Given the sensitivity and complexity surrounding the cases, and to ensure quality professional service, such cases have to be handled by Senior Forensic Pathologists or Consultant Forensic Pathologists with specialist registration under the Hong Kong Medical Council. To qualify as a specialist in Forensic Pathology, a doctor needs to have at least 6-year working experience in the field of forensic pathology to undertake his/her specialist training and to attain Fellowship of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (Pathology).

Upon receipt of a referral for medical examination to the Director of Health for the purpose of torture claim screening from the Immigration Department, a Senior Forensic Pathologist or Consultant Forensic Pathologist will be assigned for handling of torture claim assessment. The Security Bureau or the Immigration Department does not take part and plays no role in the selection of medical doctors to conduct such medical examinations.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr Liza TO)
for Director of Health

We are committed to providing quality client-oriented service