

香港特別行政區政府
保安局



The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Security Bureau

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本函檔號 Our Ref.: LM to SEC 2/8/58

來函檔號 Your Ref.: CB2/PL/SE

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Clerk to Panel on Security
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Betty MA)

9 May 2016

Dear Ms MA,

**Arrangements for Milk Formula and Breast Feeding for
Infants of Persons in Custody**

Thank you for your letter of 14 April 2016 requesting this Bureau's response to the concern raised by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki relating to the arrangements for milk formula and breast feeding for infants of persons in custody (PICs). I am authorised to reply as follows-

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) endeavours to provide a secure, safe, humane, decent and healthy environment for PICs. According to Rule 21 of the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A), a child of a female PIC may be received into prison with its mother until the mother has completed her sentence or such child has attained the age of 3 years, whichever is the earlier.

Every correctional institution has an on-site hospital or sick bay where round-the-clock basic medical care is provided by the Medical Officers seconded from the Department of Health (DH) and CSD's staff with nursing qualifications (Registered Nurse and Enrolled Nurse). To facilitate the mother PICs to take care of their infants, all mother PICs and their infants are accommodated in the institutional hospitals where all infants are provided with cots and tended by their mother side-by-side. Timely assistance and medical care would be provided by the healthcare staff when necessary.

As of 7 April 2016, a total of 27 infants (aged 4 weeks to 2 years and 11 months) were received into the correctional institutions with their mother PICs, of which 5 and 22 were accommodated in the Tai Lam Centre for Women (TLCW) and the Lo Wu Correctional Institution respectively.

Mother PICs may choose breast feeding and/or feeding with milk formula provided by CSD. The feeding time, intervals and quantity are adjusted by the institutional healthcare staff with regard to the age and physique of the infants to ensure that they are in good health condition. Mother PICs and their infants are also arranged for regular visits to the Maternal and Child Health Centres for follow-up, assessment and infant care education.

In the morning of 7 April 2016, CSD received a complaint against the management of TLCW for not arranging an infant of a PIC to be fed with milk formula from 4pm to midnight daily. In view of the seriousness of the allegation, which concerns the treatment and health care of PICs and their infants, CSD paid utmost attention and immediately appointed investigators of the Complaints Investigation Unit to interview the PIC concerned to follow up.

In addition, in consultation with DH, a Senior Medical Officer familiar with the medical system of CSD, together with staff of the Health Care Section of CSD and a dietitian, was arranged to visit TLCW to conduct a physical examination of all the infants of PICs on the same day. All the infants were assessed to be in normal health condition. The healthcare staff also provided a health talk to all the PICs concerned to enrich their knowledge about taking care of infants.

According to the result of the investigation, healthcare staff of TLCW provided milk formula to all mother PICs to feed their infants according to the respective feeding need. Contrary to the allegation, the mother PIC concerned had in fact been arranged to feed her infant with milk formula three times during the concerned period i.e. at 4pm, 8pm and midnight.

CSD upholds the humanitarian spirit and ensures that the mother PICs and their infants are provided with appropriate medical care. CSD will strengthen the nursery knowledge of the mother PICs so as to relieve their concerns.

Yours sincerely,



(Alex Chan)
for Secretary for Security

c.c. Commissioner of Correctional Services (Attn: Mr WOO Ying-ming)