

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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**English translation**

20 April 2018

Clerk to Legislative Council Subcommittee to Follow Up Issues Relating  
to the Unified Screening Mechanism for Non-refoulement Claims  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn: Ms Betty MA)

Dear Ms Ma,

**Legislative Council Subcommittee to Follow Up Issues Relating to  
the Unified Screening Mechanism for Non-refoulement Claims  
Follow-up matters to the meeting of 27 March 2018**

In response to the follow-up matters raised at the captioned meeting of the Subcommittee, the Government provides the supplementary information as below.

(a) Expected timeframe to complete screening of all pending claims

2. The Immigration Department (“ImmD”) ensures high efficiency of the screening procedures by flexible staff deployment and optimised workflow. Moreover, the Government launched the “Pilot Scheme for Provision of Publicly-funded Legal Assistance for Non-refoulement Claimants”. The daily number of claims for which the screening

procedures can commence is thereby increased from 13 to 23 cases per day. In 2017, ImmD determined 4 182 claims, representing a 30% increase over 2016 (3 218 claims). As at the end of March 2018, 4 420 claims were pending screening by ImmD, representing a 51% decrease over the same period last year (end-March 2017: 8 956 claims) and a 61% decrease over the peak in March 2016 (11 201 claims).

3. Separately, to expedite the handling of appeals, the Government has been appointing new members to the Torture Claims Appeal Board (“TCAB”) since July 2016, expanding its membership from the original size of 28 to the current strength of 102. Also, manpower of the TCAB Secretariat and ancillary facilities have been enhanced. The number of appeals determined by TCAB in 2017 increased by 3.8 times over 2016. It is expected to further go up in 2018. As at the end of March 2018, about 6 100 appeals were pending or under handling by TCAB.

4. In view of the decreasing number of new claims received, and the increasing number of claims determined by ImmD, the number of pending claims will be further decreased. We expect that, if the above situation remains stable (e.g. the number of new claims remains at the current level), ImmD will be able to complete screening of all pending claims next year. New claims received thereafter and the pending appeals will be able to be handled progressively afterwards.

(b) Nationality and current situation of the substantiated claimants

5. Since the implementation of the Unified Screening Mechanism (“USM”) in March 2014 up to the end of March 2018, ImmD determined 11 917 claims in total. During the same period, TCAB determined 4 469 appeals, with some 6 100 appeals pending handling. Among the determined claims/appeals, 96 were substantiated. The breakdowns by nationality, sex and age are set out at Annex A.

6. As at the end of March 2018, ImmD referred 75 substantiated non-refoulement claimants to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (“UNHCR”), which will arrange for their resettlement in a third country. According to the information provided by UNHCR, 4 persons have been resettled in a third country. The Government does not maintain the relevant waiting time.

(c) Nationality of the rejected non-refoulement claimants removed

7. During the period from 2014 to the end of March 2018, ImmD removed a total of 3 168 rejected non-refoulement claimants (including those with appeals rejected or those who did not file an appeal) from Hong Kong. The breakdown by nationality is at **Annex B**.

(d) Nationality breakdown of the pending claimants

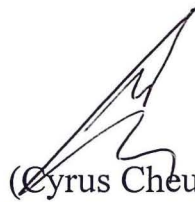
8. As at the end of March 2018, 4 420 claimants were pending screening by ImmD. The breakdown by nationality is tabulated at **Annex C**.

(e) Crime situation

9. According to the Police, during the period from 2013 to the end of March 2018, the crime situation of non-ethnic Chinese (“NEC”) persons on recognizance, including the further breakdown of offences originally classified under “Others”, is at **Annex D**.

10. Please contact the undersigned at 2810 2099 should there be any questions.

Yours sincerely,



(Cyrus Cheung)  
for Secretary for Security

**Nationality, sex and age of the substantiated claimants**  
(Since the implementation of USM up to end-March 2018)

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Substantiated non-refoulement claims</b>
Pakistani	16
Rwandan	13
Burundian	9
Cameroonian	9
Egyptian	8
Congolese (Democratic Republic of Congo)	6
Yemeni (Republic of Yemen)	6
Afghanistani	5
Bangladeshi	4
Iranian	4
Ethiopian	3
Central African	2
Filipino	2
Indian	2
Sri Lankan	2
Sudanese	2
Somalian	1
Syrian	1
Vietnamese	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>

<b>Sex</b>	<b>No. of person</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	58	60.4%
Female	38	39.6%

<b>Age</b>	<b>No. of person</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<18	32	33.3%
18 – 30	11	11.5%
31 – 40	25	26.0%
>40	28	29.2%

**Nationality of the rejected non-refoulement claimants removed**

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b> (up to end-Mar)	<b>Total</b>
Indian	52	133	181	255	50	671
Pakistani	56	131	126	261	45	619
Vietnamese	3	21	42	305	196	567
Indonesian	32	65	83	145	54	379
Bangladeshi	17	40	61	123	28	269
Nepalese	14	51	34	63	16	178
Filipino	20	23	33	70	18	164
Sri Lankan	12	12	17	23	3	67
Nigerian	14	16	21	21	1	73
Others <sup>^</sup>	10	33	41	74	23	181
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>1 340</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>3 168</b>

<sup>^</sup> Other countries include: Egypt, Mongolia, Colombia, Uganda, Guinea, Kenya, Gambia, Congo (Democratic Republic of Congo), Ghana, Afghanistan, Thailand, etc.

**Nationality of the claimants pending screening by ImmD**  
(As at the end of March 2018)

Nationality	No. of claimants
Pakistani	949
Indian	899
Bangladeshi	776
Indonesian	322
Vietnamese	297
Filipino	255
Nepalese	170
Sri Lankan	131
Nigerian	98
Gambian	84
<b><u>Other countries:</u></b>	
Ugandan	51
Tanzanian	46
Thai	27
Kenyan	24
Togolese	24
Beninese	22
Colombian	20
Mozambican	19
Malian	18
Ghanaian	17
Nigerien	17
Guinean	14
Somali	14
Liberian	9
Yemeni (Republic of Yemen)	9
Burkinabe	8
South African	8
Mongolian	7
Rwandan	7

Nationality	No. of claimants
Congolesse (Democratic Republic of Congo)	6
Ukrainian	6
Cameroonian	5
Ivorian	5
Jordanian	4
Moroccan	4
Russian	4
Sierra Leonean	4
Zimbabwean	4
Afghanistani	3
Armenian	3
Congolesse (Republic of Congo)	3
Ethiopian	3
Malagasy	3
Mosothe	3
Senegalese	3
Central African	2
Zambian	2
Algerian	1
Cambodian	1
Chadian	1
Djibouti	1
Fijian	1
Georgian	1
Iranian	1
Jamaican	1
Malaysian	1
Peruvian	1
Tunisian	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 420</b>

**Crime situation of the NEC persons on recognizance**

<b>Offences</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b> (up to end-Mar)
Shop theft	78	147	277	463	428	64
Serious drug offences	79	79	159	179	200	70
Wounding and serious assault	100	67	100	117	173	27
Miscellaneous thefts	80	86	110	161	170	31
Serious immigration offences	30	34	85	117	111	20
Forgery and coinage	31	40	80	85	63	5
Criminal damage	38	30	33	55	62	12
Possession of offensive weapon	4	11	26	28	62	2
Burglary	7	17	21	24	33	5
Disorder/fighting in public place	35	43	64	37	29	9
Robbery	26	26	20	33	28	4
Indecent assault	9	11	16	12	27	5
Criminal intimidation	9	18	11	23	21	5
Offences against public order	2	0	6	0	15	0
Pickpocketing	5	6	13	28	14	5
Going equipped for stealing	2	1	8	25	12	3
Snatching	7	9	10	16	9	1
Handling stolen goods	10	3	3	6	9	2
Deception	3	7	9	8	8	0
Assault on police	12	10	9	18	7	1
Murder & manslaughter	0	0	1	0	3	0
Rape	5	1	4	3	2	0
Others <sup>^</sup>	36	19	48	68	56	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>1 113</b>	<b>1 506</b>	<b>1 542</b>	<b>298</b>

<sup>^</sup> Other offences include: Blackmail, resisting arrest, unlawful society offences, possession of unlawful instrument, arson and possession of arms and ammunition, etc.