

**Legislative Council Panel on Health Services
Government's Response to the Follow-up Action
arising from the Meeting on 19 June 2017**

**Strategic Review on Healthcare Manpower Planning and
Professional Development**

At the Panel meeting held on 19 June 2017, Members requested the Government to provide information on –

- (a) the total expenditure for commissioning The University of Hong Kong (“HKU”) and The Chinese University of Hong Kong (“CUHK”) to provide professional input and technical support to the Strategic Review on Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development; and
 - (b) the respective annual amount of public funds allocated by the University Grants Committee (“UGC”) to the faculties of medicine of HKU and CUHK in the past five years.
2. This paper sets out the consolidated response from the Food and Health Bureau and UGC.

Commissioned Studies conducted by HKU and CUHK

3. In 2012, the Government set up a steering committee to conduct a strategic review on healthcare manpower planning and professional development in Hong Kong. To assist the Steering Committee in making informed recommendations, the Government commissioned HKU and CUHK under the Health and Medical Research Fund (“HMRF”)¹ to provide professional input and technical support to the Review.

¹ HMRF was established in 2011. It aims to build research capacity and to encourage, facilitate and support health and medical research to inform health policies, improve population health, strengthen the health system, enhance healthcare practices, advance standard and quality of care, and promote clinical excellence, through the generation and application of evidence-based scientific knowledge in health and medicine. It also provides funding support to evidence-based health promotion projects that help people adopt healthier lifestyles by enhancing awareness, changing adverse health behaviours or creating a conducive environment that supports good health practices. The medical schools of HKU and CUHK were invited to submit proposals to the Research Office for review by the Assessment Panel comprising experts with extensive knowledge and experience relevant to the study from the public and private sectors. The assessment criteria include scientific merits, local relevance and potential to inform policy, track records of principal applicant and project team, research capability of the host institution (i.e. HKU and CUHK) and value for money.

4. HKU and CUHK were invited to conduct the commissioned studies because –

- (a) Both are supported by well-established public health departments (School of Public Health of HKU and School of Public Health & Primary Care of CUHK) which possess strong public health network and linkage with overseas experts and excellent track records of research in public health and health services issues;
- (b) Both have actively contributed to the overall development of healthcare reform and healthcare financing research in Hong Kong, for example, compiling and analysing the Domestic Health Accounts by HKU and input in drafting the “Healthcare Reform Second Stage Public Consultation Report” by CUHK; and
- (c) Both are independent academic institutions with professional reputation in the areas under study.

5. The details of the two commissioned studies of HKU and CUHK are summarized as follows –

	Commissioned Study by HKU	Commissioned Study by CUHK
Scope of Work	Manpower projection for healthcare professions, including collation and in-depth analysis of data from multiple sources related to the healthcare professions concerned, followed by detailed mathematical modelling and projection for each profession	Critical, comprehensive and comparative review of the overseas / global and local regulatory frameworks for healthcare professions, and identify areas of improvement regarding Hong Kong's healthcare professional development
Duration	36 months	24 months
Project Value	\$11,583,567	\$4,924,208

Funding Allocation by UGC

6. The bulk of recurrent grants to UGC-funded universities are in the form of a block grant based on the approved student numbers allocated to universities. Once allocations are approved, universities have the autonomy in and responsibility for deciding on how the resources available are put to best use. As funding for the programmes offered by faculties of medicine of HKU and CUHK is subsumed under the block grants allocated to the two universities, UGC is unable to attribute the actual subvention to a specific faculty of university.

7. Notwithstanding the above, based on (a) the student enrolment in UGC-funded programmes offered by faculties of medicine by study levels in the 2012/13 to 2015/16 academic years as reported by HKU and CUHK; and (b) the average student unit cost for a particular academic programme category / study level in relation to (a) in 2012/13 to 2015/16 which is derived based on the actual cost incurred on UGC-funded expenditure items as reported by universities, the expenditure of faculties of medicine of CUHK and HKU in the respective academic years is computed as follows –

Academic Year	Estimated Total Expenditure of Faculties of Medicine of HKU and CUHK (\$ million)
2012/13	2,228
2013/14	2,293
2014/15	2,652
2015/16	3,056

8. The information for 2016/17 academic year is not yet available. The bulk of the above expenditure is subsidised by government subvention, with the remainder mainly funded by income from tuition fee (i.e. \$42,100 for per student per year).

**Food and Health Bureau
University Grants Committee
September 2017**