

Legislative Council Panel on Health Services

**Declaration of Mental Hospital (Consolidation)
(Amendment of Schedule) Order 2016**

PURPOSE

This paper informs Members on the Government's plan to table the Declaration of Mental Hospital (Consolidation) (Amendment of Schedule) Order 2016 ("the Order") at the Legislative Council ("LegCo") for negative vetting, with a view to facilitating the in situ relocation of patients with mental illnesses during the redevelopment of the Kwai Chung Hospital.

BACKGROUND

Kwai Chung Psychiatric Observation Unit

2. The Mental Health Ordinance ("MHO") (Cap. 136) and its subsidiary legislation provide a legal framework for the care and supervision of mentally incapacitated persons. Under section 3(1) of the MHO, the Chief Executive ("CE") may by order declare any place which is the property of the Government to be a mental hospital for the detention, custody, treatment and care of mentally disordered persons. The mental hospitals so declared are specified in the Schedule to the Declaration of Mental Hospital (Consolidation) Order (Cap. 136 sub. leg. B). Among them is the Kwai Chung Psychiatric Observation Unit.

3. Under the existing legislation, the Kwai Chung Psychiatric Observation Unit comprises the following parts of the Kwai Chung Hospital (excluding the stairways and lift wells) –

- (a) the second floor of Blocks L, M, G and H;
- (b) the seventh floor of Blocks G and H;
- (c) the sixth, ninth and tenth floors of Blocks L and M; and
- (d) the third floor of Block G.

Redevelopment of Kwai Chung Hospital

4. In July 2014, we consulted the LegCo Panel on Health Services on phase one redevelopment of the Kwai Chung Hospital. Members indicated support to the redevelopment proposals of the Kwai Chung Hospital, including the renovation of Blocks L and M for decanting purposes. In April 2016, the LegCo Finance Committee approved funding for phase one redevelopment.

ORDER FOR DECANTING ARRANGEMENT

5. During the redevelopment of the Kwai Chung Hospital, Blocks G and H of the Hospital will be demolished to make way for the construction of a new hospital building. The Hospital Authority (“HA”) proposed that patients accommodated or to be accommodated in Blocks G and H of the Kwai Chung Psychiatric Observation Unit be relocated to the fourth floor of Blocks L and M of the Kwai Chung Hospital. In order to carry out the decanting arrangement, an order made under section 3(1) of the MHO is necessary before patients could be relocated.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

6. In light of the progress of the redevelopment of Kwai Chung Hospital, HA plans to start the decanting arrangement in March 2017. In this connection, we plan to table the Order, made on 22 November 2016, at LegCo on 14 December 2016. Subject to LegCo’s negative vetting, the Order would come into effect on 10 February 2017.

ADVICE SOUGHT

7. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Food and Health Bureau
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