

## **Bills Committee on Human Organ Transplant (Amendment) Bill 2018**

### **Follow-up actions arising from the discussion at the meeting on 25 May 2018**

The Government's response to the items raised by Members is set out as follows.

#### **Applications approved/not approved by Human Organ Transplant Board**

2. The Human Organ Transplant Board ("HOTB") was established under section 3 of the Human Organ Transplant Ordinance ("HOTO") (Cap. 465) to give approval to the carrying out of restricted organ removal or restricted organ transplant in accordance with provisions of the HOTO and to perform other functions as specified in the HOTO. Specifically, HOTB's prior written approval is required before the carrying out of a restricted organ removal and/or transplant if the donor and the recipient are not genetically related and not spouses whose marriage has subsisted for more than 3 years (commonly referred as "living non-related transplant").

3. The number of cases approved and not approved by HOTB in the past five years are set out in the table below.

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Application Received	16	19	21	25	20
Approved	16	19	21	25	20
Not Approved	0	0	0	0	0

#### **Living transplants carried out by Hospital Authority ("HA") and private hospitals**

4. At present, living donation is carried out for kidney and liver transplants only. The number of living organ transplants carried out by HA in the past five years is set out in the table below.

<b>Organ</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Kidney	12	16	15	18	17
Liver	34	27	23	36	34

5. The number of living organ transplants carried out by private hospitals in the past five years is set out in the table below.

Organ	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Kidney	-	1	-	-	-
Liver	-	-	-	1	1

### **HA's manpower for organ transplant**

6. In recent years, HA has commissioned training courses led by overseas and local experts/academia to train its medical and nursing staff from Acute Medical, Neurosurgical and Intensive Care Departments in the quality and effectiveness of organ and tissue donation for transplantation and the care of potentially brain dead patients and their family members. Each year, there are around 100 participants joining these training courses.

7. In the specialist training of Surgery, surgical trainee could apply for higher surgical training in one of the six surgical specialties of the College of Surgeons of Hong Kong (CSHK) after completion of basic surgical training, namely General Surgery, Urology, Neurosurgery, Paediatric Surgery, Cardiothoracic Surgery and Plastic Surgery. HA has been supporting CSHK in the bi-annual "Conjoint Selection Exercise of Higher Surgical Trainees", which aims to match basic surgical trainees with the appropriate potential and aptitude to the respective specialties for higher training. Basic surgical trainees who are interested in organ transplant service could indicate their preference to join the relevant specialties in those training centres providing transplant service. In addition, rotation of higher surgical trainees between hospitals would be arranged to fulfill their training requirement as well as to facilitate their clinical exposure to various services including organ transplant services in designated centres.

8. Organ transplant service in HA is provided through a team approach, which involves organ donation coordinators and multi-disciplinary professionals from medicine, intensive care, anesthesia, surgery and laboratory. This service covers the management of organ recipient, identification of organ donor, management and support of brain death, donor family support and counselling, and organ transplant surgery and post-transplant care. Organ transplant surgery is covered by the relevant surgical specialties of designated centres in their service provision. HA does not have the requested manpower information specifically for the provision of organ transplant service.

## **Thematic Household Survey findings on “opt-out” scheme**

9. Under an “opt-out” scheme, the deceased is presumed to have agreed to organ donation unless he/she has indicated any preference of not donating his/her organs before his/her death (“presumed consent”).

10. The topic of organ donation has been included in a round of Thematic Household Survey (“THS”) conducted by the Census and Statistics Department (“C&SD”) during October 2016 to January 2017 to gather views of Hong Kong residents on organ donation and related issues. Some 10 100 households were successfully enumerated in the THS and the overall response rate was 76%. Among those persons aged 18-64 who provided their views on organ donation, the THS results revealed that about one-third (33.8%) supported the implementation of an “opt-out” system in Hong Kong, while 35.9% were against and the remaining 30.3% were either neutral or did not specify their views. Analysed by age, persons aged 25-34 saw a slightly higher rate of support (35.0%) towards the implementation of an “opt-out” system, whereas a relatively larger rate of persons aged 55-64 (37.8%) were against. The level of support shown by males (34.2%) and females (33.5%) was broadly similar.

**Food and Health Bureau  
Department of Health  
Hospital Authority  
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