



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

Our Ref. : L/M to FHB/H/33/32 Pt. 27

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24 February 2020

Ms Maisie LAM
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms LAM,

**Legislative Council Panel on Health Services
Proposed extension of Kowloon Psychiatric Observation Unit**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Health Services held on 24 April 2018, Members requested the Administration / the Hospital Authority (“HA”) to provide the respective numbers of doctors, psychiatric nurses and allied health staff (with a breakdown by the grades involved), as well as the respective ratios of these healthcare professionals to patients, to support the operation of the Kowloon Psychiatric Observation Unit (“KPOU”) before and after the new “gazetted” ward commenced operation. Based on the information provided by HA, I am authorised to reply as follows.

Numbers of staff providing support to KPOU

HA extended the KPOU by opening a new “gazetted” ward, with an increase in the number of “gazetted” beds from 180 to 220 in October 2018 to meet the service demand. The breakdown of core staff members providing support to the Department of Psychiatry in Kowloon Hospital, including KPOU, before and after the new “gazetted” ward commenced operation is provided in the table below -

	Psychiatric doctors ^{1&2}	Psychiatric Nurses ^{1&3}	Clinical Psychologists ¹	Occupational Therapists ¹
Number of core staff members before the new “gazetted” ward commenced operation	33	238	10	26
Number of core staff members after the new “gazetted” ward commenced operation	37	263	11	28

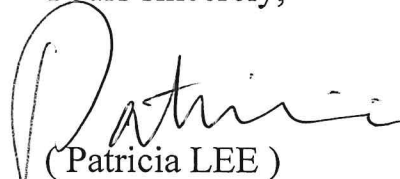
Note:

1. The manpower figures above are calculated on full-time equivalent basis including permanent, contract and temporary staff in all HA clusters, but exclude those in HA Head Office.
2. Psychiatric doctors refer to all doctors working for the specialty of psychiatry except Interns.
3. Psychiatric nurses include all nurses working in psychiatric hospitals, nurses working in psychiatric departments of other non-psychiatric hospitals, as well as all other nurses in psychiatric stream.

Ratios of healthcare professionals to patients

HA delivers mental health services using an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach involving psychiatric doctors, psychiatric nurses, clinical psychologists and occupational therapists etc. The adoption of a multi-disciplinary team approach allows flexible deployment of staff to cope with service needs and operational requirements. As healthcare professionals usually provide support for a variety of psychiatric services, the manpower ratio for supporting individual psychiatric services cannot be separately quantified.

Yours sincerely,



(Patricia LEE)

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Chief Executive, Hospital Authority (Attn: Ms Dorothy LAM)