



Labour Department (Headquarters)

勞工處(總處)

Your reference 來函編號:

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7 September 2018

Miss Betty Ma
Clerk to the Panel on Manpower
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss Ma,

Reply to the Panel on Manpower on follow-up actions required

During the discussion on the situation of occupational health in Hong Kong at the meeting on 27 April 2018, the Legislative Council Panel on Manpower requested the Labour Department (LD) to provide the following information:

- (I) clinical consultation service of occupational health clinics (OHCs);
- (II) resources and manpower relating to occupational rehabilitation services for injured employees and employees with occupational disease provided by LD, Department of Health, Hospital Authority (HA) and related organizations;
- (III) the specific measures taken by corporations in the retail and catering industries to protect the occupational safety and health of employees whose work involved prolonged standing, together with the number of corporations involved and the number of employees benefitted from such measures, and the follow-up actions taken by LD; and
- (IV) enforcement of the Occupational Safety and Health (Display Screen Equipment) Regulation.

I now set out my reply as follows.

(I) The nursing staff establishment of Kwun Tong OHC includes 1 nursing officer and 4 registered nurses, while that of the Fanling OHC includes 1 nursing officer and 3 registered nurses. The medical staff of the Occupational Medicine Division (Clinical Services) of LD (including 1 consultant, 1 senior medical officer and 7 medical officers) are responsible for conducting clinical consultations in the Kwun Tong and Fanling OHCs on a roster basis. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, the number of

new patients who sought consultation at the two OHCs were 1685, 1720 and 1553 respectively. The number of cases that required follow-up inspections of the patients' workplaces in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were 35, 56 and 38 respectively.

(II) The OHCs of LD provide medical treatment to employees who have sustained injuries at work or contracted occupational diseases and, subject to their clinical conditions and needs, refer the patients to hospitals and clinics under the HA for rehabilitation treatment to facilitate their early recovery. LD does not have breakdown on the expenditure and manpower in this area of work as it is part of the usual consultation services provided in the OHCs.

The HA provides a comprehensive range of rehabilitation services to patients based on their clinical needs. The treatment goal is to provide rehabilitation services as soon as the medical condition of the patient is stabilized. The rehabilitation services are delivered by a multidisciplinary team of healthcare professionals involving doctors, nurses, allied health professionals in various settings including inpatient, outpatient, day care and outreach services. Like other patients, employees who sustained injury at work can receive necessary treatment and rehabilitation services in hospitals and clinics under the HA according to their clinical needs. Rehabilitation is a component which is generally incorporated into all aspects of healthcare delivery, starting from acute phase and may continue after discharge to the community. HA does not have breakdown information on resources and manpower specifically for provision of rehabilitation services to injured employees and employees with occupational disease. As for the Department of Health and the Social Welfare Department, there is no occupational rehabilitation service for employees injured at work or suffering from occupational diseases.

(III) In light of the fact that the work of many employees in the retail and catering industries involves prolonged standing, LD started to further intensify our promotional visits to these industries from the end of 2016. In addition to conducting inspections at the shops of the major chain corporations of these two industries, LD also engaged the management of these corporations in discussion on how to formulate more appropriate measures to reduce the health risk due to prolonged standing facing their employees. LD so far has contacted 46 corporations and they have responded positively to LD's promotion. Considering the actual working conditions of their employees, they have taken various preventive measures including provision of chairs at the working locations of the employees, issuing guidelines and putting up posters to enhance the knowledge of employees on preventing the relevant risk, encouraging employees to do more stretching exercise and sponsoring employees to buy shoes suitable for standing work, etc. From the end of 2016 to June 2018, LD conducted 453 inspections of the 46 corporations and issued 21 written warnings to require or remind them to take the

relevant preventive measures. LD will continue to follow up on the work of these corporations in this area. LD does not have information about the number of employees of the aforementioned corporations.

(IV) In 2017, LD conducted 98 inspections in respect of the enforcement of the Occupational Safety and Health (Display Screen Equipment) Regulation. These included investigations concerning 6 relevant complaints received in the same year. In accordance with the aforementioned Regulation, the person responsible for a workplace shall ensure that the workstations of display screen equipment (i.e. including the display screen equipment, the desk, chair or other items peripheral to the equipment, and the immediate working environment around the equipment) are suitable to protect the safety and health of users of the workstations. In 2017, the non-compliance mainly involved failure in providing a suitable work surface to place the input device and failure to provide suitable lighting at the workstation. The concerned employers have made improvements afterwards.

Yours sincerely,



(WOO Ming-lau)
for Commissioner for Labour