

## **Labour Department (Headquarters)**

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14 November 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 rehabilitation services for injured employees at the meeting on 19 June 2018, the Legislative Council Panel on Manpower requested the Labour Department (LD) to provide the following information:

- (I) information on the related economic loss in respect of over 35 000 occupational injury cases in each of the past few years, if available; and
- (II) a written response to the motion passed by the Panel regarding establishment of a mechanism to implement an occupational rehabilitation programme and commencement of a study on enacting legislation on the framework for occupational rehabilitation.

Our reply is as follows.

(I) From 2015 to 2017, the number of employees' compensation cases settled in each year involving incapacitation of employees for more than three days as a result of work injuries (including compensation cases reported to the LD under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (ECO) in or before the respective settlement year) with a breakdown by the number of working days lost is provided below:

Number of working days lost	Number of settled compensation cases		
	2015	2016	2017
Below 90 days	27 824	26 686	25 251
90 to below 180 days	2 902	2 787	2 741
180 to below 360 days	2 334	2 366	2 296
360 to below 720 days	1 795	1 956	1 801
720 days or above	3	1	2
Total	34 858	33 796	32 091

If the work injury sick leave of an employee does not exceed three days and no permanent incapacity is involved, the employer should make direct payment of compensation to the employee in accordance with ECO. LD does not keep statistics on the number of working days lost for this type of cases. Moreover, LD does not keep statistics on compensation claims with breakdowns by economic losses arising from employees taking sick leave.

(II) The Government attaches great importance to the support for employees injured at work. In order to strengthen the protection of the rights and benefits of employees injured at work and suffered from occupational diseases, LD is actively looking into new measures, including considering the provision of timely and coordinated treatment and rehabilitation services to injured workers in need through case management model and private medical services, with a view to speeding up their recovery and facilitating their early return to work, and maintaining the overall productivity of Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,

(CHAN Hon-keung) for Commissioner for Labour