



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.: FH CR 6/3921/09  
Your Ref.: CB4/PS1/18

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21 February 2019

Ms Angel Wong  
Clerk to Joint Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Regulation of Devices  
and Development of the Beauty Industry  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Wong,

**Panel on Health Services and Panel on Commerce and Industry  
Joint Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Regulation of Devices and  
Development of the Beauty Industry  
Follow-up to meeting on 25 January 2019**

Thank you for your letter of 29 January 2019 to the Secretary of Food and Health. I am authorised to reply on her behalf.

2. The Government launched the Pilot Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions (the "AR Scheme") in late 2016. Under the principle of professional autonomy, the AR Scheme aims to enhance the society-based registration arrangements for healthcare professions which are currently not subject to statutory registration, with a view to assuring the professional

competence of healthcare professionals and providing more information for the public to make informed decisions. The AR Scheme mainly targets at the 15 non-statutorily registered healthcare practitioners under the Health Services Functional Constituency of the Legislative Council. The Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (the “School”) has been appointed as the independent Accreditation Agent of the AR Scheme.

3. A total of 20 applications covering 15 professions were received by the Accreditation Agent upon the close of application on 17 February 2017. Having examined all applications received, the accreditation team of the Accreditation Agent considered that five healthcare professions, namely audiologists, clinical psychologists, dietitians, educational psychologists and speech therapists, were preliminarily assessed to meet the criteria for accreditation process under the AR Scheme.

4. Regarding the accreditation applications from the Hong Kong Institute of Speech Therapists and the Hong Kong Institute of Audiologists, the Department of Health accepted the recommendations by the Accreditation Agent and announced the accreditation results for the speech therapist and audiologist professions in April and November 2018 respectively. As for the dietitian and educational psychologist professions, the Accreditation Agent has completed the accreditation assessments, and has tendered its recommendations to the Government for consideration. The accreditation results are expected to be announced in phases by Q1 2019. For the clinical psychologist profession, the Accreditation Agent has received the proposal from the professional organisation and has commenced the accreditation process.

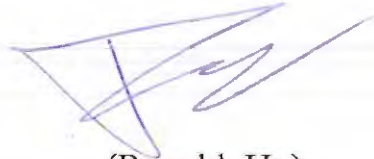
5. Upon completion of the accreditation, the Accreditation Agent will review the effectiveness of the AR Scheme and report to the Government with recommended measures for improvement. The Government will continue to forge ahead with the AR Scheme with a view to paving the way for mapping out a statutory registration regime for these professions. The Government has also commissioned the School to conduct in-depth research and work out options for the regulatory framework of healthcare professionals, so as to examine the categories of healthcare professionals eligible for participating in the AR Scheme and advise the appropriate regulatory mechanism for such

professions. For further details of the AR Scheme, please refer to the relevant Paper to the Panel on Health Services (LC Paper No. CB(2) 369/18-19(01)).

6. The Food and Health Bureau and the Department of Health will be pleased to share our experience with relevant bureaux, departments or organisations if they wish to apply the spirit of the AR Scheme to establish an accreditation mechanism for beauty practitioners with a view to ensuring their professional competency.

7. For enquiries, please contact me at 3509 8955.

Yours sincerely,



(Ronald Ho)

for Secretary for Food and Health