



British
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Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region of the People's
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To whom it may concern,

Pilot Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions: Special meeting on 10
December 2018

We have been approached by a number of clinical psychologists currently practising in Hong Kong, who have expressed concern about the way in which a new scheme to register the accreditation of clinical psychologists here appears to have been developed. We appreciate the need for Hong Kong to put in place a system to register the accreditation of clinical psychologists. But there are concerns that the new system, as it is currently being described, might lead to the unintended consequence of reducing the scope for non-Cantonese speaking clinical psychologists to gain accreditation, especially if they trained overseas, including in the UK.

We understand the concern centres on the specificity of the draft new requirements for accreditation, for example on the number of training days a psychologist is expected to have spent working in a hospital, and on the potential difficulty for a non-Cantonese speaker of completing any necessary – and expensive - remedial training in Hong Kong to address this. There are also concerns that no overseas-trained psychologists are on the Hong Kong Institute of Clinical Psychologists board, which would take decisions on accreditation cases.

The UK is keen to ensure that Hong Kong students will continue to be able to choose the UK's world class higher education institutions in large numbers, including to pursue healthcare-related qualifications. We are also concerned to ensure that British Nationals in Hong Kong will continue in the long term to be able to access high quality mental healthcare services from an appropriately diverse community of clinical psychology professionals.

We are grateful for the engagement of Professor Chan and her team on this, and for her willingness to consider the concerns of the Consular community. We look forward to hearing the opinions of those present at the public hearing of the Pilot AR Scheme on 10 December.