



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.: FHCR 3/3921/18 Pt.4

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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
Re-organisation of the Department of Health (“DH”)**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Health Services held on 18 February 2019, Members discussed the DH re-organisation proposal and requested the Government to provide the following information -

- (a) in table form the respective changes in the number of directorate, non-directorate and promotion rank posts of the DH under the re-organisation proposal;
- (b) the respective numbers of prosecution cases instituted in the past three years by the Police or DH against (i) parties involved in private healthcare facilities; and (ii) suspected illegal practice of Western medicine and dentistry.

With information provided by DH, I am authorised to provide the reply as follows –

Administration's Response to (a)

Under the re-organisation proposal, Consultant in-charge Dental Service, Controller, Centre for Health Protection, Controller, Regulatory Affairs and Deputy Director of Health

will report directly to the Director of Health. The increase in the number of directorate and non-directorate posts (including the posts in the promotion rank) under their purview is tabulated below:

Under the purview of	Increase in directorate posts in Year 2019-20	Increase in non-directorate posts in Year 2019-20 (including the number of posts in the promotion rank)
Consultant in-charge Dental Service	1	37 (8)
Controller, Centre for Health Protection	1	113 (47)
Controller, Regulatory Affairs	2*	80 (43)
Deputy Director of Health	0	102 (27)
Total:	4*	332 (125)

* Including the new Controller, Regulatory Affairs post but excluding two permanent directorate posts to be rationalised from two supernumerary directorate posts which will expire on 21 April 2019.

Administration's Response to (b)(i)

Under the Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Ordinance (Cap. 165) and the Medical Clinics Ordinance (Cap. 343), the Department of Health (DH) registers private hospitals, nursing homes and medical clinics subject to conditions relating to accommodation, staffing and equipment. DH has also promulgated the "Code of Practice for Private Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes" and the "Code of Practice for Clinics Registered under the Medical Clinics Ordinance (Cap. 343)" which set out the regulatory standards. Currently, there are 12 private hospitals, 66 nursing homes and 87 medical clinics registered under Cap. 165 and Cap. 343 respectively.

With respect to the private healthcare facilities registered under Cap. 165 and Cap. 343, the numbers of non-compliance cases with the respective code of practice or licensing conditions in 2016, 2017 and 2018 are 25, 19 and 29 respectively. DH has issued regulatory letters to the institutions concerned and monitored their remedial actions.

In the past three years, one case was prosecuted for carrying on a clinic not being registered under Cap. 343, which is an act contravening section 14(1)(a) of Cap. 343.

Administration's Response to (b)(ii)

Should there be suspected illegal practice of Western medicine or dentistry identified via complaints or other sources, DH will refer the case to the Police and provide professional support for their investigation. The numbers of cases of suspected illegal practice referred

and/or with assistance provided to the Police by DH in 2016, 2017 and 2018 are provided below:

	2016	2017	2018
Western medicine	34	24	17
Dentistry	6	16	9

Yours sincerely,



(Jack LAU)
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.
Director of Health
(Attn: Ms Ophelia CHIANG)