



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

本函檔號 Our ref.: FHB/H/1/19  
來函檔號 Your ref.:

電話號碼 Tel. No.: (852) 3509 8958  
傳真號碼 Fax No.: (852) 2102 2433

20 March 2019

Ms Maise LAM  
Clerk to Panel  
Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Fax: 2185 7845)

Dear Ms Lam,

**Panel on Health Services Special Meeting  
Corporate Governance and Manpower Situation of  
the Hospital Authority**

I refer to the letter dated 15 March 2019 from Dr Hon Pierre Chan enquiring about the number and planning of hospital beds, as well as nursing manpower of the Hospital Authority (HA). Having consulted HA, we provide information as follows.

**Number of Beds in HA**

2. HA evaluates from time to time the demand for various kinds of medical services, service utilisation as well as service model, and implements corresponding programmes to ensure public healthcare services can meet the needs of the public. HA also considers various factors, in conjunction with the Annual Planning, in adjusting the number of different types of hospital beds to meet those needs.

3. In line with international trend of greater focus on the development of ambulatory and community care programmes, HA provides community based outreach services through the Community Nursing Services, Community Geriatric Assessment Teams, Community Psychiatric Services and Community Allied Health Services to support discharged patients for continued rehabilitation in the community in an effort to relieve demand for inpatient services and facilitate patients' rehabilitation in the community. In addition to strengthening ambulatory and community care, HA also increases the number of general (acute and convalescent) beds to meet service demand. The numbers of general (acute and convalescent) beds in HA as at 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2019 (estimate) are 20 579 and 22 561 respectively, representing an increase of 1 982 general beds.

4. Regarding psychiatric services, there is a shift of focus of service delivery from inpatient to ambulatory and community care following the international trend. In light of this, HA has been further enhancing ambulatory and community care services for suitable psychiatric patients to receive rehabilitative service in the community. Psychiatric inpatient services were hence adjusted accordingly. The numbers of psychiatric beds in HA as at 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2019 (estimate) are 4 858 and 3 647 respectively, representing a reduction of 1 211 beds. In recent years, the overall occupancy rate of psychiatric beds remains stable.

5. For infirmary services, there was a reduction in infirmary beds over the period from 2003 to 2019. The numbers of infirmary beds in HA as at 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2019 (estimate) are 2 951 and 2 041 respectively, representing a reduction of 910 beds. The reduction was a follow up on the recommendation of the Director of Audit's Report No. 38 on residential services for the elderly in 2002 to provide infirmary care in welfare setting instead of hospital setting.

6. The major reduction in mentally handicapped beds is due to the closure of the Development Disabilities Unit, a unit specialised in caring for children under the age of 16 with severe mental handicap, at Caritas Medical Centre in 2005-06. The demand for inpatient services for the mentally handicapped has dropped as the number of severely disabled children requiring long-term care has decreased over the years, given the improved medical care for child birth and enhancement in community support for the mentally handicapped. The numbers of mentally handicapped beds as at 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2019 (estimate) are 800 and 680 respectively, representing a reduction of 120 beds.

7. Overall, depending on service demand and utilisation, change of service models, requirements on infection control, etc, HA from time to time assesses and adjusts the number of different types of beds (general (acute and convalescent), infirmary, mentally ill and mentally handicapped), and implements corresponding programmes to meet healthcare needs. The number of beds in HA has been increasing year on year since 2010-11.

8. HA will also take into account factors such as availability of resources, physical spaces and manpower situation of the year in its bed opening plans. Since 2013-14, HA has increased over 200 hospital beds each year. In 2018-19, HA further increased the number of beds by 574. In 2019-20, HA plans to open 506 general (acute and convalescent) beds to meet service demand. In these two years, the majority of new beds are opened in the Kowloon and New Territories clusters. Over half of them are opened in the specialty of Medicine.

#### **Number of Medical and Paediatric Beds in the Kowloon East Cluster**

9. HA plans its services on cluster basis. In planning for its services, HA has taken into account a number of factors, including the increase of service demand as a result of population growth and demographic changes, advancement of medical technology, manpower availability as well as organisation of services of the clusters and hospitals and the service demand of local community. Currently, the Kowloon East Cluster (KEC) (including United Christian Hospital, Tseung Kwan O Hospital and Haven of Hope Hospital) covers Kwun Tong and Sai Kung Districts.

10. From 2008 to 2018, the number of medical beds in KEC has increased by around 200. As the growth rate of Hong Kong's children population has decreased, the number of paediatric and neonatal beds was maintained over the last 10 years. The number of hospital beds under Medicine, Neonatology, Nursery and Paediatrics specialties in each hospital in KEC in 2008 to 2018 (as at 31 March of the year) is at Annex A.

11. HA monitors the service utilisation and updates the service demand projection regularly according to the latest population projection parameters and development plan of the Government, for the planning of public healthcare services.

## **Number of Medical Beds in 1997 to 2018**

12. Currently, HA publishes the “HA Statistical Report” on the Internet for the latest 10 years to reflect recent developments of HA. The table at Annex B sets out the number of hospital beds in Medicine specialty for each hospital from 1997 to 2018.

## **Nursing Manpower**

13. HA delivers healthcare services through a multi-disciplinary team approach engaging doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and supporting healthcare workers. HA provides different types and levels of care in response to the patients’ condition. HA adopted a “Ward Workload Index” (WWI) to estimate the nursing manpower requirement. The model takes into account patient number and patient dependency. The model classifies patient care needs into four categories, which are tailored to the patient’s need for direct care. The higher the dependence of patients, the longer the care time is required. This model also takes into account other workload factors, such as patient education, consultation and nursing care planning, as well as care coordination and contact with other healthcare professionals. In addition, this model will factor in other factors affecting the nursing workload, such as patient turnover, including patient admission, discharge and transfer. HA conducted a comprehensive assessment on general in-patient wards by using the WWI and selected specialties in 2018. Workload of service demand surge and peak occupancy are included in the assessment.

14. As at February, there are 27 208 full-time equivalent nurses working in HA (the manpower figures are calculated on full-time equivalent basis including permanent, contract and temporary staff in HA). HA will continue to monitor the manpower situation and flexibly deploys its staff having regard to the service and operational needs.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Clarissa WAN)  
for Secretary for Food and Health



c.c. Chief Executive, Hospital Authority  
(Attn.: Ms Dorothy Lam, Manager (Boards & Support))  
Fax: 2895 0937

**Number of hospital beds under Medicine, Neonatology, Nursery and Paediatrics specialties in hospitals of Kowloon East Cluster in 2008 to 2018 (as at 31 March of the year)**

Cluster	Hospital	Specialty	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Kowloon East Cluster</b>	<b>Haven of Hope Hospital</b>	<b>Medicine</b>	285	285	285	285	285	285	321	321	321	321	321
	<b>Tseung Kwan O Hospital</b>	<b>Medicine</b>	180	180	183	223	223	223	299	301	333	335	335
		<b>Paediatrics</b>	36	36	39	39	39	39	37	37	37	37	37
	<b>United Christian Hospital</b>	<b>Medicine</b>	520	520	514	512	512	512	512	516	516	526	526
		<b>Neonatology</b>	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
		<b>Nursery</b>	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
		<b>Paediatrics</b>	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73

Note:

1. Medicine includes Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, Respiratory Medicine, Medical Infectious Diseases and Coronary Care Unit.

Number of Hospital Beds under Medicine Specialty (including Coronary Care Unit) in Hospitals under HA in 1997 to 2018 (as at 31 March of the year)

Hospital	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital	98	210	213	206	218	222	222	221	221	221	229	229	231	232	232	232	231	231	231	242	252	252
Caritas Medical Centre	452	452	452	464	464	464	476	476	449	471	471	433	433	433	433	433	433	425	425	445	445	465
Fanling Hospital	34	34	34	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Fung Yiu King Hospital	102	102	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	74	74	74	74
Grantham Hospital	378	378	353	353	353	353	353	264	266	266	266	268	268	268	268	268	268	268	268	281	281	282
Haven of Hope Hospital	226	281	293	293	293	293	293	285	285	285	285	285	285	285	285	285	285	321	321	321	321	321
Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital	108	108	98	98	98	98	125	227	249	249	259	247	247	247	217	217	217	217	209	209	209	209
Lai Chi Kok Hospital	12	12	12	12	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kowloon Hospital	248	248	252	232	259	255	253	249	236	236	236	236	236	236	259	259	259	259	259	255	255	255
Kwong Wah Hospital	467	469	493	493	493	493	493	440	425	425	425	423	423	423	423	423	423	423	403	403	403	403
North District Hospital	-	62	168	275	309	215	227	240	224	248	248	248	248	248	248	273	276	277	277	307	307	327
North Lantau Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	20	20	20
Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital	98	104	104	144	143	144	218	144	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147
Princess Margaret Hospital	502	545	611	611	611	691	703	777	777	772	785	734	734	721	721	721	721	755	730	730	730	734
Pok Oi Hospital	126	169	169	202	192	192	192	227	224	209	209	108	109	177	187	187	187	202	218	297	316	316
Prince of Wales Hospital	325	325	293	293	293	293	293	333	333	333	333	333	333	333	355	355	355	385	435	465	490	496
Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	249	297	328	300	300	390	430	423	439	395	395	397	397	405	444	444	481	481	521	561	561	561
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	507	519	580	645	575	633	636	647	609	613	607	607	616	645	644	641	639	615	624	611	623	623
Queen Mary Hospital	363	379	379	379	379	379	375	380	393	392	382	382	382	382	393	396	396	396	396	396	396	395
Ruttonjee & Tang Shiu Kin Hospitals	334	332	342	332	332	332	332	332	346	346	346	363	357	346	351	351	321	327	317	315	315	315
Shatin Hospital	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	208	208	208	208	233	233	233	233	233	233	253	253
St. John Hospital	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	40	34	34	34	34	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
Tseung Kwan O Hospital	-	-	-	-	139	165	165	175	175	195	195	180	180	183	223	223	223	299	301	333	335	335
Tuen Mun Hospital	271	305	305	305	381	381	379	413	464	453	453	695	699	718	753	756	781	785	783	815	866	878
Tai Po Hospital	-	92	184	184	184	218	218	218	218	218	218	218	218	235	235	235	235	235	235	235	235	235
Tung Wah Eastern Hospital	48	48	38	38	38	38	38	39	39	39	39	40	40	40	40	40	36	36	36	36	35	35
Tung Wah Hospital	361	291	291	291	291	291	291	230	228	228	228	232	226	218	218	226	218	218	218	204	204	204
United Christian Hospital	348	348	348	429	429	482	527	568	566	548	548	520	520	514	512	512	512	512	516	516	526	526
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Wong Tai Sin Hospital	662	622	622	634	634	634	612	249	289	329	254	244	244	234	234	234	228	228	228	248	248	248
Yan Chai Hospital	278	241	241	249	249	249	249	315	315	315	315	315	287	287	287	287	287	289	289	289	289	318
Overall HA	6 833	7 209	7 519	7 803	7 985	8 221	8 416	8 192	8 231	8 247	8 183	8 194	8 164	8 261	8 438	8 474	8 488	8 660	8 762	9 016	9 164	9 255

Notes:

1. Medicine includes Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, Respiratory Medicine, Medical Infectious Diseases and Coronary Care Unit.
2. Figures of year 2004 or before exclude intensive / high dependency care beds managed by Medicine specialty.
3. Figures of year 2007 or before exclude private medical beds.