

**Information provided in response to letter of 9 February from  
the Clerk to Select Committee to inquire into the handling of  
the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak by  
the Government and the Hospital Authority**

**Question**

*According to the information provided by the Hospital Authority to the Select Committee, the index patient in Ward E1 in Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital (AHNH) was admitted to AHNH on 21 March 2003 with a complaint of fever and cough and was transferred to the Princess Margaret Hospital as a confirmed SARS case on 24 March 2003. Information on the source of infection for that patient if it has been identified:*

**Reply**

According to Department of Health's records, the index patient in Ward E1 in AHNH (namely, a Mr Chan) had an onset date of 15 March 2003. Information from the case investigation revealed that the patient did not have any suspicious exposure history before onset of symptoms, nor did he have any history of travel outside Hong Kong within the three weeks prior to onset of the disease. The source of infection for the patient cannot, therefore, be ascertained.

Department of Health  
March 2004