

**Information provided in response to letter of 25 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**

(a) Any instruction given by the Department of Health (DH) on infection control measures in the outpatient clinics operated by the Department such as families clinics and health centres

DH has an established Infection Control Committee which meets regularly to discuss and review various aspects of infection control practice for staff working in our clinic settings. The Committee has issued guidelines in this regard for staff to follow. For details, please refer to ~~SC09-13P-EX~~ A142 for a copy of the revised "*DH Guidelines on Infection Control Practice in Clinic Setting*" issued in January 2003.

In view of the SARS outbreak, the Committee specifically reviewed the then existing infection control standards and measures in clinic settings and issued to all DH clinics in April 2003 a "*Supplement*" to the *Guidelines specially related to SARS infection control* (~~SC09-14P-EX~~). The "*Supplement*" served to enhance the infection control standards and provide management procedures and disinfection guidelines with respect to SARS. The Guidelines and Supplement were kept under close monitoring and relevant training and briefings were provided to support the staff. A143

(b) Number of any healthcare workers of these outpatient clinics who were infected with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

There was no report of healthcare workers of DH clinics being infected with SARS.