

**Information provided in response to letter of 1 March 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) Of the 14 rats trapped in Amoy Gardens between 2 April and 30 May 2003, the number of autopsies carried out on these rat

Autopsies were carried out on all the 14 rats that could be trapped in the Amoy Gardens between 2 April and 20 May 2003.

(b) The number of samples taken from the autopsied rats referred to in answer (a) above

A total of 83 rat specimens were collected and tested. Of these, 61 specimens were taken from the 14 autopsied rats and 22 were from rat droppings collected in the field. Of the 83 rat specimens, six samples from droppings and two samples from throat swabs were positive. All the blood samples were negative, indicating that the rats themselves were not infected. All the culture results were also negative.

(c) The number of tests carried out on rat specimens

A total of 176 tests, including repeat-Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), sequencing, culture and neutralization tests were carried out on the rat specimens. Of these, 124 were carried out on specimens taken from the 14 autopsied rats, while 52 were on specimens from rat droppings collected in the field.

Department of Health
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