

**Information provided in response to letter dated 10 May 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) *When was Dr Thomas Tsang assigned to investigate in the outbreak at Amoy Gardens and by whom?***

Dr Thomas Tsang was first assigned to investigate the Amoy Gardens outbreak on 28 March 2003 on the instructions of Dr Margaret Chan, the former Director of Health.

- (b) *What were Dr Tsang's specific duties/functional roles as far as this investigation was concerned?***

Dr Tsang's role and duties in the investigation of the Amoy Gardens outbreak were to investigate the likely source(s) of the outbreak, determine the probable mode(s) of disease transmission, and prepare an investigation report for submission to the World Health Organization (WHO).

- (c) *When did Dr Tsang first visit Amoy Gardens for the purpose of investigation and what was the purpose of his visit to Amoy Gardens on 28 March 2003?***

Dr Tsang first visited the Amoy Gardens on 28 March 2003 together with WHO experts. The purpose of that visit was to inspect the building and the environment, study the disease pattern and interview households.

- (d) *Which government departments were involved in the investigation prior to the formal setting up of the multi-disciplinary investigation team; how many staff was involved and their respective ranks and titles?***

On 26 March 2003, the Department of Health (DH) received first notifications from the United Christian Hospital of suspected SARS cases from Amoy Gardens and immediately initiated investigation on the same day. DH staff continued the investigation on 27 and 28 March, including interviews of households with suspected cases, medical surveillance of household contacts, household visits for case finding, etc. The DH staff

involved included the Community Physician and other medical staff of the Kowloon Regional Office (KRO), over 100 nurses from the KRO and other sections of DH, and from 28 March onwards, Dr Thomas Tsang of the Disease Prevention and Control Division as well. On 29 March, a multi-disciplinary team led by Dr Thomas Tsang, with members drawn from various government departments (including Water Supplies Department, Hong Kong Police Force, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), Environmental Protection Department (EPD), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and Drainage Services Department) began to participate in the investigation.

- (e) *Whom did Dr Tsang contact when he sought assistance from the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB) and its departments upon the instruction from Dr Yeoh Eng-kiong in the evening of 28 March 2003 to form the multi-disciplinary investigation team?*

On the instruction of the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food, Dr Thomas Tsang telephoned the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works in the evening of 28 March 2003 to seek her assistance in deploying staff from her Bureau and departments to help with the investigation. Dr Tsang also separately contacted various staff of ETWB, EPD and EMSD, on matters such as the logistics of the multi-disciplinary team's visit to Amoy Gardens.

- (f) *In addition to DH, did any government department(s) participate in the investigation at the Metropole Hotel?*

In addition to DH, EPD also assisted in the investigations at the Metropole Hotel in April and May 2003.

Department of Health  
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