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FROM CCE(NTE)/HCE PWH/HCE BBH TO

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BY FAX AND BY POST

15 May 2004

Miss Flora TAI (Fax No. 2248 2011)  
Clerk to Select Committee  
Legislative Council, HKSAR  
C/o 3/F, Citibank Tower  
3 Garden Road  
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Tai,

**Select Committee to inquire into the handling of  
the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak by  
the Government and the Hospital Authority**

I refer to your letter dated 11 May requesting the following information:

- (a) the name(s) of the person(s) who proposed to re-open Ward 8A to admission on 11 March 2003
- (b) the name(s) of the person(s) who made the decision to re-open Ward 8A to admission
- (c) the name(s) of the person(s) who formally endorsed the decision to re-open Ward 8A to admission
- (d) the source of the above information including any documentary proof.

As far as I am aware, the decision to re-open Ward 8A to admission was not made until the meeting held on 13 March 2003 (see meeting notes at Appendix). This meeting was chaired by Dr. Fung Hong, Hospital Chief Executive of PWH. I was not present at this meeting as reflected in the Notes of Meeting attached.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. Philip LI)  
Deputy Hospital Chief Executive  
Prince of Wales Hospital

Encl.

DRAFT

Notes of 1st Meeting regarding incident at PWH Ward 8A held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2003 at 11:00 a.m. in CR1, 2/F, Main Block, PWH

Present: Dr. FUNG Hong - Chairman  
Prof Sydney Chung  
Prof Peter A Cameron  
Prof Joseph Sung  
Prof. C.S. Cockram  
Prof TAM Siu Lun, John  
Dr. SY Tung  
Dr. CK LI  
Dr. Paul Chan  
Dr. Lyon Donald, James  
Dr. SHIU Tak chi  
Ms. Lily Chung  
Ms E Mok  
Ms Winnie Cheng  
Ms Fion Fung  
Ms Zabrina Lee

Status update as at 11 a.m. on 13.3.03

PWH staff was admitted in PWH. Among them, 16 admitted staff was diagnosed with pneumonia symptom. Another three were admitted to other hospitals.

Ward 8A, 8B, and 8 D would be vacated to cater for admission of the case with relevant symptom.

Triaged Medical patients at A&E, PWH would be diverted to AHNH and NDH.

Elective surgical cases would be rescheduled.

Limited service at Cardiac Clinic would be provided.

Service of Medical day ward would be suspended temporary.

Press Release of the above announcement would be issued in due course.

So far, two no of staff were discharged.

Information Center at Conference 2, PWH

The following data would be updated timely at the Information Center.

- No of Admission
- Change of medical condition of the affected staff

Epidemic survey was being conducted.

Microbiologist Report

The above was updated in the meeting. More than 100 lab tests were performed—(1

Last updated on 13 March 2003

flu B, 2 meta pneumovirus, and 1 enterovirus.)

### Manpower Crises

Because of the medical staff in Firm 2 were sick, there were only 3 firms out of four to take up the existing workload. Staff from other firms would take up workload in Ward 8A, B, D.

There would be two groups of staff: contaminated and clean. The clean staff would take up other cases.

Because of the shortage of manpower, some service at SOPD would be suspended temporary. Other back-up medical staff would be required. Prof. Joseph Sung would send recommendation to CCE for consideration after the meeting.

### Patient Follow-up Clinic

Patient discharged would require follow-up. Also, those who had fever attended A&E would require x-ray assessment the second day. A Follow-up Clinic at A & E would be established to cater for the above purpose.

### Delineation role of Staff Clinic and Special Clinic at A&E

All staff would be advised of the followings:

- Those with fever and specific symptom would go to A&E
- Those with non-specific symptom would go to Staff Clinic

Understanding that there was down staff in A&E, the above would be monitored. Situation would be reviewed in the evening.

### Other Backup

16 beds of isolated ward at TPH might be handed over after renovation within one or two days. It would be available for admission if situation required

### Staff Forum

It would be organized at 5 p.m. today.

### Frequency of the meeting

There would be meeting twice per day for updating and monitoring the situation.

### Next Meeting

It was scheduled at 7 p.m. on 13.3.03 (today).

Last updated on 13 March 2003