



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部衛生福利及食物局
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

Our Ref : HWF/H/33/85 Pt. 1 03

Tel : 29738101

2nd July 2003

Mrs Judith Siu
Secretary,
HA Review Panel on SARS Outbreak,
4/F, Hospital Authority Building,
147B Argyle Street,
Kowloon.

Dear Mrs Siu,

HA Review Panel on SARS Outbreak

This is in response to your letter of 24th June 2003 addressed to Dr. E.K. Yeoh, Secretary for Health, Welfare & Food.

The Hospital Authority (HA) was set up in 1990 as a statutory body under the HA Ordinance to manage and control public hospitals for the provision of hospital services. The functions of HA are set out in Section 4 of the HA Ordinance. These include, among others, managing and controlling public hospitals; managing and developing public hospitals system with a view to achieving efficient use of resources to provide hospital services of the highest possible standard within the resources obtainable, improving the efficiency of hospital services by developing appropriate management structures, systems and

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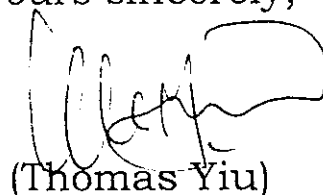
performance measures, and ensuring accountability to the public for the management and control of the public hospitals system, etc; and applying its resources towards the performance of its functions in the Ordinance, in particular the promotion, development and maintenance of hospital services.

Government, in this context the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB), is responsible for the overall policy on the provisions of public hospital services and the setting of health policies in the total context of the political, economic and social environment. We entrust HA with the responsibility to oversee the operation and management of public hospitals, manage its own resources and deliver public hospital services to the community. While HA has autonomy in the management and control of public hospitals, it is accountable to the Government for the effective and efficient delivery of public hospital services.

In addition, the HA Ordinance also provides that the Chief Executive (of the HKSAR) may, if he considers the public interest so requires, give directions in writing of a general or specific character to HA in relation to the performance of its functions or the exercise of its powers and HA shall comply with those directions.

The role of the HWFB in relation to HA in handling the SARS crisis can be viewed in the above light. We are happy to discuss further on relevant matters of interest to the Review Panel.

Yours sincerely,



(Thomas Yiu)

for Secretary for Health, Welfare & Food