

16.FEB.2004 15:55

DEPT OF ANAES & IC +852 26372422

CONFIDENTIAL

專責委員會(2)文件編號 : W119(C)

SC2 Paper No. : W119(C)



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16 February 2004

Miss Flora Tai  
Clerk to Select Committee  
*Select Committee to inquire into the handling of  
The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak by  
The Government and Hospital Authority*  
3/F, Citibank Tower  
3 Garden Road, Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Tai,

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

As requested by the Select Committee, please find attached:  
My qualifications and experience, and response to the questions raised by the Select  
Committee.

If you require anything else please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin M Joynt  
Director of Intensive Care

**Response to questions raised by the Select Committee.**

1. I first was invited to attend the 'Atypical Pneumonia Management Meetings' on the 14<sup>th</sup> March. A number of contingencies were already in place – for example, elective medical and surgical admissions were stopped and non-atypical pneumonia emergency medical cases were being diverted elsewhere within the cluster. Closure of the Accident and Emergency Department (AED) was mentioned, I believe on the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> March. There was some general discussion on the issue at various times, and I am unable to recall what was said and by whom. My impression was that the Chiefs of Service present all were in favour of closing the AED and thus effectively the hospital. I do recall that the response of Dr Fung Hong was that while in favour of the closure of AED, this was a decision that affected not just the PWH, had many implications, and that it would have to be made by a higher authority, by this I took to mean HAHO. I do not recall any specific names being mentioned. He undertook to follow up the matter with the "higher authority".

2. I do not know who was responsible for the decision not to close the AED or the hospital at that stage. I do not recall any legal implications being discussed.

3. I am not aware whether the HAHO, the HA Board, the HWFB and DH were consulted in relation to the issue of closure of PWH, i.e. the entire hospital.