

CONFIDENTIAL

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15 March 2004

Our ref. : () in HA/NTWC/CCEO/SARS/Select

Miss Flora TAI
Clerk to Select Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson 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 the Hospital Authority**

I refer to your summon dated 1 March 2004 in which a request for a written submission was enclosed.

Please see attached reply as requested.

Please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] if you have any queries.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr T W LEE)

Chief of Service

Department of Anaesthesia & Intensive Care
Tuen Mun Hospital
New Territories West Cluster
Hospital Authority

c.c. Ms Venus CHOY, CLC, HAHO
Ms Elizabeth MOK, SM(PS), HAHO

Written Submission of Dr T W LEE, Chief of Service, Intensive Care Unit

1. Prior to 12 April, there were 6 SARS/suspected SARS patients in the ICU of TMH. ICU staff included 8 doctors (1 COS, 1 consultant, 1 SMO and 5 MOs), 47 nurses, 7 Health Care Assistants (4 permanent & 3 temporary), 1 physiotherapist came daily, 2 radiographers and 1 workman came to take X rays. One Medical Officer got infected. The mode of infection was not known. No other HCW, non-SARS patients or visitors got infected.
2. The decision came from the HAHO. I was not consulted prior to that. Preparation measures included upgrading D1 to provide intensive care with improved ward environment and facilities. With increased ICU capacity, my assessment was that we could cope with additional SARS patients.
3. The admission of patients to ICU requires a clinical assessment of the condition of the patient by the ICU team in consultation with the referring team. No SARS patients requiring ICU care were refused admission to ICU.
4. There were no requirements that intubation of SARS patients must be performed in the ICU. There were occasions where intubations of SARS patients were performed in the SARS ward. I could not say whether any person contracted SARS as a result of intubation in the SARS ward as the mode of infection was not known.
5. One Medical Officer contracted SARS during that period. The cause of infection was not known.