Subcommittee on Medical Laboratory Technologists (Special Exemptions) Regulation

List of follow-up actions required of the Administration arising from the discussion at the meeting on 6 November 2020

The Administration was requested to advise:

- (a) the respective daily coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") testing capacities of (i) the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch under the Department of Health; (ii) the Hospital Authority; (iii) the medical schools of The University of Hong Kong and The Chinese University of Hong Kong; and (iv) local COVID-19 nucleic acid testing institutions recognized by the Government in early August 2020 to justify the need for granting the exemptions under the Medical Laboratory Technologists (Special Exemptions) Regulation ("the Regulation");
- (b) the respective qualifications, experience and training required for qualifying as (i) a "specified person" under the Regulation (i.e. a member of the National accredited laboratory testing personnel arranged by the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China to conduct specified tests in Hong Kong for the Government) and (ii) a registered medical laboratory technologist under the Medical Laboratory Technologists Board for conducting COVID-19 nucleic acid tests;
- (c) in respect of the local manpower supply of medical laboratory technologists,
 - (i) the annual intake places of the relevant University Grants Committee-funded programmes for each triennium in the past decade; and
 - (ii) the manpower planning for the profession in the longer term in order to meet the anticipated increase in local demand for medical testing services; and
- (d) the respective eligibility requirements for being (i) an accredited medical testing laboratory under the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme and (ii) a local COVID-19 nucleic acid testing institution recognized by the Government.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
13 November 2020