

# Hong Kong Customs and General Administration of Customs hold review meeting (with photos)

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, led a delegation to attend the 2018 review meeting between the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) and Hong Kong Customs in Beijing today (November 28). Mr Tang and the Vice Minister of the GACC, Mr Li Guo, presided at the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of the 2016-2018 Co-operation Plan between the two customs administrations for the past two years. Both sides also recognised the remarkable achievements made on customs clearance facilitation, anti-smuggling, intelligence exchange, development of new boundary control points and staff training.

The two administrations also reached consensus on the 2019-2020 Co-operation Plan. Both sides will strengthen co-operation on the areas of information exchange, mutual recognition of regulations and mutual assistance in law enforcement, and support the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in order to make greater contributions to the economic development of both places. The salient points of the Co-operation Plan are:

- (1) to further enhance business exchanges between both administrations;
- (2) to continue taking forward various facilitation measures in order to increase customs clearance efficiency;
- (3) to enhance collaboration on information technology;
- (4) to strengthen enforcement co-operation to combat cross-boundary smuggling and drug trafficking activities;
- (5) to increase dialogue and study over the Rules of Origin under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement;
- (6) to continue carrying out the work relating to the Authorized Economic Operator Programmes of both places with a view to providing more facilitation to the enterprises;
- (7) to strengthen customs co-ordination for operations of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge;
- (8) to enhance product safety co-operation;
- (9) to increase co-operation on international customs affairs; and
- (10) to continue arranging training programmes for each other.



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## LCQ12: Diagnoses and treatments provided by clinical psychologists

Following is a question by the Hon Lam Cheuk-ting and a written reply by the Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, in the Legislative Council today (November 28):

Question:

Regarding the diagnoses and treatments provided by clinical psychologists, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) of the following details of the diagnoses and treatments provided in the past three years by clinical psychologists employed respectively by (i) government departments and (ii) the Hospital Authority:

(a) the respective numbers of full-time and part-time clinical psychologists;

(b) the average waiting time of service targets for the first consultation and follow-up consultations;

(c) the average duration of the first consultation and follow-up consultations attended by service targets;

(d) the average number of consultations and consultation time span for completed cases;

(e) the number of complaints lodged by service targets; and

(f) the number of service targets of uncompleted cases committing suicide; and

(2) as I have learnt that while clinical psychologists need to use the "Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children – Fourth Edition (Hong Kong)" to

conduct intellectual assessment for children, the supplier of the Scale will sell the Scale only to members of the Division of Clinical Psychology of The Hong Kong Psychological Society, rendering clinical psychologists who are non-members but possess practising qualifications in foreign countries being unable to obtain the Scale, whether the Government has assessed if the relevant arrangement constitutes an anti-competitive conduct and how it ensures that all clinical psychologists have access to the Scale for providing service?

Reply:

President,

My reply to the questions raised by the Hon Lam Cheuk-ting is as follows:

(1) Currently, there are clinical psychologist grade posts in the Correctional Services Department (CSD), the Department of Health (DH), the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), the Immigration Department (ImmD), the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and the Hospital Authority (HA), providing clinical psychological service for their service targets. Statistics of clinical psychological service provided by the Government and the HA, based on the data provided by relevant departments, are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

(a) The table below sets out the manpower of the clinical psychologist grade, broken down by full-time and part-time basis, in relevant departments and the HA as at March 31, 2018:

Department/organisation		Manpower of clinical psychologist grade	
		Full-time	Part-time
CSD	Staff members as service targets	2	0
	Persons in custody as service targets	26	0
DH		40	0
HKPF		11	0
ImmD		1	0
SWD		59 (See Note 1)	0
HA (See Note 2)		168	3

Note 1: Among the 59 clinical psychologists in the SWD, 44 were responsible for psychological casework assessment and treatment, while the others were mainly for supervision and psychological consultation in rehabilitation units.

Note 2: The manpower figures of the HA are calculated on a full-time equivalent basis, including permanent, contract and temporary staff in the

HA.

(b) The table below sets out the average waiting time for the first consultation and follow-up consultations provided by the clinical psychological service of relevant departments and the HA as at March 31, 2018. Since the circumstances of each case were different, the waiting time for each case varied depending on the actual circumstances.

Department/organisation		Average waiting time	
		First consultation	Follow-up consultations
CSD	Staff members as service targets	Within 1 week	Within 1-2 weeks
	Persons in custody as service targets	3-5 working days	Within 1-2 weeks
DH		See Note 3	
HKPF		5 working days	2 weeks
ImmD		2 weeks	6-8 weeks
SWD		1-2 months (See Note 4)	3-4 weeks
HA		See Note 5	

Note 3: Service units of the DH that provide clinical psychological services (assessment and/or treatment) include the Elderly Health Services, the Families Clinics, the Student Health Service and the Child Assessment Service. While the waiting time for each case depended on the nature of the case, the average waiting time for new cases involving treatment was four to six weeks in general. In case of urgent or suspected urgent cases, the DH will accord priority and make urgent referrals according to the needs. Moreover, the individual service units would arrange follow-up consultations according to the nature of its services (and cases).

Note 4: For clinical psychological service provided by the SWD, priority was given to urgent cases, and the longest waiting time was 14 days. Very urgent cases (e.g. victims of critical incidents) could be processed on the day of referral.

Note 5: To ensure that more urgent cases are followed up promptly, allied health out-patient clinics (clinical psychological service) under the HA will arrange medical appointments for new patients based on the urgency of their clinical conditions, which is determined with regard to the patients' clinical history and presenting symptoms. The triage system groups patients into priority 1 (urgent), priority 2 (semi-urgent) and routine (stable) categories. As far as the clinical psychological service of allied health out-patient clinics is concerned, the HA strives to maintain the median waiting time for new cases in priority 1 and priority 2 categories under two weeks and eight weeks respectively. In 2017-18, the median waiting time (the 50th percentile) for the routine (stable) new case bookings at HA's allied health out-patient clinics (clinical psychological service) was 16 weeks.

(c) The table below sets out the average duration of the first consultation and follow-up consultations provided by the clinical psychological service of relevant departments in 2017-18. The duration of consultation was determined by a number of factors, such as patients' medical conditions, clinical needs and complexities involved, psychological conditions, psychological treatment programmes and their progress. Therefore, the waiting time for each case varied depending on the actual circumstances.

Department/organisation		Average duration of consultation	
		First	Follow-up
CSD	Staff members as service targets	1-2 hours	1-2 hours
	Persons in custody as service targets	1-2 hours	1-2 hours
DH		Relevant data not readily available	
HKPF		1.5 hours	1 hour
ImmD		About 2 hours	About 1.5 hours
SWD		About 2 hours (See Note 6)	About 1 hour
HA		Relevant data not readily available	

Note 6: Regarding the psychological assessments conducted by the Clinical Psychological Service of the SWD for court referral cases, the average duration of the first consultation was three to four hours.

(d) The table below sets out the average number of consultations and consultation time span for completed cases handled by the clinical psychological service of relevant departments in 2017-18. The number of consultations was determined by a number of factors, such as patients' medical conditions, clinical needs and complexities involved, psychological conditions, psychological treatment programmes and their progress. Therefore, the waiting time for each case varied depending on the actual circumstances.

Department/organisation	Completed case	
	Number of consultations	Consultation time span

CSD	Staff members as service targets	Relevant data not readily available	Over 10 hours
	Persons in custody as service targets	Relevant data not readily available	Over 4-8 hours
DH		Relevant data not readily available	
HKPF		4.5 times	About 5 hours
ImmD		About 4 times	About 6 hours
SWD		About 12 times	About 13 hours
HA		Relevant data not readily available	

Since the circumstances and complexity of each case were different, years spent on consultation services of each case varied, and relevant data is not available.

(e) The table below sets out the number of complaints received by the clinical psychological service of relevant departments in the past three financial years:

Department/organisation		Number of complaints		
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
CSD	Staff members as service targets	0	0	0
	Persons in custody as service targets	1	0	0
DH		0	1	2
HKPF		1	0	0
ImmD		0	0	0
SWD		2	5	6
HA		Breakdown of complaints by service type not available		

(f) The table below sets out the number of suicides in uncompleted cases known by the clinical psychological service of relevant departments in the past three financial years:

Department/organisation	Number of suicides in uncompleted cases		
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18

CSD	Staff members as service targets	0	0	0
	Persons in custody as service targets	0	0	2
DH		Relevant data not readily available		
HKPF		0	1	3
ImmD		0	1	0
SWD		Relevant data not readily available		
HA		Relevant data not readily available		

(2) Currently, the clinical psychologist profession is not regulated by statute. Through the introduction of a voluntary Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions, the Government hopes to strengthen self-regulation of the profession via the enactment of code of practices to maintain the professional standards of the healthcare practitioners.

We note that the supplier of "Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children – Fourth Edition (Hong Kong)" would allow eligible persons to register as registered users, among which include persons with overseas professional qualifications in clinical psychology or education psychology.

At present, the basic entry requirements for Government departments concerned and the HA for clinical psychologist posts generally refer to holding a Master Degree in Clinical Psychology from a Hong Kong university, or equivalent, and meeting the language proficiency requirements. The place of study, membership in any society or the eligibility to use a certain assessment tool are not basic entry requirements for clinical psychologist posts.

## [Postal services to Canada subject to delay](#)

Hongkong Post announced today (November 28) that, as advised by the postal administration of Canada, mail acceptance has been resumed. All mail delivery services to Canada are subject to serious delay due to a mail backlog.

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# Speech by CE at Inauguration of Nordic Innovation House (English only) (with photos)

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at the Inauguration of Nordic Innovation House today (November 28):

Ms Linde (Swedish Minister for EU Affairs and Trade, Ms Anne Linde), Ms Berner (Finnish Minister of Transport, Communication and Nordic Cooperation, Ms Anne Berner), Mr Høybråten (Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers, Mr Dagfin Høybråten), Helena (Consul General of Sweden in Hong Kong, Ms Helena Storm), Johanna (Consul General of Finland in Hong Kong, Ms Johanna Karanko), ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. I am delighted to be here with you today for the Inauguration of Nordic Innovation House in Hong Kong.

Actually, the venue that we are in is a result of imagination and innovation. This space which now sits a couple of hundred people did not exist previously. When I came in to revitalise two blocks of former married quarters for our policemen, there were only two stand-alone buildings on this site. I thought what a great idea if these two blocks could be connected, so that there would be more exchange of ideas between tenants in this building. So this whole cube was created by innovation and imagination.

You have, I can assure you, chosen the right place for your latest Nordic Innovation House. That begins with PMQ – the former Police Married Quarters. Its historic buildings have been revitalised and now rise as a dynamic arts, design and cultural centre. Since opening in 2014, PMQ has welcomed more than 13 million visitors.

You have certainly chosen the right city. Hong Kong, among the world's most connected centres – the business bridge between East and West – is one of the best places to do business. Our ranking in World Bank's latest Doing Business Report has risen from the fifth to the fourth. We are also flourishing as an Asian hub for innovation, technology and entrepreneurship. That includes our start-up scene, among the top five fastest-growing and one of the world's top 25 start-up centres. Last year, the number of start-up companies here rose to over 2 200, an increase of 16 per cent over the previous year. The establishment of Nordic Innovation House will surely boost those numbers long down the innovation road.

To ensure Hong Kong's primacy as an innovation leader, my Government has placed a policy priority on innovation and technology. Encouraging technology start-ups is central to that commitment. Hong Kong Science Park, which I



understand the Royal Technology Mission visited yesterday, provides significant support to start-ups. Its incubation programmes offer financial support, subsidised office space and shared facilities, technical, marketing and development assistance and, perhaps most important, access to angel investors and venture capitalists through investment-matching events.

Then we have the Cyberport, our ICT flagship, which works with digital technology start-ups in many ways. These include the Cyberport Incubation Programme and Creative Micro Fund and Accelerator Support programmes. Cyberport also features Smart-Space, a co-working space of more than 140 000 square feet.

To expand on that good work, my Government has allocated an additional US\$1.3 billion to Science Park and close to US\$40 million to Cyberport recently. Part of that will be used to expand support for their tenants and incubatees.

To take the lead in encouraging innovation, we will be introducing a pro-innovation government procurement policy next year. This will involve changes in the tendering and sourcing of goods and services as well as in the tender evaluation.

Our doors are wide open and welcoming to entrepreneurs and start-ups from Nordic countries. And Nordic Innovation House can only accelerate your connections to Hong Kong opportunity. That, ladies and gentlemen, means China opportunity as well, particularly the fast-emerging Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. I know you will hear more about the promise of the Bay Area later on.

But let me say that, just as Nordic co-operation brings together a regional partnership, so, too, will the Greater Bay Area create a southern China partnership, one counting some 70 million people and a GDP valued at US\$1.5 trillion. Hong Kong, and the Nordic companies that connect with Hong Kong, will be at the heart of the Greater Bay Area. I am confident that we will excel working together.

So let me wish Nordic Innovation House every success in Hong Kong. Thank you very much.



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