

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB164****(Question Serial No. 2850)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Control after EntryControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W TSANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the following information:

- (1) What is the establishment for implementing the Unified Screening Mechanism (including case officers, in-house interpreters and non-civil service part-time interpreters under the Judiciary)?
- (2) What are the entry requirements for case officers?
- (3) In how many languages or dialects do the in-house interpreters provide interpretation services? What are these languages or dialects?

Asked by: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Member Question No. 578)Reply:

(1) and (3) In 2015-16, there were 205 posts in the Immigration Department (ImmD) deployed for screening-related work. The posts are tabulated as follows:

Rank	2015-16 Establishment
Chief Immigration Officer	10
Senior Immigration Officer	103
Immigration Officer	53
Chief Immigration Assistant	3
Senior Immigration Assistant	7
Immigration Assistant	18
Clerical Officer	1

Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Assistant	5
Senior Medical and Health Officer	4
Total	205

In 2016-17, the ImmD will create 83 posts to handle more claims. The posts are tabulated as follows:

Rank	Number of additional posts in 2016-17
Assistant Director of Immigration	1
Assistant Principal Immigration Officer	1
Chief Immigration Officer	2
Senior Immigration Officer	7
Immigration Officer	25
Chief Immigration Assistant	4
Senior Immigration Assistant	7
Immigration Assistant	20
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Assistant	3
Court Interpreter II	12
Total	83

In addition, there are 9 in-house interpreters employed on non-civil service contract terms (NCSC) in the ImmD for provision of translation and interpretation service in Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Punjabi and Indonesian. 3 more NCSC interpreters providing Vietnamese translation and interpretation service will also be employed. The in-house interpreters are mainly responsible to interpret for claimants during briefing sessions and screening interviews, and to translate documents submitted by claimants. Moreover, there are over 280 part-time non-government interpreters (PTNG interpreters) registered with the Judiciary. The ImmD will also hire these PTNG interpreters when necessary.

(2) Currently, the case officers tasked with the assessment of non-refoulement claims are mainly Senior Immigration Officers and Immigration Officers. Senior Immigration Officer is a promotion rank for Immigration Officer, the entry requirements of which are detailed on the ImmD's website.

Apart from the entry requirements and the induction and other in-service training provided by the ImmD, all case officers responsible for screening non-refoulement claims will attend a 15-day professional training course before assuming their duties. The course comprises

lectures given by senior case officers from overseas common law jurisdictions, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) officials and local law academics. In addition, the ImmD will arrange regular training for case officers to ensure that they have a thorough understanding of the Unified Screening Mechanism and sufficient knowledge to process the cases, including the latest local and overseas jurisprudence, up-to-date information on claimants' countries of origin, etc. Case officers have also received training on the Istanbul Protocol (which is the international standard for investigating torture cases), the UNHCR procedural standards, the ways to deal with special needs of victims of violence and minors, so as to ensure that they are well trained in handling the special needs of victims of sex violence, unaccompanied minors, claimants suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and female claimants.

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