

Index Page

Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2015-16

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Session No. : 18

File Name : LWB(WW)-2S-e1.docx

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-LWB(WW)01	S0105	TANG Ka-piu	141	(2) Social Welfare
S-LWB(WW)02	S0119	WONG Pik-wan, Helena	141	(3) Women's Interests
S-LWB(WW)03	S0111	CHAN Yuen-han	170	(2) Social Security
S-LWB(WW)04	S0112	CHAN Yuen-han	170	(2) Social Security
S-LWB(WW)05	S0113	CHAN Yuen-han	170	(7) Young People
S-LWB(WW)06	S0115	CHAN Yuen-han	170	(2) Social Security
S-LWB(WW)07	S0116	CHAN Yuen-han	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
S-LWB(WW)08	S0117	CHAN Yuen-han	170	(3) Services for Elders
S-LWB(WW)09	S0127	MO, Claudia	170	(2) Social Security
S-LWB(WW)10	S0102	TANG Ka-piu	170	(3) Services for Elders
S-LWB(WW)11	S0103	TANG Ka-piu	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
S-LWB(WW)12	S0104	TANG Ka-piu	170	(3) Services for Elders
S-LWB(WW)13	S0106	TANG Ka-piu	170	(3) Services for Elders
S-LWB(WW)14	S0107	TANG Ka-piu	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
S-LWB(WW)15	S0108	TANG Ka-piu	170	(3) Services for Elders
S-LWB(WW)16	S0109	TANG Ka-piu	170	(3) Services for Elders
S-LWB(WW)17	S0099	WONG Kwok-hing	170	(2) Social Security
S-LWB(WW)18	S0100	WONG Kwok-hing	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
S-LWB(WW)19	S0101	TANG Ka-piu	173	(2) Low-income Working Family Allowance
S-LWB(WW)20	S0114	CHAN Yuen-han	710	

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0105)

Head: (141) Government Secretariat: Labour and Welfare Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Miss Annie TAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. According to Reply Serial No. 0023, the Government does not keep any statistics on the number of elderly persons provided with community or residential care services upon completion of the services under the Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients (IDSP), nor does it keep the number of elderly participants of the Programme re-admitted to hospitals within a year. However, as the Programme aims to fill the service gap for elderly patients discharged from hospitals who are not provided with community and residential care services, how could the Government assess the effectiveness of the Programme if no statistics are available? Will the Government keep statistics for the Programme in the future?
2. For hospitals with a larger number of Programme participants, will the Government deploy additional manpower to upkeep the level of service? Will the Government allocate more resources to increase the number of service places?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

1. & 2. The Government launched the Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients (IDSP) on a trial basis in 2008 to provide one-stop support services, including pre-discharge planning, post-discharge rehabilitation, home support and carer training, to elderly patients discharged from hospitals as well as their carers, to reduce unplanned re-admission of the discharged elderly patients and relieving the stress of the carers. The Hospital Authority (HA) evaluated the effectiveness of IDSP based on the data collected during the pilot period, including changes in the elderly patients' functional capabilities and psychological well-being, the stress level of their carers, and the utilisation of hospital services by the participating elderly patients. IDSP was well received

with satisfactory outcome. It was regularised and extended to the whole territory in the first quarter of 2012.

Since its regularisation in 2012, IDSP provides services to about 33 000 elderly patients each year. The service targets are elderly patients who have been assessed by HA medical and nursing personnel to have high risks of unplanned re-admission and require transitional rehabilitation services and/or community care and support services upon hospital discharge. In addition to the Programme, HA has internally deployed resources to provide discharge planning services to other elderly patients in need. The Government will continue to keep in view the needs of the elderly persons and review the Programme as and when appropriate.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)02

(Question Serial No. S0119)

Head: (141) Government Secretariat: Labour and Welfare Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (3) Women's Interests
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Miss Annie TAM)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. Annex B to the reply LWB(WW)0021

What are the respective numbers (and proportions) of female and male members in the advisory and statutory bodies which have failed to meet the gender benchmark?

2. Reply LWB(WW)0031

What measures have been taken to improve the situation? Increasing the number of curricula vitae provided by female data subjects in the Index does not mean that the women will be appointed. Are there any other measures in place?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

1. As at 28 February 2015, the number of female non-official members appointed to Government advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs) is 1 951, which accounts for 32% of the total number of non-official members, slightly higher than the then 30% gender benchmark. Information on individual Government ASBs which have failed to meet the 30% gender benchmark for appointing female non-official members is at Annex.
2. The Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) will continue to cooperate with the Women's Commission to implement work that fosters women's social participation. Since April 2015, the gender benchmark for Government bureaux and departments (B/Ds) to appoint female non-official members to Government ASBs under their respective purviews has been raised from 30% to 35%. The Government proactively encourages B/Ds to invite women's associations and professional organisations to nominate more women to submit their curriculum vitae (CVs) for inclusion in the Central Personality Index (CPI), including inviting women's associations and other organisations to submit lists of suitable female personalities to B/Ds so as to increase the number of female CVs in CPI.

**ASBs with Appointed Female Non-official Members
less than 30% of Their Total Number of Non-official Members
(As at 28 February 2015)**

Names of ASBs	Number of Female Members (Proportion)	Number of Male Members (Proportion)
Action Committee Against Narcotics	5 (29.4%)	12 (70.6%)
Advisory Committee for the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance and the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance	1 (8.3%)	11 (91.7%)
Advisory Committee on Barrier Free Access	1 (9.1%)	10 (90.9%)
Advisory Committee on Code of Practice for Recognized Certification Authorities	0 (0%)	6 (100%)
Advisory Committee on Post-service Employment of Civil Servants	2 (22.2%)	7 (77.8%)
Advisory Committee on the Appearance of Bridges and Associated Structures	2 (15.4%)	11 (84.6%)
Advisory Committee on Water Resources and Quality of Water Supplies	6 (28.6%)	15 (71.4%)
Advisory Committee under Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance	1 (20%)	4 (80%)
Advisory Council on the Environment	5 (22.7%)	17 (77.3%)
Air Pollution Control Appeal Board Panel	2 (28.6%)	5 (71.4%)
Airport Authority	1 (8.3%)	11 (91.7%)
Appeal Board on Public Meetings and Processions	3 (18.8%)	13 (81.3%)
Appeal Board Panel (Electricity)	3 (7.9%)	35 (92.1%)
Appeal Board Panel (Entertainment Special Effects)	2 (20%)	8 (80%)
Appeal Board Panel (Gas Safety)	3 (14.3%)	18 (85.7%)
Appeal Board Panel (under Construction Workers Registration Ordinance)	1 (1.7%)	57 (98.3%)
Appeal Board Panel under Lifts and Escalators Ordinance	2 (5.3%)	36 (94.7%)
Appeal Board Panel under the Urban Renewal Authority Ordinance	4 (18.2%)	18 (81.8%)
Appeal Tribunal Panel (Buildings)	55 (12.8%)	376 (87.2%)
Asbestos Administration Committee	0 (0%)	1 (100%)
Authorized Persons', Registered Structural Engineers' and Registered Geotechnical Engineers' Disciplinary Board Panel	1 (6.7%)	14 (93.3%)
Aviation Development Advisory Committee	2 (16.7%)	10 (83.3%)
Banking Review Tribunal	1 (25%)	3 (75%)
Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee	6 (28.6%)	15 (71.4%)
Betting and Lotteries Commission	3 (27.3%)	8 (72.7%)
Board of Directors of the Hong Kong Science and	3 (18.8%)	13 (81.3%)

Technology Parks Corporation		
Board of Directors of Widows and Orphans Pension Scheme	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
Board of Governors of the Hong Kong Arts Centre	0 (0%)	4 (100%)
Board of Scientific Advisers	1 (16.7%)	5 (83.3%)
Board of Trustees of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust	3 (27.3%)	8 (72.7%)
Buildings Energy Efficiency Appeal Board Panel	2 (7.1%)	26 (92.9%)
Buildings Energy Efficiency Disciplinary Board Panel	5 (16.7%)	25 (83.3%)
Child Fatality Review Panel	2 (25%)	6 (75%)
Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong	4 (25%)	12 (75%)
Chinese Medicine Development Committee	3 (15.8%)	16 (84.2%)
Chinese Temples Committee	1 (16.7%)	5 (83.3%)
Clearing and Settlement Systems Appeals Tribunal	2 (28.6%)	5 (71.4%)
Commission on Poverty	6 (28.6%)	15 (71.4%)
Commission on Strategic Development	3 (9.4%)	29 (90.6%)
Commission on Youth	8 (25.8%)	23 (74.2%)
Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education	1 (20%)	4 (80%)
Committee on Slot Complaints	0 (0%)	2 (100%)
Communications Authority	2 (20%)	8 (80%)
Competition Commission	4 (28.6%)	10 (71.4%)
Construction Industry Council	1 (4.8%)	20 (95.2%)
Consultative Committee on Economic and Trade Co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland	2 (8%)	23 (92%)
Contractors Registration Committee Panel	2 (2.3%)	85 (97.7%)
Correctional Services Children's Education Trust Committee	1 (25%)	3 (75%)
Council for the AIDS Trust Fund	1 (25%)	3 (75%)
Council of City University of Hong Kong	4 (26.7%)	11 (73.3%)
Council of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University	1 (11.1%)	8 (88.9%)
Council of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust	2 (28.6%)	5 (71.4%)
Council on Professional Conduct in Education	0 (0%)	2 (100%)
CreateSmart Initiative Vetting Committee	13 (23.6%)	42 (76.4%)
Customs and Excise Service Children's Education Trust Fund Committee	1 (25%)	3 (75%)
Customs and Excise Service Children's Education Trust Fund Investment Advisory Board	1 (20%)	4 (80%)
Design-Business Collaboration Scheme Assessment Panel	5 (25%)	15 (75%)
Disciplinary Board Panel (Land Survey)	1 (11.1%)	8 (88.9%)
Disciplinary Board Panel under the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance	4 (10.5%)	34 (89.5%)
Disciplinary Tribunal Panel (Electricity)	3 (12%)	22 (88%)
District Council, Central & Western	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
District Council, Islands	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
District Council, Kwun Tong	0 (0%)	4 (100%)

District Council, Sai Kung	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
District Council, Sha Tin	1 (16.7%)	5 (83.3%)
District Council, Sham Shui Po	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
District Council, Southern	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
District Council, Tai Po	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
District Council, Tuen Mun	0 (0%)	5 (100%)
District Council, Wan Chai	0 (0%)	2 (100%)
District Council, Wong Tai Sin	0 (0%)	4 (100%)
District Council, Yuen Long	0 (0%)	5 (100%)
Economic Development Commission	1 (4.5%)	21 (95.5%)
Electrical Safety Advisory Committee	2 (11.8%)	15 (88.2%)
Energy Advisory Committee	5 (20.8%)	19 (79.2%)
Environment and Conservation Fund Investment Committee	1 (14.3%)	6 (85.7%)
Environmental Campaign Committee	4 (25%)	12 (75%)
Exchange Fund Advisory Committee	2 (13.3%)	13 (86.7%)
Expanded Building Committee	1 (10%)	9 (90%)
Fight Crime Committee	1 (12.5%)	7 (87.5%)
Film Development Council	5 (29.4%)	12 (70.6%)
Financial Reporting Council	1 (16.7%)	5 (83.3%)
Financial Services Development Council	5 (23.8%)	16 (76.2%)
Fire Safety Committee	1 (11.1%)	8 (88.9%)
Genetically Modified Organisms (Control of Release) Expert Group	2 (16.7%)	10 (83.3%)
Harbourfront Commission	2 (20%)	8 (80%)
Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee	3 (20%)	12 (80%)
Hong Kong Arts Development Council	4 (28.6%)	10 (71.4%)
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications	4 (25%)	12 (75%)
Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification	5 (26.3%)	14 (73.7%)
Hong Kong Logistics Development Council	1 (7.1%)	13 (92.9%)
Hong Kong Port Development Council	1 (10%)	9 (90%)
Hong Kong Productivity Council	4 (22.2%)	14 (77.8%)
Hong Kong Rotary Club Students' Loan Fund & Sing Tao Charitable Foundation Students' Loan Fund Joint Selection Committee	0 (0%)	1 (100%)
Hong Kong Trade Development Council	2 (28.6%)	5 (71.4%)
Hospital Authority	6 (28.6%)	15 (71.4%)
Independent Police Complaints Council	7 (25%)	21 (75%)
Innovation & Technology Support Programme Assessment Panel under the Innovation & Technology Fund	10 (14.9%)	57 (85.1%)
Innovation and Technology Fund General Support Programme Vetting Committee	1 (12.5%)	7 (87.5%)
Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee	3 (17.6%)	14 (82.4%)
Joint Committee on Information Technology for the	0 (0%)	6 (100%)

Social Welfare Sector		
Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission	1 (14.3%)	6 (85.7%)
Land and Development Advisory Committee	3 (15%)	17 (85%)
Lantau Development Advisory Committee	3 (15%)	17 (85%)
Leveraged Foreign Exchange Trading Arbitration Panel	1 (25%)	3 (75%)
Lift and Escalator Safety Advisory Committee	2 (12.5%)	14 (87.5%)
Liquor Licensing Board	3 (27.3%)	8 (72.7%)
Local Vessels Advisory Committee	0 (0%)	12 (100%)
Management Committee of the Consumer Legal Action Fund	3 (27.3%)	8 (72.7%)
Mandatory Provident Fund Industry Schemes Committee	1 (9.1%)	10 (90.9%)
Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority	2 (22.2%)	7 (77.8%)
Market Misconduct Tribunal	1 (25%)	3 (75%)
Minimum Wage Commission	2 (20%)	8 (80%)
Minor Works Contractors Registration Committee Panel	4 (6.3%)	60 (93.8%)
National Verification Committee for Measles Elimination in Hong Kong	1 (20%)	4 (80%)
Noise Control Appeal Board Panel	2 (28.6%)	5 (71.4%)
Operations Review Committee of the ICAC	3 (23.1%)	10 (76.9%)
Pilotage Advisory Committee	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
Po Leung Kuk Advisory Board	2 (25%)	6 (75%)
Prevention of Legionnaires' Disease Committee, Hong Kong	0 (0%)	5 (100%)
Process Review Panel in relation to the Regulation of Mandatory Provident Fund Intermediaries	2 (28.6%)	5 (71.4%)
Programme and Development Committee	3 (25%)	9 (75%)
Programme Management Committee, Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales - Enterprise Support Programme	3 (21.4%)	11 (78.6%)
Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund Board	2 (28.6%)	5 (71.4%)
Registered Contractors' Disciplinary Board Panel	0 (0%)	19 (100%)
Research Council	5 (29.4%)	12 (70.6%)
Research Grants Council	4 (16%)	21 (84%)
Review Panel under the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance	1 (5.3%)	18 (94.7%)
Risk Management Committee of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited	0 (0%)	2 (100%)
Road Safety Council	0 (0%)	1 (100%)
Securities and Futures Commission	3 (21.4%)	11 (78.6%)
Small and Medium Enterprises Committee	6 (27.3%)	16 (72.7%)
Stamp Advisory Committee	2 (28.6%)	5 (71.4%)
Standard Working Hours Committee	2 (22.2%)	7 (77.8%)
Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service	3 (27.3%)	8 (72.7%)

Standing Committee on Company Law Reform	4 (25%)	12 (75%)
Standing Committee on Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service	2 (28.6%)	5 (71.4%)
Standing Committee on Language Education and Research	4 (28.6%)	10 (71.4%)
Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
Steering Committee for Research Themes under the Research Endowment Fund	0 (0%)	6 (100%)
Steering Committee of Pilot Green Transport Fund	1 (9.1%)	10 (90.9%)
Steering Committee on eHealth Record Sharing	1 (14.3%)	6 (85.7%)
Steering Committee on Innovation and Technology	3 (23.1%)	10 (76.9%)
Steering Committee on Qualifications Framework Fund	2 (18.2%)	9 (81.8%)
Steering Committee on Strategic Development of Information Technology in Education	2 (20%)	8 (80%)
Steering Committee on the Promotion of Electric Vehicles	0 (0%)	11 (100%)
Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund Advisory Committee	2 (14.3%)	12 (85.7%)
Tang Shiu Kin & Ho Tim Charitable Fund Management Committee	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
Technical Committee on the Minor Works Control System	1 (11.1%)	8 (88.9%)
Textiles Advisory Board	2 (22.2%)	7 (77.8%)
The Board of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority	1 (7.1%)	13 (92.9%)
Torture Claims Appeal Board	4 (20%)	16 (80%)
Tourism Strategy Group	4 (26.7%)	11 (73.3%)
Town Planning Board	5 (17.9%)	23 (82.1%)
Transport Advisory Committee	4 (26.7%)	11 (73.3%)
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Advisory Board	0 (0%)	8 (100%)
University Grants Committee	2 (11.1%)	16 (88.9%)
Urban Renewal Authority	2 (10%)	18 (90%)
Vocational Training Council	3 (16.7%)	15 (83.3%)
Water Pollution Control Appeal Board Panel	2 (28.6%)	5 (71.4%)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)03

(Question Serial No. S0111)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. With reference to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0228, does the Government mean that the review of the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) would have to wait for the outcome of the current discussion on retirement protection? However, there are consultations after consultations for the discussion on retirement protection, with the earliest one going to be at the end of this year. Does that mean the enhancement of OALA should not be pursued?
2. It is mentioned in the reply to (5) that the Government has no plan to extend OALA to Guangdong (GD) at the present stage, contrary to what the Government had emphatically said in the past that elderly persons residing on the Mainland could also receive the allowance. For example, it is stated in the 2014 Policy Address that the Government will "seriously explore the feasibility of extending the OALA to GD". Why is there such a big change?
3. When will the OALA be extended to GD? What is the timetable?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

Since the Chief Executive took office, "poverty alleviation, elderly care and support for the disadvantaged" has been one of the policy priorities of this term of Government. The implementation of OALA is one of the major initiatives of this term of Government to support elderly persons with financial needs, currently benefiting more than 410 000 elderly persons.

OALA is one of the important initiatives to address the issue of elderly poverty. The Government considers it more prudent to take account of the outcome of the current discussion on retirement protection before conducting any review of OALA. On the other hand, it has only been 2 years since OALA was launched in April 2013. The Government has no plan to extend OALA to GD at this stage, but will continue to monitor the implementation of OALA in Hong Kong and pay due regard to the operating experience in implementing the GD Scheme (i.e. the implementation of Old Age Allowance in GD).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0112)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. According to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0037, the actual rent of over half of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) households living in private housing is higher than the rent allowance, meaning that they have to pay the rent with other supplements and the standard rate CSSA payments. Will the Government seriously consider whether the rent allowance is sufficient and adjust the amount of allowance based on the increase in market rent?
2. Can the Government ascertain to what extent the CSSA households living in private housing have benefitted from the subsidy provided under the Community Care Fund (CCF)? Will the Government step up its efforts to help these households in the future?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

In accordance with the established mechanism, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) adjusted the maximum rent allowance (MRA) under the CSSA Scheme upward in 2012, 2013, 2014 and February 2015 by 5.7%, 7.8%, 6.5% and 6.7% respectively, amounting to a cumulative increase of 29%. The figures for 2014-15 as provided in 1(a) to (c) under Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0037 only reflect the situation as at end-December 2014, without the upward adjustment of the MRA by 6.7% with effect from 1 February 2015 being taken into account. SWD will continue to adjust the amount of rent allowance according to the established mechanism.

Besides, CCF launched the assistance programme of "Subsidy for CSSA Recipients Living in Rented Private Housing" in October 2011, September 2013 and September 2014 respectively to provide a one-off subsidy to CSSA households living in rented private housing and paying a rent which exceeded the MRA under the CSSA Scheme, so as to relieve their financial burden resulting from the periodic increase in rent. It is noteworthy that the number of households benefitted from the assistance programme has fallen from

22 605 when the programme was first launched, down to 14 970 when it was launched for the third time (as at end-February 2015). To a certain extent, these figures reflect a downward trend of the number of CSSA households living in private housing with rent exceeding the MRA.

The rent of private housing are closely linked to housing supply. The Government will continue to increase the supply of public housing to fulfill the housing needs of those who cannot afford rented private housing. It is suggested by some that the Government should make a full scale upward adjustment of the rent allowance. However, if the rent allowance is adjusted according to the actual rent paid by CSSA households living in private housing, it may induce an increase in rent for private housing when the demand for housing is high, thus increasing the burden on low income non-CSSA households, which may indirectly result in more households falling into the CSSA net. Moreover, the above-mentioned one-off subsidy provided by CCF can relieve the financial burden on CSSA households living in private housing as a result of periodic increase in rent without unnecessarily triggering a further increase in rent for private housing. In addition, the compassionate rehousing arrangement is in place to recommend families with imminent and long-term housing needs but are unable to solve the housing problems by themselves for allocation of public rental housing.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0113)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. According to Reply, only 66 Programme Workers (PWs) had taken part in on-the-job training programmes for elderly/rehabilitation services. Does it mean that the jobs in the elderly/rehabilitation field do not appeal to young people and PWs?
2. The Government does not have the information of the 660 PWs who were re-engaged by the non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Does that mean the Government will no longer provide any support to these former PWs? Does it mean that the Government would not care how experienced these former PWs are?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. The relevant NGOs had arranged for PWs to receive various vocational training and support services for further education or employment prior to the completion of the PW programme so that they could make appropriate vocational or schooling arrangements according to their personal aspirations upon programme completion. Among the PWs, 66 of them chose to take part in on-the-job training programmes for elderly/rehabilitation services.
2. According to the information provided by the NGOs that had taken part in the PW programme, 660 PWs were re-engaged by the relevant NGOs upon the completion of the programme. NGOs would provide on-the-job training and support to PWs based on the job requirements.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)06

(Question Serial No. S0115)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. According to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0224, whether or not there was a special arrangement for exemption had meant a great difference in the number of applications made by elderly persons. In this connection, will the Government consider adjusting the arrangement concerned so that more elderly persons can benefit?
2. Regarding the 67 applications not meeting the residence requirement, will consideration be given to them on a discretionary basis, taking into account the time of the applications?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

When the Guangdong Scheme was rolled out, it was clearly stated and explained by the Government that the arrangement for exempting applicants from the requirement of residing in Hong Kong continuously for at least 1 year before making applications would only be effective in the first year of implementing the Scheme. This one-off special arrangement expired since 30 September 2014. The Government has no plan at this stage to roll out this special arrangement again or to consider a discretionary grant of waiver on individual merits.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0116)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. According to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0036, tens of thousands of domestic violence cases and domestic incidents had to be handled by the Police every year, and more than 7 000 of them required referral. However, only some 100 referrals were urgently made by the Police through the hotline, representing 1/70 of the total number of referrals, and less than 10 cases required immediate outreaching intervention of social workers. What are the criteria for the Police to make immediate referrals? What are the Social Welfare Department (SWD)'s criteria for immediate outreaching intervention? Are there any guidelines or standards in this regard?
2. According to paragraph 3 of the reply, data sharing is not allowed between the information systems of SWD and the Police. The information is only available through an established reporting mechanism. What are the reasons for not allowing data sharing between the two systems? Will there be any enhancement in technology in the future to allow data sharing so that both departments can have immediate access to the records and status of the cases being followed up?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. Upon receiving reports of domestic violence cases and domestic incidents, the Police normally would refer the cases in writing to the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) of SWD. In each of the past 3 years, FCPSUs received over 7 000 referrals from the Police. The purpose of SWD establishing a designated hotline for the Police is mainly to provide professional support by social workers outside office hours. When dealing with emergency domestic violence cases outside office hours and consultation with social workers is necessary, the Police can call the designated hotline directly. Generally speaking, if the victims need the service of refuge centres, the Police can make its own arrangement without requiring immediate intervention by

social workers. If in some special cases the Police would need the immediate intervention of social workers, they can call the hotline for outreaching services to be provided by social workers.

2. The “Child Protection Registry” and “Central Information System on Spouse/Cohabitant Battering Cases and Sexual Violence Cases” of SWD are mainly for statistical purposes. The purposes and functions of these 2 systems are both different from those of the “Enhanced Central Domestic Violence Database” used by the Police. Under the existing mechanism, the Police would inform SWD of the record of domestic violence and the case situation when referring a case to SWD for follow-up actions, while the case social worker would inform the Police of the outcome of the follow-up actions for both departments to keep abreast of the case.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)08

(Question Serial No. S0117)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Service for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

With reference to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0223, is it currently necessary for public housing development projects, redevelopment projects of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) and private development projects to have space reserved for welfare purposes? Please provide the ratios of space reserved for welfare purposes in each of the above 3 kinds of development projects.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been working to increase the provision of welfare facilities through various means. In this connection, SWD, in close collaboration with relevant government departments, has been exploring the feasibility of reserving space for the provision of welfare facilities in new development or redevelopment projects under planning (e.g. public housing development (PRH) projects, URA redevelopment projects and private development projects). Regarding services for the elderly, the welfare facilities concerned include contract residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), contract RCHEs with day care units for the elderly, day care centres for the elderly, etc.

In planning PRH projects, URA projects and private development projects, apart from taking into account the supply of residential housing units, the relevant departments will also consult various Government departments and organisations, including SWD and District Councils, with a view to providing adequate community and welfare facilities for the residents and the community according to the demographic development and community needs of the respective districts. In deciding whether it is appropriate to provide the proposed welfare facilities in the new development or re-development projects, SWD also takes into account the service needs, site conditions, the feasibility and practicability of providing the proposed facilities. SWD currently provides appropriate welfare facilities with reference to factors such as the situation of individual development projects, the supply and demand of the welfare facilities, etc., so as to meet the needs of the residents and the community of the respective districts. Such an arrangement would be more flexible and adaptable for the planning process.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-LWB(WW)09****(Question Serial No. S0127)**Head: (170) Social Welfare DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Social SecurityControlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and WelfareQuestion:

Please provide information on –

- (a) The numbers of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients disaggregated by ethnicity, residence status (whether they are permanent residents or non-permanent residents) and case nature in each of the years from 2010-11 to 2014-15; and
- (b) The numbers of residents under the poverty line, disaggregated by ethnicity and household size in 2013 and 2014 respectively.

Asked by: Hon MO ClaudiaReply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The number of CSSA recipients by place of origin and by case nature from 2010-11 to 2014-15 was as follows –

Table 1: Number of CSSA recipients by place of origin

Place of origin	Year				
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (as at end-December 2014)
China	447 584	424 601	399 832	379 079	367 237
Europe	71	64	53	44	44
India	1 238	1 207	1 113	1 042	1 039
Indonesia	1 513	1 458	1 356	1 286	1 248
Malaysia	298	300	295	274	267
Nepal	783	718	684	636	589
Pakistan	6 306	6 244	6 332	6 576	6 544
The Philippines	1 270	1 187	1 164	1 183	1 133
Thailand	1 389	1 359	1 322	1 287	1 259

Place of origin	Year				
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (as at end-December 2014)
Vietnam	898	880	848	807	776
Others	1 214	1 198	1 149	1 139	1 171
Subtotal of recipients whose place of origin is not China	14 980	14 615	14 316	14 274	14 070
Total	462 564	439 216	414 148	393 353	381 307

Table 2: Number of CSSA recipients by case nature

Case nature	Year				
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (as at end-December 2014)
Old age	197 397	195 886	192 221	187 141	184 489
Permanent disability	26 405	25 853	25 335	24 973	24 615
Ill health	43 112	41 944	40 319	39 756	38 966
Single parent	84 172	79 462	73 154	71 062	70 323
Low-earnings	47 413	39 059	32 264	27 808	24 508
Unemployment	52 869	46 132	40 214	34 084	31 254
Others	11 196	10 880	10 641	8 529	7 152
Total	462 564	439 216	414 148	393 353	381 307

The Social Welfare Department does not have the number of CSSA recipients by resident status.

- (b) According to the latest statistics on poverty for 2013 released by the Government in November 2014, it is estimated that in 2013 there were about 972 200 persons in Hong Kong living below the poverty line after recurrent cash policy intervention. The population living below the poverty line in 2013 by household size was as follows –

Household size	Poor population
1	71 300
2	289 500
3	266 000
4	242 000
5	74 500
6 or above	28 800

The Government does not have breakdown of the population living below the poverty line by ethnicity.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0102)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. According to Part 3 of Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0200, does it mean that elderly persons with urgent community care needs can only participate in the Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients (the IDSP)? However, the IDSP is only for discharged elderly patients and its service nature is different from the support provided by the emergency home care services teams for elderly persons not receiving regular care services. Does it mean that the Government will not consider the proposal of setting up emergency services teams?
2. Regarding the increase of 0.51% in the service cost, how has this been calculated based on the Composite Consumer Price Index (CCPI)? What are the details of the calculation?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. Frail elderly persons who have been confirmed to be moderately or severely impaired under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Service (SCNAMES) could wait for the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS)(Frail Cases) and/or Enhanced Home and Community Care Services. If they have urgent needs for the services, the Social Welfare Department will give special consideration to the cases for arrangement of priority placement. For elderly persons who have not been assessed under SCNAMES or have been confirmed to be with no impairment or mildly impaired under SCNAMES, when they apply for IHCS(Ordinary Cases), IHCS teams will accord priority to those with urgent care needs having regard to the applicants' health conditions and the other community support available to them.

2. The subvention for emoluments in the 2015-16 Estimate is based on the level of Civil Service Pay Scale in 2014 (i.e. the same as the amount in the 2014-15 Revised Estimate), while the subvention for Other Charges (OC) have been adjusted according to CCPI. Since OC forms a relatively small part of the unit cost for IHCS, the overall increase in the unit cost per month for IHCS place is not significant. If civil service pay were to be adjusted in 2015-16, the adjustment in the unit cost for IHCS will be reflected in the 2015-16 Revised Estimate.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)11

(Question Serial No. S0103)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. The Government has replied in Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0199 that direct comparison between the funding allocations for subvented places and Bought Place Scheme (BPS) places should not be drawn. However, persons with disabilities do compare these 2 options. The fact that the cost of BPS places is lower than that of subvented places would directly affect the choices made by service users and their families. How does the Government address this problem?
2. The Government mentioned that BPS aims to encourage private residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) to upgrade their service standards. However, as can be seen from the reply, the enrolment rate of self-financing homes is only 2% higher than that of private homes. So, why have these homes not been included in BPS so as to increase their enrolment rates?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. At present, the cost per place per month of subvented places is derived from 10 different types of residential services with different care levels, including hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons, hostels for severely physically handicapped persons, small group homes for mildly mentally handicapped children, care-and-attention homes for the aged blind, etc. while the target users of BPS places are only 2 types of applicants (i.e. those who are waiting for long stay care homes and hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons). Hence, no direct comparison should be drawn between the 2 in terms of their average costs. Service users and their families should make their choices based on the care levels provided and the target service users of individual homes.

2. In 2013-14, the average enrolment rate of private RCHDs was 79%. Among them, the enrolment rate of those participating in BPS was 95%, showing that BPS is effective in upgrading the service quality of private RCHDs and helping the private market in the development of more service options for persons with disabilities. The Social Welfare Department will continue to keep in view the implementation of BPS as we consider the way forward.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0104)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. Further to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0197, an additional recurrent funding has been provided to employ more social workers with a view to enhancing the support for elderly persons with dementia and their carers. However, the number of elderly persons diagnosed with dementia each year is still not available. This will have a major impact on the formulation of measures regarding dementia in the future. Is it because the relevant statistics are not compiled or is it because they are kept by the Hospital Authority or the Department of Health? If the latter is the case, can the data be shared?
2. Does the Government know in which of the 18 districts are the elderly persons using or receiving relatively more services and support regarding dementia? Will more resources be allocated to the districts concerned in future for dealing with various issues regarding elderly persons with dementia? If the Government does not have the figures by district, how can it know whether the services are sufficient or how are the services being utilised in a certain district?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have the number of elderly persons diagnosed with dementia in Hong Kong.
2. At present, the Government supports the frail elderly persons, including those with dementia, living in the community and their families through day care centres/units for the elderly (DEs/DCUs), enhanced home and community care services teams, integrated home care services teams and elderly centres. The services include training and counselling services, assistance in forming carers' mutual help groups, setting up resources centres and demonstration and loan of rehabilitation equipment, etc.

Since 2011-12, dementia supplement (DS) has been allocated to all subsidised DEs/DCUs for the provision of more appropriate services to elderly persons with dementia who are living in the community. In 2015-16, the allocation of DS to DEs/DCUs will be about \$17.6 million. DEs/DCUs may deploy DS to employ additional professional staff, including occupational therapists, nurses and social workers, etc. or purchase relevant professional services to enhance training programmes and services for demented elderly persons as well as support services for their carers as necessary. Moreover, since 2014-15, an additional full-year recurrent funding of some \$22 million has been provided to district elderly community centres (DECCs) to employ more social workers, with a view to enhancing the support services for elderly persons with dementia and their carers. Distributed across all 18 districts in Hong Kong, the above-mentioned subsidised DEs/DCUs and DECCs provide services to elderly persons in need in various districts. SWD monitors the service provision of the service units through their regular reports.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0106)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. According to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0219, how many of the 177 elderly persons who had expressed their interest to join the scheme were already residing on the Mainland?
2. Among the 33 elderly persons who had been admitted into the 2 residential care homes in Guangdong, 20 were originally residing on the Mainland. Does it mean that elderly persons residing on the Mainland are more interested in the scheme? Will the Government launch promotion and publicity programmes targeting the elderly persons already residing on the Mainland? If yes, what are the specific details? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

As at end-February 2015, of the 177 elderly persons who had indicated their interest to join the Pilot Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (Pilot Scheme), 20 had already been residing on the Mainland originally. They had all been admitted into the 2 residential care homes participating in the Pilot Scheme while being on the Central Waiting List (CWL) for subsidised care-and-attention (C&A) places in Hong Kong. At present, all of these 20 elderly persons are continuing to receive services in the 2 residential care homes through their participation in the Pilot Scheme.

The Pilot Scheme was launched in June 2014. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has invited all the eligible elderly persons who are currently on the CWL for subsidised C&A places (including eligible elderly persons residing on the Mainland) via their Responsible Workers to join the Pilot Scheme. SWD has also publicised the details of the Pilot Scheme through press releases and the SWD Homepage. As from February 2015, new elderly applicants on the waiting list for C&A places may also choose to join the Pilot Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0107)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. According to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0195, both the enrolment rates of supported employment (SE) and integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres (IVRSCs) are over 100%. The enrolment rate of SE is even more, being almost 130%. Although the Government has mentioned in Note 2 that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are admitting additional service users to allow more persons with disabilities to receive the SE service for enhancement of employment opportunities in the open market, the over-enrolment does reflect the great service demand and the difficulties faced by persons with disabilities in securing employment in the open market. Will the Government provide additional resources in this area in the future?
2. The waiting time for day activity centres (DACs) and sheltered workshops (SWs) is over 1 year while their enrolment rates have not reached 100%. What are the reasons? The waiting time for DAC is more than 4 years. Will additional places be provided so as to reduce the waiting time? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. The Social Welfare Department provides a range of vocational rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities who are not yet able to join the open job market. These services include SE, IVRSCs, SWs, integrated vocational training centres (IVTCs), On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities (OJT) and Sunnyway - On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities (Sunnyway). IVRSCs incorporate SW and SE services for the provision of one-stop vocational training for persons with disabilities in order to prepare them for advancement to open employment. The Government plans to provide some 1 250 additional IVRSC places in the next 5 years (i.e. from 2015-16 to 2019-20).

2. A short lead time is normally required for a successful applicant to fill a vacant place that arises, e.g. the lead time between confirmation of acceptance of an offer and formal admission to DAC or SW, etc. Hence, the enrolment rates of DAC and SW would not be 100% at any one time. The Government plans to provide some 1 081 additional DAC places in the next 5 years (i.e. from 2015-16 to 2019-20).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0108)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. According to the reply, 69 trainees quitted during the implementation of the Pilot Project, accounting for 30% of the total number of trainees. Does the Government understand the reasons why they are leaving?
2. 1 000 places will be provided under the Scheme in the coming few years. How will the Government ensure that they can provide the places as planned and minimise wastage? Will consideration be made to increase the salary?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. Based on the information available, trainees quitted the “first-hire-then-train” pilot project (the Pilot Project) because of various personal or family reasons, such as pursuing further studies or choosing other occupations because care work at residential care homes for the elderly did not match their interests, etc.
2. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is inviting non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to submit proposals on the implementation of the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services (the Navigation Scheme), and the applicant organisations are required to also submit their strategic proposals on how to recruit young people to join the Navigation Scheme and minimise the turnover rate. Regarding the trainees’ salary, SWD will determine the starting monthly salary for trainees who are working in elderly or rehabilitation care service units under the Navigation Scheme, having regard to the arrangement of the Pilot Project and the prevailing market conditions when the Navigation Scheme is rolled out later.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)16

(Question Serial No. S0109)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. According to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0217, the number of persons on the waiting list for subsidised residential care places (RCP) increased by about 5.5% every year. So, what was the percentage increase in the supply of subsidised RCP over the past 3 years? Was the increase in the supply higher than the 5.5% increase in the number of people on the waiting list for the service?
2. There were 3 657 elderly persons who had passed away while on the waiting list for the service in 2014, which was the highest in the past 3 years. However, only 4 311 elderly persons were allocated places, which means that for 1 elderly person allocated a place, 0.85 elderly person passed away while on the waiting list. How will the Government change the situation so that needy elderly persons can be allocated suitable residential care service?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. The numbers of additional subsidised residential care places for the elderly from 2012-13 to 2014-15 were 321, 283 and 922 respectively, representing yearly percentage increases of 1.3%, 1.1% and 3.6% respectively.
2. To address the demand for subsidised residential care places for the elderly, the Government will continue to take a multi-pronged approach to increase the provision of such places. From 2014-15 to 2017-18, the Government will provide about 1 710 additional subsidised residential care places. The Social Welfare Department has also earmarked sites in 11 development projects in order to provide about 1 200 additional residential care places through the construction of new contract residential care homes for the elderly (RCHes). In addition, the Government is implementing the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses (Special

Scheme), under which a total of over 60 applications have been submitted by over 40 non-governmental organisations. Based on the rough estimates of the participating organisations, if the preliminary proposals received under the Special Scheme could be implemented smoothly, about 7 000 additional residential care places for the elderly would be provided. The Government will continue to identify suitable sites for new RCHEs, and will explore the feasibility of incorporating residential care facilities into redevelopment projects, and convert vacant buildings into RCHEs.

The Elderly Commission (EC) is conducting a feasibility study on introducing residential care services (RCS) vouchers. It is expected that EC will submit its report by mid-2015. In this connection, a total of about \$800 million has been earmarked to meet the expenses incurred in issuing a total of 3 000 RCS vouchers in phases from 2015-16 to 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0099)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. According to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0216, the Government does not have the number of recipients of Disability Allowance (DA) who are also holders of Registration Card for People with Disabilities (PWDs). Since both provide welfare support with PWDs as the target beneficiaries, the Government compare the figures in future;
2. Does the Government have the number of cases in which recipients had withdrawn from DA over the past 2 years? How many among these recipients had passed away?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. The objective of DA is to provide a cash allowance to Hong Kong residents who are severely disabled to meet their special needs arising from severe disability, while the purpose of the Registration Card for PWDs (the Card) is to enable a cardholder to produce it, when necessary, as a documentary proof of his/her disability status and type. The Card is not associated with the provision of any welfare benefits. Its objectives, target service users and eligibility criteria are all different from those of DA. To apply for the Card, applicants are required to provide valid proof of their disability(ies), but there is no need for them to declare whether they are receiving DA or not. In addition, the Card is not a documentary proof of eligibility for DA. As such, the Government does not have the number of DA recipients who are also holders of the Card.

2. In 2013-14 and 2014-15, the numbers of DA cases closed and DA cases closed due to death of the recipients were as follows –

	2013-14	2014-15 (Up to end-December 2014)
Number of DA cases closed	18 183	13 140
Number of DA cases closed due to death of recipients	8 426	5 958

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)18

(Question Serial No. S0100)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

According to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0236, the number of male victims in domestic violence cases is reaching 700 each year, accounting for 17% to 18% of the total. In fact, it is very different how we handle and support male or female victims. Will any specialised services, programmes or publicity be targeted at male victims of domestic violence? Is the hardware ready for handling cases of male victims, such as whether a special male zone will be set up in the Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) and subvented welfare organisations provide a comprehensive network of family and child welfare services to individuals in need (irrespective of gender) or families in need (including victims of domestic violence and their families), such as integrated family service, family and child protective service, family support networking service, clinical psychological service, residential care service for children, day child care service and adoption service.

The Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre (MCISC) provides temporary accommodation service to individuals (irrespective of gender) or families suffering from domestic violence. To have effective use of resources and to meet the different needs of victims of domestic violence, MCISC would arrange for victims of different genders to stay in rooms on suitable floors based on the actual circumstances of accommodation usage.

To encourage men facing domestic violence to seek assistance, SWD and the Radio Television Hong Kong jointly produced a series of family docudramas in 2013-14, in which men in domestic violence scenarios were also featured. SWD has also prepared promotional leaflets, which apart from encouraging male victims to seek assistance, also set out the details of the services specifically provided for them, such as counselling, temporary accommodation service and legal assistance.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0101)

Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Low-income Working Family Allowance

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Mr Esmond LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. According to Reply Serial No. 236, "when the need arises", the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency will match and share the data and records it has collected with the Social Welfare Department. Please explain how this will arise.
2. The Chief Secretary for Administration has previously proposed that a system should be developed to provide one-stop service to grassroots families so that they are not required to approach different service units to apply for subsidies and social benefits. However, as the systems of the departments currently do not support data sharing, applicants still have to submit their applications to different departments. How will the issue be resolved?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

1. The Low-income Working Family Allowance (LIFA) Scheme administered by the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (WFSFAA) will interface with various assistance schemes administered by the Social Welfare Department (SWD). This includes LIFA-receiving families not being allowed to benefit from the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance at the same time, and in the case of LIFA family members who benefit from the Old Age Living Allowance and the Pilot Carer Allowance Scheme, the cash allowances they receive are required to be counted towards the family income in LIFA's income test. Given the interface between these assistance schemes, the WFSFAA will match the relevant data with those of the SWD when processing a LIFA application to verify the eligibility of the applicant for LIFA, thereby ensuring accurate disbursement of the allowance.

2. To improve the current situation where members of the public are required to approach different departments to apply for benefits under various welfare schemes, the Efficiency Unit has commissioned a consultancy study to examine the feasibility of providing a more user-friendly one-stop service. The study is underway.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0114)

Head: (710) Capital Works Reserve Fund: Computerisation

Subhead (No. & title): (A012ZG) Replacement of the Computerised Social Security System

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. According to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0243, the new computer system concerned will be launched 5 years behind the original schedule under the Subhead, far beyond the capacity of the old system can cope. Can the Government speed up the progress?
2. How does the Government ensure that system data security, frontline staff and the recipients will not be affected by the delay?
3. Is the expenditure of \$19 million involved in upgrading the existing system and developing the new system as mentioned in the reply to be met under this Subhead? Has the Government claimed damages against the Contractor for failing to fulfil the contract?
4. The project was one approved by the Legislative Council. However, there have been significant changes and delays. Why has the Government not reported the progress to the Legislative Council?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

According to Rule 49 of the Finance Committee Procedures, special meetings of the Finance Committee are convened to examine the annual Estimates of Expenditure prepared by the Government in support of the Appropriation Bill. Expenditure charged to the Capital Works Reserve Fund does not form part of the Appropriation Bill. As such, questions relating to expenditure under the Fund are not relevant to the examination of the Estimates of Expenditure or the Appropriation Bill.

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. to 4. After examining different options, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) considered it more feasible to develop a new computer system through an in-house approach, and will continue to develop the new computer system with

the balance of the non-recurrent funding which has previously been approved for SWD's computer system replacement project. Despite the delay in launching the new system, the amount of funding previously approved and the project involved are not affected. SWD has established the Computerised Social Security System Project Development Office for developing a new computer system at full steam. The new system is expected to be rolled out in early 2018.

Before the new system is rolled out, SWD has used funding under Subhead A007GX New administrative computer systems (block allocation) under Head 710 Computerisation of the Capital Works Reserve Fund for upgrading the backend infrastructure and communication network of the existing system, which has been completed in early April 2015, in order to maintain its stability and sustainability. The delay in rolling out the new system will not affect existing system data security, frontline staff or recipients.

SWD has been discussing with the Department of Justice and the Government Logistics Department on issues relating to the contract with the Contractor. As contractual matters are involved, no relevant information can be provided at this stage.

- End -