

Index Page

Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2017-18

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Session No. : 19

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

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-LWB(WW)01	S0076	KWOK Wai-keung	141	
S-LWB(WW)02	S0086	LAU Siu-lai	141	
S-LWB(WW)03	S0071	MAK Mei-kuen, Alice	141	(3) Women's Interests
S-LWB(WW)04	SV034	KWOK Ka-ki	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
S-LWB(WW)05	S0077	KWOK Wai-keung	170	(3) Services for Elders (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
S-LWB(WW)06	S0078	KWOK Wai-keung	170	(3) Services for Elders
S-LWB(WW)07	S0079	KWOK Wai-keung	170	(3) Services for Elders
S-LWB(WW)08	S0080	KWOK Wai-keung	170	(3) Services for Elders
S-LWB(WW)09	S0081	KWOK Wai-keung	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
S-LWB(WW)10	S0082	KWOK Wai-keung	170	(2) Social Security
S-LWB(WW)11	S0083	LAU Siu-lai	170	(2) Social Security
S-LWB(WW)12	S0084	LAU Siu-lai	170	(2) Social Security (3) Services for Elders
S-LWB(WW)13	S0085	LAU Siu-lai	170	(3) Services for Elders
S-LWB(WW)14	S0092	LAU Siu-lai	170	(3) Services for Elders
S-LWB(WW)15	S0093	LAU Siu-lai	170	(3) Services for Elders
S-LWB(WW)16	S0094	LAU Siu-lai	170	(3) Services for Elders
S-LWB(WW)17	S0103	LAU Siu-lai	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
S-LWB(WW)18	S0072	MAK Mei-kuen, Alice	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
S-LWB(WW)19	S0073	MAK Mei-kuen, Alice	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
S-LWB(WW)20	S0074	MAK Mei-kuen, Alice	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare (2) Social Security

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0076)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: ()

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In the Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0004, it was said that the independent consultant had completed the analysis of views received and had submitted a report. It was also announced in the Government's Policy Address this year that the existing multi-pillar retirement protection system would continue. However, as the Government has publicly stated, it had a predetermined stance on retirement protection during the consultation. Besides, controversies between the Government and the independent consultant arose throughout the consultation exercise. Will the Government still explore in future the option of "first pillar", i.e. public pension, including the proposals on financing? If not, does it imply that there will never be a first pillar in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

The World Bank proposed a five-pillar retirement protection framework in 2005. It is noteworthy that, although the World Bank advocates the multi-pillar model, it does not indicate that a comprehensive retirement protection system should comprise all five pillars. On the contrary, the World Bank stresses that there is no single system that is suitable for all places. Each place should find its way forward in the light of its inherited retirement protection system, the need for reform and whether the conditions are favourable for reform.

Adopting the World Bank's multi-pillar approach, Hong Kong's retirement protection system currently has four pillars comprising a multi-tiered social security system (pillar 0), the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) and other occupation-based retirement savings schemes (pillar 2), voluntary savings (pillar 3), as well as public services, family support and personal assets (pillar 4). The design is underpinned by the principles of sharing the responsibility of retirement protection amongst individuals/families, employers and Government, as well as addressing the varying needs of elderly persons through multiple channels. Both pillars 0 and 2 have very high coverage rates – the social security pillar (pillar 0) is taken up by over 70% of our elderly population, while the MPF (pillar 2) currently with 2.8 million scheme members is covering almost all of the working population not protected by other occupational retirement schemes. These two pillars are effective platforms through which further improvements to retirement protection can be made.

Hence, the Government considers that Hong Kong should continue to adopt a multi-pillar retirement protection model and strengthen each of the existing pillars with a view to enhancing the adequacy and coverage of retirement protection while maintaining the affordability and financial sustainability of the system.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0086)

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

Question:

Regarding Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0006, please provide further information on following:

1. Although it is mentioned in the reply that “the estimated additional recurrent Government expenditure on retirement protection (enhancement measures) in the first ten years will be over \$90 billion”, the official concerned at the Special Finance Committee Meeting had yet to account for how the \$50 billion earmarked for retirement protection would be used. Regarding the \$50 billion, please provide details of the actual amount allocated to each enhancement measure;
2. As regards the \$50 billion mentioned above, will the Administration allocate part of the funding to the item on “offsetting arrangement of the Mandatory Provident Fund”? If yes, the details; if not, the reasons for that;
3. Has the Administration conducted any assessment on the financial sustainability of the enhanced Old Age Living Allowance as well as how various financing options will affect the future estimate prepared by the Government? If yes, the details.

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No.)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

1. to 3. The Government has proposed a number of measures in the 2017 Policy Address to comprehensively respond to the public aspiration for enhancing retirement protection for elderly persons. The estimated additional expenditure on the retirement protection measures in the first ten years will be over \$90 billion. The relevant expenditure would be reflected in the Estimates of the relevant financial years. A breakdown of the expenditure or income forgone under various measures over the next ten years is tabulated as follows:

Measures	Preliminary estimated expenditure or income forgone over the next ten years (\$ billion)
Add a higher tier of allowance and relax the existing asset limits under the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA)	75.57
Lower the eligibility age for Elderly Health Care Voucher	11.86
Medical fee waiver for older and more needy OALA recipients in receiving public medical services	3.13
Government subsidy during the transitional period of abolishing Mandatory Provident Fund “offsetting”	6.22
Maximum tax forgone related to making long service payment provisions which are tax deductible	17.96

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0071)

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. As shown in Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0015, the proportion of female non-official members of advisory and statutory bodies appointed by the Government in 2016 not only failed to meet the target of 35%, but was also lower than the corresponding figure of 32% in 2014. What are the reasons for the current-term Government's failure to meet its proposed target of 35% over the past few years? What measures are to be put in place by the Government to really enhance women's participation in public service?
2. According to Annex 1, there are no female members serving on some public bodies and committees, such as the Council of the City University of Hong Kong, the Council of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Council on Professional Conduct in Education. This may result in a situation where certain women's roles and views cannot be discussed within these organisations. How can the Government include more women's views and opinions in the decision-making process or discussions of these organisations which fail to meet the target?

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

- (1) The Government makes appointments to advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs) on the basis of the merit of individuals concerned. The Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) will remind bureaux and departments (B/Ds) from time to time to consider appointments to the ASBs under their purview in accordance with the said principle and meet the 35% gender benchmark as far as possible.

The LWB approached B/Ds in 2016 to understand why the ASBs under their purview were unable to meet the gender benchmark. According to the responses of B/Ds, the main reasons of not meeting the benchmark included – the ASBs concerned belonged to sectors (such as construction industry, etc.) which more members or the more experienced practitioners were male. We will continue our efforts with a view to gradually raising the female participation rate in ASBs as soon as practicable.

- (2) As the composition requirements of the ASBs may vary, currently apart from those appointed by the Government, ASB members (including female members) may also be appointed by the relevant organisations or elected. The LWB will continue to remind B/Ds that when considering appointments to the ASBs under their purview, while on the basis of the merit of individuals concerned, regard be paid to the 35% gender benchmark as far as possible.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)04

(Question Serial No. SV034)

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:

With reference to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0079 –

Would the Government please provide information on the timetable of identifying permanent accommodation for those integrated community centres for mental wellness (ICCMWs) which have not yet secured permanent accommodation, including the progress of assisting individual ICCMWs in moving to permanent accommodation?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

Among the 24 subvented ICCMWs, 15 are currently operating in permanent accommodation. Suitable sites for permanent accommodation have been identified for 5 other ICCMWs, where fitting-out/building works or district consultation are being/will be carried out. These projects are expected to come into operation within the coming 5 years. For the 4 remaining ICCMWs, while space has been preliminarily reserved in new development or redevelopment projects under planning, the projects have yet to be confirmed at this stage. The Social Welfare Department will continue to maintain close liaison with relevant departments, with a view to finalising the premises as permanent accommodation as soon as possible. Those ICCMWs yet to move into permanent accommodation are currently renting commercial premises with funding from the Government or making use of existing units of the operating organisation(s) for service provision or office use.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)05

(Question Serial No. S0077)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly,
(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. Regarding Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0051, 1 000 places are provided under the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services (the Navigation Scheme). However, only 555 trainees, amounting to half of the places, have been recruited under the 2 terms, with 436 trainees still actually participating in the Navigation Scheme. Have the other 119 trainees withdrawn after joining? If yes, does the Government know their reasons for withdrawal?
2. According to Item 5 of the Reply, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has prepared the implementation details, including the working hours, salaries and promotion arrangement of the trainees. Are these details in relation to the trainees' attachment during the two-year course or to their work after the course?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. Up to end-December 2016, a total of 555 trainees had been recruited by the 5 operating agencies, with 436 of them still in the Navigation Scheme. A total of 119 trainees have withdrawn from the Navigation Scheme mainly for such reasons as pursuing further studies, finding the job nature not suitable, getting other jobs or personal reasons, etc.
2. Apart from receiving on-the-job training in elderly or rehabilitation service units, trainees participating in the Navigation Scheme are also provided with subsidies from the Government to pursue a two-year part-time diploma course. The guidelines on the implementation details of the Navigation Scheme issued to the operating agencies by SWD are applicable to the job arrangements during the implementation of the Navigation Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)06

(Question Serial No. S0078)

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 Social Welfare Department (SWD)'s Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0054, starting from 2016-17, the Government has been progressively upgrading EA2 places to EA1 places. How many applications have been received from the residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) since last year? How many places are involved?
2. When assessing the RCHEs, are accreditation, complaint records, incident records, irregularities found during inspections being considered as assessment standards?
3. Regarding upgrading EA2 places to EA1 places, does the Government have a timetable for upgrading all the EA2 places, being over 3 000 of them, to EA1 places?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. In August 2016, SWD invited all the EA2 RCHEs under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) to upgrade their places to EA1 places which are of a higher quality. A total of 35 RCHEs have submitted applications, involving over 2 000 places.
2. In assessing the applications, SWD takes into account such factors as the past performance standards and service quality of the applicant RCHEs, whether the RCHEs have participated in service quality accreditation schemes, and the occupancy rates of the EBPS places.
3. SWD will consider future arrangements at an appropriate time having regard to the progress of various RCHEs under the current upgrading programme and the overall supply of subsidised residential care places.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0079)

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:

According to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0055, the waiting time for day care centres/units for the elderly (DEs/DCUs) in 2016-17 is ever longer than before. In fact, these DEs/DCUs are mainly designed to provide support to frail elderly persons with moderate or severe impairment. The waiting time of almost a year for them to receive services is obviously too long. It is stated in the Budget that the Government will earmark \$30 billion for elderly services and rehabilitation services. How many of the resources will be allocated for enhancing DE services?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department has planned to implement 25 development projects for the provision of new contract residential care homes for the elderly and DEs/DCUs. It is expected that about 2 100 additional residential care places for the elderly (including subsidised and non-subsidised places) and about 820 additional day care places for the elderly can be provided. A total of 173 places of day care services for the elderly provided by 5 of the development projects are expected to commence service in 2017-18.

The Government is also actively implementing the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses (the Special Scheme) with a view to encouraging non-governmental organisations to better utilise their own sites to provide diversified subvented and self-financing services (in particular increasing the provision of elderly and rehabilitation services) through expansion, redevelopment or new development. Based on the rough estimate of the applicant organisations, if all the proposed projects under the Special Scheme could be implemented smoothly, about 17 000 additional service places for the elderly and persons with disabilities could be provided, including about 9 000 elderly service places (with about 7 000 residential care places and about 2 000 day care places) and about 8 000 rehabilitation service places.

Apart from day care services, the Government also provides other community care and support services to enable frail elderly persons to age in the community. These services include the First Phase of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) for the Elderly (the Pilot Scheme) which was launched in September 2013. Under the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme, the coverage has been extended to all 18 districts in

Hong Kong since October 2016, with the number of CCSVs increased to 3 000. The Government will issue 2 000 additional CCSVs in 2017-18 under the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme (i.e. a total of up to 5 000 CCSVs under the Pilot Scheme).

In addition, the Government plans to apply for funding from the Community Care Fund in mid-2017 to implement 2 pilot schemes to respectively provide necessary transitional care and support for elderly persons discharged from public hospitals after treatment (initially estimated to provide support for at least 3 200 elderly persons in total in 3 years) and provide appropriate home-based community care and support services for elderly persons with mild impairment (initially estimated to provide up to 4 000 places in 3 years).

The Financial Secretary has proposed in this year's Budget to take a forward-looking approach by earmarking \$30 billion from the surplus of this financial year to strengthen elderly services and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. This initiative has served to underline the Government's commitments to elderly people and persons with disabilities, particularly as additional resources will be required to support a wide range of proposals to be put forward under the Elderly Services Programme Plan which is expected to be completed this year, and the Rehabilitation Programme Plan which will be formulated in due course. The specific details and the funding arrangements can only be determined after the Government has received the completed programme plans and formulated the corresponding implementation plans.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)08

(Question Serial No. S0080)

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. It is stated in Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0059 that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have the number of newly accredited residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and the number of RCHEs with accreditation removed in the past. However, the list of RCHEs joining various accreditation schemes is available on the SWD Elderly Information Website. Given that such a list is available, why doesn't the Government have the statistics? Will the Government compile such statistics in the future?
2. According to the reply, what the Government does to encourage RCHEs to participate in accreditation schemes is that RCHEs would have to participate in the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) for the Elderly (the Pilot Scheme) first and only after they have successfully acquired accreditation under an accreditation scheme can they be reimbursed 50% of the accreditation fee. Can the Government be more proactive by, for example, reimbursing the full accreditation fee to the RCHEs and requiring all RCHEs participating in the Pilot Scheme to obtain accreditation so as to achieve higher quality RCSV services?
3. While various accreditation/assessment schemes are already there in society, why is SWD initiating the Service Quality Group Scheme (SQG Scheme)? How different are the SQG Scheme in terms of objectives and target plans?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. SWD launched the Elderly Information Website in February 2017 for the purpose of providing a one-stop platform for delivering information to the public and enhancing transparency in RCHE service information. Information about RCHEs joining accreditation schemes available on the website has been submitted by individual RCHEs and then confirmed by SWD. As the existing service quality accreditation schemes for RCHEs are managed and certified by independent bodies and RCHEs join these accreditation schemes on a voluntary basis, SWD does not have the number of newly accredited RCHEs, nor the number of RCHEs with accreditation removed in the

past. SWD will consider compiling statistics based on the information submitted by RCHEs as posted on the SWD Elderly Information Website.

2. At present, RCHEs have to join accreditation schemes at their own expense. As for the Pilot Scheme, the Government has accepted the recommendation put forward by the Elderly Commission in the Final Report of the Feasibility Study that recognised service providers (RSPs) applying for the first time and having successfully acquired accreditation under an accreditation scheme that has been accredited by the Hong Kong Accreditation Service will be reimbursed 50% of the accreditation fee, with a view to encouraging RSPs to pursue continuous service improvement. The Government has no plan to reimburse the accreditation fee in full.
3. The existing service quality accreditation schemes are managed and certified by independent bodies. Individual accreditation schemes feature different certification scope, assessment criteria and accreditation standards. The purpose of requiring RSPs under the Pilot Scheme to join the SQG Scheme is to allow members of the community to monitor the RSPs. Such a purpose is different from the purposes of the accreditation schemes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)09

(Question Serial No. S0081)

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)0060, 80% of residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) are still operating on certificates of exemption (CoEs). While the Government is striving to complete the entire licensing exercise in 3 years, what measures are in place to make 80% of RCHDs meet the licensing requirements in 3 years? Just in case a large number of RCHDs still fail to meet the requirements after 3 years, will the Government allow them to continue operation?
2. Moreover, despite the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance having been in full implementation for more than 3 years, only 40 applications under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Private RCHDs (FAS) have been received so far. Is the situation satisfactory? In the case of hundreds of RCHDs applying for subsidy for licensing purposes in the future, will the Government be able to handle them?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. To assist RCHDs currently operating on CoEs to meet the licensing requirements as soon as possible, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been providing subsidy with allocations from the Lotteries Fund for RCHDs to carry out improvement works for compliance with the licensing requirements. While RCHDs operated by non-governmental organisations may carry out improvement works with subsidies from the Lotteries Fund, FAS is implemented by SWD to provide financial assistance to private RCHDs for carrying out improvement works so as to meet the licensing requirements. Up to a maximum of 90% of the recognised cost of the improvement works may be granted. Moreover, SWD has simplified the process of application and approval for improvement works. For example, the workflow of engaging authorised persons has been streamlined, document templates have been drawn up, and additional technical support is being provided for RCHDs as required.

SWD has been discussing with all RCHDs issued with CoEs the options to expedite their improvement works and follow them up regularly. Based on the progress of the improvement works, the Government is confident that most RCHDs will be able to meet the licensing requirements within the coming 3 years. By then, unless the Director of Social Welfare is satisfied that individual RCHDs have encountered unforeseeable circumstances or difficulties in carrying out the necessary improvement works and that there are concrete, feasible solutions in place, the Government will refuse to renew the CoEs of such RCHDs.

2. Under FAS, financial assistance is provided for private RCHDs currently operating on CoEs to carry out improvement works for compliance with the licensing requirements. Up to end-March 2017, there were 45 private RCHDs still operating on CoEs, 37 of which had applied for FAS. SWD will continue to discuss the plan and progress of improvement works with the 8 remaining RCHDs, including some which are considering to carry out improvement works for compliance with the licensing requirements and standards at their own expense.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)10

(Question Serial No. S0082)

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)0061 regarding the Social Welfare Department's request for the implementation of the Computerised Social Security System (CSSS) replacement project, funding had in fact been allocated as early as in 2009. Why has the system not been replaced after 8 years and, worse still, the new system cannot be rolled out until 2018.
2. It is also mentioned in the reply that there is "no plan to include the other allowance schemes under CSSS at the present stage". However, when announcing the 2014 Policy Address, the Government indicated that they would study "the feasibility of setting up a centralised platform to provide a one-stop, user-friendly administrative service to receive, process and approve applications for public benefits". What are the findings of the study? If a new one-stop platform is to be launched in the future, does it mean that the CSSS now being replaced will have to be upgraded once again?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. With a funding of about \$386.1 million from the Capital Works Reserve Fund approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council on 16 January 2009, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) commissioned a contractor by open tender in August 2011 to commence the CSSS replacement project. As the contractor responsible for developing the new computer system had failed to deliver a computer system meeting the contract requirements by the date stipulated in the contract (i.e. end-March 2014), upon careful consideration and having sought legal advice, SWD terminated the contract with the contractor on 11 July 2014 in accordance with the contract terms. Subsequently, SWD decided to develop a new computer system through an in-house approach. As such, SWD established the CSSS Project Development Office in October 2014 tasked with developing a new computer system. Computer programming for the project was completed in end-2016 as scheduled, and various testing also commenced in March 2017 to ensure smooth running of all the functions performed by the new computer system, which is expected to be rolled out in early 2018.

2. SWD understands that the Efficiency Unit (EU) has conducted a business feasibility study and social impact assessment on centralised benefits administration system. The study findings are being assessed by EU.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)11

(Question Serial No. S0083)

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:

Further to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0207, would the Government please provide the following information –

1. the number of recipients under the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme, the number of persons applying for returning to reside in Hong Kong, and the number of persons having returned to reside in Hong Kong with a breakdown by age of recipients (aged 60 to below 65, aged 65 to below 70, and aged 70 or above) over the past 5 years;
2. the average time for elderly persons under the PCSSA Scheme to be converted to receiving elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) after returning to reside in Hong Kong;
3. It is stated in the reply that “elderly persons who have returned to Hong Kong from the Mainland may, depending on their personal circumstances and needs, consider seeking assistance from District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs), Social Security Field Units (SSFUs), Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) or Integrated Services Centres (ISCs). Services provided by these service units include provision of information, counselling, emergency assistance, supportive groups, referral service, etc. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have data on elderly persons who have returned from the Mainland”. In this connection, is there any staff under the establishment of the units (e.g. SSFUs) being deployed for handling these cases? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. The number of elderly recipients under the PCSSA Scheme and the number of such recipients having returned to reside in HK from 2012-13 to 2016-17 are provided as follows –

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (as at end-December 2016)
Number of elderly recipients	2 304	2 096	1 917	1 733	1 523
Number of elderly recipients having returned to reside in HK	119	113	72	68	43

SWD does not have information on the number of elderly recipients under the PCSSA Scheme who had returned to reside in HK with a breakdown by age.

2. SWD does not have information on the average time for elderly persons under the PCSSA Scheme to be converted to receiving elderly CSSA after returning to reside in HK.
3. DECCs, SSFUs, IFSCs and ISCs provide services for different individuals and families (including elderly persons who have returned from the Mainland to reside in HK) to support their multifarious needs. SWD does not have the breakdown on the manpower in individual service units designated for providing support services for elderly persons who have returned from the Mainland to reside in HK.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)12

(Question Serial No. S0084)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security,
(3) Services for The Elderly

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Further to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0096, would the Government please provide the following information –

1. the take-up rate of the Guangdong (GD) Scheme in the past 3 years, and whether the Government has looked at why the actual number of recipients was half the expected number of beneficiaries (30 000 elderly persons). If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Regarding the elderly persons who had returned to Hong Kong (HK) as mentioned in the reply, please provide their number with a breakdown by age (65 to below 70, and 70 or above);
3. Among the elderly persons who had returned to HK as mentioned in the reply, how many were originally living in public housing units? What is the number of cases where the elderly persons have successfully been allocated/re-admitted to public housing after returning to HK? What is the average waiting time for allocation/re-admission to public housing?
4. Does the Government provide support (e.g. home care services) for elderly persons with medical or care needs who have returned to HK? Are there resources and manpower allocated for handling this kind of cases?
5. If elderly persons participating in the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme and the GD Scheme have already been put on the Central Waiting List (CWL) under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services (SCNAMES) before they choose to reside in GD/Fujian (FJ), will they need to start waiting all over again upon returning to HK, or are they being classified as inactive cases and will therefore be “unfrozen”?

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. According to a survey conducted by the Census and Statistics Department in 2011, it was estimated that around 46 000 Hong Kong elderly persons were residing in GD. The GD Scheme was launched in 2013, and the assumption about the number of elderly recipients at the initial stage was made for planning purpose only. Whether eligible elderly persons will apply for the GD Scheme will depend on their personal considerations and circumstances.
2. & 3. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have the information sought.
4. Elderly persons who have returned to HK from the Mainland may, depending on their personal circumstances and needs, seek assistance from District Elderly Community Centres, Social Security Field Units, Integrated Family Service Centres or Integrated Services Centres. Services provided by these service units include provision of information, counselling, emergency assistance, supportive groups, referral service, etc.
5. If elderly persons participating in the PCSSA Scheme and the GD Scheme have already been put on CWL for subsidised long-term care services before they move to reside in GD/FJ, SWD will either cancel or reserve their applications on CWL according to their preference. If the elderly persons reserve their applications on CWL, SWD will inform them via their responsible social workers in HK about the arrangements for service matching and allocation, and will let them know the application progress so that they can return to HK in a timely manner to follow up on service admission. Elderly persons who have cancelled their applications on CWL may also apply for subsidised long-term care services again after having chosen to return and reside in HK.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0085)

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:

Further to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0124, would the Government please provide the following information –

1. Only 138 elderly persons have participated in the Pilot Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (the Pilot Scheme), accounting for about 35% of the 400 places provided overall. In this connection, would the Government please provide the justifications for considering the Pilot Scheme to be effective and allocating over \$30 million to extend the Pilot Scheme? Has the Government set any criteria/indicators for assessing the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme? If yes, what are the criteria/indicators?
2. According to the Government, as at end-December 2016, a total of 26 elderly persons who resided in residential care homes on the Mainland had left the Pilot Scheme owing to death or health or family reasons. Apart from the elderly persons having left the Pilot Scheme due to death, has the Government conducted a survey to gather the views or suggestions on the Pilot Scheme from the other elderly persons having withdrawn from and continued to participate in the Pilot Scheme?
3. If the number of participants continues to be fewer than expected, has the Government considered reducing the funding or suspending the Pilot Scheme. If yes, will the Government reallocate the resources concerned for increasing the number of public residential care places in Hong Kong? If no, what are the reasons?
4. Please provide the place-to-staff ratio, the cost per place under the Pilot Scheme as well as the respective costs per place provided by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Shenzhen Society for Rehabilitation Yee Hong Heights in Shenzhen and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Helping Hand Zhaoqing Home for the Elderly in Zhaoqing under the Pilot Scheme.

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. to 3. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has conducted review of the Pilot Scheme through collating relevant data, visiting elderly residents,

communicating routinely with the staff of the 2 residential care homes and exchanging views with the 2 non-governmental organisations. Generally speaking, the Pilot Scheme has been running smoothly since its implementation with steady growth in the number of elderly admission. The Government launched the Pilot Scheme with the main objective to provide an additional choice for elderly persons in need of residential care service to choose to join according to their own preferences. Based on this objective, we believe that we should not judge the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme just by looking at the number of participants. In fact, as reflected from SWD's review, elderly persons participating in the Scheme are generally satisfied with the living environment and services provided by the 2 residential care homes, and are willing to retiring on the Mainland. In addition, as at end-December 2016, a total of 26 elderly persons had left the Pilot Scheme, including 18 of them due to death and the remaining 8 due to their family in Hong Kong or on the Mainland wish to taking care of them at home. The Government has earmarked an annual provision of \$32.64 million for the implementation of the Pilot Scheme. It is expected that 400 places can be provided for elderly persons on the waiting list for subsidised care-and-attention places. However, the actual annual expenditure for the purchased places will depend on the number of participants. At present, there are still vacancies and resources available for any interested elderly persons to join the Pilot Scheme. The Chief Executive has announced in his Policy Address 2017 that the Pilot Scheme would be extended for 3 years with the earmarked funding remain the same.

4. Similar to the subvented residential care homes in Hong Kong, the 2 residential care homes participating in the Pilot Scheme have the flexibility to deploy the subventions in arranging suitable staffing, subject to their being able to ensure the service quality and meet the requirements and performance standards as stipulated in the service agreements signed with SWD. SWD does not have the place-to-staff ratio of the 2 residential care homes. However, the 2 residential care homes have obtained accreditation under the Residential Aged Care Accreditation Scheme (RACAS) managed by the Hong Kong Association of Gerontology, while the RACAS has been accredited by the Hong Kong Accreditation Service. According to the existing arrangements under the Pilot Scheme, the unit rate of subsidy for each place in the residential care home in Shenzhen is set with reference to the care level required by the elderly person concerned at 3 levels, which are HK\$7,825 (normal care – non-tube-feeding), HK\$8,713 (tube-feeding – normal milk) and HK\$10,213 (tube-feeding – special milk) per month, while in the case of the residential care home in Zhaoqing, the unit rate of subsidy for each place, is also set with reference to the care level required by the elderly person concerned at 2 levels, which are HK\$7,400 (normal care–non-dementia) and HK\$9,600 (dementia) per month.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)14

(Question Serial No. S0092)

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:

With reference to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0088 and as regards Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following –

1. the number of new EHCCS applicants in each of the past 5 years;
2. the number of persons having withdrawn from EHCCS broken down by reason for withdrawal in each of the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. Frail elderly persons who had been assessed as moderately or severely impaired under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services may apply for Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) (Frail Cases)(FC) and/or EHCCS. The numbers of new applicants for IHCS(FC) and EHCCS from 2012-13 to 2016-17 are provided below –

Service type	Number of new applicants				
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (up to end-December 2016)
IHCS(FC)/ EHCCS	3 517	3 335	3 670	4 409	3 806

2. The number of persons having left EHCCS and reasons for leaving each year from 2012-13 to 2016-17 are set out in Annex.

Number of persons having left EHCCS and reasons for leaving
Table 1: 2012-13 to 14-15

Reasons for leaving	No. of persons having left ^[Note 1]		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Admission to residential care homes	500	532	451
Hospitalised	533	617	568
Deceased	465	481	462
Health improved without need for services	12	10	6
Others ^[Note 2]	518	561	526
Total	2 028	2 201	2 013

[Note 1] Figures provided by non-governmental organisations operating EHCCS.

[Note 2] Including those converted to day care units, the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly and IHCS (Ordinary Cases), etc. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have the breakdown figures.

Table 2: 2015-16 to 2016-17

Reasons for leaving ^[Note 1]	No. of persons having left ^[Note 2]	
	2015-16	2016-17 (up to end-December 2016)
Self-withdrawn	327	203
Deceased	594	416
Health improved without need for services	20	4
Admitted to other services ^[Note 3]	597	394
Hospitalised for long period	635	451
Moved to other districts/boundary	23	23
Others ^[Note 4]	189	123
Total	2 385	1 614

[Note 1] The reasons for leaving are classified based on Form 24B of the long-term care services delivery system.

[Note 2] Figures generated by the long-term care services delivery system.

[Note 3] Including those admitted to residential care services, other community care services or private residential care homes for the elderly, etc.

[Note 4] SWD does not have the breakdown figures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)15

(Question Serial No. S0093)

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:

With reference to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0101 and as regards the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) for the Elderly (the Pilot Scheme), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following –

1. the number of persons having withdrawn from the Pilot Scheme broken down by reason for withdrawal in each of the years from 2013-14 to 2016-17;
2. the number of persons having withdrawn from the Pilot Scheme broken down by co-payment level of CCSV holders and reason for withdrawal in each of the years from 2013-14 to 2016-17;
3. the number of CCSV holders in each co-payment level in each of the years from 2013-14 to 2016-17?

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai

Reply:

The First Phase and Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme were launched in September 2013 and October 2016 respectively. During the implementation of the First Phase of the Pilot Scheme, CCSV holders need to pay according to affordability a co-payment amount set at 5 levels [i.e. \$500 (I), \$750 (II), \$1,000 (III), \$1,500 (IV) and \$2,500 (V)]. During the implementation of the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme, CCSV holders need to pay according to affordability a co-payment amount set at 6 levels [i.e. 5%(I), 8%(II), 12%(III), 16%(IV), 25%(V) and 40%(VI) of the CCSV value].

The cumulative number of elderly persons having left the Pilot Scheme broken down by reason for leaving and co-payment level and the number of CCSV holders broken down by co-payment level from 2013-14 to 2016-17 are set out in Annex.

Table 1 : Cumulative number of elderly persons having left the First Phase of the Pilot Scheme broken down by reason for leaving and co-payment level up to end-March 2014

Reason for leaving	Cumulative no. of elderly persons having left the Pilot Scheme broken down by co-payment level					Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	
Will be/have been allocated subsidised community care service or subsidised/private residential care service	34	4	3	3	4	48
No suitable service providers/service packages	18	5	1	-	-	24
Taken care of by family members or domestic helpers	8	1	-	-	1	10
Deceased	16	4	1	-	3	24
Others (e.g.: hospitalisation, out of town)	2	-	-	-	-	2
Total	78	14	5	3	8	108

Table 2 : Cumulative number of elderly persons having left the First Phase of the Pilot Scheme with broken down by reason for leaving and co-payment level up to end-March 2015

Reason for leaving	Cumulative no. of elderly persons having left the Pilot Scheme broken down by co-payment level					Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	
Will be/have been allocated subsidised community care service or subsidised/private residential care service	243	33	29	5	29	339
No suitable service providers/service packages	204	22	23	3	22	274
Taken care of by family members or domestic helpers	77	10	13	1	16	117
Deceased	84	16	15	1	10	126
Others (e.g.: hospitalisation, out of town)	23	5	2	-	2	32
Total	631	86	82	10	79	888

Table 3 : Cumulative number of elderly persons having left the First Phase of the Pilot Scheme with broken down by reason for leaving and co-payment level up to end-March 2016

Reason for leaving	Cumulative no. of elderly persons having left the Pilot Scheme broken down by co-payment level					Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	
Will be/have been allocated subsidised community care service or subsidised/private residential care service	435	65	66	14	62	642
No suitable service providers/service packages	279	29	27	4	29	368
Taken care of by family members or domestic helpers	154	29	23	6	24	236
Deceased	156	22	25	2	22	227
Others (e.g.: hospitalisation, out of town)	52	15	8	2	5	82
Total	1 076	160	149	28	142	1 555

Table 4 : Cumulative number of elderly persons having left the First Phase of the Pilot Scheme broken down by reason for leaving and co-payment level up to end-December 2016

Reason for leaving	Cumulative no. of elderly persons having left the Pilot Scheme broken down by co-payment level					Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	
Will be/have been allocated subsidised community care service or subsidised/private residential care service	557	78	84	19	82	820
No suitable service providers/service packages	299	33	30	4	32	398
Taken care of by family members or domestic helpers	167	31	29	6	23	256
Deceased	207	26	27	4	28	292
Others (e.g.: hospitalisation, out of town)	66	16	9	2	5	98
Total	1 296	184	179	35	170	1 864

Table 5 : Cumulative number of elderly persons having left the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme broken down by reason for leaving and co-payment level up to end-December 2016

Reason for leaving	Cumulative no. of elderly persons having left the Pilot Scheme broken down by co-payment level						Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	
Will be/have been allocated subsidised community care service or subsidised/private residential care service	17	20	2	1	1	4	45
No suitable service providers/service packages	4	5	1	-	-	4	14
Taken care of by family members or domestic helpers	6	2	1	1	1	2	13
Deceased	4	10	4	2	-	2	22
Others (e.g.: hospitalisation, out of town)	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total	31	37	8	4	3	12	95

Table 6 : Number of CCSV holders broken down by co-payment level under the First Phase of the Pilot Scheme from 2013-14 to 2016-17

	No. of CCSV holders broken down by co-payment level					Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	
Up to end-March 2014	839	99	99	20	86	1 143
Up to end-March 2015	847	119	112	26	100	1 204
Up to end-March 2016	921	146	148	25	124	1 364
Up to end-December 2016 ^[Note]	174	15	20	2	20	231

[Note] Excluding 873 CCSV holders who have migrated from the First Phase to the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme.

Table 7 : Number of CCSV holders broken down by co-payment level under the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme in 2016-17

	No. of CCSV holders broken down by co-payment level						Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	
Up to end-December 2016 ^[Note]	467	1 155	236	227	40	293	2 418

[Note] Including 873 CCSV holders who have migrated from the First Phase to the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S0094)

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:

With reference to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)0087 and as regards Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) (Ordinary Cases) (OC) and (Frail Cases) (FC), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following –

1. the respective numbers of new IHCS(OC) applicants in each of the past 5 years;
2. the number of persons having left IHCS(OC) broken down by reason for leaving in each of the past 5 years;
3. the details of the cost per case per month and the details and amounts of the administrative costs under IHCS(OC) in each of the past 5 years;
4. regarding individual cases under IHCS(OC) in each of the past 5 years, please fill in the following table –

Year	No. of household members (persons)					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or above
2012-13						
2013-14						
2014-15						
2015-16						
2016-17						

5. the respective numbers of persons receiving various social security allowances and not receiving any social security allowances among IHCS(OC) in each of the past 5 years;
6. the respective numbers of persons with impairment and without impairment among IHCS(OC) in each of the past 5 years;
7. the respective numbers of new IHCS(FC) applicants in each of the past 5 years;
8. the number of persons having left IHCS(FC) broken down by reason for leaving in each of the past 5 years;
9. the details of the costs per case per month and the details and amounts of the administrative costs under IHCS(FC) in each of the past 5 years;

10. regarding individual cases under IHCS(FC) in each of the past 5 years, please fill in the following table –

Year	No. of household members (persons)					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or above
2012-13						
2013-14						
2014-15						
2015-16						
2016-17						

11. the respective numbers of persons receiving various social security allowances and not receiving any social security allowances among IHCS(FC) in each of the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. & 2. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have the number of new IHCS(OC) applicants and the reasons for leaving. The number of persons having left IHCS(OC) each year from 2012-13 to 2016-17 is provided below –

Year	No. of persons having left
2012-13	6 327
2013-14	6 091
2014-15	6 124
2015-16	6 044
2016-17 (up to end-December 2016)	4 651

3. & 9. The services provided under IHCS(OC) include personal care, simple nursing care, general household or domestic duties, purchase and delivery of daily necessities and provision of meals service, etc., while the services provided under IHCS(FC) cover not only the services provided under IHCS (OC), but also special nursing care, maintenance and restorative rehabilitation exercise, carer support services and 24-hours emergency support, etc. The average cost is the average subvention amount for the services concerned. Non-governmental organisations operating the services have the flexibility to deploy the subvention received to cover, among others, the administrative costs. The cost per case served per month under IHCS (OC & FC) from 2012-13 to 2016-17 is provided below –

Year	Cost per case served per month (\$)
2012-13 (Actual)	1,532
2013-14 (Actual)	1,597
2014-15 (Actual)	1,745
2015-16 (Actual)	1,838
2016-17 (Revised Estimate)	1,924

4. & 10. SWD does not have the number of cases among IHCS (OC & FC) broken down by number of household members.

5. & 11. SWD does not have the number of cases where various social security allowances were received or not received among IHCS (OC & FC).

6. SWD does not have the number of persons with impairment and without impairment among IHCS(OC).
7. Frail elderly persons who have been confirmed as moderately or severely impaired under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services could wait for IHCS(FC) or Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS). The number of new applicants for IHCS(FC) and/or EHCCS from 2012-13 to 2016-17 is provided below –

Service type	No. of new applicants				
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (up to end-December 2016)
IHCS(FC)/EHCCS	3 517	3 335	3 670	4 409	3 806

8. SWD does not have the reasons for leaving IHCS(FC). The number of persons having left IHCS(FC) each year from 2012-13 to 2016-17 is provided below –

Year	No. of persons having left ^[Note]
2012-13	355
2013-14	409
2014-15	377
2015-16	360
2016-17 (up to end-December 2016)	267

^[Note] The number of persons having left IHCS(FC) covers cases of elderly persons and persons with disabilities. SWD does not have the breakdown figures on the number of elderly cases.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)17

(Question Serial No. S0103)

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:

Regarding Reply Serial no. LWB(WW)0098, would the Government please provide further information on the following –

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has stated in the reply that it does not have the breakdown of the expenditure and manpower for emergency/temporary shelters/hostels/short-term hostels for street sleepers. In this connection, what were the justifications of SWD in allocating the amount of subsidy?
2. At the special meeting of the Finance Committee, the Government stressed that additional resources would be allocated in response to the demand for service places. In this regard, would the Government please advise whether it had increased the expenditure for provision of additional manpower to address the service needs when 20 additional subvented places were provided last year, and whether it had drawn up relevant service standards such as the manpower and service place ratio; and
3. Frontline social workers have pointed out that under the Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs) signed between SWD and subvented organisations, for the service effectiveness evaluation submitted, there should be a certain percentage of street sleepers with their reason of leaving not being “relapsing into street-sleeping”. Would the Government explain the reasons for setting this requirement and why there is no relevant information regarding the reasons for leaving or moving out of temporary shelters/short-term hostels?

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- 1 & 2. Under the Lump Sum Grant (LSG) Subvention System, non-governmental organisations have the flexibility to deploy the subventions in arranging suitable staffing, subject to ensuring service quality and meeting the requirements and performance standards as stipulated in the FSAs. This principle has been clearly set out in the LSG Manual. The LSG Independent Review Committee, in its Review Report on the LSG Subvention System in 2008, also agreed that it would not be helpful for SWD to stipulate a notional staffing establishment for

input control purposes. As such, SWD does not have the relevant information on the breakdown of the expenditure and manpower for emergency/temporary shelters/hostels/short-term hostels for street sleepers. However, SWD has uploaded the samples of Notional Staffing Establishment (NSE) of subvented services to its webpage in order to enhance the transparency of subvention calculations. For details, please visit the webpage

<http://www.swd.gov.hk/doc/ngo/nse/Family%20Services/Temporary%20Shelter%20%20Hostel%20for%20Street%20Sleepers.pdf>

In providing 20 additional subvented places for street sleepers in 2016-17, SWD had increased the necessary amount of subvention in accordance with the NSE of temporary shelters/hostels.

3. In signing agreements with organisations operating subvented places for street sleepers, SWD did not set any percentage requirement regarding the reasons for street sleepers moving out of the temporary shelters/hostels. As such, SWD does not have the relevant information on the reasons for street sleepers moving out of the temporary shelters/hostels.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)18

(Question Serial No. S0072)

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. Based on the Annexes of the replies, there is no aided standalone child care centre (CCC) in Southern, Islands, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sai Kung and Tai Po districts to provide support to families with both parents working. Why?
2. How can the female labour force be unleashed if women are forced to quit their jobs in order to take care of their young children due to a lack of suitable child care services? At present, the utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs in all districts is 100%, where members of the public applying for the service must have to wait. Has the Government planned to address the problem by increasing the service places in the coming year? Are there any districts in which additional CCCs will be provided?

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follow –

1. Before 2000, except Islands district, all districts in the territory including Southern, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sai Kung and Tai Po districts, were provided with day crèches (currently known as aided standalone CCCs) for the care of children aged below 3. However, with the decrease in the number of children and ageing population in some of the districts, the utilisation rate of day crèches declined continuously in the few years that followed, resulting in some day crèches being relocated to other districts with greater demand or converted to day nurseries (currently known as the kindergarten (KG)-cum-CCCs). At present, child care service for children aged 0 to below 3 in Southern, Islands, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sai Kung and Tai Po are provided by the KG-cum-CCCs. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will keep in view the demand for various kinds of child care services and plan for new CCCs in districts with high demand.
2. In order to support women in fulfilling work and family commitments, SWD will implement the following initiatives continuously to enhance child care services –

- (a) SWD will provide in phases about 5 000 additional places of extended hours service (EHS) at aided CCCs and KG-cum-CCCs in districts with high demand from 2015-16 onwards so that more pre-primary children aged below 6 who are in need can continue to receive extended hours of service in the same service units they are attending, with a view to alleviating the pressure on their working parents. Among these EHS places, some 1 200 places have already been provided in phases since September 2015. SWD will provide in phases the remaining places of about 3 800 based on district demand; and
- (b) In recent years, SWD is committed to set up more aided standalone CCCs subject to compliance with the Child Care Services Ordinance (Cap. 243) and the Child Care Services Regulations (Cap. 243A) in order to support women in fulfilling work and family commitments. SWD has already provided a total of 48 additional places through in-situ expansion in the 7 existing aided standalone CCCs between 2014-15 and 2016-17, and has also planned to provide about 100 additional aided long full-day child care places for children aged below 3 in 2018-19.

Moreover, SWD commissioned the University of Hong Kong to conduct a “Consultancy Study on the Long-term Development of Child Care Services” (the Study) in December 2016. The Study will take stock of the existing child care services in Hong Kong and make recommendations on the long-term development of the relevant services.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)19

(Question Serial No. S0073)

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:

It is stated in the Reply that there are only 4 medical social workers (MSWs) in North Lantau Hospital and 3 in Tin Shui Wai Hospital. Compared to some hospitals which may have some 20 or 30 MSWs, staffing for the 2 hospitals is obviously inadequate. Can the Government provide more staff for the 2 hospitals shortly to match their services? What is the size of the MSW establishment of these 2 hospitals in the Estimate?

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

As North Lantau Hospital and Tin Shui Wai Hospital are not yet in full operation of the provision of medical services, the average caseload per MSW at the North Lantau Hospital and the Tin Shui Wai Hospital was about 20 and 2 respectively up to end-January 2017, lower than the average caseload per MSW of 63 in the 2016-17 Revised Estimate. Therefore, MSWs based in the 2 hospitals can still handle more cases at present. The Social Welfare Department will suitably deploy MSWs to meet service needs having regard to the development of medical services at the 2 hospitals.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(WW)20

(Question Serial No. S0074)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare,
(2) Social Security

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. It is mentioned in Reply Serial no. LWB(WW)0150 that currently about 2% and 4% of the service users of Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) and Social Security Field Units (SSFUs) are ethnic minorities or non-Chinese speaking persons. Currently, on-the-spot telephone interpretation service or on-site interpretation service by appointment are provided by these service units as necessary and web-cam facilities have been installed in 10 service units of the Department for conducting video conferencing. What were the numbers of cases which had used the above services in the past 3 years?
2. Regarding the family and social welfare problems of ethnic minorities, as ethnic minorities are different from the Chinese in family tradition and culture, has relevant training been provided by the Department to frontline staff to enable them to cope with the special needs of these cases?

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have the number of cases where the interpretation services concerned had been used in IFSCs and SSFUs.
2. Relevant training courses are organised each year by SWD for staff in the Department and non-governmental organisations to enhance the capabilities and skills of frontline staff in providing services to ethnic minorities.

- End -