

**Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of
Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment
Opportunities for Children with Special Educational Needs**

**Written Response to Information Requested by Members at the Meeting
of 30 November 2007**

Para. 5(a) Unit cost of a respite place in the boarding section of special schools and an estimate of the demand of students with disabilities below the age of 15 for residential respite service.

As a temporary contingency measure, special schools provide the respite service for students with disabilities below the age of 15. Some of them provide the service on a voluntary and self-financing basis. As such, no unit cost is available.

As it is a contingency measure, an estimate of the demand for residential respite service is unavailable. The number of applications for the residential respite service that special schools received in the 2006/07 school year are provided below as a reference for estimating the said demand:

Types of special schools	Number of schools with boarding section	Number of applications in 2006/07 school year
Visual impairment	2	11
Hearing impairment	1	10
Physical disability	2	0
Moderate intellectual disability	5	12
Severe intellectual disability	9	110
Total	19	143

Para. 5(b) Capacities of special schools providing five-day and seven-day boarding services, the number of persons on the respective waiting lists and the average waiting time for allocation of a boarding place.

Information on special schools providing five-day and seven-day boarding services is as follows:

Type of special schools	Type of boarding places	Number of schools with boarding section	Number of boarding places	Number of students on the waiting list as at 15.1.2008
Visual impairment	five-day	2	137	2
	seven-day [#]	2 [#]	21	1
Hearing impairment	five-day	1	15	0
	seven-day [#]	1 [#]	3	0
Physical disability	five-day	2	110	3
	seven-day [#]	1 [#]	60	8
Moderate intellectual disability	five-day	5	154	2
	seven-day [#]	3 [#]	100	11
Severe intellectual disability	five-day	9	309	7
	seven-day [#]	4 [#]	121	6

In processing applications for boarding services, there is a series of procedures to go through. During the period from 1 September 2006 to 15 January 2008, it took an average of 1.8 months to complete the procedures. In short, the Education Bureau will, upon receipt of referrals, assess the needs of students concerned with reference to professional reports provided by the referral agencies and according to the admission criteria for such placement. Upon receipt of referral from the Education Bureau, the special school will arrange a family visit to check the student's fitness for boarding service, and obtain the student's medical report and other relevant information.

Remarks:

- [#] Schools providing five-day boarding service are inclusive of those with seven-day provision
- Residential care service subvented by the Social Welfare Department for students of Schools for Social Development is excluded.

Education Bureau
February 2008