



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部衛生福利及食物局
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

Our ref. : HWF/ES 18/36 (04)

Your ref. : CB2/PS/1/04

14 July 2005

Clerk to Subcommittee on review of the
Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme
(Attn : Miss Mary So)
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miss So,

Requests for Additional Information

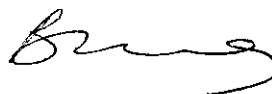
I refer to the minutes of the meeting of the LegCo Subcommittee on review of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme held on 8 April, wherein the Administration was requested to provide additional information. The requested additional information is as follows –

- (a) With reference to para 18 of the minutes, there were 12 CSSA applications either approved or rejected for waiver of residence requirement about which Senior Social Security Officers had conferred with their senior officers during the period from 1 January 2004 to 28 February 2005. Of them, seven were subsequently approved and five rejected.
- (b) With reference to para 26 of the minutes, the reasons for approving the 198 applications and rejecting the 17 applications involving persons unable to meet the seven-year residence requirement during the period from 1 January 2004 to 28 February 2005 are provided in tables (a) and (b) of the Appendix. Tables (c) and (d) in the Appendix also provide the breakdown of these applications by case nature.

- (c) With reference to para 27 of the minutes, of the 2 766 persons aged below 18 with less than one-year's residence in Hong Kong who were granted CSSA during the period from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004, 1 472 (53%) were female. Other information relating to the age profile and a breakdown of the persons by case nature is given at tables (e) and (f) in the Appendix.

No information is available concerning whether any parents of the 2 766 persons relied on their children's CSSA payments for their livelihood because they did not meet the seven-year residence requirement for CSSA.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Brenda Fung)
for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

c.c. DSW (Attn : Mrs Rachel Cartland)

(I) Information on approved CSSA applications (198 in number) and rejected CSSA applications (17 in number) involving persons unable to meet the seven-year residence requirement during the period from 1 January 2004 to 28 February 2005

Table (a) : Reasons for approving the 198 applications

Main reason for approving the application	No. of cases	%
The new arrival being old, disabled or in ill-health and with no other resources	27	14%
The new arrival being a battered wife and with no other resources	25	13%
Family problem/social ground*	62	31%
The new arrival being a wage earner in the family	82	41%
The new arrival being a full-time student aged 18 or above and with no other resources	2	1%
Total:	198	100%

- * These were mostly cases having encountered a sudden change in family circumstances (for example, the death or imprisonment of the breadwinner) which resulted in financial hardship

Appendix (P.2)

Table (b) : Reasons for rejecting the 17 applications

Main reason for rejecting the application	No. of cases	%
Assistance available from relatives/friends	7	41%
Having savings and no immediate financial hardship	5	29%
The new arrival being an able-bodied unemployed adult available for full-time work	4	24%
The new arrival being uncooperative and later deserting the family who is on CSSA	1	6%
Total:	17	100%

Table (c) : Breakdown of the 198 approved applications by case nature*

Case nature	No. of cases	%**
Single Parent	67	34%
Low Earnings	49	25%
Old Age	40	20%
Unemployment	12	6%
Temporary Disability/Ill Health	25	13%
Others	5	3%
Total:	198	100%

* The case nature was the main cause of application for CSSA of the family

** Figures do not add up to 100% due to rounding

Table (d) : Breakdown of the 17 rejected applications by case nature*

Case nature	No. of cases	%**
Single Parent	2	12%
Low Earnings	2	12%
Old Age	5	29%
Unemployment	4	24%
Temporary Disability/III Health	4	24%
Total:	17	100%

* The case nature was the main cause of application for CSSA of the family

** Figures do not add up to 100% due to rounding

(II) Information on the 2 766 persons aged below 18 with less than one-year's residence in Hong Kong who were granted CSSA during the period from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004

Table (e) : Age profile of the 2 766 persons at the time when CSSA was granted to them

Age	No. of children	%*
Below 6	671	24%
6-11	1192	43%
12-14	538	19%
15-17	365	13%
Total:	2 766	100%

* Figures do not add up to 100% due to rounding

Table (f) : Breakdown of the 2 766 persons by case nature* at the time when CSSA was granted to them

Case nature	No. of children	%
Single Parent	726	26%
Low Earnings	220	8%
Old Age	582	21%
Unemployment	680	25%
Temporary Disability/Ill Health	206	7%
Others	352	13%
Total:	2 766	100%

* The case nature was the main cause of application for CSSA of the family