

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. FC67/05-06

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Tel : 2525 4354

Date : 16 May 2006

From: Clerk to the Finance Committee

To : Members of the Finance Committee

Finance Committee

Follow-up to meeting on 28 April 2006

Members may recall that when the proposal regarding the ex-gratia payments to pig farm licencees was discussed at the captioned meeting, the Administration was requested to provide the following information -

- (a) the number of applications for one-off grants from local workers of live poultry farming/transport industry, the number of applications which have been approved/rejected, the number of workers who have joined the retraining programmes offered by the Labour Department and are able to secure alternative employment, and the number of workers who remain unemployed and have to rely on Comprehensive Social Security Allowance. The same information for workers of live pig farming/transport industry should be collected for follow-up by the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in due course; and
- (b) the cost incurred in treating excrement generated by pig farms.

The letter from the Legislative Council Secretariat to the Administration together with the latter's response are now attached for members' reference.

(Ms Pauline NG)
Clerk to the Finance Committee

Encl.



立法會
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

來函檔號 YOUR REF :
本函檔號 OUR REF : CB1/F/1/10
電 話 TELEPHONE : 2869 9213
圖文傳真 FACSIMILE : 2869 6794

28 April 2006

Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
[Attn: Mr Alfred FOK, PEO(G)]
Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
(The Treasury Branch)
4/F, Main Wing, CGO
Lower Albert Road
Hong Kong

Dear Mr FOK,

Finance Committee

Follow-up to meeting on 28 April 2006

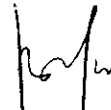
You may be aware that when FCR(2006-07)5 was discussed at the captioned meeting, the Administration was requested to provide the following supplementary information –

- (a) the number of applications for one-off grants from local workers of live poultry farming/transport industry, the number of applications which have been approved/rejected, the number of workers who have joined the retraining programmes offered by the Labour Department and are able to secure alternative employment, and the number of workers who remain unemployed and have to rely on Comprehensive Social Security Allowance. The same information for workers of live pig farming/transport industry should be collected for follow-up by the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in due course; and
- (b) the cost incurred in treating excrement generated by pig farms.

I should be grateful if the Administration's response in both English and Chinese could reach the Secretariat before **12 May 2006**.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Becky YU', written in a cursive style.

(Miss Becky YU)
Clerk to the Finance Committee



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

本區編號 Our ref.:
來函編號 Your ref.: CB1/F/1/10

電話號碼 Tel. No.: (852) 2973 8104
傳真號碼 Fax No.: (852) 2136 3282

12 May 2006

Clerk to the Finance Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn : Miss Becky Yu)
Fax 2869 6794

Dear Miss YU,

Finance Committee

Follow-up to meeting on 28 April 2006

I refer to your letter dated 28 April 2006 to Mr Alfred FOK of Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau. The requested information is given below:

- (a)(i) the number of applications for one-off grants from local workers of live poultry farming, wholesale and transport trade – Annex (A)
- (ii) the number of applications for one-off grants from local workers of live poultry retail trade – Annex (B)

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- (b) the cost incurred in treating/composting pig waste by contractor is about \$4.7 million per year.

Yours sincerely,



(Johnson TANG)

for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

cc Secretary for Finance Services and the Treasury
(Attn : Mr Alfred FOK, PEO(G))
Fax : 2530 5921

Annex A**Applications for One-off Grants by Local Workers of Live Poultry Farming/Wholesale/Transport Trade**

Under the Voluntary Surrender Scheme for Poultry Farmers, Wholesalers and Transporters (VSS), no dedicated retraining schemes has been arranged for workers from these trades when they are rendered unemployed and apply for one-off grants under the VSS. Instead, they are free to enroll in Labour Department retraining courses of their choice.

For privacy reasons, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has no authority under the VSS to formally seek information on the employment status of the recipients of the one-off grants, nor to enquire about their status as far as the Comprehensive Social Security Allowance (CSSA) is concerned.

Number of applications for one-off grants from
Local Workers of Live Poultry Farming/Wholesale/Transport Trades
(Up to 8 May 2006)

Application for one-off grant under the Poultry VSS				
Local worker	No. received	No. approved	No. rejected	No. being processed
Farm	10	1	0	9
Wholesale	3	2	0	1
Transport	0	0	0	0
Total	13	3	0	10

Annex B**Applications for One-off Grants by Local Workers
of Live Poultry Retail Trade**

As at 30.4.2006, FEHD has received 162 applications for one-off grant for retail poultry workers under the Voluntary Surrender Scheme (VSS), of which 143 have been approved, 11 rejected and 8 are being processed. Among the 162 applicants, 43 had completed the retraining course provided by the Employees' Retraining Board as arranged by the Department at the early stage of the VSS. Concurrent with the approval on revision of the one-off grant from \$10,000 to \$18,000 by the Finance Committee of the LegCo in July 2005, the retraining course ceased to be provided.

FEHD has not maintained data on whether these workers have secured another job or are relying on the Comprehensive Social Security Allowance (CSSA) for privacy reasons. The Department also has no authority to demand for the information. In the circumstance, the Department cannot provide information on the number of workers who

- (i) have joined the retraining programme organized by the Employees' Retraining Board and are able to secure alternative employment; and
- (ii) remain unemployed and have to rely on the CSSA.