

Our ref. : HWF/ES 18/36 (04)  
Your ref. : CB2/PS/1/04

13 March 2007

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

Dear Miss Ma,

**Requests for additional information**

Thank you for your letter dated 9 February 2007 requesting additional information on the approved and rejected cases involving people who do not meet the seven-year residence requirement under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme.

We informed the Subcommittee meeting on 8 February 2007 that during the period between 1 January 2004 and 31 January 2007, the numbers of approved and rejected cases involving people who did not meet the seven-year residence requirement were 2 243 and 73 respectively.

As explained in LC Paper No. CB(2)1007/06-07(01), in considering the merits for exercising discretion to waive the seven-year residence rule in a case, we take into account several factors including the cause of present hardship, means of livelihood and the availability of other assistance, etc. As CSSA aims to provide financial assistance to the needy to meet their basic needs, we do not keep record of the causes of financial hardship, such as domestic violence. As a matter of fact, CSSA applicants are not required to report to the Social Security Field Unit whether they are victim of domestic violence.

A breakdown of the reasons for rejecting the 73 applications is provided below :

|  | <u>No. of cases</u> |        |
|--|---------------------|--------|
| The new arrival being an able-bodied unemployed adult available for full-time work | 42                  | (58%)  |
| Having savings and no immediate financial hardship                                 | 12                  | (17%)  |
| Assistance available from relatives/friends  | 9                   | (12%)  |
| Suffering no substantial and unexpected change                                     | 8                   | (11%)  |
| The new arrival being uncooperative and later deserted the family which is on CSSA | 1                   | (1%)   |
| The new arrival being not a Hong Kong resident                                     | 1                   | (1%)   |
| Total  | 73                  | (100%) |

Yours sincerely,

( D. C. Cheung )  
for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

c.c. DD(A)/SWD  
C(SS)2/SWD