

**Panel on Welfare Services**  
**Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Family Violence**  
**(Meeting on 23 April 2007)**

**Supplementary information**

The Administration's responses to Members' requests at the captioned meeting are as follows –

**(a) Social Welfare Department's Statistics on Cases Recommended to Housing Department for Household Splitting**

According to the figures of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), SWD made a total of 169 recommendations on household splitting to Housing Department (HD) in 2006, among which 16 cases were found non-actionable by HD (e.g. applicants failing to provide supporting documents and splinter households refusing to move to refurbished flats in the New Territories) and 18 cases were subsequently withdrawn by the applicants. Among the remaining 135 cases which had been processed by HD, 91 cases were approved and 44 cases were rejected.

The minor discrepancies between the above SWD's figures and those reported by HD at the last LegCo Subcommittee meeting on 23 April 2007, other than those found non-actionable by HD as mentioned above, are mainly because SWD recorded the number of cases recommended to HD in 2006 while HD counted the number of cases received from SWD and processed during that year.

**(b) 'Seamless' housing arrangements for victims of domestic violence**

At present, there are four refuge centres for women funded by SWD and operated by NGOs, with a total of 180 places, to provide immediate and temporary accommodation for women facing domestic violence. In general, the caseworkers concerned will discuss with the victims to work out a discharge plan taking into consideration their own wish and safety, e.g. applying for compassionate rehousing (CR) or conditional tenancy (CT), moving to a rented unit, staying with their maiden family, relatives or friends, etc.

Depending on the needs of individual cases, the caseworkers concerned may extend their duration of stay in refuge centres. In 2006, about 8% of the persons admitted into the refuge centres with duration of stay exceeding 3 months.

Noting that there may be victims requiring a longer period to settle their accommodation, SWD will discuss with the operators of refuge centres to further extend their duration of stay. SWD will closely monitor the demand for service of refuge centres and consider increasing the capacity of the centres to address the need. Moreover, the newly established CEASE Crisis Centre will also provide short-term accommodation service for victims of domestic violence and sexual violence, with an additional 80 places available upon the completion of the relevant facility in early 2008.

As for victims of domestic violence who have genuine and imminent housing needs and cannot resolve their problem by their own means, SWD may recommend applications for CR and CT. In 2006, SWD processed about 1 700 applications, around 80% of which had the processing procedures completed within 60 days and recommended to HD. Upon receipt of SWD's recommendation, HD normally takes about 4 weeks to complete the flat allocation for CT and CR cases. For victims of domestic violence with imminent needs, HD pledges to allocate public rental housing flats to the applicants in about 10 working days.

SWD and HD will continue to work closely and accord priority to urgent cases to assist families in need.

**(c) Housing arrangements/assistance for batterers**

Any person who has genuine and imminent housing need and cannot resolve it by his/her own means may apply for housing assistance. For batterers with housing need, like other persons in need of housing assistance, social workers of SWD or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will assess the case (including the family background of the client concerned, his / her welfare needs and financial means) and recommend appropriate assistance if they can meet the relevant eligibility criteria. In respect of the various types of housing assistance,

please refer to the paper submitted by HD (LC Paper No CB(2)1605.06-07(01)) for the preceding Subcommittee meeting.

Depending on the actual circumstances of individual cases, SWD may provide the subject client with other suitable assistance, including short-term financial relief to meet rental and removal expenses, and temporary accommodation in singleton hostels and the Family Crisis Support Centre (FCSC) operated by the Caritas – Hong Kong. At present, there are a total of 1 175 singleton hostel and temporary shelter places and FCSC has a capacity of 40 to help people under family crisis.

**Social Welfare Department**  
**Housing Department**  
**June 2007**