

LWB/W 18/6 (94)

By Fax

CB2/PL/WS

4 March 2009

Clerk to LegCo Panel on Welfare Services
(Attn : Miss Betty Ma)
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Ma,

Requests for additional information

I refer to paragraph 25 of the minutes of the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services held on 10 November 2008, wherein the Administration was requested to provide information on the inflation/deflation rates and the corresponding annual adjustments to the average monthly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) payments for different household sizes in the past few years. The information requested is set out below -

Based on the established adjustment mechanism, the CSSA standard payment rates are adjusted annually according to the movement of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP) for the past 12 months ending in October each year over that for the previous 12-month period. The SSAIP, which reflects the expenditure pattern of CSSA households, is specially compiled by the Census and Statistics Department on a monthly basis to measure inflation/deflation experienced by CSSA households. It consists of the same items as the Consumer Price Index, except that items which are covered by special grants under the CSSA Scheme (for example, rent) or provided free by the Government (for example, medical treatment at public hospitals or clinics in Hong Kong) are excluded.

A table setting out the average monthly CSSA payments in the past few years by number of eligible members is enclosed at Annex.

Yours sincerely,

(D. C. Cheung)
for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Encl.

Average monthly CSSA payment * per case
by number of eligible members

No. of eligible members	as at 1.10.2004 (HK\$)	With an increase of 0.4% in standard payment rates w.e.f. 1.2.2006 (HK\$)	With an increase of 1.2% in standard payment rates w.e.f. 1.2.2007 (HK\$)	With an increase of 2.8% in standard payment rates w.e.f. 1.2.2008 (HK\$)	With an increase of 4.4% in standard payment rates w.e.f. 1.8.2008 (HK\$)	With an increase of 4.7% in standard payment rates w.e.f. 1.2.2009 (HK\$)
1	3,424	3,468	3,539	3,579	3,706	3,874
2	5,737	5,786	5,897	5,945	6,065	6,357
3	7,664	7,753	7,914	7,990	8,048	8,409
4	9,005	9,118	9,344	9,451	9,480	9,920
5	10,662	10,825	11,092	11,194	11,165	11,660
6+	13,296	13,534	13,883	13,990	13,900	14,501

Note * Refer to the amount when a CSSA case does not have other income. The amount includes "standard rates", "supplements" and "special grants".