

**Replies to supplementary questions raised by
Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Session No. : 16**

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-LWB(WW)01	S048	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	141	All
S-LWB(WW)02	S103	WONG Kwok-kin	141	Social Welfare
S-LWB(WW)03	S101	IP Wai-ming	170	Services for Elders
S-LWB(WW)04	S102	IP Wai-ming	170	Social Security
S-LWB(WW)05	SV030	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	170	Services for Elders
S-LWB(WW)06	S107	PAN Pey-chyou	170	Family and Child Welfare
S-LWB(WW)07	S100	WONG Kwok-hing	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-LWB(WW)01

Question Serial No.

S048

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the respective amounts of resources actually used in 2009-10 and 2010-11 and to be reserved for 2011-12 by the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) and the departments under its purview for the following items, as well as the contents and policy objectives of the activities of the Bureau and its departments:

- (a) expenditure on Mainland duty visits, exchanges and meetings by local officials, as well as the ranks and number of local officials involved (please list by administrative regions at the provincial level and by cities for Guangdong Province);
- (b) expenditure on exchanges, entertainment and meetings in Hong Kong with Mainland officials and departments, as well as ranks and number of local and Mainland officials involved (please list by administrative regions at the provincial level and by cities for Guangdong Province);
- (c) expenditure on overseas duty visits, exchanges and meetings (including those in Taiwan and Macao) attended by local officials, as well as the ranks and number of local officials involved (please list by continents and countries/regions); and
- (d) expenditure on exchanges, entertainment and meetings in Hong Kong with overseas officials and departments (including those of Taiwan and Macao), as well as the ranks and number of local and overseas officials involved (please list by continents and countries/regions).

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

To promote mutual exchange and cooperation with counterparts in the Mainland and overseas countries, and to share good practices in areas of social welfare development and labour-related issues, LWB together with the Social Welfare Department (SWD)

and the Labour Department (LD), have organised various duty visits, meetings and exchanges in the Mainland and overseas countries.

The expenditure incurred by LWB, SWD and LD in 2009-10 and 2010-11 for duty visits, exchanges, entertainment and meetings and other information required are provided at Annex.

In 2011-12, LWB, SWD and LD have made provisions of about \$0.4 million, \$0.5 million and \$3.0 million respectively for duty visits, exchanges, entertainment and meetings in the Mainland, Macao, Taiwan and overseas countries. For the exchanges, entertainment and meetings with the Mainland, Macao, Taiwan and overseas officials and departments in Hong Kong, the provisions in 2011-12 for both LWB and LD are about \$0.1 million while SWD has not earmarked specific resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	PAUL TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	1.4.2011

Annex

(a) Duty visits, exchanges and meetings by Hong Kong officials in the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan

Bureau/ Department	2009-10		2010-11		Total no. and rank of Hong Kong officials involved (on headcount basis)
	Destination	Total expenditure (\$)	Destination	Estimated expenditure (\$)	
LWB	Mainland (including Beijing, Guangzhou, Dongguan) Macao Taiwan	92,000	Mainland (including Shanghai, Beijing and Fujian)	172,000	Around 40 Hong Kong officials of various ranks together with around 20 non-officials who are mainly advisory board members were involved. (usually led by directorates/senior officers as appropriate)
SWD	Mainland (including Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Dongguan) Taiwan	59,000	Mainland (including Beijing, Shanghai, Zhongshan, Sichuan, Nanhai and Shenzhen) Macao	185,000	Around 50 Hong Kong officials of various ranks were involved. (usually led by directorates/senior officers as appropriate)
LD	Mainland (including Beijing, Fujian, Guangxi, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Dongguan and Huizhou) Macao	433,000	Mainland (including Beijing, Fujian, Jiangxi, Shanghai and Guangzhou) Macao	326,000	Around 100 Hong Kong officials of various ranks were involved. (usually led by directorates/senior officers as appropriate)

(b) Exchanges, entertainment and meetings with Mainland, Macao and Taiwan officials and departments in Hong Kong

Bureau/ Department	2009-10		2010-11		Total no. and rank of Hong Kong and Mainland/Macao/ Taiwan officials involved (on headcount basis)
	Province/ city of the visitors	Total expenditure (\$)	Province/ city of the visitors	Estimated expenditure (\$)	
LWB	Mainland (including Shenzhen, Guangdong, Beijing and other institutional delegations)	8,000	Mainland (including Beijing and other institutional delegations)	7,000	Around 40 Hong Kong officials of various ranks together with around 30 non-officials who are mainly advisory board members were involved. Besides, some 90 officials from Mainland were involved. (usually led by directorates/senior officers as appropriate)
SWD	Mainland (including Guangdong, Beijing, Guangzhou, Haikou, Zhongshan, Nanhai, Shaanxi, Shanghai, Sichuan, Foshan and Shenzhen) Macao	1,000	Mainland (including Dongguan, Sichuan, Shunde, Jiangmen, Beijing, Shenzhen, Fujian, Chongqing, Guangdong, Jilin, Hubei, Shanghai, Heilongjiang, Foshan, Zhuhai, Jiangsu, Inner Mongolia, Hebei, Yunnan, Shanxi, Zhongshan, Guangzhou and other institutional delegations) Macao Taiwan	6,000	Around 200 Hong Kong officials of various ranks and some 700 officials from Mainland, Macao and Taiwan were involved. (usually led by directorates/senior officers as appropriate)

Bureau/ Department	2009-10		2010-11		Total no. and rank of Hong Kong and Mainland/Macao/ Taiwan officials involved (on headcount basis)
	Province/ city of the visitors	Total expenditure (\$)	Province/ city of the visitors	Estimated expenditure (\$)	
LD	Mainland (including Guangzhou, Inner Mongolia, Guangdong, Foshan, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Beijing and other institutional delegations)	15,000	Mainland (including Jiangsu, Shenzhen, Foshan, Beijing, Tianjin, Heshan and Guangdong) Macao Taiwan	140,000	Around 200 Hong Kong officials of various ranks and around 500-600 officials from Mainland, Macao and Taiwan were involved. (usually led by directorates/senior officers as appropriate)

(c) Duty visits, exchanges and meetings by Hong Kong officials in overseas countries

Bureau/ Department	2009-10		2010-11		Total no. and rank of Hong Kong officials involved (on headcount basis)
	Destination	Total expenditure (\$)	Destination	Estimated expenditure (\$)	
LWB	Singapore, Japan and United States	780,000	Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia and United States	876,000	Around 30 Hong Kong officials of various ranks, together with around 50 non-officials who are mainly advisory board members were involved. (usually led by directorates/senior officers as appropriate)
SWD	Singapore, Japan and Austria	111,000	Australia, Canada, Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore and Austria	293,000	Around 20 Hong Kong officials of various ranks were involved. (usually led by directorates/senior officers as appropriate)
LD	New Zealand, Switzerland, Australia, France, United Kingdom, Singapore, Japan, Italy and Germany	2,743,000	Switzerland, Italy, Ireland, Singapore and United States	1,437,000	Around 70 Hong Kong officials of various ranks, together with around 10 non-officials who are mainly advisory board members were involved. (usually led by directorates/senior officers as appropriate)

(d) Exchanges, entertainment and meetings with overseas officials and departments in Hong Kong

Bureau/ Department	2009-10		2010-11		Total no. and rank of Hong Kong and overseas officials involved (on headcount basis)
	Country of the visitors	Total expenditure (\$)	Country of the visitors	Estimated expenditure (\$)	
LWB	South Korea, Indonesia, Portugal, Germany, United States and New Zealand	0	United States, Israel, Singapore, Austria and Netherlands	0	Around 30 Hong Kong officials of various ranks and some 80 overseas officials were involved. (usually led by directorates/senior officers as appropriate)
SWD	-	-	Malaysia, Zambia, United Kingdom and Austria	0	Around 20 Hong Kong officials of various ranks and some 30 overseas officials were involved. (usually led by directorates/senior officers as appropriate)
LD	Thailand, Germany, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, and international labour organisations	87,000	Thailand, South Korea, United States, Indonesia, Singapore, Switzerland, Denmark, United Kingdom and international labour organisations	147,000	Around 700-800 Hong Kong officials of various ranks and some 70 overseas officials were involved. (usually led by directorates/senior officers as appropriate)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
S-LWB(WW)02

Question Serial No.
S103

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

According to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)097, the Administration indicated that there was no service quota under the Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients (the Programme). At present, what channels are available for the elderly in need to apply for the Programme? Does the Administration have any plan to enhance publicity for the Programme to encourage applications from the elderly in need? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply :

All elderly patients aged 60 or above who are admitted to medical wards, orthotics & traumatic wards or rehabilitation wards of the participating hospitals will undertake a comprehensive assessment conducted by the Discharge Planning Teams (DPTs) set up under the Programme. Eligible patients (i.e. patients who are about to be discharged but have a high risk of unplanned re-admission, e.g. elders suffering from multiple illnesses and/or long-term illnesses) will be invited to join the Programme. During the pilot stage, participating hospitals have also produced pamphlets for DPTs to introduce and promote the Programme to the elderly patients and their families. Other hospitals joining the Programme in 2011-12 will consider ways to promote the Programme to service users according to the circumstances of individual districts.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	PAUL TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	1.4.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-LWB(WW)03

Question Serial No.

S101

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : According to the reply numbered LWB(WW)273, the Administration stated that the total recurrent allocation in the provision of Infirm Care Supplement (ICS) and Dementia Supplement (DS) for residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) in 2011-12 is \$151 million. In this connection, what is the maximum amount of supplements that will be granted to each RCHE? What is the total number of RCHEs eligible for the supplements? How many places will be provided with the supplements?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply : ICS and DS will be allocated to subvented RCHEs and private RCHEs participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme taking care of the infirm and demented elders according to the number of infirm and demented elders in individual RCHEs on a pro-rata basis.

In 2011-12, it is estimated that a total of about 1 420 infirm elders in 120 RCHEs and 4 500 demented elders in 270 RCHEs will benefit from ICS and DS respectively. On this basis, it is estimated that the maximum amounts of ICS and DS to be granted to the RCHEs are about \$4.4 million and \$1.2 million respectively. Apart from the above target beneficiaries, ICS and DS will also benefit other elders in the RCHEs concerned who are in need of infirm or dementia care.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Patrick T K Nip

Director of Social Welfare

31 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-LWB(WW)04

Question Serial No.

S102

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : According to the reply numbered LWB(WW)269, regarding the rent allowance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, as at the end of February 2011, the number of cases in public housing estates receiving rent allowance with actual rent higher than the maximum levels of the rent allowance (MRA) was 3 656, whereas the number of cases in private housing receiving rent allowance with actual rent higher than the MRA even reached 22 943. The Administration said that it would review the rent allowance when necessary. Is it the time that requires a review? If yes, when will the review be carried out? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply : The MRA under CSSA Scheme was last adjusted in June 2003 in accordance with the moving average of the Consumer Price Index (A) rent index for private housing (rent index) between April 2001 and March 2002. Although the rent index indicated that there was room for downward adjustment of the rates in the following years (the lowest being -17.3% in 2005), the Administration has frozen the MRA having regard to the state of the economy.

In line with the movements of the rent index, the room for downward adjustment of the MRA has been reduced gradually over the past few years. The twelve-month moving average of the rent index has returned to more or less the level with reference to which the 2003 adjustment was made. We will continue to closely monitor the situation, and will adjust the MRA in accordance with the established mechanism if the increasing trend of the moving average of the rent index persists.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Patrick T K Nip

Director of Social Welfare

31 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-LWB(WW)05

Question Serial No.

SV030

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In relation to Hon. Alan LEONG's concern, the Administration undertook to provide information on the details of the 10 projects of contract residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) (including their locations by district) which were planned to be set up and constructed by 2018.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : The details of the 10 planned contract RCHEs are as follows –

Serial No.	District	Location of Planned RCHEs
1	Sham Shui Po	Shek Kip Mei
2	Yau Tsim Mong	Hoi Fai Road
3	Sham Shui Po	Cheung Sha Wan
4	Sham Shui Po	Po On Road/Wai Wai Road
5	Sham Shui Po	Un Chau Street/Hing Wah Street/ Fuk Wing Street
6	Tsuen Wan	Tsuen Wan West
7	Wan Chai	Lee Tung Street/McGregor Street
8	Sha Tin	Shui Chuen O
9	Yuen Long	Long Ping
10	Eastern	Sai Wan Ho*

* The project is subject to the result of a technical feasibility study on the premises concerned.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Patrick T K Nip

Director of Social Welfare

31 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-LWB(WW)06

Question Serial No.

S107

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : According to the reply numbered LWB(WW)416, the Administration stated that as at 28 February 2011, the non-governmental organisation (NGO) operators of the short-term food assistance service projects (the Projects) had partnered with local agencies in providing a total of 413 service points throughout the territory. Do all such service points allow service users to collect food and donors to make food donation? How many of such service points provide services on a long-term basis? The number of beneficiaries in the serving districts of Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung in January 2011 was more than doubled that in December 2010. What are the reasons for such a substantial increase?

Asked by : Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply : All of the 413 service points set up under the five Projects provide services on a long-term basis. They carry out assessment of applications, make referrals to the operators and/or provide platforms for publicising the service. 116 of them also distribute food to service users. The service points do not receive food donation.

The service utilisation in Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung districts was generally stable in 2010-11. According to the operating NGO concerned, the increase in the number of beneficiaries in January 2011 was seasonal, probably because more target service users sought food assistance before the Lunar New Year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Patrick T K Nip

Director of Social Welfare

31 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : According to the reply numbered LWB(WW)408, the Administration allocated \$1.7 million to 95 athletes with disabilities in 2010-11 as subsistence grants to facilitate their participation in various international competitions. What was the amount of grants allocated to each athlete with disabilities? What was the period of support? Will the Administration review the current level of grants in order to strengthen the support to each athlete with disabilities? If yes, please give the details. If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : In 2010-11, a total amount of about \$1.7 million was allocated to 95 athletes with disabilities as subsistence grants under the Hong Kong Paralympians Fund (the Fund) for a period of one year. The level of monthly grants, ranging from \$2,080 (Category A), \$1,500 (Category B), \$1,000 (Category C) to \$667 (Category D), was determined in accordance with the achievements made by individual athletes in international sport competitions in 2008 and 2009. Of the 95 beneficiaries, 37 athletes were allocated with Category A grant, 21 Category B, 22 Category C and 15 Category D. The Management Committee, which was set up by the Social Welfare Department to advise on the usage of the Fund, reviewed in 2010 the level of subsistence grants having regard to the needs of the athletes with disabilities and the resources available and recommended that it should remain unchanged. The Administration will continue to keep in view the use of the Fund so as to meet the needs of athletes with disabilities.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Patrick T K Nip

Director of Social Welfare

30 March 2011