

**Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services**  
**Special Meeting on 18 January 2011**

**The Administration's response to  
the Hon WONG Sing-chi's enquiry in his letter of 10 January 2011  
concerning rent allowance under  
the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme**

- (1) The number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases with the actual rent less than, equal to and higher than the maximum levels of rent allowance (MRA), by the number of family members eligible for CSSA and the type of housing in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11:

Number of eligible members	2008-09 (as at the end of March 2009)							
	Public housing				Private housing			
	Actual rent less than MRA	Actual rent equal to MRA	Actual rent higher than MRA	Total	Actual rent less than MRA	Actual rent equal to MRA	Actual rent higher than MRA	Total
1	63 023	67	2 032	65 122	7 337	745	13 731	21 813
2	42 176	3	168	42 347	5 802	188	4 552	10 542
3	23 053	1	63	23 117	3 343	29	2 719	6 091
4	14 634	0	30	14 664	1 298	2	1 202	2 502
5	5 907	0	13	5 920	346	8	411	765
6 and above	2 300	0	3	2 303	201	1	152	354
<b>Total</b>	<b>151 093</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2 309</b>	<b>153 473</b>	<b>18 327</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>22 767</b>	<b>42 067</b>

Number of eligible members	2009-10 (as at the end of March 2010)							
	Public housing				Private housing			
	Actual rent less than MRA	Actual rent equal to MRA	Actual rent higher than MRA	Total	Actual rent less than MRA	Actual rent equal to MRA	Actual rent higher than MRA	Total
1	65 755	60	2 519	68 334	6 944	740	13 971	21 655
2	44 080	2	206	44 288	5 605	162	4 655	10 422
3	23 677	0	48	23 725	3 228	25	2 814	6 067
4	13 862	0	27	13 889	1 310	0	1 242	2 552
5	5 324	2	10	5 336	320	8	442	770
6 and above	1 924	0	1	1 925	198	0	168	366
<b>Total</b>	<b>154 622</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>2811</b>	<b>157 497</b>	<b>17 605</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>23 292</b>	<b>41 832</b>

Number of eligible members	2010-11 (as at the end of December 2010)							
	Public housing				Private housing			
	Actual rent less than MRA	Actual rent equal to MRA	Actual rent higher than MRA	Total	Actual rent less than MRA	Actual rent equal to MRA	Actual rent higher than MRA	Total
1	66 770	60	3 284	70 114	6 455	709	13 506	20 670
2	44 710	1	314	45 025	5 486	142	4 819	10 447
3	22 806	0	55	22 861	3 029	21	2 841	5 891
4	12 596	0	33	12 629	1 204	1	1 210	2 415
5	4 489	1	10	4 500	291	4	440	735
6 and above	1 565		1	1 566	177	0	193	370
<b>Total</b>	<b>152 936</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>3 697</b>	<b>156 695</b>	<b>16 642</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>23 009</b>	<b>40 528</b>

- (2) The average and median amount of rent payment on top of the MRA in CSSA cases with the actual rent exceeding the MRA, by the number of family members eligible for CSSA, in 2010-11:

Number of eligible members	2010-11 (as at the end of December 2010)	
	Average of the amount paid on top of MRA *	Median of the amount paid on top of MRA *
	(\$)	(\$)
1	421	236
2	691	450
3	905	670
4	1,040	755
5	1,204	950
6 and above	1,060	565

- (3) Movements of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (A) Private Housing Rental Index:

Year	Index	Compared with the index from Apr 2001 to Mar 2002 (%)*
Apr 2001 to Mar 2002	121.0	-
Apr 2002 to Mar 2003	113.5	-6.2
Apr 2003 to Mar 2004	105.1	-13.1
Apr 2004 to Mar 2005	100.0	-17.3
Nov 2004 to Oct 2005 <sup>#</sup>	100.2	-17.2
Nov 2005 to Oct 2006	105.1	-13.1

<b>Nov 2006 to Oct 2007</b>	109.1	-9.8
<b>Nov 2007 to Oct 2008</b>	115.3	-4.7
<b>Nov 2008 to Oct 2009</b>	119.8	-1.0
<b>Nov 2009 to Oct 2010</b>	120.5	-0.4

Note : \* The Executive Council approved in February 2003 a 15.8% reduction in the CSSA MRA. The MRA has since been frozen at the reduced levels. The reference base period for making adjustment to the CSSA MRA is therefore 2001-02.

# Starting from 2005-06, the annual adjustment cycle for the CSSA MRA has changed from the financial year to the 12 months preceding the end of October every year..

- (4) The CPI measures changes over time in the price level of consumer goods and services generally purchased by households. It aims to reflect the year-on-year rate of change in the price level of a basket of specified goods and services, and is not intended to measure the actual expenditure of the households concerned. The Census and Statistics Department therefore cannot provide figures of the average or median rent paid by households of different sizes living in private housing covered by the CPI(A).

**Social Welfare Department**  
**Census and Statistics Department**  
**January 2011**