

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Financial Affairs

Information Note on Scheme \$6,000

PURPOSE

This paper informs Members of the implementation of “Scheme \$6,000” (the Scheme) since its launch on 28 August 2011, and the preparation for the next stage of the Scheme commencing 1 April 2012.

BACKGROUND

2. The Finance Committee approved on 8 July 2011 a commitment of \$38,520 million for implementing the Scheme that gives a sum of \$6,000 to each Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card (HKPIC) holder aged 18 or above. Under the Scheme, any person who holds a valid HKPIC and is aged 18 or above on the eligibility date, i.e. 31 March 2012, is eligible for payment after registration.

3. Registration under the Scheme commenced on 28 August 2011 and will last till 31 December 2012. Persons who meet the eligibility criteria on 28 August 2011 may register on or before 31 March 2012 (Stage 1) to receive payment of \$6,000, or from 1 April 2012 to 31 December 2012 (Stage 2) to receive payment of \$6,000 plus a bonus of \$200. Persons who do not meet the eligibility criteria on 28 August 2011 but will do so on 31 March 2012, the eligibility date, may also register on or before 31 December 2012 to receive payment of \$6,000.

PROGRESS TO DATE

4. The estimated number of eligible persons for the Scheme is about 6.19 million. To ensure registration in an orderly and efficient manner, we adopted a batching arrangement during the first ten weeks in Stage 1 so that registrants submitted their forms in five batches according to their year of birth.

5. The overall implementation of Stage 1 has been smooth. Up to 15 February 2012, over 4.47 million people have successfully registered under the Scheme with a total of about \$26.8 billion disbursed. A breakdown by age group of the successful registrants is set out below –

Batch	Year of birth (age)	No. of successful registrants (million)
1	1946 or before (Aged 65 or above)	0.89
2	1947-1956 (Aged 55 to 64)	0.80
3	1957-1966 (Aged 45 to 54)	0.97
4	1967-1981 (Aged 30 to 44)	1.10
5	1982-1993 (Aged 18 to 29)	0.71
Total:		4.47

6. During this period, we received about 42,000 duplicated registration forms, and rejected about 8,000 registrations due to the ineligibility of the registrants. We also received about 45,000 registration forms from persons who have not yet met the eligibility criteria, i.e. not yet holding a valid HKPIC and/or still under the age of 18. Their registration forms will be processed after 31 March 2012, the eligibility date of the Scheme.

7. Save the registrations of about 44,000 persons unfit to go through the registration process on their own due to medical conditions¹, the vast majority of registrants submitted registrations through banks and the Hongkong Post via drop-boxes placed at bank branches and post offices, by post or e-banking. A breakdown by channel of registration is given below –

¹ For unfit persons already covered by the appointee and guardianship systems of the Social Welfare Department, payments are made to the legal guardians/appointees for the benefit of the unfit persons upon completion of registration by the former. For other unfit persons who are mentally unfit or physically immobile and not covered by the above systems, special arrangements have been put in place to enable agents to register and receive payment on their behalf.

Submission channel	Registration through banks	Registration through Hongkong Post	Total
Drop-box	3.34 m (80.3%)	0.22 m (81.5%)	3.56 m (80.4%)
By post	0.05 m (1.2%)	0.05 m (18.5%)	0.10 m (2.2%)
E-banking	0.77 m (18.5%)	N.A.	0.77 m (17.4%)
Total:	4.16 m (100%)	0.27 m (100%)	4.43 m (100%)

ARRANGEMENTS FOR STAGE 2

8. We expect that about 4.5 million people will have registered under the Scheme when Stage 1 draws to a close on 31 March 2012. The estimated number of potential registrants in Stage 2 commencing 1 April 2012 will therefore be around 1.69 million. Based on the experience so far, it is estimated that about 22% of these eligible persons may register through e-banking. Only a small percentage of them may submit registration forms by post. The balance of 1.32 million potential registrants who may submit registration forms via drop-boxes at bank branches and post offices include about 110,000 persons born in 1946 or before.

9. Having regard to the latest registration statistics and the operational experience gained since implementation, we do not see the need for a similar batching arrangement in Stage 2. However, to facilitate the registration by those who were born in 1946 or before, we would accord priority to processing registrations made by these elderly registrants during the first two weeks of Stage 2.

10. Same as the arrangement during Stage 1, registrants registered through banks and confirmed to have met the eligibility criteria would normally receive payment in around 10 weeks after registration. Those who registered through the Hongkong Post and have met the eligibility criteria will normally be notified by post to collect their cheque in around 12 weeks after registration.

11. The registration platforms will remain the same in Stage 2. To recap, eligible persons who have a local Hong Kong dollar bank account in their sole name may register through banks and receive payment through the specified bank account. For those who do not have a local bank account in their sole name, they may register through the Hongkong Post and collect the order cheque at their selected post office. Registrants may submit their registration forms through drop-boxes placed at bank branches or post offices, as the case may be, or by post to GPO Box No. 186000. E-banking users may also submit their registration via e-banking.

12. To ensure that registration will be conducted in an orderly and effective manner, we will arrange publicity to inform the public of the registration timetable and arrangements for Stage 2 as outlined above.

Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
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