

**LC Paper No. CB(2)1804/11-12(02)**

香港特別行政區政府  
保安局



The Government of the  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
Security Bureau

香港添馬添美道 2 號

2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

本函檔號 Our Ref.:

來函檔號 Your Ref.: CB2/PL/SE

**By Fax: 2509 9055**

Tel : 2810 2506

Fax : 2868 1552

20 April 2012

Mrs Sharon TONG  
Clerk to Panel on Security  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs TONG,

**Panel on Security**

**Queries about Government's subsidy to the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Refugees**

I refer to your letter of 5 April 2012 enclosing an e-mail from Mr Cosmo BEATSON of Vision First on the captioned subject. The Administration's response is set out below.

The Government is not responsible for and cannot account for the funding of or financial management by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, we are given to understand that funds raised by the UNHCR would be transferred to its headquarters for central allocation for supporting different UNHCR operations worldwide.

At present, the Government provides in-kind assistance including

- 2 -

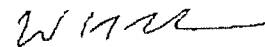
accommodation allowance, food, clothing and toiletries, etc. to torture claimants under screening by the Government. Similar form of assistance also covers asylum seekers pending the UNHCR's assessment. In March 2012, some 5 000 torture claimants and 500 asylum seekers were included in the assistance scheme.

Starting from January 2012, to facilitate continuity of the assistance that the asylum seekers have been receiving from the Government whilst in Hong Kong, the Government has extended the same assistance to include those asylum seekers who passed the UNHCR's assessment and have been granted refugee status pending resettlement. In March 2012, 118 refugees were covered in this regard.

It should be noted that the in-kind assistance scheme is administered by the Social Welfare Department through the International Social Services (ISS), a non-governmental organisation. Under the scheme, no direct subvention or cash subsidy is given to the UNHCR, and the assistance is directly given to each asylum seeker and refugee via the ISS. Hence, there is no question of the Government subsidising the UNHCR in Hong Kong or allowing the latter to remit funds overseas.

The Government will continue to monitor and review the situation closely, and liaise with the UNHCR in Hong Kong as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,



(W H CHOW)

for Secretary for Security