

政府總部
勞工及福利局
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政府總部



LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Central Government Offices
Tim Mei Avenue
Tamar, Hong Kong

本函檔號 Our Ref.: LWB T4/18/29

來函檔號 Your Ref.: CB1/F/A/6

25 January 2013

Mr Derek LO
Clerk to the Finance Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr LO,

**Written response to queries raised by Members at the Meeting of
Finance Committee of the Legislative Council on 14 December 2012**

I refer to your letter dated 24 December 2012 requesting the Administration to provide information in response to the queries raised by Hon James TIEN Pei-chun and Hon TANG Ka-piu at the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 14 December 2012. Our replies are set out below:

- (a) The number of able-bodied person who are aged below 60 and fit for employment who have been receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) for two years or more

The number of CSSA unemployed recipients aged 15-59 who had been receiving CSSA for two years or more as at end-November 2012 was 20 403. It is important to note that these CSSA unemployed recipients might have been on CSSA owing to some other reasons (such as ill-health, low-earning or single-parent, etc.) in earlier years and not all of them have been receiving assistance as a result of unemployment throughout their stay in the CSSA net, and the Social Welfare

Department (SWD) does not have information on the number of unemployed CSSA recipients who have been receiving CSSA continuously owing to unemployment during the whole period.

It should also be noted that the number of CSSA cases under the “unemployment” category dropped from 33 699 as at end-November 2009 to 24 230 as at endNovember 2012, registering a decrease of about 28%.

(b) The amount of public expenditure that can be saved if persons described in (a) are to cease receiving CSSA

The SWD does not keep information on the total amount of CSSA payments provided specifically to the unemployed CSSA recipients who have been receiving CSSA for two years or more. This is because there are many factors affecting the amounts of payment applicable to individual recipients, such as the number of eligible members and special grants/recognised needs of individual members in the household concerned. The number of CSSA cases and recipients will also vary over time. In view of the uncertainties involved, the total amount of public expenditure that can be saved if the recipients described in (a) are to cease receiving CSSA cannot be provided.

The existing standard rates for an unemployed person depending on the number of family members in the household (from single person to households with 4 members or more) are 1,890/\$1,685/\$1,520/\$1,360 and will be adjusted to \$1,990/\$1,775/\$1,600/\$1,430 with effect from 1 February 2013.

(c) The total amount of expenses CSSA recipients have to incur on top of their rental subsidies to meet actual rental payment

In November 2012, the total amount of expenses that CSSA recipients residing in private housing incurred on top of the maximum rent allowances to meet the actual rental payments was \$15.39 million.

(d) The total amount of deduction from recipients of Disability Allowance (DA) as a result of their being admitted to hospitals, residential homes or other types of subsidised institutions

The total amount of deduction from recipients of Higher DA as a result of their being admitted to these subsidised institutions from January 2012 to November 2012 was \$2.25 million.

- (e) The total amount of Old Age Allowance (OAA) the Administration has clawed back from beneficiaries as a result of their staying away from Hong Kong for more than the number of days permitted

The total amount of OAA payments clawed back as a result of the OAA recipients' excessive absence from Hong Kong from January 2012 to November 2012 was \$8.5 million.

Yours sincerely,



(Simpson LO)

for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

- cc. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
[Attn : Ms Elsie YUEN, PEO(G)]
Director of Social Welfare
[Attn : CHAN Wing-hoi, C(SS)2]