

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)2306/13-14
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/HS/1/12

Subcommittee on Poverty

**Minutes of the nineteenth meeting
held on Monday, 12 May 2014, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon Charles Peter MOK
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Members absent : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon TANG Ka-piu

**Public Officers : Item I
attending**

Mr Matthew CHEUNG, GBS, JP
Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Ms Jane LEE
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Poverty)
Labour and Welfare Bureau

**Attendance by
invitation Item I**

Session One

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of
Hong Kong

Mr KWONG Sing-yu
Member of Youth DAB

Tin Shui Wai Community Development Alliance

Mr KONG Kin-shing
Social Worker

The Democratic Party

Mr Andrew WAN Siu-kin

Tin Shui Wai Community Development Network

Mr CHAN Wai-lun
Organizing Officer

The Forthright Caucus

Mr LO Ho-yuen
Representative

Neighbourhood & Worker's Service Centre

Mr WONG Yun-tat
Member of Kwai Tsing District Council

Kwai Chung Estate Community Union

黃群結女士
Representative

Kwai Fong Low Income Family Concern Group

Miss TSUI Yee-kei
Organizer

Kwai Chung Estate Grassroot Concern Group

Miss Yoyo CHAN
Organizer

Kwai Chung Estate Labour Rights Concern Group

Miss Vincci WONG
Representative

Kwai Shing Parents' Rights Concern Group

Miss CHEUNG Fook-yan
Organizer

Kwai Shing Elder's Rights Concern Group

陳奇志女士
Representative

Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres

Mr LEUNG Shek-lun
Advocacy Officer

The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions Social
Affairs Committee

Mr Jonathan HO Kai-ming
Committee Member

反對濫用綜援大聯盟

Mr Harris YEUNG
Convener

The Federation of Hong Kong and Kowloon Labour
Unions

Miss TAM Kam-lin
Deputy Director of Social Affairs Committee

Mr TSE Tsz-kei, Member of Eastern District Council

Civic Party

Mr Zico MAN
HKI District Developer

深水埗低收入關注小組

Mr LEUNG Wa-bill
Representative

街坊關注低收入小組

Mr SIT Ka-chun
Representative

Miss WU Kwun-wing

爭取低收入家庭保障聯席

Miss YEUNG Pui-yan
Community Organizer

Concern for Grassroots' Livelihood Alliance Limited

Mr LEE Kwok-kuen
Community Organizer

Alliance for Children Development Rights

張敏女士
Representative

基層街坊關注小組

Miss LAU Lai-ting

土瓜灣基層關注組

Mr LUI Yee-fung

Session Two

人人健康協進網絡

晴女士

人手比例不符最低工資關注組

Mr WONG Kwai-sang

The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation Center on
Research and Advocacy

Ms Anchor HUNG
Manager

Labour Party

Mr C.M. LAM
Representative

Love China Hong Kong Alliance of Youth Cultural
Societies

Miss Jenny CHAN Y.N.
Founding Vice Chairman

葵涌住屋關注聯席

Mr NG Kwan-lim
Member

葵涌關注劏房平台

Ms FENG Juying
Member

葵涌低收入劏房戶聯盟

歐建紅女士
Member

葵涌劏房住客聯盟

Ms HE Li-zhen
Member

葵涌劏房基層團

馬翠芬女士
Member

在職婦女就業致癌關注組

Miss Amy LAI Tsz-shan

Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Diocesan Pastoral
Centre for Workers (NT)

Mr Augustine YU Siu-po
Acting Centre Supervisor

North District Employment Concern Group

Ms Venny KWOK
Convenor

New Territories Evangelical Ambassador

Mr Simon TAM
Member

Smart & Beauty House

Mr CHOW King
Member

Sheung Shui Concern Low-Income Group

Mr CHAN Chi-kit
Member

葵涌少數族裔關注組

Mr Minhas Rashad
Member

Hong Kong Women Workers' Association

Ms NG Cheuk-ling
Organizer

清潔工人職工會

Ms CHEUNG Po-lai
Executive Committee Member

Mr Simon KO Chong

Community Project, The Salvation Army

Mr LIU Man-king
Team Leader

Clerk in attendance : Mr Colin CHUI
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

Staff in attendance : Ms Catherina YU
Senior Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Kay CHU
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Low-income Working Family Allowance

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1431/13-14(01) to (07) and
CB(2)1521/13-14(01) to (03)]

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at
Annex).

II. Subjects to be discussed at meetings in June and July 2014

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1431/13-14(08)]

2. Members agreed on the subjects to be discussed at the meetings in
June and July 2014, as detailed in the paper prepared by Legislative
Council Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)1431/13-14(08)].

III. Any other business

3. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8:18 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
18 September 2014

**Proceedings of the nineteenth meeting of the
Subcommittee on Poverty
on Monday, 12 May 2014, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Low-income Working Family Allowance</i>			
000623 - 001045	Chairman	Opening remarks	
001046 - 001406	Chairman Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong	In support of the low-income working family allowance ("LIFA") scheme, with suggestions that – (a) for low-income working families with elderly, chronically ill or disabled members, the thresholds of LIFA should be lowered, and special allowance should be offered; and (b) the working hours of all working members of a family should be counted to encourage women employment.	
001407 - 001713	Chairman Tin Shui Wai Community Development Alliance	View that the breadwinners might not be able to achieve work-family balance if he worked 208 hours or more a month. The Administration should relax the working hour thresholds for LIFA.	
001714 - 002001	Chairman The Democratic Party	Supporting the LIFA scheme in principle, with views that – (a) the threshold of 208 working hours a month for LIFA departed from the 5-day work week and the feasibility of standard working hours which was currently studied by the Government; (b) the two-tier working hour requirement should be reset with the first tier in the range of 105 hours to less than 176 hours a month, and the second tier at 176 hours or more a month; (c) there were no specific measures and lower thresholds under the LIFA scheme for low-income households with members with disabilities to cater for their special needs; and (d) low-income singletons were neglected.	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
002002 - 002336	Chairman Tin Shui Wai Community Development Network	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission (LC Paper No. CB(2)1431/13-14(03))	
002337 - 002544	Chairman The Forthright Caucus	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission (LC Paper No. CB(2)1431/13-14(04))	
002545- 002855	Chairman Neighbourhood & Worker's Service Centre	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission (LC Paper No. CB(2)1521/13-14(01))	
002856 - 003222	Chairman Kwai Chung Estate Community Union	View that low-income singletons were helpless in the face of high living expenses as the Administration seldom provided welfare services to help relieve their financial burden.	
003223 - 003511	Chairman Kwai Fong Low Income Family Concern Group	Views that the Administration should – (a) set the working hour threshold for LIFA at 72 hours a month, which was the same as the threshold for the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy ("WITS") Scheme; and (b) count the working hours of all workers in a LIFA applicant household so as to promote gender equality and release the labour force of women.	
003512 - 003822	Chairman Kwai Chung Estate Grassroot Concern Group	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission (LC Paper No. CB(2)1521/13-14(02))	
003823 - 004125	Chairman Kwai Chung Estate Labour Rights Concern Group	Presentation of views – (a) the threshold of 208 working hours a month for LIFA was too high; (b) LIFA should cover low-income working singletons; and (c) Subsidies provided by WITS and the Old Age Living Allowance ("OALA") should not be counted as income.	
004126 - 004404	Chairman Kwai Shing Parents' Rights Concern Group	Urging the Administration to – (a) align the working hour threshold for LIFA with that for WITS to 72 hours a month; (b) relax the household income limit to not higher than 70% of Median Monthly Domestic Household Income ("MMDHI"); and	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		(c) conduct an annual review on the implementation of the LIFA scheme.	
004405 - 004747	Chairman Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres	Appreciating the implementation of the LIFA scheme, with views and suggestions that – (a) many breadwinners of low-income families were casual workers. They might not be able to benefit from LIFA as it was difficult for them to meet the threshold of 208 working hours a month; and (b) the Administration should review the LIFA scheme from gender mainstreaming angle, and consider providing allowance for carers of families and of students with special educational needs ("SEN") to alleviate their livelihood pressure.	
004747 - 004955	Chairman Kwai Shing Elder's Rights Concern Group	Views that – (a) long working hours would bring about family and youth problems; (b) the working hour threshold for LIFA was exceptionally high; and (c) the working hours of all working members in a family should be counted for meeting the working hour requirements.	
004956 - 005250	Chairman The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions Social Affairs Committee	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission (LC Paper No. CB(2)1431/13-14(05))	
005251 - 005604	Chairman 反對濫用綜援大聯盟	View that the thresholds for LIFA should not be applied across-the-board, otherwise ineligible but needy persons would have to rely on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") for a living.	
005605 - 005926	Chairman The Federation of Hong Kong and Kowloon Labour Unions	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission (LC Paper No. CB(2)1431/13-14(06))	
005927 - 010115	Chairman Mr TSE Tsz-kei, Member of Eastern District Council	Urging the Administration to – (a) consider implementing a negative income tax to improve the livelihood of grassroots; (b) provide vocational training for grassroots to enhance their productivity with a view to alleviating their poverty in the long run; and	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		(c) review the existing welfare system to ensure prudent use of public money.	
010116 - 010437	Chairman Civic Party	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission (LC Paper No. CB(2)1521/13-14(03))	
010438 - 010735	Chairman 深水埗低收入關注小組	View that the working hour threshold for LIFA was too high and not achievable. The Administration should formulate policies on rent control and expedite the allocation of public rental housing ("PRH) units to help grassroots families.	
010736 - 011056	Chairman 街坊關注低收入小組	Presentation of views – (a) it was inhumane and inconsiderate to set the working hour threshold at 208 hours a month for LIFA as long working hours adversely affected family harmony and were hazardous to workers' health; and (b) the Administration might have overestimated the number of LIFA beneficiaries.	
011057 - 011355	Chairman Miss WU Kwun-wing	View that the excessively high working hour threshold defeated the purpose of LIFA.	
011356 - 011716	Chairman 爭取低收入家庭保障 聯席	View that some low-income households could not benefit from LIFA due to the exceptionally high working hour threshold. They would not be covered by other welfare policies either. This might lead to family tragedies.	
011717 - 012040	Chairman Concern for Grassroots' Livelihood Alliance Limited	Presentation of views – (a) most of the low-income earners were casual workers, and were under-employed for reasons beyond their control. They could hardly meet the threshold of 208 working hours a month even though they had the incentive to work; and (b) the Administration should consider providing medical allowance under LIFA for children from low-income families.	
012041 - 012403	Chairman 基層街坊關注小組	Urging the Administration to – (a) remove the threshold of 208 working hours a month for LIFA; and (b) start afresh the formulation of a set of reasonable eligibility criteria for LIFA having regard to the working hour threshold of WITS and the family-friendly policies.	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
012404 - 012658	Chairman Alliance for Children Development Rights	<p>Urging the Administration to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) provide a special allowance under LIFA for children from low-income families to subsidize their participation in extra-curricular activities for their better development; (b) conduct regular review on the implementation of the LIFA scheme; and (c) lower the working hour threshold for LIFA to benefit more needy families. 	
012659 - 013005	Chairman 土瓜灣基層關注組	<p>Presentation of views –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the working hour threshold of 208 hours a month for LIFA was too high and the application procedures were too complicated; (b) needy households worried that after launching the LIFA scheme, the Administration would cease to implement the assistance programmes of the Community Care Fund which provided rent and transport subsidies with lower thresholds; and (c) the Administration should increase the supply of PRH units, and formulate policies on rent control as well as combat unreasonable charges for water and electricity by owners of subdivided flats with a view to alleviating poverty in the long-run. 	
013006 - 013840	Chairman Administration	<p>The Administration's response to major views of deputations that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Administration aimed to provide sustainable social security to working poor households not receiving CSSA through the LIFA scheme, which sought to encourage employment, promote self-reliance and alleviate inter-generational poverty; (b) the estimation of about 205 000 low-income families (including 710 000 persons) benefiting from the LIFA scheme was considered realistic and justified by studies conducted by the Census and Statistics Department ("C&SD") and the Government Economist; (c) according to the statistics collected by C&SD, more than 30% of the workers from low-income households not receiving CSSA 	

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		<p>worked 208 hours or more a month. To recognize their hard work, a higher level of basic allowance under LIFA was suggested for those who worked longer hours;</p> <p>(d) the two-tiered working hour threshold for LIFA applicants who were single-parents would be lower (i.e. 36 hours and 72 hours for the first and second tiers respectively);</p> <p>(e) the LIFA scheme would not provide additional allowance for the elderly and persons with disabilities or chronic illness, as its structure should be simple and easy to understand. The aforesaid needy persons would be assisted by OALA and Disability Allowance whose implementation and subsidy levels would be reviewed regularly; and</p> <p>(f) the Administration would closely keep in view the impact of the LIFA scheme on the labour market and LIFA's effect on poverty alleviation.</p> <p>The Chairman's enquiry about the calculation of working hours if LIFA applicants took paid leave or there were statutory holidays.</p> <p>The Administration's response that it intended to count paid leave days and statutory holidays as working days for the purpose of meeting the working hour requirements. It would take into account the views of the public in working out the parameters, including the calculation of working hours, for the LIFA scheme.</p>	
013841 - 014808	Break		
014809 - 015320	Chairman	Session Two opening remarks	
015321 - 015625	The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation Center on Research and Advocacy	Views that persons with disabilities and the chronically ill with low-income should be allowed to apply for LIFA on an individual basis. The working hour requirements under LIFA for these groups of people should be lowered.	
015626 - 020001	Chairman Labour Party	<p>Views that –</p> <p>(a) the threshold of 208 working hours a month for LIFA was too high. A flat rate allowance of \$1,000 should be provided under LIFA;</p> <p>(b) WITS should not discontinue with the implementation of LIFA; and</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		(c) applicants' rental expenses should be deducted from their income in the income test of LIFA. The Administration should make reference to the income limit for PRH when setting the income limit for LIFA.	
020002 - 020311	Chairman New Territories Evangelical Ambassador	Views that – (a) the deputation objected to the threshold of 208 working hours a month for LIFA as it was too high and departed from the 5-day work week and work-family balance practices advocated by the Government; (b) the income limit for persons with disabilities and single-parent families should be set at 60% or 70% of MMDHI under LIFA; and (c) a special allowance should be provided for low-income families with disabled members and their carers.	
020312 - 020513	Chairman Mr Simon KO Chong	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(2)1431/13-14(07)]	
020514 - 021210	Chairman 人人健康協進網絡 人手比例不符最低工資關注組	Views of the Chairman that the views of the deputations were irrelevant to LIFA.	
021211 - 021556	Chairman Love China Hong Kong Alliance of Youth Cultural Societies	Views that to alleviate the poverty situation in Hong Kong, the Administration should first solve housing problems. It should also enhance the support for children and release the labour force of women. Transport subsidy should be provided for low-income workers.	
021557 - 021910	Chairman 葵涌住屋關注聯席	Views that – (a) requiring parents to work 208 hours a month in order to receive the higher basic allowance would create many family and social problems; and (b) the working hours of all working members of a family should be counted towards the working hour requirements for LIFA.	
021911 - 021956	Chairman 葵涌關注劏房平台	View that the working hour requirements for LIFA should be relaxed.	
021957 - 022043	Chairman 葵涌低收入劏房戶聯盟	View that the income limit for LIFA should be reviewed.	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
022044 - 022351	Chairman 葵涌劏房住客聯盟	Views that – (a) the threshold of 208 working hours a month should be reduced to enable healthy family life; and (b) one-person low-income households should be covered by LIFA.	
022352 - 022428	Chairman 葵涌劏房基層團	View that the Administration should lower the threshold of 208 working hours a month so that parents could be eligible for LIFA and, at the same time, spend more time with their children.	
022429 - 022558	Chairman 在職婦女就業致癌關注組	View that the working hour threshold should be set lower for persons with disabilities and persons with illness.	
022559 - 022908	Chairman Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (NT)	Views that – (a) one-person low-income households should be covered by LIFA; (b) the Efficiency Unit ("EU") might not have sufficient experience in handling LIFA applications; and (c) LIFA application procedures should be simple.	
022909 - 023154	Chairman North District Employment Concern Group	Views that the threshold of 208 working hours a month was too high, particularly for casual workers, workers on daily wage and single parents. The working hour requirements for receiving the allowances of \$1,000 and \$600 should be lowered to 72 hours and 36 hours a month respectively.	
023155 - 023540	Chairman Smart & Beauty House	Views that – (a) the Administration had set too many hurdles for LIFA applicants and the meagre allowance was ineffective in alleviating poverty; and (b) it should provide more financial support for persons with disabilities.	
023541 - 023853	Chairman Sheung Shui Concern Low-Income Group	View that the threshold of 208 working hours a month would render parents unable to spend more time with their children and would seriously affect their family life.	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
023854 - 024219	Chairman 葵涌少數族裔關注組	Views and concerns that – (a) the working hour thresholds should be relaxed so that casual workers could benefit from LIFA; (b) in formulating policies, the Administration should avoid stigmatizing certain groups or racial groups; (c) the Administration's policies should aim to encourage people to work, facilitate upward mobility and narrow the wealth gap; and (d) children who had not been residing in Hong Kong for seven years might not be eligible for LIFA.	
024220 - 024542	Chairman Hong Kong Women Workers' Association	Views that – (a) the Administration had neglected housewives' contributions as family carers when designing LIFA; (b) to allow low-income workers who were under-employed to benefit from LIFA, LIFA should be pegged to income levels but not working hours; (c) the Administration should not encourage long working hours; and (d) to improve the working poverty situation, the Statutory Minimum Wage ("SMW") rate should be reviewed annually.	
024543 - 024907	Chairman 清潔工人職工會	View that the Administration's definition of family rendered many poor people not living with their family members ineligible for LIFA.	
024908 - 025235	Chairman Community Project, The Salvation Army	Views that – (a) the threshold of 208 working hours a month should be lowered and the working hours of all breadwinners should be counted; (b) measures should be implemented to help low-income working households before LIFA was launched; (c) it would be difficult for the workers who had no or only a few days of paid leave to meet the working hour requirement if paid leave was counted towards the working requirements; and	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		(d) the Administration should impose rent control to alleviate the rental burden on low-income people.	
025236 - 030211	Chairman Administration	<p>Elaboration by the Administration on the objectives, the lower working hour thresholds for single-parent families, the income limit and child allowance of LIFA.</p> <p>Response of the Administration to major views of deputations –</p> <p>(a) LIFA would be granted to the needy on a family basis. One-person working households were protected by SMW. If they met the relevant eligibility criteria, they might apply for WITS on an individual basis;</p> <p>(b) all working members in a LIFA household (except for the LIFA applicant himself/herself) might apply for or continue to benefit from individual-based WITS if they were eligible. However, LIFA households would not benefit from household-based WITS;</p> <p>(c) there would not be any residence requirement for LIFA applicants;</p> <p>(d) paid general/statutory holidays would be counted towards the working hour requirements under LIFA; and</p> <p>(e) while EU would study the provision of one-stop services for the Administration's assistance programmes in the long run, LIFA would be administered by an office or agent with experience in handling financial assistance schemes.</p>	
030212 - 030341	Chairman The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation Center on Research and Advocacy	<p>Views that –</p> <p>(a) the thresholds of 144 hours and 208 hours a month were too high for persons with disabilities, persons with chronic illnesses and their carers. The thresholds should be relaxed; and</p> <p>(b) the working hours of other breadwinners of a family should also be counted.</p>	
030342 - 030550	Chairman Love China Hong Kong Alliance of Youth Cultural Societies	View that universal retirement protection should not be implemented at this stage.	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
030551 - 030804	Chairman 葵涌住屋關注聯席	Views that – (a) a one-tier system should be adopted for both the working hours and the allowance, i.e. setting the working hours at 144 hours a month and the allowance at \$1,000 a month; (b) the working hours of other working members of a family should also be counted; and (c) the working hour threshold should be lower for households with carers of elderly, carers of members with disabilities and carers of SEN children.	
030805 - 031005	Chairman Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (NT)	Views and concern that – (a) to encourage employment, singletons should be covered by LIFA; (b) it was unfair to count the income but not the working hours of all working members of a family; and (c) the Administration should inform the public about LIFA's interface with the upcoming review of WITS.	
031006 - 031107	Chairman North District Employment Concern Group	Views that – (a) OALA payment should not be counted in LIFA's income test; and (b) the working hour threshold should be lowered to 72 hours a month so that workers with irregular working hours could benefit from LIFA.	
031108 - 031316	Chairman Sheung Shui Concern Low-Income Group	View that counting the working hours of parents of a family would enable them to satisfy the working hour requirements without working long hours, thereby allowing them to take better care of their children.	
031317 - 031438	Chairman 葵涌少數族裔關注組	Suggestion that the Administration should give some thought to providing a child allowance for LIFA households with children studying abroad.	
031439 - 031707	Chairman Hong Kong Women Workers' Association	Views that – (a) women who played the role of carers for their family members should be eligible for LIFA;	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>(b) lower working hour thresholds should be set for single-parents and carers of family members;</p> <p>(c) many members of low-income household were casual workers. Counting the working hours of all working members of a family would enable these families to be eligible for LIFA; and</p> <p>(d) singletons should not be excluded from LIFA.</p>	
031708 - 031929	Chairman Community Project, The Salvation Army	<p>Views that –</p> <p>(a) the allowances for meeting the thresholds of 144 hours and 208 hours a month should be increased to \$1,000 and \$1,400 respectively; and</p> <p>(b) only the assets of core members of low-income households should be counted under LIFA to avoid tension within the family.</p>	
031930 - 032610	Chairman Administration	<p>The Administration's response that –</p> <p>(a) a comprehensive review on WITS would be conducted in October 2014 and the interface between WITS and LIFA would be studied at that time;</p> <p>(b) as OALA was a living subsidy, the differential amount of OALA and Old Age Allowance or the entire OALA payment would be counted in the LIFA's income test, depending on the age of the OALA recipients; and</p> <p>(c) counting the total working hours of all working members of a family might discourage some of them from working longer hours when the family reached the working hour threshold. This might have an adverse impact on the labour market.</p>	
032611 - 032904	Chairman Mr Frankie YICK Administration	<p>Mr Frankie YICK's enquiry about the basis of setting the threshold at 208 hours a month.</p> <p>The Administration's response that it was quite common for many industries to have long working hours and more than 30% of the working members of low-income families not receiving CSSA worked 208 hours or more a month.</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		Mr YICK's view that having deducted Sundays, public/statutory holidays and paid leave, working 208 hours a month was approximately equivalent to working an average of 8.5 hours a day. It seemed that the threshold of 208 hours a month was not so unreasonable.	
032905 - 033239	Chairman Mr CHAN Chi-chuen Administration	Views of Mr CHAN Chi-chuen – (a) an allowance of \$1,000 should be provided for eligible households meeting the requirement of 144 hours a month. Low-income working households not meeting this requirement should receive a discretionary allowance. The Administration should consider whether an additional allowance should be provided for those working 208 hours or more a month; and (b) low-income singletons should be covered by LIFA.	
033240 - 033738	Chairman Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Administration	Views of Mr LEE Cheuk-yan – (a) if the working hour threshold was set at 208 hours a month, about 60% of low-income families would not be eligible for the higher basic allowance; (b) to reduce administrative costs, only one working hour threshold should be set. The threshold should not be higher than the standard working hour of the civil service, i.e. 44 hours a week; and (c) the Administration should consider the views of members and deputations in finalizing the LIFA proposal and brief the Subcommittee before submitting the relevant funding proposal to the Finance Committee ("FC"). The Administration's response that it would brief the Subcommittee regarding LIFA before submitting its funding proposal to FC.	
033739 - 034239	Chairman Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung	Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung's view that the rich should make contributions to the provision of LIFA in the form of taxes or fees so as to narrow the wealth gap in the society.	
034240 - 034751	Chairman Deputy Chairman Administration	Views of the Deputy Chairman – (a) the threshold of 208 working hours a month was way higher than that of many member	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>states of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The working hour requirements should be lowered and additional allowance should be provided for families with members who were elderly, SEN children, disabled or chronically ill; and</p> <p>(b) as the number of eligible LIFA households would be affected by the SMW rate, the SMW rate should be reviewed and adjusted at least once a year.</p> <p>The Administration's response that it would study carefully the views of members and deputations.</p>	
034752 - 035339	Chairman	<p>Views of the Chairman –</p> <p>(a) working poverty did not stem from the poverty problems of children. LIFA's emphasis should not be placed on addressing inter-generational poverty. Excluding elderly persons in poverty from LIFA was age discrimination;</p> <p>(b) LIFA should not disregard housewives' efforts in taking care of their families; and</p> <p>(c) the problem of suppressing the working hours by some employers should be taken into account by the Administration in considering whether an LIFA applicant met the working hour requirement.</p>	
<i>Agenda item II – Subjects to be discussed at meetings in June and July 2014</i>			
035340 - 035427	Chairman	Members agreed on the subjects to be discussed at meetings in June and July 2014.	