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**CIVIL SERVICE BUREAU**  
**GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT**  
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CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES  
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24 July 2014

Clerk to Panel on Public Service  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong  
(Attn: Ms Anita SIT)

Dear Ms SIT,

### **Response to the Issue Raised by the Panel on Public Service**

At the meeting of the Panel on Public Service on 23 June 2014, the Administration was requested to provide the following information regarding the employment of persons with disabilities –

- (a) number of persons with disabilities who left the Civil Service for various reasons in the past five years;
- (b) total number of rehabuses available for use by persons with disabilities, and the capacity;
- (c) the cost of using the service; and
- (d) whether there is adequate provision of special transport service to meet the needs of persons with disabilities for commuting between home and work place.

In response to (a) above, we provide at **Annex A** the number of persons with disabilities leaving the Civil Service in the past five years (from 2008-09 to 2012-13) with breakdown by reasons of leaving the service. As regards transport service for persons with disabilities, an information note prepared by the Labour and Welfare Bureau is attached at **Annex B** please.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Natalie LI', is centered on the page.

(Miss Natalie LI)  
for Secretary for the Civil Service

**Number of persons with disabilities<sup>Note 1</sup> leaving the Civil Service from 2008-09 to 2012-13**

Year <sup>Note 2</sup>	Reasons for leaving				Total
	Retirement	Death	Resignation	Others	
2008-09	158	13	6	2	179
2009-10	145	14	6	1	166
2010-11	183	13	6	2	204
2011-12	183	13	6	4	206
2012-13	190	12	6	2	210

**Note 1** Civil servants with colour blindness or defective colour perception are not included in the statistics, though they should fall within the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487). The statistics quoted are based on seven types of disability, namely, visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical disability, intellectual disability, ex-mentally ill persons, visceral disability, and others (such as autism, speech impairment and specific learning difficulties).

**Note 2** We compile statistics on the number of persons with disabilities being employed in the Civil Service as at 31 March each year to keep monitoring the employment of persons with disabilities. Statistics as at 31 March 2014 are being compiled and would be available around the third quarter of 2014.

Of note is that there is no mandatory requirement for applicants for government jobs and serving officers to declare their disability, if any. The statistics quoted above are compiled on the basis of the information available to the management of Bureaux/Departments (e.g. through applicants' requests for special arrangements for selection tests/interviews, and serving officers' applications for fund to purchase technical aids).

## **Transport service for persons with disabilities**

The Government is mindful of the transport needs of persons with disabilities. The policy objective of the Government in respect of transport services for persons with disabilities is to create a barrier-free physical environment for persons with disabilities in collaboration with the public transport operators in improving transport facilities, thereby facilitating the use of public transport by persons with disabilities. In tandem, the Government provides subvention to the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (HKSR) through the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) for operating the Rehabus services to provide point-to-point special transport service by means of scheduled route (SR), Dial-a-Ride (DAR), pooled DAR and feeder services for those persons with disabilities who have difficulties in using general public transport to go to work and school; to receive rehabilitation training; to participate in other social activities; and to attend medical appointments, etc.

2. Currently, there are a total of 135 rehabuses in the Rehabus fleet, namely, 64 14-seater vehicles; 37 17-seater ones; 31 13-seater ones; and 3 23-seater ones. The fares of the Rehabus services are set out at **Appendix**.

3. For those persons with disabilities who encounter difficulties in using public transport to go to work, they can apply for the Rehabus SR services. At present, there are 86 routes for SR services and most of the SR service users are persons with disabilities who go to work or school at fixed time and locations every working / school day. In processing the applications of SR services, apart from the availability of suitable routes, HKSR will accord higher priority to wheelchair-bound users and those using the Rehabus services to go to work-places. The average waiting time of SR services in 2013 was about two months, with over 80% new applicants being provided with the services within two months. For persons with disabilities who go to work at flexible time and location, they may consider applying for the DAR services.

4. Apart from Rehabus services, the Social Welfare Department also provides special transport service through non-governmental organisations

(NGOs) to persons with disabilities receiving services at day activity centres or sheltered workshops.

5. The Government is fully aware of the keen demand from persons with disabilities for Rehabus services. We will continue to review the service needs every year and bid for additional resources for additional rehabuses and manpower having regard to the service needs. From 2007-08 to 2013-14, a total of 64 rehabuses of higher vehicle age have been replaced and a total of 40 additional rehabuses have been procured, thereby increasing the fleet from 95 in 2007-08 to 135 in 2013-14, representing a 42% increase. The average vehicle age of the Rehabus fleet has also been reduced from 5.5 years in 2007-08 to 4.8 years in 2013-14.

6. For further enhancement of the Rehabus services, LWB will allocate additional funding to HKSR in this financial year to expand the Rehabus fleet to 141 by acquiring six new rehabuses and replace seven existing ones of higher vehicle age, as well as to employ nine additional drivers and two administrative staff, with a view to relieving the present driver shortage; enhancing fleet management and operational efficiency; and meeting the increasing service demand.

7. LWB will continue to pay due regard to users' feedback in respect of the Rehabus services and apply for additional resources for further service enhancement where necessary. The Transport Department will also continue to review from time to time the operation of Rehabus, such as its fleet size, routes and mode of service, with a view to achieving sustainable improvement. They will also continue to encourage public transport operators to improve the accessibility of public transport services and facilities, thereby facilitating more convenient use of the public transport services by persons with disabilities.

Labour and Welfare Bureau  
July 2014

**Fares of Rehabus Service**

	<b>Fare</b>		
Scheduled Route Service	<p>For ordinary (non-cross harbour) route, monthly pass is \$184 and half-monthly pass is \$92;</p> <p>For cross-harbour route, monthly pass is \$264 and half-monthly pass is \$132.</p>		
Feeder Service	<p>Hong Kong Southern District Route: \$3.5 per trip</p> <p>Kowloon City / Shatin Route: \$4 per trip</p> <p>Princess Margaret Kwai Fong: \$4.4 per trip</p> <p>Hospital Route: Lai King / Mei Foo: \$3.5 per trip</p>		
Dial-a-Ride Service	1-4 passengers	5-12 passengers	13 or above passengers
	\$24 per hour \$1.2 per 3 minutes after 1 hour \$1.2 per km	\$38 per hour \$1.9 per 3 minutes after 1 hour \$1.9 per km	\$58 per hour \$2.9 per 3 minutes after 1 hour \$2.9 per km
	<p><b><u>Remarks :</u></b></p> <p>(1) Minimum 1 hour;</p> <p>(2) Service charge of \$5 per booking ;</p> <p>(3) Plus parking charge and tunnel charge, if applicable.</p>		
<p><b><u>Pooled Dial-a-Ride Service</u></b></p> <p><i>\$160 per month, for shared use by users with fixed time and location every week (e.g. school boarders), usually twice per week</i></p>			