

政府總部
勞工及福利局
香港金鐘添美道
政府總部



LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Central Government Offices
Tim Mei Avenue
Admiralty, Hong Kong

本函檔號 Our Ref.: LWB T4/18/29

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

13 December 2013

Mr Colin CHUI
Clerk to Panel on Welfare Services
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr CHUI,

Panel on Welfare Services

As requested by Members at the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services on 11 November 2013 regarding the item “Annual adjustment of payment rates under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and the Social Security Allowance Scheme”, we now provide at Annex further information on actual rent payment by CSSA households living in private premises.

Regarding the estimated CSSA expenditure to be incurred if all those living below the poverty line were provided with CSSA, it is noted that according to the Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2012, there were around 403 000 households living below the poverty line (i.e. below 50% of median monthly household income (MMHI)) after recurrent cash intervention. Amongst them, 102 700 households were receiving CSSA. The poverty line cannot be used to assess the amount of assistance to be received by households under the CSSA Scheme. The former is linked to MMHI while the latter is calculated according to the basic and special needs recognised under the CSSA Scheme of the households concerned.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stanley NG', written over a horizontal line. Below the signature, the name 'Stanley NG' is printed in a simple font and enclosed in a hand-drawn oval.

for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Encl.

cc. Director of Social Welfare (Attn: Mr CHAN Wing-hoi)

**Number of CSSA households living in private housing
Paying rent higher than the MRA
(Position as at end June 2013)**

As at the end of June 2013, there were 34 598 CSSA cases receiving rent allowance who were living in private housing. Among them, 17 860 cases were paying rent higher than the MRA. The breakdown figures by household size and amount of rent exceeding MRA are set out at Table 1 below:

Table 1: Number of CSSA cases living in private premises paying rent higher than MRA:

Difference between actual rent paid and MRA	Number of CSSA cases by number of eligible members						Total
	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons or above	
Less than \$100	2 488	799	286	24	7	0	3 604
\$101-\$500	3 100	932	653	248	69	33	5 035
\$501-\$1,000	2 207	1 141	530	226	69	42	4 215
\$1,001 or above	2 158	1 201	921	450	208	68	5 006
Total	9 953	4 073	2 390	948	353	143	17 860

If the MRA is increased by 6.5% based on the 12-month moving average of the CPI(A) private housing rent index up to October 2013 according to the mechanism as provided in the Welfare Services Panel paper (CB(2)217/13-14(03)) and taking into account the “Subsidy for CSSA Recipients Living in Rented Private Housing” of the Community Care Fund (CCF) being implemented from November 2013, it is estimated that the number of cases paying rent higher than MRA would decrease from 17 860 to 10 363. The breakdown of the relevant figures is set out at Table 2 below:

Table 2 : Number of CSSA cases living in private premises paying rent higher than MRA after 6.5% increase in MRA and taking into account the CCF subsidy

Difference between actual rent paid and MRA	Number of CSSA cases by number of eligible members						Total
	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons or above	
Less than \$100	961	469	40	23	3	5	1 501
\$101-\$500	2 048	673	427	184	62	30	3 424
\$501-\$1,000	1 509	569	309	135	52	24	2 598
\$1,001 or above	1 199	630	519	302	151	39	2 840
Total	5 717	2 341	1 295	644	268	98	10 363