

政府總部
勞工及福利局

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LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

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By Fax

(Fax No.: 2509 0775, Total: 5 pages)

6 August 2015

Mr Colin CHUI
Chief Council Secretary
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

LC Paper No. CB(2)1989/14-15(01)

Dear Mr CHUI,

**Information on
“Issues relating to Service Quality and Monitoring of
Private Residential Care Homes”**

You passed to this Bureau on 15 July 2015 a letter from Hon TANG Ka-piu of 14 July 2015 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1906/14-15(04)) which sought information from the Government on the questions covered in the letter. Further to the discussion by the Panel on Welfare Services at its meeting on 23 July 2015, our response is set out below.

Question 1

The Code of Practice for Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) (the Code) issued by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) stipulates that residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) are responsible for protecting elderly persons from abuse. RCHEs are required to prevent elder abuse and handle any suspected elder abuse cases in an appropriate manner in accordance with the guidelines.

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SWD handles and takes immediate follow-up action on any suspected elder abuse cases seriously. In accordance with the "Procedural Guidelines for Handling Elder Abuse Cases", the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE) refers as appropriate elderly persons to social workers for follow-up so as to ensure that the elderly persons will promptly be provided with appropriate services. SWD also carries out investigations to ascertain whether there are irregularities on the part of the RCHEs concerned. If it is found that an RCHE has contravened the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (the RCHE Ordinance), the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Regulation or the Code, LORCHE will issue advisory or warning letters to the RCHE concerned having regard to the nature and severity of the irregularities, or consider instigating prosecution action in accordance with the RCHE Ordinance as appropriate. LORCHE will also follow up on the improvement measures implemented by the RCHE concerned to ensure proper care for the residents. In case of an alleged elder abuse or alleged criminal offence involving an RCHE or its staff, SWD will refer the case to the Police for investigation and follow-up action.

In collaboration with the Department of Health, SWD has been organising training programmes for RCHE staff on a regular basis on subjects covering the prevention and handling of suspected elder abuse cases, with a view to enhancing the awareness of RCHEs in the protection of elderly persons.

In the past three years, there were a total of 10 elder abuse cases occurring in RCHEs. All of these cases have been investigated and followed up promptly in accordance with established procedures, including referral of the cases to the Police for criminal investigation. The abusers were convicted in five of these cases. LORCHE have also followed up on the improvement measures implemented by the RCHEs to ensure proper care for the residents.

Question 2

As at end-June 2015, there were a total of 38 710 elderly persons residing in private RCHEs, including those taking up subsidised places of RCHEs participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme, with a breakdown by district as follows:

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District Council district	No. of persons residing in private RCHEs	District Council district	No. of persons residing in private RCHEs
Central & Western	1 847	Islands	316
Southern	1 551	Sai Kung	191
Eastern	3 267	North	1 981
Wan Chai	573	Tai Po	1 818
Kwun Tong	2 479	Sha Tin	1 464
Wong Tai Sin	1 687	Kwai Tsing	3 465
Kowloon City	4 403	Tsuen Wan	2 257
Sham Shui Po	3 278	Tuen Mun	2 393
Yau Tsim Mong	2 536	Yuen Long	3 204

SWD does not have information on the number of elderly persons residing in private RCHEs broken down by the level of disability, age group, number of children and marital status.

Question 3

From 1 April 2014 to end-March 2015, a total of 8 859 elderly persons residing in private RCHEs were assessed under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services (SCNAMES), including 2 900 elderly persons who received a re-assessment. Of the total 8 859 elderly persons, the numbers of persons assessed to be severely impaired and moderately impaired were 2 736 and 6 098 respectively, while the numbers of those assessed to be mildly impaired and with no impairment were 15 and 10 respectively. Of the 2 900 elderly persons having received a re-assessment, the level of impairment of 624 changed from severe to moderate, whereas the level of impairment of 69 changed from moderate to severe. Of the 8 859 elderly persons having received an assessment under SCNAMES, 1 890 (i.e. 21.3%) were allocated subsidised RCHE places.

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Question 4

As at end-June 2015, there were a total of 24 938 elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients aged 60 or above residing in non-subsidised RCHE places. A breakdown by the level of disability is as follows:

Level of disability	Number of recipients
Elderly persons who are able-bodied / 50% disabled	2 280
Elderly persons who are 100% disabled	8 004
Elderly persons requiring constant attendance	14 654
Total	24 938

SWD does not have information on the number of elderly persons who applied for CSSA after being admitted to private RCHEs.

The average amounts of monthly CSSA payments for CSSA elderly singletons aged 60 or above residing in non-subsidised residential care places broken down by the level of disability are as follows:

Level of disability	Average monthly CSSA payments (from 1 February 2015) (\$)
Elderly singletons who are able-bodied / 50% disabled	5,526
Elderly singletons who are 100% disabled	6,665
Elderly singletons requiring constant attendance	8,599

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Question 5

Regarding elderly CSSA recipients currently residing in private RCHEs, SWD does not have information on the number of those having received supplements and special grants last year and the amount involved.

Question 6

Regarding elderly CSSA recipients aged 60 or above residing in private RCHEs, SWD does not have information on the numbers of persons receiving different amounts of standard rates of CSSA based on their level of disability and the percentage concerned. From 1 April 2014 to end-March 2015, a total of 5 340 elderly persons were allocated subsidised RCHE places. Among them, 2 994 (i.e. 56.1%) had resided in private RCHEs.

Question 7

SWD does not have information on the number of elderly CSSA recipients who passed away while residing in private RCHEs. From 1 April 2014 to end-March 2015, 2 750 elderly persons residing in private RCHEs passed away while waiting for admission to subsidised RCHEs.

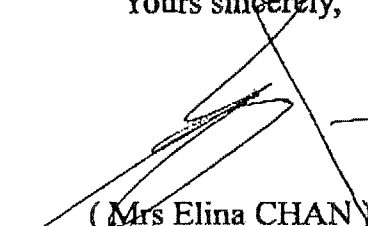
Question 8

SWD does not have statistical information on cases involving elderly CSSA recipients residing in private RCHEs who were investigated and prosecuted by SWD over the past year for failing to report that their family members had paid part of the home fees for them.

Question 9

SWD does not have statistical information on cases involving private RCHEs charging minimum home fees higher than the CSSA payments received by elderly residents with relevant levels of disability.

Yours sincerely,


(Mrs Elina CHAN)
for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

c.c. Director of Social Welfare (Attention: Ms PANG Kit-ling)