



社會福利署

Social Welfare Department

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5 February 2016

Ms Betty Ma
Clerk to Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to
Tackle Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence
Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Ma,

**Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle
Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence
Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services
Follow-up Issues of the Meeting of 12 January 2016
and Letter of 22 January 2016**

Concerning the follow-up issues raised at the meeting of the Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence on 12 January 2016 and its letter of 22 January 2016, I am authorised to give a reply.

Supplementary Information on Evaluation Study on the Pilot Project on
Batterer Intervention Programme

From 2006 to 2008, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the Pilot Project on Batterer Intervention Programme (Pilot Project) to provide, in addition to casework service, group counselling with 13 sessions, each with 2 hours, for men who had perpetrated intimate partner violence (IPV) but wished to maintain the relationship, in the hope of helping them stop the violence and improve their relationship. To evaluate the effectiveness of the Pilot Project, SWD had conducted scientific outcome study by following group participants' changes on their IPV behaviour and the relationship satisfaction perceived by them and their partners for one year after they completed the group and comparing it with those male perpetrators receiving casework service only.

According to the findings, both the male perpetrators who received casework service and group counselling at the same time and those who received casework service only showed significant reduction of their IPV,



which reflects that the casework service provided by SWD is effective in helping the perpetrators stop their violence regardless of the provision of group counselling. In terms of partner relationship, completers of the Pilot Project showed significant improvement which was not prominent on perpetrators receiving casework service only. Apart from that, among the three subgroups of male perpetrators, those from non-statutory cases had outperformed those from Bind Over and Probation Order cases in terms of violence reduction and relationship improvement.

In the study, "relapse" is broadly defined as male perpetrator's commission of any severe physical assault or severe injury as reported by their partners within 12 months after completion of the group. As found, the relapse rates of BIP completers and male perpetrators receiving casework service only were 14.3% and 17.1% respectively, which are comparable to foreign studies of a similar nature and are considered satisfactory.

For details of the Evaluation Study on the Pilot Project on Batterer Intervention Programme, please refer to the "Combined Interim & Final Report of Batterer Intervention Programme" which may be downloaded from SWD homepage (<http://www.swd.gov.hk/vs/english/publish.html>).

Compassionate Rehousing

The major reasons for not recommending compassionate rehousing (CR) applications in the past five years are set out below -

- (a) the information provided by the applicant indicates that he/she has sufficient financial means to solve the housing problem on his/her own;
- (b) the applicant intends to make his/her CR application on medical grounds but fails to obtain recommendation from the case medical officer to substantiate his/her claims for CR on medical grounds;
- (c) the marital status of the applicant is unclear; or
- (d) the applicant fails to take action to relinquish his/her property rights in private residential property/Home Ownership Scheme flat.

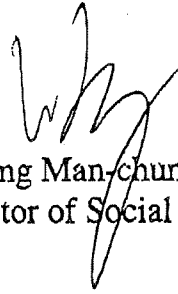
Requests of the Sexual Minorities

It is the objective of SWD to assist families and individuals in need by providing appropriate services regardless of age, gender, race or sexual orientation. Sexual minority in need may also receive the services provided by SWD and its subvented non-governmental organisations. SWD has all along recognised the importance of communication with stakeholders. As

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regards, the views of sexual minority groups towards the domestic violence problem and different support services, SWD has been taking various channels to understand their needs and concerns. In this regard, SWD met with the representatives of the LGBT Against Domestic Violence Alliance in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, May and June 2015 with a view to understanding the domestic violence problem involving sexual minorities, and having in-depth discussion on support services for sexual minorities in the face of domestic violence. In the process, both parties had frank discussion on issues of concern, and focused discussion on the needs and concerns of the sexual minority. SWD will continue to maintain close liaison and communication with various sectors, improve its services and enhance training for frontline social workers, with a view to providing better support for individuals and families faced with domestic or sexual violence.

Yours sincerely,



(Fung Man-chung)
for Director of Social Welfare

cc Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Attn: Ms Winnie Chan)