

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)2111/16-17
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

Minutes of special meeting
held on Monday, 17 July 2017, at 10:30 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Chairman)
Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon HUI Chi-fung

Members absent : Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan

Member attending : Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho

Public Officers : Item I
attending

Dr LAW Chi-kwong, GBS, JP
Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr Esmond LEE, JP
Head, Working Family and Student Financial
Assistance Agency

Mr Gordon CHONG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Welfare) 4
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Attendance : Item I
by invitation

Session One

Hong Kong Catholic Commission for Labour Affairs

Miss LAW Pui-shan
Policy Research Officer

Community March

Mr LAM Siu-pan
Convenor

Labour Party

Mr LAM Ming-yan
社區幹事

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of
Hong Kong

Miss LAI Ka-man
Deputy Spokesperson

上水低津關注組

劉斌娥女士
成員

清河低津關注組

楊建婭女士
成員

上水清河低津關注組

賴仙萍女士
成員

清河低收入津貼關注組

李明玉女士
成員

Hong Kong Chef Union

Mr NG Chi-fai
Chairman

The Civic Party

Mr CHENG Man-kit
District Developer of the Kowloon East Branch

天水圍低津關注組

曾彩霞女士
成員

天水圍低收入低津關注組織

張富玲女士
成員

天水圍城低收入關注會

張敏女士
成員

關注低津天水圍街坊會

吳麗華女士
成員

Business and Professionals Alliance for Hong Kong

Mr CHO Wui-hung
Member, Committee on Youth

Catholic Diocese of HK Diocesan Pastoral Centre for
Workers (Kowloon)

Ms Sairah ABBAS
Assistant Program Officer

The Federation Of Hong Kong & Kowloon Labour
Unions

Mr CHAN Man Luen Ying
地區幹事

葵涌工廈劏房戶關注組

Mr TIN Ka-shun
Member

葵涌劏房住客聯盟

馬翠芬女士
Member

葵涌劏房居民大聯盟

Mr NG Kwan-lim
Member

太子關注低收入街坊小組

李浩豐先生
成員

太子低收入家長小組

鄧國鴻先生
幹事

關注學童發展權利聯席

何汝瑛女士
組織幹事

Mr Johnny CHAN Chung-yau

葵涌邨基層關注組

Miss TO Ching-wa
草根市民

Neighbourhood and Worker's Service Centre

Mr WONG Yun-tat
Community Affairs Officer

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Mr WONG Wo-ping
Chief Officer

Session Two

Mr HO Wai-pan

New People's Party

Mr CHEUNG Ka-fung
Representative

觀塘關注基層聯盟

Miss NG Shan-yiu
成員

Ms XIAO Xue

爭取低收入家庭保障聯席

Miss LI Fung-tsing
組織幹事

關注綜援低收入聯盟

梁國雄先生

Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centre

Miss TSOI Sin-man
Advocacy Officer

Miss Winky SO Tsz-wing

Miss TONG Chun-ye

觀塘抗貧陣線

鄧寶山先生
成員

Kwai Chung Ethnic Minorities Parents Group

Miss Farah BEGUM
Committee

Kwai Chung Ethnic Minorities Rights Concern Group

Mr Ahmad TAUQIR
Committee

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

Staff in attendance : Mr Roger CHUNG
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Alison HUI
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Review of effectiveness of Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1563/16-17(04) to (05), CB(2)1592/16-17(01) and CB(2)1626/16-17(01) to (04)]

At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary for Labour and Welfare ("SLW") briefed members on the implementation of the Low-income Working Family Allowance ("LIFA") Scheme and progress of the preparations for the comprehensive policy review on the LIFA Scheme. SLW supplemented that the Administration would take into account the views and suggestions expressed by members on the subject at the Panel meeting on 12 June 2017 and through the motions passed at that meeting in conducting the policy review.

2. The Chairman invited the deputations/individuals to present their views. A total of 39 deputations/individuals expressed their views which were summarized in the **Appendix**.

The Administration's response to deputations' views

3. SLW advised that the Administration had undertaken to conduct a comprehensive policy review on the LIFA Scheme one year after its implementation. It had been receiving feedback and suggestions from concern groups and stakeholders on various aspects of the LIFA Scheme. Major suggestions from concern groups and stakeholders such as relaxing the income limits and the working hour requirements, allowing working hours of all family members to aggregate, extending the LIFA Scheme to cover one-person households, introducing an adjustment mechanism for the rates of allowance, including an additional working hour threshold, delinking the Child Allowance from the working hour requirements, etc. All these suggestions would be carefully considered in the policy review.

4. In response to the deputations' concerns on the application procedures of the LIFA Scheme, SLW advised that the Administration was committed to managing public finances prudently and would be accountable to the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Council in ensuring proper use of public funds. Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency ("Head, WFSFAA") made the following points:

- (a) having regard to the feedback from LIFA applicants and in the light of the operating experience, the Working Family Allowance Office ("WFAO") under WFSFAA had simplified the application form to make it easier to fill in. As working hours, family income and assets were the key parameters of the LIFA Scheme, WFAO needed to verify the related information when processing applications under the Scheme. WFAO would examine the information provided by the applicants and might request the applicants to provide supplementary information where necessary. Regarding individual cases cited at the meeting, if given their details, WFAO would be able to consider if the processing could have been improved;
- (b) it was necessary for employed persons with long-term employment to provide documentary proof showing their working hours, such as attendance records, attendance cards, employer's certifications, salary receipts, pay slips, employment contracts that could show the working hours, etc. Casual workers and self-employed persons who were unable to submit documentary proof could

self-declare their working hours for consideration by WFAO;

- (c) families that had been successful in their LIFA applications previously were not required to submit some of the documentary proof again if the related information remained unchanged; and
- (d) in processing an application, WFAO might approach the applicant or any of his/her family members to verify information in the application or to request the provision of supplementary information and documents.

5. Regarding the interpretation service provided for the ethnic minorities ("EMs") applying for LIFA, Head, WFSFAA advised that a number of briefing sessions had been organized by WFAO specifically for non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") supporting EMs and for various EM communities with simultaneous interpretation services. Some of the briefings were held in the evenings or on Saturdays or Sundays so that those EMs at work could also attend. WFAO had trained its staff to offer and make arrangements for interpretation for EMs so as to assist those who intended to apply for LIFA in filling out the application forms on site. In addition, one of the support service centres for EMs funded by the Home Affairs Department had been assisting WFAO in handling telephone enquiries from EMs, as well as providing free telephone interpretation and on-sight interpretation service for EM applicants. EMs were encouraged to call the WFAO's hotline so that WFAO would be able to consider how best assistance could be provided.

Discussion

Review of Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme

6. Mr Andrew WAN said that low application rate for the LIFA Scheme was due to its cumbersome application procedures and excessively high threshold. Given that applicants had difficulty asking their employers to certify their working hours, the Administration should simplify the application procedures in this regard. He enquired whether the Administration would relax the working hour requirements and allow working hours of all family members to aggregate. While understanding that the Administration should ensure the proper use of public funds, Mr WAN considered that the income limits under the LIFA Scheme were unreasonably low. Casual workers with long working hours would easily exceed the income limits and thus were not eligible for LIFA. Noting that low-income families with elderly, disabled members and children with special needs might have additional expenses in

emergency situations, he called on the Administration to relax the asset limits so that these families could have the means to deal with such situations.

7. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that while the Administration was committed to managing public finances prudently, it should provide needy families with LIFA as a basic protection. He expressed dissatisfaction at the Administration's reluctance to accede to deputations' requests for improvement to the LIFA Scheme. The Administration should proactively respond to the views and suggestions expressed by members and deputations in reviewing the LIFA Scheme. Noting that lower working hour thresholds were set for single-parent families, he asked whether the Administration would give special considerations to low-income working families with elderly, chronically ill or disabled members.

8. Noting that the number of beneficiaries of the LIFA Scheme fell short of the original estimate, Mr POON Siu-ping called on the Administration to simplify the application procedures and relax the income limits and the working hour requirements under the LIFA Scheme. Noting that the existing establishment of WFAO comprised about 500 posts, he sought information about the Administration's plan for the staff establishment of WFAO in the future.

9. Mr KWOK Wai-keung said that the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions took the view that the Administration should expeditiously review the LIFA Scheme and proactively remove the barriers to its effective operation. The Administration should set the working hour threshold at 144 hours a month and the allowance at \$1,000 a month for the Basic Allowance, and set the working hour threshold at 176 hours a month and the allowance at \$1,500 a month for the Higher Allowance. An additional working hour threshold between 72 hours and 144 hours per month should be set under the LIFA Scheme and an allowance of \$600 per month should be provided for households meeting this requirement. He called on the Administration to relax the income limits to 60%-70% of the median monthly domestic household income.

10. SLW responded that the Administration would take into account the views expressed by members and deputations in conducting the policy review. Besides, a few additional questions had also been included in the Census and Statistics Department's General Household Survey to identify the reasons why the households, who were prima facie eligible for LIFA in terms of income and

working hours, had not applied for LIFA. The General Household Survey would be completed by July 2017 and the findings would be fully considered in the policy review. The Administration would examine the data available and continue to engage the concern groups and stakeholders to collect their views and feedback on the design and implementation of the LIFA Scheme, with a view to coming up with proposals for improving the LIFA Scheme before the end of 2017.

11. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen held the view that it was difficult for low-income families to meet the current 192-hour threshold for the Higher Allowance of LIFA. He urged the Administration to relax the working hour requirement. He expressed concern about the negative stigma effect on the LIFA applicants when they sought the assistance of their employers in certifying their working hours. The Chairman and Mr CHAN considered that the Administration should simplify the cumbersome application procedures by allowing applicants to self-declare the working hours.

12. Head, WFSFAA reiterated that employees needed to provide documentary proof showing their working hours while casual workers and self-employed persons were allowed to self-declare their working hours if they had practical difficulty providing documentary proof of their working hours. When applicants were more acquainted with the application procedures in their second or subsequent round of applications, the degree of completeness of the documentary proof submitted by the LIFA applicants increased, thus shortening the time required for processing the applications.

13. Noting that the Administration would come up with the improvement proposals to the LIFA Scheme by end-2017, Mr POON Siu-ping and Mr KWOK Wai-keung asked whether the policy review would be completed earlier so that the improvement proposals could be included in the Policy Address delivered in October 2017. SLW advised that the policy review was expected to be completed before the end of 2017. The Administration would not rule out the possibility of presenting the improvement proposals ahead of schedule. In response to the Chairman's enquiry, SLW advised that the Labour and Welfare Bureau would be responsible for conducting the policy review.

14. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung expressed dissatisfaction at the Administration's failure to put forward concrete proposals to improve the LIFA Scheme at the meeting. He opined that it was not necessary for the Administration to examine the data before setting out its policy direction on the implementation of the LIFA Scheme. In response to Mr LEUNG's enquiry about extending the LIFA Scheme to cover one-person households, SLW advised that the Administration would need to take into consideration a wide range of factors,

such as whether the existing policies (e.g. the statutory minimum wage) could provide sufficient support for singletons.

Implementation of Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme

15. Mr Jeremy TAM sought the view of deputations on the implementation of the LIFA Scheme. 梁國雄先生 of 關注綜援低收入聯盟 said that the Administration had expected that around 200 000 eligible households would apply for LIFA but there were only around 50 000 successful applications so far. The government officials concerned should be held accountable for not achieving the expected results of the LIFA Scheme. The Deputy Chairman said that low-income families were already suffering from the discontinuation of the Community Care Fund's One-off Living Subsidy for Low-income Households Not Living in Public Housing and Not Receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance. Many low-income families were unable to benefit from the LIFA Scheme due to the high working hour requirements and the exclusion of one-person households. He considered that the Child Allowance should not be tied to the LIFA Scheme. The Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and Mr TAM considered the LIFA Scheme ineffective as the number of beneficiaries was substantially below the Administration's estimated number. Expressing concern about the Administration's efforts in budgeting for the LIFA Scheme, they enquired about the reasons for a lower-than-expected number of beneficiaries and the improvement measures to be implemented.

16. SLW advised that as the Administration did not have information such as the asset level of potential participants of the LIFA Scheme and the number of households meeting all the requirements, it had made the best efforts to estimate the number of beneficiaries under the LIFA Scheme. For planning purpose, the Administration had projected the number of beneficiaries to ensure the availability of sufficient resources to implement the LIFA Scheme. However, the projected figures were not meant to be the targeted number of beneficiaries of the LIFA Scheme.

17. The Chairman and Mr POON Siu-ping asked whether the Administration would extend the period of service of NGOs in helping new LIFA applicants to fill in the application form and provide additional resources for NGOs to provide such service. Head, WFSFAA responded that during the period from 1 January to 15 May 2017, NGOs were commissioned to provide form-filling support service for new LIFA applicants, and about 380 new applications were received from NGOs. The Administration noted that NGOs had made efforts to identify prospective applicants. WFAO had no plan at this stage to engage NGOs to provide such service again. Nevertheless, if NGOs wished to invite WFAO to conduct briefings on the LIFA Scheme at local districts, WFAO

stood ready to accede to the requests even if these were to be organized after office hours. Besides, WFAO would continue to send staff to set up an enquiry desk at the Housing Authority Customer Service Centre at Lok Fu to answer potential applicants' questions about the application procedures and filling in the application form. SLW supplemented that the Administration was willing to study the operation of the form-filling support service provided by NGOs and take appropriate measures when necessary to assist the applicants in filling in the form.

18. In response to the Chairman's enquiry on the high administrative expenses of WFAO, Head, WFSFAA advised that since the establishment of WFAO, its staff members had made an extensive effort to promote the LIFA Scheme, which included organizing numerous briefings, conducting publicity activities in various districts, answering public enquiries relating to the LIFA Scheme, and providing form-filling support service, with a view to benefiting more needy families.

19. At the invitation of the Chairman, the following deputations/individuals gave views as follows:

- (a) Mr CHEUNG Ka-fung of New People's Party noted that for a low-income family with two or more working members, the Administration would only provide LIFA to one family member. He suggested that the Administration should also provide the allowance for the other family members;
- (b) Miss NG Shan-yiu of 觀塘關注基層聯盟 said that the number of beneficiaries was lower than expected but the administrative expenses of processing the LIFA applications were high. The Administration should consider relaxing the requirements under the LIFA Scheme. She called on the Administration to provide additional resources for NGOs in helping new LIFA applicants to fill in the application form;
- (c) Ms XIAO Xue suggested that the LIFA Scheme should be tied to the government student financial assistance schemes. The Administration should process the applications for the schemes simultaneously;
- (d) 梁國雄先生 of 關注綜援低收入聯盟 expressed concern about the lower-than-expected number of beneficiaries under the LIFA Scheme and the high administrative expenses of processing the LIFA applications;

- (e) 鄧寶山先生 of 觀塘抗貧陣線 said that more NGOs and concern groups should be invited to provide form-filling support service for new LIFA applicants. He requested the Administration to provide a response to the views and suggestions expressed by deputations on improving the LIFA Scheme;
- (f) Miss TSOI Sin-man of Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centre suggested that the Administration should review the effectiveness of the publicity on the LIFA Scheme. She enquired whether the Administration would relax the requirements for low-income families with elderly persons and children with special needs under the LIFA Scheme; and
- (g) Miss TONG Chun-ye said that given the high living expenses of one-person households, the Administration should extend the LIFA Scheme to cover such households.

Motions

20. Dr Fernando CHEUNG moved the following two motions:

Motion 1

"低收入在職家庭津貼計劃推出已超過一年，政府原本預計有 20 萬家庭受惠，目前卻只有約 5 萬家庭成功申領，計劃未達預期效果，主因是手續繁複和門檻過高。本委員會促請政府立即作出以下改善：

1. 將入息中位數六成的規定放寬至七成半，讓更多在職貧窮家庭受惠；
2. 降低工時門檻，增加一條 72 小時的工時線，將 192 工時線降低至 144 小時，並且容許兩個家庭成員合併工時；
3. 增加一人家庭申請，而單人申請的入息及資產限額應跟隨二人家庭計算；及
4. 簡化申請程序，容許申請人自行申報工時。"

(Translation)

"The Low-income Working Family Allowance ("LIFA") Scheme, which has been launched by the Government for more than a year, was originally planned to benefit 200 000 households; but only about 50 000 households have applied for LIFA successfully so far, and the expected results of the Scheme not being achieved was mainly due to its cumbersome procedures and excessively high threshold. This Panel urges the Government to immediately make the following improvements:

1. relaxing the income limits from 60% to 75% of the median monthly domestic household income, so that more working-poor households can be benefited;
2. lowering the working hour threshold by including an additional line at 72 hours and adjusting downward the 192-hour line to 144 hours, and allowing working hours of two family members to aggregate;
3. extending the Scheme to cover one-person households, and requiring that the income and asset limits of one-person households should follow those of two-person households; and
4. simplifying the application procedures and allowing applicants to make self-declaration on working hours."

21. The Chairman put the motion to vote. All members present voted for the motion. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

Motion 2

"低收入在職家庭津貼計劃推行超過一年，除了受惠人數比預期低，制度亦顯露了漏洞和不公義，本委員會促請政府立即作出以下改善：

1. 增加租住私人樓宇人士的生活補助；
2. 放寬租住私人樓宇人士的入息上限；
3. 放寬照顧殘疾人士、長者及長期病患者的工時要求；
4. 豁免計算 65 歲或以上家庭成員的資產；及

5. 將兒童津貼與工時要求脫鉤，即只要符合入息要求便應發放，並為有特殊需要的兒童發放額外津貼。

(Translation)

"The Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme has been implemented for more than a year. The system has not just been marked by a lower-than-expected number of beneficiaries, but also brought to light the loopholes and injustice therein. This Panel urges the Government to immediately make the following improvements:

1. increasing the living subsidy for tenants of private rental housing;
2. relaxing the upper limits of income for tenants of private rental housing;
3. relaxing the working hour requirements for carers of persons with disabilities, elderly people and chronic patients;
4. disregarding those of family members aged 65 or above in the calculation of assets; and
5. delinking the Child Allowance from the working hour requirements, i.e. granting the allowance solely upon compliance with the income requirements, and granting additional allowance to children with special needs."

22. The Chairman put the motion to vote. All members present voted for the motion. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

23. Dr KWOK Ka-ki expressed concern about the effectiveness of the LIFA Scheme given that the number of beneficiaries fell short of the estimated number and the administrative expenses of WFAO were high. Sharing the view of 關注綜援低收入聯盟, Dr KWOK was disappointed at the Administration's reluctance to provide a response to the views of members and deputations on the review of the LIFA Scheme. He asked how the Administration would respond to members' suggestions on improving the LIFA Scheme and Dr Fernando CHEUNG's motions passed by the Panel at this meeting. SLW reiterated that the Administration had to examine the data available before coming up with the improvement proposals to the LIFA Scheme as explained in paragraph 10 above.

II. Any other business

24. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 2:21 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
22 September 2017

Panel on Welfare Services

Special meeting on Monday, 17 July 2017, at 10:30 am

Review of effectiveness of Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations/individuals

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
<u>Session One</u>		
1.	Hong Kong Catholic Commission for Labour Affairs	[LC Paper No. CB(2)1926/16-17(01)]
2.	Community March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should include one-person households in the Low-income Working Family Allowance ("LIFA") Scheme. ● The Administration should offer a higher amount of allowance under the LIFA Scheme.
3.	Labour Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given that casual workers had difficulty asking their employers to certify their working hours, the Administration should simplify the application procedures in this regard. ● The Administration should relax the income limits and the working hour requirements, and allow working hours of all family members to aggregate. ● The Child Allowance should not be tied to the applicants' meeting the working hour requirements under the LIFA Scheme.
4.	Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should take into account the views expressed by members on the LIFA Scheme at the meeting of the Panel on Welfare Services on 12 June 2017. ● The Administration should increase the amount of the Child Allowance under the LIFA Scheme and implement other measures to support needy children. To assist parents of low-income families who needed to work, after-school care and support services should be provided. ● Low-income working families with

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<p>chronically ill, mentally ill or ex-mentally ill members should be covered by the LIFA Scheme.</p>
5.	上水低津關注組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Casual workers from low-income families were unable to meet the working hour requirements and had difficulty asking their employers to certify their working hours. ● The Child Allowance should not be tied to the applicants' meeting the working hour requirements under the LIFA Scheme.
6.	清河低津關注組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given that it was difficult for low-income families to meet the working hour requirements for the Higher Allowance of LIFA, the Administration should allow working hours of all family members to aggregate. ● Application procedures of the LIFA Scheme were cumbersome and time-consuming.
7.	上水清河低津關注組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Application procedures of the LIFA Scheme were cumbersome and casual workers had difficulty asking their employers to certify their working hours. ● Given that it was difficult for low-income families to meet the working hour threshold for the Higher Allowance of LIFA, the Administration should lower such threshold to 160 hours a month. ● The Child Allowance should not be tied to the applicants' meeting the working hour requirements under the LIFA Scheme.
8.	清河低收入津貼關注組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Child Allowance should not be tied to the applicants' meeting the working hour requirements under the LIFA Scheme.
9.	Hong Kong Chef Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In tackling poverty in Hong Kong, the Administration should help the poor get rid of poverty instead of just alleviating poverty. ● The amount of allowance under the LIFA Scheme was inadequate. ● The Administration should simplify the application procedures of the LIFA Scheme.

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
10.	The Civic Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Low application rate for LIFA was due to the cumbersome application procedures.
11.	天水圍低津關注組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Needy families should be offered a higher amount of allowance under the LIFA Scheme so that their household income could be supplemented to exceed 40%-50% of the median monthly domestic household income ("MMDHI"). ● The Administration should grant the Child Allowance solely upon applicants' compliance with the income requirements, and provide an additional allowance under the LIFA Scheme and training to support children with special needs.
12.	天水圍低收入低津關注組織	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Application procedures of the LIFA Scheme were cumbersome and applicants had difficulty asking their employers to certify their working hours. ● The Administration should allow depositing the allowance to the bank accounts held by applicants or their family members.
13.	天水圍城低收入關注會	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Child Allowance should not be tied to the applicants' meeting the working hour requirements under the LIFA Scheme. ● Given that applicants had difficulty asking their employers to certify their working hours, the Administration should relax the working hour requirements.
14.	關注低津天水圍街坊會	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Application procedures of the LIFA Scheme were cumbersome and applicants had difficulty asking their employers to certify their working hours.
15.	Business and Professionals Alliance for Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Low application rate for LIFA was due to its low income limits and cumbersome application procedures. ● Old Age Living Allowance should not be counted in the LIFA's income test. ● The Administration should set up a one-stop online system to facilitate the submission of documentary proof under the LIFA Scheme and other government financial assistance schemes.

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
16.	Catholic Diocese of HK Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (Kowloon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given the limited provision of interpretation services for ethnic minorities ("EMs"), the Administration should: (a) provide one-stop form-filling services for EMs; (b) set up a multi-language hotline for application enquiries; (c) employ EM staff to assist in LIFA applications; and (d) establish district offices to handle LIFA applications.
17.	The Federation Of Hong Kong & Kowloon Labour Unions	[LC Paper No. CB(2)1926/16-17(03) (revised)]
18.	葵涌工廈劏房戶關注組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should relax the income limits as some applicants might exceed such limits after receiving overtime allowance. ● Given that the support service on form-filling for LIFA was not effective, the Administration should implement new measures to assist applicants in filling out the application form.
19.	葵涌劏房住客聯盟	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should include one-person households in the LIFA Scheme. ● The Administration should consider relaxing the requirements under the LIFA Scheme.
20.	葵涌劏房居民大聯盟	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given that applicants were required to provide information on their income on a family basis, the Administration should allow working hours of all family members to aggregate. ● The Administration should include one-person households in the LIFA Scheme. ● Application procedures of the LIFA Scheme were cumbersome and applicants had difficulty asking their employers to certify their working hours.
21.	太子關注低收入街坊小組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Applicants were unable to meet the working hour requirements and had difficulty asking their employers to certify their working hours. ● Applicants might be inappropriately labelled and stigmatized during the cumbersome application procedures of the LIFA Scheme.

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
22.	太子低收入家長小組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given that applicants had difficulty asking their employers to certify their working hours, the Administration should simplify the application procedures in this regard. ● The Child Allowance should not be tied to the applicants' meeting the working hour requirements under the LIFA Scheme.
23.	關注學童發展權利聯席	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Child Allowance should not be tied to the applicants' meeting the working hour requirements under the LIFA Scheme.
24.	Mr Johnny CHAN Chung-yau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LIFA should be provided for the needy given that many hourly paid workers were under-employed and could only work for a few hours a day.
25.	葵涌邨基層關注組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It was unreasonable to disallow LIFA households to benefit from household-based Work Incentive Transport Subsidy. ● The Administration should launch a public consultation exercise in the comprehensive policy review on the LIFA Scheme.
26.	Neighbourhood and Worker's Service Centre	[LC Paper No. CB(2)1960/16-17(01)]
27.	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service	[LC Paper No. CB(2)1926/16-17(02)]
<u>Session Two</u>		
28.	Mr HO Wai-pan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Application procedures of the LIFA Scheme were cumbersome and applicants had difficulty asking their employers to certify their working hours. ● The Administration should conduct a comprehensive review of its policy to tackle poverty in Hong Kong. ● The Administration should relax the income limits and allowances received from other government financial assistance schemes should not be counted in the LIFA's income test.
29.	New People's Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Application procedures of the LIFA Scheme were cumbersome. ● The Administration should relax the income

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<p>limits as some applicants might exceed such limits after receiving overtime allowance, and relax the requirements under the LIFA Scheme to cater for the needs of persons with disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should improve the coverage of the LIFA Scheme under the principle of encouraging self-reliance of low-income families through employment.
30.	觀塘關注基層聯盟	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Application procedures of the LIFA Scheme were cumbersome and applicants were frequently requested to provide supplementary information and documents. ● Given that a family with an income level at around 50%-60% of MMDHI could not cover the high expenses of basic necessities, the Administration should relax the income limits to 75% of MMDHI and provide an additional level of allowance at 75% of LIFA.
31.	Ms XIAO Xue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should relax the income limits as some applicants might exceed such limits after receiving overtime allowance, and provide an additional level of allowance at 75% of LIFA. ● The Administration should grant additional allowance under the LIFA Scheme to support children with special needs.
32.	爭取低收入家庭保障聯席	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given that applicants had difficulty asking their employers to certify their working hours, the Administration should simplify the application procedures in this regard. ● The Administration should relax the income limits of the LIFA Scheme to 75% of MMDHI and lower its working hour threshold to 72 hours a month. ● The Administration should reach out to gauge public sentiments and collect public opinions in the comprehensive policy review on the LIFA Scheme.
33.	關注綜援低收入聯盟	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Application procedures of the LIFA Scheme were cumbersome. ● Income limits of the LIFA Scheme were too low and some applicants might easily

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		exceed such limits.
34.	Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centre	[LC Paper No. CB(2)1988/16-17(01)]
35.	Miss Winky SO Tsz-wing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To encourage self-reliance of low-income families through employment, the Administration should allow working hours of all family members to aggregate. ● Low application rate for LIFA was due to the cumbersome application procedures and frequent requests for provision of supplementary information and documents. ● Given that casual workers and outsourced workers had difficulty asking their employers to certify their working hours, the Administration should lower the working hour threshold under the LIFA Scheme to 72 hours a month and simplify the application procedures in this regard.
36.	Miss TONG Chun-ye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given the high living expenses of one-person households, the Administration should include one-person households in the LIFA Scheme.
37.	觀塘抗貧陣線	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To encourage self-reliance of low-income families through employment, the Administration should allow working hours of all family members to aggregate given that applicants were required to provide information on their income on a family basis. ● In reviewing the LIFA Scheme, the Administration should reach out to gauge public sentiments and collect public opinions.
38.	Kwai Chung Ethnic Minorities Parents Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Low application rate for LIFA from EMs was due to a lack of promotion to them. ● The claim period of an application should be extended from the past six calendar months to one year. ● The Administration should organize more briefing sessions for EMs and employ EM staff to assist in LIFA applications.

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
39.	Kwai Chung Ethnic Minorities Rights Concern Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Administration should take into account the large size of EM families in setting the income limits under the LIFA Scheme.● The Administration should establish a platform tailor-made for EMs to facilitate their LIFA applications.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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