



Our Ref : SWD 332/54  
Your Ref : CB2/PL/WS  
Tel No : 2892 5288  
Fax No : 2838 0757

20 April 2017

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

Dear Mr CHUI,

**Supplementary Information for Panel on Welfare Services and  
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
on 27 March 2017**

At the above meeting on 27 March 2017, Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun requested the Government to provide information on support services for street sleepers. The required information is provided as follows:

**(a) Timetable for increasing the number of subvented accommodation places for street sleepers**

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has all along been concerned about the accommodation arrangement of street sleepers and provided them with emergency and short term accommodation places as a transition to the long term accommodation arrangement. At present, SWD subvents six non-governmental organisations to operate urban hostels for single persons and urban emergency shelters, providing a total of 222 subvented places. Together with 408 accommodation places operated by the non-governmental organisations on self-financing basis, there are a total of 630 known subvented and self-financing accommodation places for providing temporary accommodation for street sleepers and people on the verge of becoming homeless. Among the 630 places, 346 emergency / short-term places are specifically for street sleepers, including 120 subvented places operated by the three Integrated Services Team for Street Sleepers and 226 self-financing places provided by the Street Sleepers' Shelter Society Trustees Incorporated.



SWD has been closely monitoring the service demand for planning. The subvented emergency shelter and short term hostel places having been increased by SWD in the past 10 years are tabulated below:

Date	District	Type of Hostel	Number of hostel places increased		Total number of hostel places increased
			Male	Female	
April 2010	Sham Shui Po	Emergency hostel places	20		20
October 2016	Mong Kok	Emergency hostel places		5	10
	Wan Chai	Short term hostel places	5		
December 2016	Wan Chai	Short term hostel places	5		5
February 2017	Wan Chai	Short term hostel places	5		5

SWD will continue to keep close review of the supply and demand of the hostel places for conducting service planning and increasing the subvented places.

**(b)(i) Increase the duration of stay of the subvented places in hostels for street sleepers**

The target group of emergency shelter and short term hostel for street sleepers includes street sleepers and people on the verge of becoming homeless due to various reasons. Since these hostels gear to provide transitional accommodation to assist the street sleepers and people on the verge of homeless with emergency short term accommodation support, the duration of stay for the placement is normally a maximum period of six months. However, the responsible social workers can consider extending their stay in the hostels having regard to the needs of individual cases so that they can materialise the long-term accommodation plan smoothly.

Under the preamble of maintaining emergency and short term hostel as a transit to long term accommodation, SWD will review the duration of stay in hostels in response to the societal change and with due regards to the supply and demand to conduct service planning.



**(b)(ii) Request for marking up for the 11% cut in the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance allowances in 1999**

Before 1999, the standard payment rates of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme were adjusted in accordance with the forecast changes of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP). Owing to the previous over-estimations of the increase of the SSAIP between 1997 and 1999, and the continuous deflation since 1999, there was an over-shoot of the standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme by 12.4% up to March 2002. The Government therefore obtained the approval of the Finance Committee in April 2003 to adjust the rates downward by 11.1% according to the established mechanism in order to bring the purchasing power of the rates back to their original level.

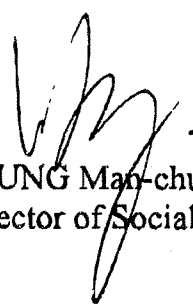
At present, the Government takes account of the changes reflected by the SSAIP for the past 12 months (i.e. from 1 November of a year to 31 October of the following year) and adjusts the standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme on an annual basis. According to the above mechanism, between 2011 and 2017, the Government has adjusted the standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme upward by more than 30%. Besides, the Government updates the weighting system of the SSAIP every five years to take into account the latest expenditure pattern of CSSA households and the impact of price changes. The most recent update on the weights was based on the data collected from the 2014-15 survey.

**(b)(iii) Examine the implementation of partial rent control**

Since the proposal is not under the purview of Labour and Welfare Bureau or SWD, no supplementary information is provided.

Should you need further information, please contact Ms LUI Siu-ying, Micy, Chief Social Work Officer (Family and Child Welfare)1 at 2892 5172.

Yours sincerely,

  
(FUNG Man-chung)  
for Director of Social Welfare