



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部勞工及福利局
Labour and Welfare Bureau
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

本局檔號 Our Ref. :

電話號碼 Tel No. : 3655 4429

來函檔號 Your Ref. :

傳真號碼 Fax No. : 2543 0486

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

Dear Mr CHUI,

**Panel on Welfare Services
Progress on Item that requires Follow-up Action**

The Panel on Welfare Services held on 12 December 2016 discussed the item on "Looking into the quality problem of private residential care homes for persons with disabilities in light of the "Bridge of Rehabilitation Company" incident. Some Members requested the Government to provide supplementary information on the target timing by which individual residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) which were issued with Certificates of Exemption (CoE) would fully comply with the licensing requirements; and a list of high-risk RCHDs which were required to be monitored closely by the Administration and the estimated number of residents currently receiving care in those private RCHDs with unsatisfactory service quality. The Government's response is as follows:

2. The Social and Welfare Department (SWD) has implemented various facilitating measures to encourage and assist the RCHDs currently operating with the CoEs in expediting the implementation of necessary rectification works, so that all RCHDs will meet the licensing requirements by late 2019. Such measures include:

- (a) providing these RCHDs with subsidy under the Lotteries Fund (LF) to carry out improvement works;
- (b) implementing the Financial Assistance Scheme for Private RCHDs, which is funded by the LF, to increase the grant to 90% of the recognised cost of the improvement works;

- (c) streamlining the workflow of engaging authorised persons for the provision of technical support;
- (d) preparing document templates to expedite the application process; and
- (e) implementing a special project to provide additional technical support for those RCHDs having difficulties in taking forward rectification works.

As at the end of May 2017, there were a total of 242 RCHDs still operating with the CoEs, of which 198 were subvented and self-financing RCHDs and the remaining 44 were private RCHDs.

3. To step up monitoring of the RCHDs, the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities (LORCHD) under the SWD will, having regard to their service performance, formulate targeted action plans for individual RCHDs, especially those suspected of poor service or non-compliance. These action plans include strategically conducting surprise inspections of the RCHDs in a small-team approach or by multi-disciplinary inspectorate teams at random times so as to closely monitor whether they have continuously complied with current regulations and taken timely remedial measures. In view of the operational needs of the LORCHD, all information relating to the risk assessment of the RCHDs is for internal reference only and should not be disclosed. The inspectorate teams of the LORCHD assess the risk level of individual RCHDs based on their unique conditions and inspection results. The risk level may be adjusted from time to time according to the latest conditions of the RCHDs (for example, improvement measures have been duly taken), and the relevant inspection and action plans be revised in terms of inspection mode, time and frequency accordingly. In other words, whether individual RCHDs should be monitored closely depends on the latest assessment results of the LORCHD.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Victoria TSE)
for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

c.c. Director of Social Affairs (Attn: Ms Rosemary Kwan)