

政府總部
民政事務局

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GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
HOME AFFAIRS BUREAU

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WAN CHAI,
HONG KONG.

10 November 2017

Legislative Council Secretariat
(Attn: Mr Colin CHUI)
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr CHUI,

Panel on Welfare Services
Follow-up to Meeting on 10 July 2017

At the meeting on 10 July 2017, some Members of the Panel on Welfare Services requested for the minutes of the relevant meeting of the Community Care Fund (CCF) Task Force under the Commission on Poverty at which the proposal for providing water and electricity subsidy to low-income families residing in sub-divided units was discussed. Our responses are set out below.

As meeting papers noted and discussed by the CCF Task Force Members may involve sensitive information and resources allocation, the relevant minutes of meetings are classified as confidential. To avoid inhibiting the frankness and candour of discussion and advice given to the CCF by Members of the CCF Task Force, disclosure of such documents is not appropriate. In gist, when the CCF Task Force discussed the relevant proposal, Members held different views. There was a view that such type of subsidy might trigger an increase in relevant charges collected by landlords and hence the low-income persons could not benefit eventually. On the other hand, there was another view that while understanding the predicament that the proposal would benefit the landlords, the proposal should not be abandoned. It was suggested that

the feasibility of setting up a monitoring and reporting mechanism to prevent landlords from overcharging for water and electricity consumption should be explored. Nevertheless, the CCF Task Force eventually concluded that managing and preventing landlords from overcharging for water and electricity consumption was beyond the purview of the CCF. The CCF Task Force could continue to monitor the need and ways to introduce other measures to help those needy people.

Thank you for Members' concern and suggestion on the CCF. Taking into account views from the public and stakeholders, the CCF Task Force will continue to draw up more appropriate assistance programmes to provide assistance to the underprivileged and low-income families.

Yours sincerely,



(Rebecca WAN)
for Secretary for Home Affairs