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APPENDIX 10  
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22 January 2018

Mr Anthony Chu  
Clerk  
Public Accounts Committee  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Chu,

### **Follow-up to Public Accounts Committee Report No. 63**

#### **Provision of long-term care services for the elderly**

Thank you for your letter of 5 January 2018 to the Chief Secretary for Administration seeking information on various matters about elderly services. I am authorised to reply as follows.

#### **Latest Progress of the Implementation of the Development Projects for the Provision of New Contract Homes and Day Care Centres/Units for the Elderly**

As at December 2017, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) was implementing 27 development projects for the provision of new contract residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and day care centres/units for the elderly. It is estimated that about 2 400 residential care places (including subsidised and non-subsidised places) and about 880 day care places for the elderly will be progressively provided starting from 2017-18. Among these development projects, nine projects are estimated to commence service between 2017-18 to 2019-20, providing a total of 625 residential care places (including subsidised and non-subsidised places) and 298 day care places for the elderly. The rest of the development projects will commence service starting from 2020-21. The development timetable of individual projects is subject to change as we continue to work out the details of the projects.

### Effects on the Waiting Time for Residential Care Places for the Elderly

In view of the service demand, the Government will continue to increase service places for the elderly through a multi-pronged approach. Apart from the development projects mentioned above, the Government is also implementing the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses. Based on the rough estimation of the applicant organisations, if all the projects under the scheme could be implemented smoothly, about 9 000 additional service places for the elderly would be provided, including about 7 000 residential care places and about 2 000 day care places for the elderly. Separately, SWD is implementing the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly, whereby a total of 3 000 vouchers are issued by phases from 2017 to 2019, to provide an additional choice for elderly persons.

The waiting time for subsidised residential care places for the elderly is affected by a number of factors, including whether the applicant has selected any particular RCHEs, whether the applicant has any special preference in terms of the location, diet and religious background of the RCHEs, whether the applicant accepts subsidised places provided under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme/the Nursing Home Place Purchase Scheme, whether the applicant has requested joining family members and/or relatives in a particular RCHE, the turnover rate of individual RCHEs, etc. As a matter of fact, about 99% of applicants on the Central Waiting List have individual specific requirements for the location of RCHEs and almost 60% of them have indicated that they would only select a particular RCHE. As such, it is not possible to estimate the direct impact of the increase in service places on the waiting time for residential care places for the elderly.

### Progress of the Implementation of the Two Pilot Schemes to Support Ageing in Place for the Elderly

In May 2017, the Commission on Poverty agreed to implement two pilot schemes under the Community Care Fund (CCF) to support ageing in place for elderly persons, namely the Pilot Scheme on Home Care and Support for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment (the Pilot Scheme on Mild Impairment) and the Pilot Scheme on Support for Elderly Persons Discharged from Public Hospitals After Treatment (the Pilot Scheme on Discharge Support).

The Pilot Scheme on Mild Impairment was approved a CCF allocation of about \$383.34 million. The three-year pilot scheme will provide about 4 000 service places. All the 24 non-governmental organisations operating Integrated Home Care Services have joined the pilot scheme as Approved Service Providers (ASPs). The pilot scheme was launched on 28 December 2017. ASPs will start providing services to participating elderly persons in January 2018. SWD will commission a consultant to conduct the evaluation

study in early 2018. We will report the evaluation results to the Panel on Welfare Services after the completion of the evaluation report tentatively planned for end-2019.

Separately, the Pilot Scheme on Discharge Support was approved a CCF allocation of about \$225.9 million. The three-year pilot scheme will be implemented under a medical-social collaboration model in three Hospital Authority (HA) clusters, i.e. New Territories East, New Territories West and Kowloon East, and will benefit no less than 3 200 elderly persons. SWD invited organisations operating subvented RCHEs, contract RCHEs and EA1 Homes under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme as well as Recognised Service Providers of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly in December 2017 to join the pilot scheme as ASPs, and will commission ASPs in January 2018. The pilot scheme is targeted to be launched in February 2018. In the first quarter of 2018, SWD will invite quotations in respect of the evaluation study of the pilot scheme and commission a consultant to conduct the evaluation study. We will report the evaluation results to the Panel on Welfare Services after the completion of the evaluation report tentatively planned for end-2019.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Stella Chang)

for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

- c.c. Chief Secretary for Administration (Attn: Miss Yvonne Tam)  
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Attn: Ms Florence Wai)  
Director of Audit (Attn: Pang Kwok-sing)  
Director of Social Welfare (Attn: Ms Pang Kit-ling)