



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

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2 March 2018

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

Dear Mr CHUI,

**Panel on Welfare Services
Progress of Matters to be Followed up**

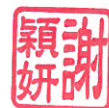
At the meeting of the Panel on Welfare Services on 12 February 2018, Members requested the Government to provide the latest information on the waiting time for pre-school rehabilitation services. Our reply is as follows:

2. As at end December 2017, there were a total of 7 118 pre-school rehabilitation service places provided by the Government, with 8 144 children on the waiting list for pre-school rehabilitation services and the average waiting time from 13.5 to 18.2 months. Details of the number of pre-school rehabilitation service places, number of children on the waiting list and average waiting time are as follows:

Service type	Number of service places (as at 31 December 2017)	Number of children on the waiting list (as at 31 December 2017)	Average waiting time (2016-17) (Months)
Early education and training centres	3 304	4 941	16.8
Special child care centres	1 834	1 677	18.2
Integrated programme in kindergarten-cum-child care centres	1 980	1 526	13.5
Total	7 118	8 144	-

Of these 8 144 children, 1 960 are participating in the Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services (Pilot Scheme) and 1 442 are receiving training subsidies through the Training Subsidy Programme (TSP) for Children on the Waiting List of Subvented Pre-school Rehabilitation Services, representing about 40% of those on the waiting list.

3. To enable pre-school children with special needs to receive necessary training early in the prime learning period, the Government has decided to regularise the Pilot Scheme, upon its completion, from 2018/19 school year and will increase the number of service places by 4 000 to 7 000 in two years. The number of TSP places has also been increased from about 1 500 to about 3 000 from October 2017. In parallel, the Government will continue to increase the number of other pre-school rehabilitation service places, and about 1 400 additional service places are expected to be provided in the next five years. The Government will continue to assess the demand for pre-school rehabilitation services, and will seek to allocate more resources when necessary to achieve the policy objective of “zero-waiting time” for such services.



(Ms Victoria TSE)
for Secretary for Labour and Welfare