

**Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services
Meeting on 11 February 2019**

**Policies on preventing abuse of elderly persons and of
persons with intellectual disability**

Supplementary Information

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services on 11 February 2019, the policies on preventing abuse of elderly persons and of persons with intellectual disability was discussed. Members requested the Government to provide the following information in writing after the meeting:

- (a) the number of cases involving elderly persons and persons with intellectual disability on the following types of abuse:
- (i) physical;
 - (ii) mental;
 - (iii) financial;
 - (iv) neglect;
 - (v) abandonment;
 - (vi) self-neglect;
 - (vii) violation of individual rights; and
 - (viii) abuse cases involving residential care homes;
- and
- (b) among the 569 elder abuse cases in 2018, how many cases had been referred for criminal follow-up actions, the number of convicted cases, the nature of the cases which referral for criminal follow-up actions had not been made and the reasons for not doing so.

This paper provides the requested information as follow –

2. According to the Procedural Guidelines for Handling Elder Abuse Cases issued by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Government departments/units responsible for handling the cases concerned should report the cases through the Central Information System on Elder Abuse Cases (the System) of SWD. The

System seeks to collect information of the cases for reference of the relevant service providers.

3. The 569 cases mentioned in the question were indeed cases involving persons aged 60 or above collected by the System in 2017. The number of cases collected by the System in 2018 should be 496 cases, with the types and number of cases set out as follow –

Types of abuse	Number
Physical	340
Mental	43
Financial	68
Neglect	2
Abandonment	0
Sexual	15
Multiple	28
Total	496

All the above cases had been referred to the Integrated Family Service Centres or Integrated Services Centres in the districts, medical social workers, etc, by the relevant reporting units based on the needs and the elders' preference, so as to provide appropriate support services to those in need. According to SWD's understanding gathered from the social workers reporting the cases concerned, the reason for certain cases not being reported to the Police was that the victims were unwilling to have their cases reported to the Police, or considered that such reporting was not necessary. SWD does not have the statistics of the convicted cases above. Separately, SWD does not have the overall statistics relating to the number of cases involving abuse of mentally handicapped/mentally ill adults.

4. As regards residential care homes, the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE) of SWD received three abuse cases relating to residential care homes for the elderly (RCHE) in 2018, all relating to physical abuse. Criminal investigations were conducted by the Police into all these cases, with one convicted case. Separately, the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities (LORCHD) of SWD received two abuse cases relating to residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHD), both of them

relating to physical abuse. Criminal investigations were conducted by the Police into these cases, with one convicted case.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau
Social Welfare Department
September 2019**