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8 March 2019

Ms Wendy JAN
Clerk to the Legislative Council
Panel on Welfare Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Jan,

Enquiry on policies on preventing abuse of elderly persons and of persons with intellectual disability

Thank you for your letter of 12 February 2019. Regarding the questions raised by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG attached thereto, I am authorised to reply as follows.

Statistics after promulgation of the Procedural Guidelines for Handling Elder Abuse Cases

According to the Procedural Guidelines for Handling Elder Abuse Cases, social workers and Government departments/units responsible for handling the cases should report the cases through the Central Information System on Elder Abuse Cases (“the System”) of the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”). The System seeks to collect information of the cases for reference of the relevant service providers.

The records of SWD show that in the past five years (i.e. between 2014 and 2018), the number of cases involving persons aged 60 or above captured by the System was 574, 557, 613, 569 and 496 respectively. For the cases reported, SWD would base on the information available, provide appropriate support to the persons in need through the Integrated Family Service Centres and Integrated Services Centres in the districts, medical social workers, etc. SWD keeps annual statistics relating to the nature of the cases, victims’ gender,

relationship between victims and abusers, and victims' residential districts, but does not keep statistics relating to the living situation and housing types of the victims, nor factors leading to abuses / risk of abuses, etc.

During the same period, the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly of SWD received 3, 4, 4, 2 and 3 abuse cases in residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs") respectively, involving 14 cases of physical abuse, 1 case of neglect and 1 case of financial abuse. Among these 16 cases, 14 took place in private RCHEs, while 2 in subvented RCHEs. All of the cases had been followed up in accordance with the Procedural Guidelines, with referrals arranged and appropriate assistance rendered in light of the circumstances of the cases and needs of the victims.

On the other hand, the Police has in the past five years (i.e. between 2014 and 2018) received the following number of suspected cases of abuse involving persons aged 60 or above:

	Number of cases				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Physical abuse	178	184	201	175	186
Psychological abuse	57	57	52	56	37
Financial abuse	104	119	113	110	90
Sexual abuse	2	3	6	4	1
Total	341	363	372	345	314

The Police does not keep statistics on the number of cases involving neglect and abandonment.

Statistics after promulgation of the Guidelines for Handling Mentally Handicapped/Mentally Ill Adult Abuse Cases

SWD and the Police do not have the overall statistics relating to the number of cases involving abuse of mentally handicapped/mentally ill adults, nor the number of abuse cases involving day rehabilitation units.

In the past five years (i.e. between 2014 and 2018), the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities of SWD received 3, 7, 9, 6 and 2 abuse cases in residential care homes for persons with disabilities ("RCHDs") respectively, involving 19 cases of physical abuse, 6 cases of sexual abuse, 1 case of neglect and 1 case of financial abuse.

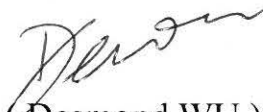
Among these 27 cases, 20 took place in subvented homes (including 18 in hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons/hostels for severely

physically handicapped persons/long stay care homes/care and attention homes for the aged blind and 2 in hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons), while those occurred in self-financing or private homes were 1 and 6 respectively. All of the cases had been followed up in accordance with the Procedural Guidelines, with referrals arranged and appropriate assistance rendered in the light of the circumstances of the cases and needs of the victims.

Other statistics

If an initial enquiry of the Police reveals that the case does not involve criminality, the Police will not initiate criminal investigation. Instead, the Police will take necessary actions to protect the personal safety and well-being of such persons. For example, the Police will assess if the person is still suitable to reside in his/her original residence. If necessary, the Police will take the person to a safe accommodation (such as emergency placement service) with the assistance of social workers. With the consent of the victims, the Police will refer the case to SWD or non-governmental organisations for welfare and financial assistance. The Police does not however have the relevant statistics regarding the above.

Yours sincerely,



(Desmond WU)

for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

c.c. Secretary for Security (Attn: Ms Anna Leung)
Director of Social Welfare (Attn: Ms Rosemary Kwan)