

政府總部  
勞工及福利局  
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政府總部



LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU  
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Central Government Offices  
Tim Mei Avenue  
Tamar, Hong Kong

本函檔號 Our Ref.: LWB T4/18/29

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

17 May 2019

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

Dear Ms Jan,

**Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services  
Follow-up to Meeting on 15 April 2019**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services on 15 April 2019, the Panel requested the Government to provide supplementary information relating to the one-off grant to financially needy students and the Student Financial Assistance Schemes. In this connection, the requested information provided by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau and the Education Bureau is appended below.

**One-off grant to financially needy students**

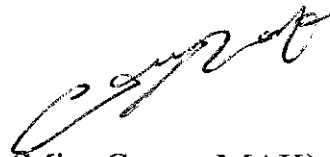
Having regard to the Government's fiscal position, the Financial Secretary proposed in the 2019-20 Budget to introduce a series of relief measures, including a one-off grant of \$2,500 to financially needy students. If the Government provides the \$2,500 grant to each of all students in Hong Kong with the definition of "student" referring to those studying in non-profit-making and profit-making kindergartens; public sector, Direct Subsidy Scheme and private primary and secondary schools (including international schools); as well as full-time post-secondary students, the total headcount will be about one million students, involving

a sum of about \$2.5 billion. As this is a relief measure with resources targeting financially needy students and families, its nature is the same as that of other measures which are aimed at helping low-income groups. In this connection, the Government considers that the provision of a one-off grant of \$2,500 to each financially needy student is an appropriate measure.

### **The means test mechanism for Student Financial Assistance Schemes**

Regarding the means test mechanism for Student Financial Assistance Schemes, it operates on an "Adjusted Family Income" formula in assessing the eligibility of an applicant for student financial assistance and the level of assistance receivable. It takes into account the gross annual income of the applicant's family and the number of family members. The family income limits under this mechanism are adjusted annually in accordance with the movement of the Consumer Price Index (A). The mechanism is not based on the median domestic household income and is characterised by a number of adjustments (e.g. only 30% of the annual income of unmarried child(ren) residing with the applicant's family is counted and adjustment will be made in the formula for applications from single-parent families). Therefore, it is not appropriate to directly compare the family income of applicants with the median domestic household income or the poverty line, and the Government does not maintain information on such a comparison.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Carren MAK)

for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

c.c.

Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

(Attn: Ms Florence WAI)

Secretary for Education

(Attn: Ms Fiona AU)

Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency

(Attn: Ms TONG Kit-man)