

(English Translation)

政府總部
勞工及福利局

香港添馬添美道
政府總部



LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

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20 May 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,

I refer to the email from the Legislative Council Secretariat to the Labour and Welfare Bureau dated 16 May 2019. As the Panel on Welfare Services will discuss the paper on “Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses” (Special Sites Scheme) at its meeting scheduled for 20 May 2019, in the interest of time, we would like to give a concise response to Member’s enquiries as follows:

The aim of Special Sites Scheme is to encourage the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to optimise the development potential of their sites through expansion, redevelopment or new development to increase the provision of premise-based welfare services which are in acute demand now and in the foreseeable future. With this consideration, we have enhanced the types of welfare services on the list of facilities (“Shopping List”) under Phase Two of Special Sites Scheme, including five additional facilities on elderly services and rehabilitation services, and three new types of child care services. The enhanced “Shopping List” covers a total number of 18 types of services, including five types of elderly services,

10 types of rehabilitation services and three types of child care services.

The Government strives to increase the provision of community care services for the elderly with a multi-pronged approach, including providing in 2019-20 an additional 2 000 service quota under the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services and an additional 1 000 vouchers (bringing the total to 7 000) under the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly.

In respect of the progress of project proposals under Phase One of Special Sites Scheme, the projects are at different stages of development. The implementation of the projects depends on various factors, including the location and surrounding environment of the sites concerned, communal facilities and transport facilities, requirements prescribed in the land lease conditions and restrictions stipulated in the outline zoning plans on use and development intensity, feedback received from local consultations, distribution of existing services as well as the demand for and supply of the proposed services, etc. Depending on the time taken to complete the necessary development and planning procedures (e.g. outline zoning plan amendment, planning permission, lease modification, etc.), it may take several years or longer to implement these projects.

Regarding the recurrent expenditure involved in the services, we will seek new resources to meet the additional recurrent expenditure arising from the new welfare services as a result of the expansion, new development and redevelopment. On the ratio of subsidised places to self-financing places of services, in assessing project proposals submitted by applicant organisations, we will look into their relevant proposals, and at the same time take into account the need for different types of services and their operational modes in the community in the long run, the ability and operating experience of the NGOs concerned, the choices for service users, and the maturity of the relevant services in the market, etc.

We will be happy to discuss Special Sites Scheme at the meeting of the Panel on Welfare Services scheduled for 20 May 2019, and will answer any relevant enquiries at the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

(Ms Rebecca CHEUNG)
for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

c.c. Director of Social Welfare (Attn: Mr Alex WONG)