

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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(English Translation)

11 November 2020

By post and email

Secretary General
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central, Hong Kong
(Attn : Miss Lilian MOK)

Dear Ms MOK,

**Progress of Initiative of covering the elderly aged 60-64
under the \$2 Scheme**

I refer to your email of 28 October 2020 on the captioned matter. I am authorised to give you a reply below.

Regarding Hon LEUNG Che-cheung's concern on the proposed enhancement measures and the implementation timetable for the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities, the Secretary for Labour and Welfare has explained publicly in his written reply to the Legislative Council on 4 November 2020 (see Annex).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huggin TANG', written over a white background.

(Huggin TANG)

for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Press Releases

LCQ10: Ten new initiatives for people's livelihoods

Following is a question by the Dr Hon Priscilla Leung and a written reply by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Dr Law Chi-kwong, in the Legislative Council today (November 4):

Question:

On January 14 this year, the Chief Executive announced 10 new initiatives for people's livelihoods (the 10 initiatives). One of such initiatives is to expand the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (TFC scheme) to cover persons aged 60 to 64. It has been reported that recently, a Member of the Executive Council indicated her reservation on the initiative of expanding the TFC scheme as the recurrent expenditure to be incurred by the initiative would be as high as \$10 billion each year. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1)

(2) as the Government indicated in July this year that the anticipated recurrent expenditure on the expanded TFC scheme in the 2025-2026 financial year was \$7 billion, of the respective amounts of such expenditure as anticipated by the Government (i) in January this year and (ii) most recently; if these two figures are different from that of July, of the reasons for that; the latest (a) progress of and (b) anticipated implementation date for the initiative of expanding the TFC scheme; and

(3)

Reply (extracted):

.....

As the Chief Executive (CE) stated at the media session on October 27, the initiatives announced by her in early 2020, including the one to lower the eligible age of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) from 65 to 60, were proposed on the premise that they are fiscally affordable by the Government. The CE also made it clear that the implementation timetable for the initiative would be announced upon completion of the comprehensive review of the \$2 Scheme. The comprehensive review aims to assess the effectiveness and fiscal sustainability of the \$2 Scheme in detail, having regard to our ageing demographic trend, operation of public transport, effectiveness of anti-abuse measures, public aspirations, and the Government's overall fiscal affordability, etc. The review is still in progress. The CE has publicly stated that given the complexity of the issues involved, particularly the Government's overall fiscal position and the need to tackle the problem of abuse, it would be difficult to set a specific implementation timetable at present. Nonetheless, we have neither set aside nor discontinued our work. Proactive efforts are being made and there will be a formal announcement in due course.....

Ends/Wednesday, November 4, 2020

Issued at HKT 12:35

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