

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Volunteer and Naval Volunteer Pensions Ordinance (Chapter 202)

VOLUNTEER AND NAVAL VOLUNTEER PENSIONS ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULES) ORDER 1998

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with section 35 of the Volunteer and Naval Volunteer Pensions Ordinance, the Secretary for Health and Welfare has amended Schedules 3 to 8 to adjust the rates of pensions and allowances for beneficiaries.

BACKGROUND

2. The Volunteer and Naval Volunteer Pensions Ordinance provides for the payment of pensions and other allowances in respect of the death, disablement or sickness of members of the volunteer forces⁽¹⁾ who fought in the defence of Hong Kong during the Second World War. The various rates of pensions and allowances are set out in Schedules 3 to 8 to the Ordinance. Under section 35 of the Ordinance, the Secretary for Health and Welfare may adjust the payment rates by amending the Schedules. The rates are adjusted having regard to the annual Civil Service pension increase, which is 5.4% for 1998/99.

THE AMENDMENT ORDER

3. A copy of the Volunteer and Naval Volunteer Pensions Ordinance (Amendment of Schedules) Order 1998 (the Order) is at the Annex. The Order amends Schedules 3 to 8 to the Ordinance to set out the new rates of payment to beneficiaries.

⁽¹⁾ The volunteer forces in the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps and the Hong Kong Naval Volunteer Force.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

4. The Order will be gazetted on 4 September 1998 and will take effect on the same date.

FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

5. At present, there are 71 beneficiaries. Introduction of the new rates will incur additional expenditure of about \$123,000 per annum. Thus, total expenditure under this Ordinance will amount to about \$4 million in 1998/99.

PUBLICITY

6. A press release will be issued on 4 September 1998.

ENQUIRY

7. Enquires should be addressed to Mr Daniel Sin, Assistant Secretary for Health and Welfare on 2973 8128.

Health and Welfare Bureau
September 1998

**VOLUNTEER AND NAVAL VOLUNTEER PENSIONS ORDINANCE
(AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULES) ORDER 1998**

(Made under section 35 of the Volunteer and Naval
Volunteer Pensions Ordinance (Cap. 202))

1. Rates of disablement pension

Schedule 3 to the Volunteer and Naval Volunteer Pensions Ordinance (Cap. 202) is amended by repealing columns 1 and 2 and substituting -

“Column 1 Degree of disablement %	Column 2 Monthly rate (HK\$)	
		Officer rank
100	6,404	Member rank
90	5,765	6,400
80	5,124	5,760
70	4,483	5,120
60	3,843	4,480
50	3,203	3,840
40	2,563	3,200
30	1,922	2,560
20	1,281	1,920
		1,280”.

2. Rates of minor disablement gratuity

Schedule 4 is amended by repealing Parts I and II and substituting -

“PART I
RATES FOR SPECIFIED INJURIES

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	
Description of injury	Degree of disablement %	Amount (HK\$)	
		Officer rank	Member rank
For the loss of:			
A. FINGERS -			
Index finger -			
More than 2 phalanges including loss of whole finger	14	70,068	69,646
More than 1 phalanx but not more than 2 phalanges	11	56,082	55,732
1 phalanx or part thereof	9	46,712	46,432
Guillotine amputation of tip without loss of bone	5	27,972	27,830

Middle finger -

More than 2 phalanges including loss of whole finger	12	60,698	60,346
More than 1 phalanx but not more than 2 phalanges	9	46,712	46,432
1 phalanx or part thereof	7	37,342	37,132
Guillotine amputation of tip without loss of bone	4	23,356	23,216

Ring or little finger -

More than 2 phalanges including loss of whole finger	7	37,342	37,132
More than 1 phalanx but not more than 2 phalanges	6	32,726	32,516
1 phalanx or part thereof	5	27,972	27,830
Guillotine amputation of tip without loss of bone	2	13,986	13,916

B. TOES -

Great toe -

through metatarso- phalangeal	14	70,068	69,646
joint part, with some loss of bone	3	18,600	18,530

1 other toe -

through metatarso- phalangeal	3	18,600	18,530
joint part, with some loss of bone	1	9,370	9,300

2 toes, excluding great toe -

through metatarso- phalangeal	5	27,972	27,830
joint part, with some loss of bone	2	13,986	13,916

3 toes, excluding great toe -

through metatarso- phalangeal	6	32,726	32,516
joint part, with some loss of bone	3	18,600	18,530

4 toes, excluding great toe -

through metatarso- phalangeal	9	46,712	46,432
joint part, with some loss of bone	3	18,600	18,530

PART II
RATES WHERE PART I NOT APPLICABLE

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	
Estimated duration of disablement	Degree of disablement %	Amount (HK\$)	
		Officer rank	Member rank
temporary less than 1 year	1-5	3,942	3,857
	6-14	8,781	8,585
	15-19	15,360	15,009
temporary more than 1 year	1-5	7,883	7,730
	6-14	17,506	17,128
	15-19	30,650	29,977
Indeterminate	1-5	23,664	23,089
	6-14	52,575	51,284
	15-19	92,007	89,678".

3. Rates of other allowances

Schedule 5 is amended by repealing columns 1 and 2 and substituting -

“Column 1 Description of allowance	Column 2 Monthly rate (HK\$)
Constant attendance allowance	4,843 (maximum)
Exceptionally severe disablement allowance	2,422 (maximum)

Comforts allowance	1,037
	(maximum)

Age allowance, with degree of disablement being -

(a) 40 to 50%	427
(b) over 50%, but not exceeding 70%	660
(c) over 70%, but not exceeding 90%	942
(d) over 90%	1,317”.

4. Rates of pension for surviving spouses

Schedule 6 is amended by repealing columns 1, 2 and 3 and substituting -

“Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Rank of qualified person	Monthly rate	Monthly rate
	(HK\$)	(HK\$)
Officer rank	5,016	5,016
Member rank	4,852	1,136”.

5. Rates of age allowance for elderly surviving spouses

Schedule 7 is amended by repealing columns 1 and 2 and substituting -

“Column 1	Column 2
Age of elderly surviving spouse	Monthly rate
	(HK\$)
Aged 65 but under 70	551
Aged 70 but under 80	1,061
Aged 80 or over	1,578”.

6. Adjusted rates of payment

Schedule 8 is amended by repealing columns 1 and 2 and substituting -

“Column 1 Article	Column 2 Monthly rate (HK\$)
18	3,956
21	2,413
26A	2,300”.

Secretary for Health and Welfare

28 August 1998

Explanatory Note

This Order increases the rates for the payment of pensions, gratuities and other allowances in connection with the disablement or death of the officers and volunteers of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps and members of the Hong Kong Naval Volunteer Force who fought in defence of Hong Kong during the Second World War.