

立法會
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From : Clerk to the Finance Committee

To : Members of the Finance Committee

Finance Committee

Follow-up to meeting on 19 May 2006

At the Finance Committee meeting on 19 May 2006 when members considered paper FCR(2006-07)10 regarding "General Expenses Of The Civil Service", the Administration was requested to provide information on -

- (a) the total number of civil servants who are eligible for Overseas Education Allowance (OEA) and the number/percentage of eligible applicants who have claimed OEA;
- (b) the total number of civil servants who are eligible for Local Education Allowance (LEA) and the number/percentage of eligible applicants who have claimed LEA; and
- (c) the cost to be incurred if all eligible applicants claim OEA/LEA.

The Administration's reply is now attached for members' reference.



(Ms Pauline NG)
Clerk to the Finance Committee

Encl.

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Clerk to the Finance Committee
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19 June 2006

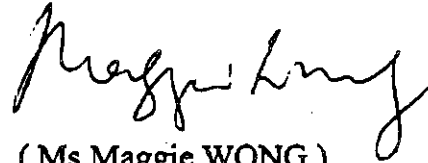
Dear Miss YU,

**Finance Committee
Follow-up to meeting on 19 May 2006**

I refer to your letter of 22 May 2006 and provide the following supplementary information regarding FCR (2006-07) 10:

- (a) The total number of civil servants who were eligible for Overseas Education Allowance (OEA) as at 31 December 2005 was 119 659. Of whom, 4 691 (3.9%) were claiming OEA.
- (b) The total number of civil servants who were eligible for Local Education Allowance (LEA) as at 31 December 2005 was 149 175. Of whom, 17 558 (11.8%) were claiming LEA.
- (c) There is no readily available information on the total number of eligible children. In addition, a range of factors (e.g. whether an officer decides to have children, if so, the timing and number of children, etc.) affect whether and when an individual officer will make use of this fringe benefit. While in theory all eligible civil servants may submit a claim for OEA or LEA or both, the information in paragraph (a) and (b) above suggests that the expenditure projection requested by Members may not be realistic for budgeting and policy analysis purposes. Nonetheless, we have attempted to work out the required information at Members' request based on a number of assumptions. Details are provided at the Annex.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Maggie WONG)
for Secretary for the Civil Service

c.c. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
(Attn : Miss Agnes CHEUNG) (Fax No. : 2530 3444)

Overseas Education Allowance

Assumptions

1. As at 31 December 2005, the total number of civil servants who were eligible for Overseas Education Allowance (OEA) was 119 659.
2. Each eligible civil servant has one eligible child claiming OEA.
3. Based on the trend of recent years, we assume all eligible children study in the United Kingdom and claim the ceiling rates. Also, we assume that 5% of the eligible children are claiming the junior rate (i.e. GBP 6,450*) and 95% of the eligible children are claiming the senior rate (i.e. GBP 7,437*).
4. The estimated annual expenditure is calculated by using the exchange rate as at 31.12.2005, i.e. (GBP 1 = HK\$13.36).

No. of Eligible Children	Estimated Annual Expenditure on OEA (\$ million)
119 659	11,810.2

- * Ceiling rates of OEA for new claimants, i.e. eligible children of eligible civil servants who start to claim OEA from the 2006/07 school year onwards.

Local Education Allowance

Assumptions

1. As at 31 December 2005, the total number of civil servants who were eligible for Local Education Allowance (LEA) was 149 175.
2. Each eligible civil servant has one eligible child claiming LEA.
3. Based on the claims received in the 2005-06 financial year, 49% of the eligible children receiving LEA were studying in secondary schools and the average annual expenditure per eligible child was \$ 10,798, while 51% of the eligible children were studying in primary schools and the average annual expenditure per eligible child was \$ 19,487.
4. The estimated annual expenditure is set out below:

No. of Eligible Children	Estimated Annual Expenditure on LEA (\$ million)
149 175	2,271.8