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LEGCO PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES

Subcommittee on Review of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme

Supplementary Information on Domestic Removal Grant under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme

COVERAGE OF THE GRANT

The grant is payable to CSSA recipients to cover the expenses incurred in moving to public housing, private housing, Housing for Senior Citizens or institutions for the elderly.

2. For cases moving to public housing, the grant is intended to cover the basic fitting-out expenses, removal cost and telephone installation fees. It is paid on a flat-rate basis according to the number of eligible members in the family.

ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM

3. The level of the domestic removal grant for cases moving to public housing is pegged to the Re-accommodation Grant under the Emergency Relief Fund (ERF), which is adjusted on an annual basis to take account of changes in prices. The Re-accommodation Grant under the ERF is in turn pegged to the rates of the Ex-gratia Domestic Removal Allowance (DRA) administered by the Housing Department. Revisions to the Ex-gratia DRA rates were worked out with reference to the following components:

- (a) minimum basic fitting-out allowance : this represents a lump sum payment which is adjusted with reference to the change in the Tender Price Index applicable to Housing Department's building projects in a past yearly period;
- (b) domestic removal costs based on the average prices quoted by transportation contractors for different districts; and
- (c) the installation price of a residential telephone line as advised by telephone companies.

RATES OF THE GRANT

4. The rates of the domestic removal grant (for cases moving to public housing) in the past four years are shown in the table below:

Effective period	Single person (\$)	2 – 3 persons (\$)	4 – 5 persons (\$)	6 persons & above (\$)
1.4.2003 – 31.3.2004	3,210	5,680	6,920	8,570
1.4.2004 – 31.3.2005	2,600	4,900	5,980	7,520
1.4.2005 – 31.3.2006	2,570	4,790	5,930	7,580
1.4.2006 – present	2,670	5,010	6,260	8,080

BACKGROUND

5. The domestic removal grant was introduced in 1971 and it was pegged with the Ex-gratia DRA granted by Housing Department in 1976. With the approval of the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works and the Finance Committee, the components of the Ex-gratia DRA were revised in 1996.

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
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