

本署檔號 Our Ref. : SWD/SFSS 1-175-12 Pt 2

來函檔號 Your Ref. : CB4/PAC/R65

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25 January 2016

Mr Anthony Chu
Clerk, Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Chu,

Public Accounts Committee
Consideration of Chapter 9 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 65

Support for Self-reliance Scheme

Thank you for your letter dated 14 January 2016 on the captioned subject. Attached please find the supplementary information as requested.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Maria Lau)
for Director of Social Welfare

- c.c. Secretary for Labour and Welfare (fax no. 2537 3539)
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (fax no. 2147 5239)
Director of Audit (fax no. 2583 9063)

Chapter 9 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 65
Support for Self-reliance Scheme
Supplementary Information requested

Selection criteria for commissioning non-governmental organisations (“NGO”) to operate Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance (“IEAPS”)

- **It was mentioned in your reply that the performance of the operators of IEAPS was found to be generally satisfactory; therefore Social Welfare Department (SWD) continued to commission the original NGOs to operate IEAPS until March 2017. In this connection, please explain in details why SWD considered the performance of the original NGOs satisfactory, notwithstanding some of them did not meet the minimum requirements of job-securing rates as stipulated in the IEAPS contracts.**

The IEAPS contracts have set out the performance requirements for each of the four categories of services, and the operators are required to meet the minimum job-securing rates as specified in the contracts. The job-securing rate of able-bodied unemployed CSSA recipients is subject to factors such as the social and economic situation, labour market conditions, personal characteristics and family conditions of the recipients.

For projects with lower job-securing rates as mentioned in the Audit Report, SWD requested the respective operators, during the IEAPS contract period (i.e. from January 2013 to March 2015) to submit action plans for improvement measures to be taken as soon as possible to meet the contract requirements on job-securing rates. SWD has been closely monitoring the performance of these operators, and assessed that the job-securing rates of most of these projects showed improvement at the end of the contracts. SWD also understands that these operators have proactively taken various feasible measures to increase the job-securing rates of the service recipients. However, owing to some external factors [for example, there were a significant number of participants who either had no

fixed abode or moved around frequently (e.g. street-sleepers, drug addicts and discharged prisoners) in the districts served by the operators, and some participants withdrew from the IEAPS shortly after enrolment (e.g. becoming ill-health, having secured full-time employment or having withdrawn from CSSA due to other reasons)], the operators were unable to provide appropriate employment assistance services to all of the participants in an effective manner and were not able to meet the minimum job-securing rates as specified in the contracts.

SWD will continue to closely monitor the performance of the operators and implement measures with a view to enhancing the monitoring mechanism.