

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

Central Government Offices
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26 January 2016

Secretary General
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central, Hong Kong
(Attn : Ms Sophie LAU)
[Fax: 2978 7569]

Dear Ms Lau,

Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Thank you for your letter of 30 December 2015, referring to us the Hon WONG Yuk-man's views on the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the Scheme). The joint reply of this Bureau and Transport Department is as follows.

The Scheme has, since June 2012, been implemented in phases on the general Mass Transit Railway lines, franchised buses, ferries and most of the green minibus (GMB) services, aiming to encourage elderly people and eligible persons with disabilities to participate more in community activities by enabling these groups to enjoy a concessionary fare of \$2 per trip. The number of eligible beneficiaries under the Scheme is around 1 270 000, with around 1 120 000 being elderly aged 65 or above and around 150 000 eligible persons with disabilities. Currently, the Government reimburses the public transport operators regularly the revenue forgone as a result of implementation of the Scheme on an accountable and reimbursement basis. Since its implementation, the average daily passenger trips under the Scheme is around 931 000, with around 816 000 trips (around 88%) made by the elderly and 115 000 trips (around 12%) made by eligible persons with disabilities (figures as at October 2015).

The Transport Department (TD) has established a series of monitoring measures with the public transport operators that have joined the Scheme, including the establishment of a set of audit and assurance standards to strengthen the internal control system, and the deployment of TD staff to conduct on-site inspections to monitor the implementation of the Scheme by public transport operators and the situation of passengers when enjoying the concessionary fare. The TD regularly examines the patronage and differential fare settlement reports submitted by the public transport operators and Octopus Cards Limited to prevent the Scheme from being abused. The suspected abuse case as mentioned in Hon WONG's letter was in fact identified during the examination work conducted by the TD as mentioned above and the TD had immediately referred the case to Police for follow-up action.

We appreciate the request of Hon WONG. However, after taking into account various factors, such as the implementation of the Scheme, the views of the general public on the Scheme, as well as the need to meet various demands of the community, we have no plan to change the existing arrangement of the Scheme. We will continue to encourage public transport operators, other organisations and enterprises to provide concessions outside the Scheme to the elderly and special needs groups (including persons of different levels of disabilities and chronic patients)

The Government will conduct a comprehensive review of the Scheme three years after its full implementation, taking into account the effectiveness, the mode of operation (include the mode of reimbursement to transport operators) and views of the general public on the Scheme.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Annie CHAN)
for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

c.c. Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Attn : Mr Philip HAR)

Commissioner for Transport
(Attn : Ms Macella Lee)