



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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Clerk to Panel on Education
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Ms Angel Wong)

Dear Ms Wong,

**Follow-up to
meetings of the Legislative Council Finance Committee
held on 6 and 7 July 2018**

In response to Members' request for provision of supplementary information to the Panel on Education related to the discussions on Hostel Development Fund (HDF) at the meetings of the Finance Committee (FC) held on 6 and 7 July 2018, the relevant information is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Review of hostel policy

The Government has been suitably adjusting the hostel policy from time to time in the light of prevailing circumstances. For instance, in support of internationalisation of the higher education sector and in view of the increasing demand for hostel places from local and non-local students, the Government decided in 2006 to provide an additional 1 840 publicly-funded student hostel places to the UGC-funded universities to support universities' growing student exchange activities.

We consider it appropriate to provide hostel places to students whose daily travelling time exceeds four hours. Although the growing public transportation network may reduce the number of students under this category, it does not constitute adequate grounds for relaxing the “four hours” criterion. We will closely monitor the provision of and demand for student hostel places and review the hostel policy in a timely manner having regard to the development of the higher education sector. Where necessary, we will report to the Panel on Education.

Under the HDF, allocation of student hostel places will continue to be a matter within institutional autonomy. Nevertheless, as set out in paragraph 24 of the FC paper (FCR(2018-19)35) on HDF, upon completion of all hostel projects under HDF, universities would be provided with sufficient number of hostel places in accordance with the hostel policy. The universities will be requested to ensure all local undergraduate students who travel to and from the campus daily for more than 4 hours would be allocated a hostel place, if they apply for one. Moreover, to allow all undergraduate students to have a chance to stay in a student hostel for at least one year of their study programme as per the hostel policy, universities will be requested to accord priority to students meeting this criterion under their allocation mechanism.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Sharon Ko)
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Legislative Council Finance Committee
(Attn.: Ms Anita Sit)
Secretary-General, University Grants Committee
(Attn.: Miss Winnie Wong)