

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1151/17-18
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

**Minutes of special meeting
held on Friday, 9 February 2018, at 9:30 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Chairman)
Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon LUK Chung-hung

**Public Officers
attending** : Item I

Mr Caspar TSUI, JP
Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr Esmond LEE, JP
Head, Working Family and Student Financial
Assistance Agency

Mr Raymond HO
Assistant Commissioner (Development)
Labour Department

**Attendance
by invitation** : Item I

街工勞工組

Mr NGAN Lit-fung
成員

Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung

The Federation of Hong Kong and Kowloon Labour
Unions

Mr KWONG Yat-fung
Secretary

The Civic Party

Ms Janet NG Yuet-lan
Representative

Labour Party

Mr KWOK Wing-kin
主席

Mr Joey LEE Man-lung, Member of Wan Chai
District Council

Mr CHOW Nok-hang

The Lion Rock Institute

Mr NG Kin-wah
Event Officer

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress
of Hong Kong

Mr SZE TO Chun-hin
Community Officer

Miss CHAN Po-ying

Pastoral Centre for Workers - Kowloon

Mr TSENG Ka-chun
Programme Officer

觀塘民生自決組

鄧寶山先生
成員

Miss Clarisse YEUNG Suet-ying

Catholic Workers Centre

Mrs Sairah ABBAS
Assistant Program Officer

Equal Access Group

Mrs Sahara BIBI

觀塘關注基層聯盟

Miss NG Shan-yiu
成員

爭取低收入家庭保障聯席

李風清小姐
組織幹事

關注綜援低收入聯盟

李國權先生
組織幹事

我要低津文件簡化關注組

駱杏華女士
成員

低津要幾煩得幾煩關注組

張富玲女士
成員

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Mr WONG Wo-ping
Chief Officer

葵涌劏房住客聯盟

Mr NG Kwan-lim
Member

葵涌劏房戶連線

黃靖恩小姐
Member

LIFA Exam Concerning Group

Mr WONG Ka-chun
Committee

Miss WONG Ching-sum

Kwai Chung Ethnic Minorities Rights Concern Group

Mr Ahmad TAUQIR
Committee

Hong Kong Subdivided Flats Concerning Platform

Miss CHAN Wing-tung
Community Organizer

Miss LAI Po-kwai

Alliance for Children Development Rights

Miss HO Yu-ying
Community Organizer

社區前進低收入權益組

Mr HO Cheuk-hin

天水圍兒童權益關注組

Ms CHEUNG Man

太子兒童權益關注組

熊代蓉女士

太子學童權益關注組

楊曉敏女士

Society for Community Organization

Ms SZE Lai-shan
Community Organizer

關注學童發展權利聯席-兒童關注組

Miss LO Ka-lai
Community Organizer

Clerk in attendance : Mr Colin CHUI
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

Staff in attendance : Mr Roger CHUNG
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Alison HUI
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)233/17-18(05) and CB(2)813/17-18(01)]

At the invitation of the Chairman, Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare ("USLW") briefed members on the enhancements to the Low-income Working Family Allowance ("LIFA") Scheme (to be renamed as the Working Family Allowance ("WFA") Scheme with effect from 1 April 2018) announced in the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address, as well as the relevant arrangements for the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme.

2. The Chairman invited the deputations/individuals to present their views. A total of 35 deputations/individuals expressed their views which were summarized in the **Appendix**.

The Administration's response to deputations' views

3. USLW said that as at 2 February 2018, around 39 000 families (over 140 000 persons), including 61 000 children or youngsters, had benefited from LIFA. The total amount of allowance disbursed exceeded \$1.18 billion. Over 90% of the LIFA applications that had been processed were approved and over 20% of the successful applicants reported their working hours through self-declaration.

4. USLW further advised that having regard to the views of the public, the Administration had made enhancements to the LIFA Scheme as detailed in paragraph 4 of the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)233/17-18(05)). The Administration would keep in view the implementation of the WFA Scheme as well as suggestions expressed by the deputations, and study further enhancements to the Scheme, if necessary.

5. Regarding the view that the Child Allowance under the LIFA Scheme should be delinked from the working hour requirements, USLW advised that the Child Allowance was provided to address the needs of working families. However, the suggestion of delinking the Child Allowance from the working hour requirements would be inconsistent with the LIFA's objective to encourage self-reliance of working families through employment. The Administration had taken various welfare measures to support grass-roots families and their children, including the WFA Scheme. For example, the Administration would set up a Commission on Children in mid-2018 to amalgamate the efforts made by relevant government bureaux/departments and focus on addressing children's issues as they grew up. In addition, having regard to the findings of the Consultancy Study on the Long-term Development of Child Care Services which was expected to be completed within 2018, the Administration would consider how to take forward the long-term planning for child care services. The Administration had also increased the provision of child care services before the completion of the Consultancy Study.

6. USLW further advised that the Women's Commission had studied why women left the labour market and one of the major reasons was that women needed to take care of other family members, such as elderly persons and persons with disabilities. The Administration would take measures to strengthen support services in this regard. For example, the Administration had commenced work in formulating a new Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan and the scope of the Programme Plan would cover support services for carers of persons with disabilities.

7. As regards some deputations' concerns about inadequate promotion of the LIFA Scheme to low-income working families and ethnic minorities ("EMs"), USLW advised that to tie in with the implementation of the WFA Scheme on 1 April 2018, a new round of briefing sessions had been conducted in December 2017 and January 2018 for non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") and District Councils. The Administration would also promote the WFA Scheme through television

and radio broadcasts in March 2018. To help EM applicants understand the WFA Scheme, the Working Family Allowance Office ("WFAO") had commissioned the translation of the "Sample for Completing Application Form" into seven EM languages. WFAO would also conduct community briefings on Saturdays and Sundays for the general public including EM communities in March and April. Efforts had also been made in publicizing at new public rental housing estates and through the 1823 hotline, the Facebook page and website of the WFA Scheme as well as setting up an enquiry desk at the Housing Authority Customer Service Centre in Lok Fu. Moreover, NGOs would be engaged to assist new applicants in filling in the application form. According to the results of the General Household Survey on households not applying for LIFA, there were around 28% of the respondents lacking knowledge about the LIFA Scheme and another 14% encountering difficulty in applying for the Scheme. The Administration would strengthen the promotion in this regard.

8. Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency ("Head, WFSFAA") advised that to facilitate EMs in applying for LIFA, WFAO had made much efforts to promote the LIFA Scheme since November 2015. Upon the invitation of NGOs which provided dedicated support for EMs, briefings on the Scheme had been arranged by WFAO for EM groups at local districts and information on how to fill in the LIFA application form was provided at the briefings, some of which were organized after office hours, on Saturdays or Sundays. WFAO staff would continue to attend briefing sessions arranged by NGOs. WFAO had provided training for its staff to proactively offer interpretation service to EMs so as to assist those who intended to apply for LIFA but had difficulty in doing so. Having regard to the suggestions from representatives of EM organizations in the advisory bodies under the Home Affairs Department, WFAO had reached out to EM organizations and religious bodies. With their agreement, WFAO promoted the Scheme to EMs before or after their religious rituals held at the centres concerned.

9. Regarding some deputations' concern that the application procedures were cumbersome, Head, WFSFAA said that WFAO had reviewed and revised the application form of the LIFA Scheme to make it easier to fill in. Simplification was made following the abolition of the absence rule. Applicants were now required to fill in the form with the basic particulars of their family, personal particulars of the applicant and all family members living on the same premises, their income from work and working hours as well as information on other family income and assets. Lastly, applicants were required to sign on the form to make a

declaration. Usually a LIFA applicant would be a working member in a family, but family members other than the working member would also be allowed to apply for the Scheme in certain circumstances.

10. Responding to some deputations' concern that applicants had difficulty in providing documentary proof on working hours, Head, WFSFAA advised that WFAO had struck a balance between facilitating applications for LIFA and meeting the audit requirements. Documentary proof of working hours was not confined to proof signed by applicants' employers. Documents such as employment contracts and salary slips showing the hours worked would also be accepted. An applicant with a regular employer could provide the employer's certification as documentary proof if the applicant could not produce any documents stating the working hours. Depending on the circumstances of individual cases (e.g. self-employed persons and casual workers), WFAO accepted applicants' declarations of hours worked.

11. Regarding individual cases mentioned by deputations at the meeting, Head, WFSFAA said that WFAO would actively consider whether the processing could be improved if details of such cases could be given to WFAO. Moreover, he would hold case conferences with frontline staff on a regular basis and give advice on how relatively complex applications could be handled.

12. As regards the form-filling support service provided by NGOs, Head, WFSFAA advised that in early 2017, several NGOs were commissioned to provide such service for new LIFA applicants through a quotation exercise. In February 2018, a new exercise was launched in which 244 NGOs and 86 EM organizations/religious groups were invited to indicate their interest in providing support service at a fixed unit fee to assist new WFA applicants in filling in the application form. With reference to the practice of the Community Care Fund ("CCF") in subsidizing NGOs' provision of support service for applicants of its assistance programmes and the unit fee for the previous form-filling support service commissioned in 2017, participating organizations would be paid \$200 for each set of completed application form. Unlike the CCF's support service which included vetting the applications, participating organizations would only be required to provide form-filling service for new WFA applicants. There was no limit on the number of organizations joining the service. The Administration would consider if other NGOs were interested in providing such service, and would keep in view the implementation of the service.

13. Regarding the view that district-based offices should be set up to strengthen the support for LIFA, Head, WFSFAA said that applicants did not need to visit WFAO located at Kwun Tong in person to apply for the LIFA Scheme. Information about the Scheme was made available at 159 places including offices of the Labour Department, the Social Welfare Department and WFSFAA. WFAO had also posted the relevant information on the Internet and communicated with LIFA applicants through SMS service if necessary.

14. As regards some deputations' concern that low-income families which applied in March 2018 could not receive an enhanced rate of allowance under the WFA Scheme to be implemented on 1 April 2018, Head, WFSFAA advised that in line with established Government practices, the WFA Scheme would only apply to applications submitted on or after its effective date of 1 April 2018. As such, the enhanced rate of allowance under the WFA Scheme would not have any retrospective effect.

Discussion

15. In response to the Chairman's enquiry about the Administration's response to the three motions passed at the Panel meeting on 13 November 2017, USLW advised that the Administration had no supplementary views to add.

16. Taking the view that the LIFA Scheme was ineffective as the number of beneficiaries was substantially below the estimated number, the Deputy Chairman sought the Administration's views on the lower-than-expected number of beneficiaries. The Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and Mr POON Siu-ping asked whether the Administration would implement improvement measures in response to the deputations' views on areas like reporting working hours and providing documentary proof of income.

17. USLW advised that the Administration had improved the LIFA Scheme in the light of the views of the deputations and the public. The Administration attached importance to the entire social welfare system in helping grass-roots families. To facilitate working families in applying for LIFA, WFAO staff had been reminded to simplify the handling of applications as far as possible. WFAO staff would also leave their contacts so that LIFA applicants could contact the case officers direct where necessary. Other than promotion through the Internet, the Administration had also commissioned NGOs to reach out to new

applicants such as new arrivals, tenants of cubicle apartments and EMs, and to assist them in making applications. The Administration would keep in view the effectiveness of the enhancements to the LIFA Scheme in benefiting the working families and their children, and continue to strengthen the promotion of the WFA Scheme to eligible families.

18. The Deputy Chairman enquired about the Administration's assessment on the number of beneficiaries of WFA. USLW advised that it was roughly estimated that around 100 000 working families (around 300 000 persons), including over 90 000 children or youngsters, would benefit from WFA. As the LIFA Scheme was implemented, the overall poverty rate was estimated to be reduced by 0.3% and the child poverty rate was estimated to be reduced by 1.0%. With the enhancements to the LIFA Scheme, it was roughly estimated that the overall poverty rate would be reduced by 0.8%, while the child poverty rate would be reduced by 1.9%.

19. In response to the enquiry of the Chairman about the support for households with special needs, including those having children with special educational needs, USLW advised that the Administration had implemented various pilot schemes under CCF to assist some family carers. The Administration would conduct a review of these pilot schemes with a view to drawing up a long-term plan for the provision of support for these carers, such as the provision of manpower resources.

20. Mr POON Siu-ping enquired whether the application form for the WFA Scheme would be further simplified. Head, WFSFAA advised that the application form would be reviewed and simplified in the light of the enhancements to the LIFA Scheme. The Chairman and Mr POON requested the Administration to provide an updated version of the application form for the WFA Scheme before the next Panel meeting to be held on 12 March 2018. Head, WFSFAA responded that the timetable was tight, and it was planned that the updated version of the application form would be available on 1 April 2018. USLW undertook to provide the requested information.

Admin

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's updated form was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)952/17-18(01) on 28 February 2018.)

II. Any other business

21. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:51 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
29 March 2018

Panel on Welfare Services

Special meeting on Friday, 9 February 2018, at 9:30 am

Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations/individuals

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
1.	街工勞工組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given the low level of statutory minimum wage, the Low-income Working Family Allowance ("LIFA") Scheme which encouraged self-reliance through employment could not alleviate poverty. The Scheme should aim at covering the high living expenses of low-income working families. ● Many grass-roots families were unable to benefit from the LIFA Scheme since the application procedures of the Scheme were cumbersome and applicants were frequently requested to provide supplementary information and documents. ● The Administration should: (a) lower the working hour threshold of the Basic Allowance to 72 hours a month; (b) provide additional allowances for carers of persons with disabilities, elderly persons and children with special educational needs ("SEN"); (c) disregard the allowance received under the individual-based Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme from the LIFA's income test; and (d) delink the Child Allowance from the working hour requirements.
2.	Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expressed concern that the Administration had haggled over the measures which targeted at the poor.
3.	The Federation of Hong Kong and Kowloon Labour Unions	[LC Paper No. CB(2)875/17-18(04)]
4.	The Civic Party	[LC Paper No. CB(2)875/17-18(02)]

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
5.	Labour Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The LIFA Scheme was ineffective as the number of beneficiaries was substantially below the Administration's estimated number. ● The LIFA applicants had difficulty in filling in the application form and asking their employers to certify their working hours. ● The Administration should abolish the LIFA's asset test and lower the working hour threshold to 120 hours a month.
6.	Mr Joey LEE Man-lung, Member of Wan Chai District Council	[LC Paper No. CB(2)1048/17-18(01)]
7.	Mr CHOW Nok-hang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many casual workers suffering from underemployment were unable to benefit from the LIFA Scheme due to the excessively high working hour threshold. Besides, the working hour requirements for households having elderly persons, persons with disabilities and chronic disease patients should be on par with those for single-parent households. ● The Administration should: (a) provide a higher rate of allowance under the LIFA Scheme; (b) delink the Child Allowance from the working hour requirements; and (c) provide a one-stop service to facilitate LIFA applications and applications for other government financial assistance. ● To facilitate ethnic minorities ("EMs") in applying for LIFA, the Administration should promote the LIFA Scheme through announcements of public interest in various EM languages.
8.	The Lion Rock Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should consider abolishing the LIFA Scheme to encourage self-reliance. ● The LIFA Scheme should take into account the differences between the rentals in public and private housing in its income test. ● The Administration should include the Old Age Living Allowance and the allowance received under the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme in the LIFA's income test.

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
9.	Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the light of the excessively high working hour threshold, the Administration should increase the provision of after-school care services and child care places for children aged between zero and two, with a view to assisting parents of low-income families who needed to work. ● The LIFA applicants had difficulty in filling in the application form and asking their employers to certify their working hours. ● The Administration should simplify the application procedures for the LIFA Scheme.
10.	Miss CHAN Po-ying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The threshold of the LIFA Scheme was excessively high. ● The Median Monthly Domestic Household Income ("MMDHI") could not cover the living expenses of households. Instead of adopting MMDHI for the LIFA Scheme, the Administration should conduct a study on the basic living expenses of households to define low-income families and working poor.
11.	Pastoral Centre for Workers - Kowloon	[LC Paper No. CB(2)875/17-18(03)]
12.	觀塘民生自決組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given that LIFA applicants had difficulty in filling in the application form as well as providing supplementary information and documents, the Administration should simplify the application procedures and allow applicants to self-declare their working hours and income. Besides, the working hour requirements for households having persons with disabilities, elderly persons and children with SEN should be on par with those for single-parent households. ● The Administration should collaborate with non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") to provide form-filling support service and answer enquiries. The subsidy provided for NGOs should be increased to enhance the manpower for conducting such service. ● Expressed dissatisfaction that persons who applied in March 2018 could not receive a higher rate of allowance which was to be effective from 1 April 2018.

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
13.	Miss Clarisse YEUNG Suet-ying	[LC Paper No. CB(2)942/17-18(01)]
14.	Catholic Workers Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The LIFA applicants were frequently requested to provide supplementary information and duplicated documents, such as birth certificate, marriage certificate and schooling information. ● In the light of the communication difficulty encountered by EMs in applying for LIFA, the Administration should: (a) provide one-stop form-filling services for EMs; (b) set up a multi-language hotline for application enquiries; (c) employ EM staff to assist in LIFA applications; and (d) draw up guidelines and procedures for frontline staff to provide interpretation services.
15.	Equal Access Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given that the EM applicants had difficulty in filling in the application form and the staff of the Working Family Allowance Office ("WFAO") could not offer adequate assistance, the Administration should provide one-stop form-filling services for EMs and employ EM staff to assist in LIFA applications. ● In the light of the cumbersome application procedures, the Administration should reduce the number of requests for the provision of supplementary information. Some documents, e.g. birth certificate, marriage certificate and schooling information, should only be required to be submitted once.
16.	觀塘關注基層聯盟	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expressed dissatisfaction that persons who applied in March 2018 could not receive a higher rate of allowance to be implemented in 1 April 2018. The Administration should provide the new rate of allowance for those applicants retrospectively.
17.	爭取低收入家庭保障聯席	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The working hour requirements for households having persons with disabilities, elderly persons and children with SEN should be on par with those for single-parent households. Given a strong fiscal reserve, the Administration should take measures to

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<p>provide better protection for low-income working families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Applicants might be inappropriately labelled when they asked their employers to certify their working hours and sought the assistance of WFAO staff. Besides, the Administration should standardize and improve transparency of the vetting criteria. ● Expressed concern that persons who applied in March 2018 could not receive a higher rate of allowance to be implemented in 1 April 2018. The Administration should provide the new rate of allowance for those applicants retrospectively.
18.	關注綜援低收入聯盟	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should relax the working hour requirements, especially for households with special needs. Besides, the Child Allowance should be delinked from the working hour requirements. ● The Administration should simplify the application procedures of the LIFA Scheme, improve transparency of the vetting criteria and provide support service in the 18 districts.
19.	我要低津文件簡化關注組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many grass-roots families, e.g. casual workers who were unable to meet the working hour requirements, were unable to benefit from the LIFA Scheme due to its excessively high threshold and cumbersome application procedures. ● Enquired why the Child Allowance was linked with the working hour requirements under the LIFA Scheme. The Administration should provide allowance for grass-roots children to attend interest classes and tutorial classes.
20.	低津要幾煩得幾煩關注組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should allow family members other than the working member to apply for the LIFA Scheme, and deposit the allowance to the bank accounts held by family members of the LIFA applicants. ● Given that applicants had difficulty in asking their employers to certify their working hours, the Administration should simplify the application procedures and allow

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<p>applicants to self-declare their working hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should provide a child allowance for recipients of the School Textbook Assistance Scheme with a view to covering the high living expenses of low-income working families.
21.	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should relax the income limits and provide additional allowance for the LIFA applicants residing in private housing. ● The Administration should allow applicants to self-declare the information required and conduct random checks to prevent abuse. In addition, asset of family members aged 65 or above should not be counted in the LIFA's asset test. ● The Administration should employ EM staff to assist in LIFA applications and invite applicants to indicate in the application form whether interpretation service was required. Besides, district offices should be established to provide a one-stop service to facilitate filling-in of applications for LIFA and other government financial assistance.
22.	葵涌劏房住客聯盟	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given that some households might be eligible but had not applied for LIFA, the Administration should review the excessively high threshold of the Scheme. ● Given that the low application rate was due to insufficient understanding of the LIFA Scheme and the cumbersome application procedures, the Administration should strengthen the promotion of the Scheme. ● The Administration should train WFAO staff in handling LIFA applications.
23.	葵涌劏房戶連線	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the light of inadequate promotion, many grass-roots families had insufficient understanding of the LIFA Scheme. ● The Administration should simplify the application form of the LIFA Scheme and allow family members other than the working member to apply for the Scheme. Besides, such permission should be stated in the application form.

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regarding the form-filling support service for new LIFA applicants commissioned by the Administration, a subsidy should be provided for NGOs to cover their administrative cost in providing such service.
24.	LIFA Exam Concerning Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given that the LIFA applicants had difficulty in filling in the application form as well as providing supplementary information and documents, the Administration should simplify the application procedures and remind casual workers that they could self-declare their working hours during their applications. ● Expressed concern about the inadequate provision of district support service. ● Expressed concern about the low application rate for LIFA from tenants of sub-divided units ("SDUs").
25.	Miss WONG Ching-sum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expressed concern about the low application rate for LIFA from EMs and the effectiveness of the promotion measures for EMs, given that most EMs relied more on friends/relatives and NGOs for information about LIFA but fewer of them learned about LIFA from the government advertisement. ● In the light of the difficulty in filling application form and providing supplementary information, the Administration should employ EM staff to assist in LIFA applications and invite applicants to indicate in the application form whether interpretation service was required. ● Discretion should be given to casual workers who could not comply with the requirements of the statutory minimum wage in reporting their income and working hours.
26.	Kwai Chung Ethnic Minorities Rights Concern Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In view of the large size of EM families, the Administration should provide the allowance according to the number of family members. ● The Administration should strengthen the promotion to EMs to facilitate their LIFA applications, e.g. setting up counters and employing EM staff to provide support service in various districts.

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should commission NGOs to provide form-filling support service for EMs.
27.	Hong Kong Subdivided Flats Concerning Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the light of inadequate promotion, many SDU tenants had insufficient understanding of the LIFA Scheme. The Administration should increase the manpower for conducting door-to-door visits and setting up counters so as to promote the Scheme. ● Since some SDU tenants were casual workers and had difficulty in certifying their working hours, the Administration should simplify the application procedures and allow them to declare working hours through oath-taking. ● For SDU tenants with rent-to-income ratio exceeding 30%, the Administration should relax their income limits under the LIFA Scheme by 20% in view of the high rental.
28.	Miss LAI Po-kwai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should provide different rate of allowance for public housing tenants and non-public housing tenants. ● The Administration should take into account the rentals of different housings to relax the income and asset limits of non-public housing tenants.
29.	Alliance for Children Development Rights	<p>[LC Paper No. CB(2)813/17-18(02)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expressed concern about the limited quota of various support schemes provided for children. The Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB") should take the responsibility to provide a child allowance to cover the high living expenses of grass-roots families. ● The Administration should deposit the allowance to the bank accounts held by family members of the LIFA applicants.
30.	社區前進低收入權益組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given that many casual workers had difficulty in meeting the working hour requirements under the LIFA Scheme, the Administration should delink the Child Allowance from the working hour requirements. ● Enquired about the LWB's role in responding to the suggestion in delinking the

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<p>Child Allowance from the working hour requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expressed dissatisfaction that WFAO staff could not provide adequate assistance in handling applications. The Administration should set up support centres for the LIFA Scheme in the 18 districts.
31.	天水圍兒童權益關注組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the light of the excessively high threshold, many disadvantaged families were unable to benefit from the LIFA Scheme and the Child Allowance since they had difficulty in asking their employers to certify their working hours and income. ● Given that LIFA applicants were frequently requested to provide supplementary information and documents, the Administration should simplify the application procedures. ● Expressed dissatisfaction at the Administration's failure to proactively respond to the suggestion of providing a child allowance for recipients of the School Textbook Assistance Scheme.
32.	太子兒童權益關注組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given that self-employed workers had difficulty in filling in the application form and reporting the working hours, the Administration should simplify the application procedures. ● Expressed concern about the high living expenses of grass-roots families.
33.	太子學童權益關注組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many casual workers had difficulty in asking their employers to certify their working hours and were frequently requested to provide supplementary information and documents. ● In the light of the high living expenses, the Administration should provide a child allowance for grass-roots families.
34.	Society for Community Organization	<p>[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)853/17-18(01)(Revised) and CB(2)875/17-18(01)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enquired about the Administration's response to the views and suggestions expressed by the deputations at the meeting.

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
35.	關注學童發展權利聯席- 兒童關注組	[LC Paper No. CB(2)813/17-18(02)]

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
29 March 2018