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FINANCIAL SERVICES BRANCH FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE TREASURY BUREAU GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

> 24TH FLOOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES 2 TIM MEI AVENUE TAMAR HONG KONG

> > 11 March 2019

來函檔號 YOUR REF.: Mr Derek LO Clerk to Bills Committee Legislative Council Secretariat

2810 2201

2527 0292

Legislative Council Secretaria Legislative Council Complex 1 Legislative Council Road Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Lo,

Follow-up on the treatment of tax deductible voluntary contributions ("TVCs") when applying for different public services

Further to our letter of 27 February 2019, we have received response from all Bureaux on their treatment of accrued benefits of TVCs when processing applications for means-tested public services and welfare schemes. Based on the response of the Bureaux, in general, if the accrued benefits of TVCs of the applicants cannot be withdrawn at the time of applications, their accrued benefits of TVCs will not be regarded as assets. The relevant public services and welfare schemes are set out at <u>Annex</u>.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Noel TSANG) for Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Treatment of Accrued Benefits of Tax Deductible Voluntary Contributions (TVCs) under Means-tested Public Services and Welfare Schemes

 In general, the relevant Bureaux/ Departments will not regard accrued benefits of TVCs as assets when processing applications for means-tested public services and welfare schemes, if the accrued benefits of TVCs of the applicants cannot be withdrawn at the time of applications. The schemes concerned involve –

Buildings Department

1. Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme

Education Bureau

- 2. Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students
- 3. Tertiary Student Finance Scheme Publicly-funded Programmes
- 4. Enhancing the financial assistance for needy students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level

Food and Health Bureau

- 5. Community Care Fund (CCF) Medical Assistance First Phase Programme
- 6. Samaritan Fund
- 7. CCF Subsidy for eligible patients to purchase ultra-expensive drugs (including those for treating uncommon disorders)
- 8. CCF Subsidy for eligible patients of Hospital Authority to purchase specified implantable medical devices for interventional procedures

Housing Department

- 9. Application for public rental housing
- 10. Application for Home Ownership Scheme flats / White Form Secondary Market Scheme

- 11. Well-off Tenants Policies
- 12. Public rental units under the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS)
- 13. Subsidised Sale Flats Projects developed and sold by HKHS

Labour and Welfare Bureau/ Social Welfare Department

- 14. Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme
- 15. Old Age Living Allowance
- 16. Guangdong and Fujian Schemes
- 17. Working Family Allowance Scheme
- 18. Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme
- 19. Central Fund for Personal Computers
- 20. Jockey Club IT Scheme for People with Visual Impairment
- 21. Cash Subsidy under the Integrated Support Service for persons with Severe Physical Disabilities
- 22. Trust Fund for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) Special Ex-gratia Financial Assistance for Recovered/Suspected SARS Patients
- 23. Short-term Food Assistance Service Projects
- 24. Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly