

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
Tim Mei Avenue
Tamar, Hong Kong

本函檔號 Our Ref.: LWB T1/2/34 Pt. 5

電話號碼 Tel. No.: 2810 3932

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

傳真號碼 Fax No.: 2524 7635

Clerk to Establishment Subcommittee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn : Miss Judy YEE)

18 June 2019

Dear Miss YEE,

**Establishment Subcommittee
Follow-up Action to the Meeting held on 28 May 2019**

Members requested the Government to provide supplementary information in relation to the Legislative Council Paper No. EC (2019-20)3 at the above meeting. Our response is as follows:

- (a) Average age of members and actual age of the youngest member of the Commission on Children (the Commission)

The Commission was established on 1 June 2018. It is chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, with members comprising various bureau secretaries/department heads and 21 experts and stakeholders on child-related issues (including healthcare, education, social welfare, legal, academia, ethnic minorities (EM), parent representatives and participants of the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth, etc.). For the appointed non-official members with age information provided, the average age and the age of the youngest non-official member at the time of appointment was 47 and 19 respectively.

(b) Communication mechanism and platform between the Commission and children/the public

The Commission is an on-going, action-oriented, responsive and high-level advisory body. Establishing an effective avenue/platform to facilitate child participation as well as promoting public engagement with children and relevant stakeholders is part of the important work of the Commission. To this end, prior to the approval and filling of the proposed creation of the permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, and notwithstanding the manpower constraints, we have recommended and endorsed by the Commission, to formulate an engagement plan on child development-related matters (including children's rights, interests and well-being) for children and relevant stakeholders to express their views and needs to the Commission direct. It is expected that the public engagement plan, which is on-going in nature, will commence in the fourth quarter of 2019 the earliest. We will then organise public engagement activities on the following topics, including special needs, health, welfare, children protection, education and general children development issues, such as the central databank on children.

Children is the major target of the public engagement activities. The Commission will arrange focus group meetings or other activities for children of different age groups and background to hear their voices. Depending on the nature of the topics, the Commission will also arrange public engagement sessions for stakeholder groups on their concerned topics, including educators, medical practitioners, children rights and youth groups, welfare non-governmental organisations (NGOs) relating to children/youth services including those supporting EMs and parents, to hear and exchange views with them.

The Commission has also formulated a publicity strategy to enhance public awareness, interest and understanding on child-related issues, children's rights and interests, and would launch a series of publicity initiatives, including a large-scale territory-wide publicity campaign, production of promotional videos, organisation of seminars and various competitions for students' participation, etc. Moreover, despite a dedicated Secretariat for the Commission has not yet been fully established, we have launched a dedicated website (<https://www.coc.gov.hk/tc/index.html>) to provide information relating to the Commission. Information on the public engagement activities as well as other children development activities and programmes organised or funded by the Commission and/or the Labour and Welfare Bureau will be uploaded to the website for public information.

(c) Scope of work and issues, phased/short-term objectives and value-for-money indicator of the Commission

At the first meeting on 28 June 2018, the Commission agreed that its initial plan would focus on a range of priority issues related to children, including children with special education needs, EM children, children's health, children at risk, a mechanism for dealing with absentee students, children participation and exploring the possibility of developing a central databank on children and children-related indices, etc.

The Commission has set up two Working Groups (WGs) in January 2019, namely the WG on Research and Public Engagement, and the WG on Promotion of Children's Rights and Development, Education and Publicity. The WGs have started work with the objective to address a number of priority areas of work, including the commissioning of a Consultancy Study for Developing a Central Databank on Children (the Consultancy Study), the establishment of a Funding Scheme for Children's Well-being and Development (the Funding Scheme), and the formulation of publicity strategy and promotional plans. As regards other priority issues, the Commission will set up the two remaining WGs in the second and third quarters of 2019 respectively, namely the WG on Children with Special Needs, and the WG on Children Protection to take forward the relevant issues in their specific areas.

Among the aforesaid priorities, it is expected that the Consultancy Study would commence in the fourth quarter of 2019 and would take about 18 months to complete. The Consultancy Study would provide analysis and recommendations on the implementation framework and other related issues. Its findings and recommendations will serve as a reference for the specific work in the future. In respect of the Funding Scheme, the Commission has launched it in April 2019 to enable child concern groups and NGOs, etc. to seek funding for promotional and public educational projects on child-related issues. The approved projects are expected to commence as early as the end of 2019. Besides, as mentioned in (b) above, the Commission will take forward the public engagement plan from the fourth quarter of 2019. The Commission will review the work of the WGs on a regular basis, and set targets for further work in due course.



(Miss Karen SHING)
for Secretary for Labour and Welfare