

財經事務及庫務局



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7 March 2019

The Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Chairman of the Panel on Financial Affairs
Legislative Council
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Dear Hon CHEUNG,

Caring and Sharing Scheme

With reference to the letter of 15 February 2019 from Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG to you on the Caring and Sharing Scheme (the Scheme), our response to the issues raised therein is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

The application period for the Scheme is from 1 February to 30 April 2019. Application forms can be downloaded from the dedicated website (css.gov.hk) or are available at the Home Affairs Enquiry Centres of the Home Affairs Department, the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency or the Working Family Allowance Office (WFAO). Details of the Scheme are available on the dedicated website. Members of the public can also call the 24-hour hotline (3897 1088) for enquiries.

The Government has also announced a series of measures to facilitate the application for the Scheme, which include printing additional application forms, increasing the capacity of telephone hotlines, exempting the requirement of providing address proof, adopting a lenient approach in handling applications sent by mail with insufficient postage, and adding more drop-in boxes. In addition to the 31 drop-in boxes announced earlier, extra boxes are being provided at about 200 estate offices of the Housing Authority (including

Public Rental Housing estates and estates under Tenants Purchase Scheme and the Buy or Rent Option) and 14 Home Affairs Enquiry Centres of the Home Affairs Department. WFAO has also approached those who have collected application forms in bulk, e.g. the offices of Legislative Council Members, District Council Members and non-governmental organisations, with a view to making special arrangement to collect bulk submissions (200 application forms or more) from them.

We have received more than one million applications for the Scheme as at today. WFAO will issue SMSs to applicants for acknowledgement of applications. For applicants who have not provided mobile phone numbers, WFAO will issue acknowledge receipts by mail. Applicants may call the above-mentioned 24-hour hotline for enquiries.

The duration of the application period for the Scheme is up to three months, which should be adequate for those who wish to apply to submit their applications. Any persons with individual difficulties and problems in the application for the Scheme may contact WFAO for assistance and follow up.



(Florence Wai)

for Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

c.c. WFAO (Attn: Mr Esmond Lee)