

政府總部
民政事務局

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**GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
HOME AFFAIRS BUREAU**

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2 TIM MEI AVENUE,
TAMAR,
HONG KONG.

18 June 2019

Ms. Joanne MAK
Clerk to the Panel on Home Affairs
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms. MAK,

**Panel on Home Affairs
Follow-up to the Meeting on 27 May 2019**

We have received your letter dated 30 May 2019.

We noted that a motion under the agenda item on Community Care Fund (CCF) was passed at the meeting of the Panel on Home Affairs on 27 May 2019.

Enclosed please find the response from the Social Welfare Department and the Housing Department to the motion for Members' reference. The CCF Secretariat has also circulated the relevant motion to the CCF Task Force Members for reference.

Yours sincerely,

(Carmen KONG)

for Secretary for Home Affairs

Encl.

c.c. Director of Housing

(Attn.: Senior Administrative
Officer/Policy Support)

Director of Social Welfare

(Attn.: Senior Social Work Officer
(Community Care Fund))

Response from the Social Welfare Department

The Community Care Fund (CCF) Assistance Programme to Improve the Living Environment of Low-income Subdivided Unit Households (the Programme) aims at improving the living environment of low-income households living in subdivided units (SDU) and strengthening their connection with community services/resources. For the Programme to provide effective assistance to needy SDU households, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will carefully consider a host of factors, such as the needs, household size and living area of SDU households and the reference prices of relevant services and goods, in drawing up the details of the Programme (including the eligibility criteria and the amount of subsidy). The application procedures will also be streamlined as far as possible. The SWD will also review the Programme in terms of design, operation and feedback from beneficiaries, etc. in a timely manner. The SWD has taken note of the views of the Panel on Home Affairs, and will discuss the arrangements of the Programme in the meeting of the CCF Task Force to be held later.

Response from the Housing Department

There are views that the Government should provide rent subsidy to public rental housing (PRH) applicants living in rented private housing who have been on the waiting list for PRH for over three years and have passed the asset test. Nevertheless, the Government is concerned that such measure may not be effective in alleviating the housing burden of these households as intended by the advocates. In the midst of the present tight housing supply, providing rent subsidy to tenants may prompt the landlords to increase rent, thereby indirectly turning the rent subsidy into additional rent, leaving the tenants with no effective assistance. Furthermore, providing rent subsidy to a selected group of tenants may increase the demand for rented accommodation, thereby triggering a rise in rental level and increasing the burden of households who are unable to receive the subsidy due to various reasons.

The Government believes that the continued increase in housing supply remains the fundamental solution to the problems of surging rent caused by insufficient supply. The Government will continue to increase housing land supply in the short, medium and long term through a

multi-pronged approach, so as to effectively address the long term housing needs of low-income households.