

政府總部
民政事務局

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1 February 2019

Clerk to the Panel on Home Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Joanne MAK)

Dear Ms MAK,

Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs

**Enquiries about the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the
Mainland from the Honourable IP Kin-yuen**

We refer to your letter dated 15 January 2019 in which you relayed to us the questions raised by the Honourable IP Kin-yuen regarding the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland (the Funding Scheme). Our consolidated reply is set out below:

At present, applications for the Funding Scheme must be submitted by organisations. All non-profit making organisations that are independently registered under the law may submit applications. Taking into account that many members of the public (especially those involved in voluntary service) might concurrently serve more than one non-profit making organisation, at present we do not impose restrictions on the composition of different applicant organisations under the Funding Scheme.

When making assessment under the Funding Scheme, the Youth Development Commission (YDC) Secretariat will submit background information of the applicant organisation (including information on the person in charge), its track record in organising projects, the proposal of the intended

project, etc. to members of the Task Force on Youth Exchange and Internship (the Task Force) under the YDC. Members of the Task Force will then consider each application based on the assessment criteria, including whether the content of the project meets the purposes of the Funding Scheme, the feasibility of the project, staffing arrangements, etc. All requests for disbursement of Government sponsorship must be made on a reimbursement basis and no surplus in respect of an exchange project is permitted. If the expenditure of an exchange project is less than its income (including donation, funding from the organisation itself, Government sponsorship, etc.), the actual sponsorship amount will be reduced accordingly. Funding allocated under the Funding Scheme cannot be used to meet recurrent expenditure such as staff emoluments of the organisation, or for personal remuneration payable to the person in charge.

To ensure proper use of the funding, the Task Force will review the operation of the Funding Scheme from time to time. Having gained hands-on experience, it will also make amendments and enhancements to the Funding Scheme as necessary. Take the 2019-20 Funding Scheme as an example, the Task Force decided at its meeting in September 2018 that the assessment criteria should be enhanced, namely, starting from 2019-20, when assessing applications from previous successful applicant organisations, the weighting attributed to their past performance will be increased. Also, the Task Force has enhanced the application form by requiring applicant organisations to provide the details and effectiveness of their exchange projects in the past three years (e.g. whether an organisation could implement its internship/exchange projects in accordance with its proposals). When assessing new applications, the Task Force will consider each application in detail according to the new assessment criteria, including whether the applicant organisation has made reasonable staffing arrangements for its previously organised/newly proposed exchange projects, whether such arrangements will affect the effectiveness of its activities due to any overlap of staffing arrangements with other applicant organisations, etc. In other words, the Task Force has already considered the issues raised by the Honourable IP earlier and is actively following up.

Yours sincerely,

(Original signed)

(Sammy LEUNG)

for Secretary for Home Affairs