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政府總部
勞工及福利局

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政府總部



LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Central Government Offices
Tin Mei Avenue
Tamar, Hong Kong

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來函檔號 Your Ref.:

16 July 2020

Ms Anita SIT
Clerk to the Finance Committee
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms SIT,

Legislative Council Finance Committee
Follow-up to Meeting on 29 May 2020

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Finance Committee (FC) on 29 May 2020, the Government was requested to provide supplementary information on the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme. I am authorised to reply as follows.

Review of the CSSA

At the aforementioned meeting, the FC approved a series of measures to improve the CSSA Scheme with an expected annual additional financial expenditure of about \$960 million. The relevant provision will mainly be used for extending a range of supplement and special grants to eligible non-elderly able-bodied recipients and substantially increasing the maximum rent allowance (MRA) with reference to the number of eligible household members, so as to provide CSSA recipients with more appropriate assistance.

Separately, the Social Welfare Department continues to commission non-government organisations (NGOs) to provide employment assistance services to able-bodied CSSA recipients, and has enhanced coordination with the Labour Department, the Employees Retraining Board and NGOs with a view to rendering more effective help to recipients in securing jobs and sustaining employment. Furthermore, the Government will raise the maximum level of disregarded earnings under the CSSA Scheme by 60% from \$2,500 to \$4,000 per month and increase the maximum level of earnings to be totally disregarded from a new job from the first month's income to the first two months' income every two years. Upon implementation of the relevant measures, the Government will closely monitor their effectiveness so as to strike a balance between maintaining the safety net for the financially vulnerable and encouraging employable CSSA recipients to engage in employment.

Rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme

The aforementioned measure of substantially increasing the MRA under the CSSA Scheme is a one-off arrangement. The relevant increase is based on the 10% trimmed mean of rent paid by all CSSA households living in rented private housing (the average of rent payment with the lowest and highest 10% excluded) as at February 2019 (about 22 700 households).

The Government raised the MRA under the CSSA Scheme on 1 July 2020 in accordance with the aforementioned 10% trimmed mean. The increased amount also included an upward adjustment of 3.2% from 1 February 2020 in accordance with the established adjustment mechanism of referencing the movement of the Consumer Price Index (A) rent index for private housing. The MRA for CSSA households with one, two and three eligible member(s) are set out at Annex.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Heidi IP)

for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

cc.

Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Director of Social Welfare

(Attn: Mr Kei Ma)
(Attn: Miss Rita LAU)

Annex**The Maximum Rent Allowance (MRA) for CSSA households
with one, two and three eligible members**

Number of eligible members	MRA since 1 February 2019	MRA since 1 February 2020*	MRA since 1 July 2020#
1	\$1,885	\$1,945	\$2,475
2	\$3,795	\$3,915	\$4,370
3	\$4,955	\$5,115	\$5,245

* Increased by 3.2% in accordance with the established annual adjustment mechanism of referencing the movement of the Consumer Price Index (A) rent index (rent index) for private housing.

Including an increase of 3.2% with reference to the rent index and the adjustment according to the 10% trimmed mean.