



立法會

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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By Hand
12 March 2021

Dr LAW Chi-kwong, GBS, JP
Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Labour and Welfare Bureau
10/F, West Wing
Central Government Offices
2 Tim Mei Avenue
Tamar
Hong Kong

Dear Dr LAW,

Panel on Welfare Services

Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Silver Age Card

I am writing as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Silver Age Card to invite your presence at future meetings of the Subcommittee.

At present, there are some 600 000 silver-age persons aged 60 to 64 in Hong Kong, equivalent to nearly 8% of the population. These persons have made valuable contribution to Hong Kong. It is the general aspiration of the community that the Government would step up efforts and take bolder measures to promote the well-being of silver-age persons and ensure their continued engagement in the community irrespective of whether they are economically active. This also meets the policy objective of the current-term Government of building a caring and inclusive society. Against this background, the Panel appoints the Subcommittee to study in a focused manner issues relating to the welfare benefits for silver-age persons, including the feasibility of introducing a Silver Age Card in particular to provide them with a broad range of benefits and concessions.

As the highest Official responsible for social welfare policies, your presence at meetings of the Subcommittee to understand the views of members is essential to the development of the above-mentioned policy initiatives to meet public aspirations. The meeting held on 26 February 2021 was the first platform for members of the Subcommittee to exchange views with the Administration on the proposal of substituting a smart Silver Age Card with multi-application capacity for the Senior Citizen Card and lowering the eligible age to 60. This proposal is a new policy initiative and your views and decision on the way forward is pivotal. Members have expressed grave dissatisfaction that your goodself was not present at that meeting to advise the Subcommittee the Administration's position and answer questions from members.

To facilitate the Subcommittee to take forward its work effectively, we hope that you would be agreeable to attend future meetings of the Subcommittee to discuss with members the relevant issues in detail. We believe that your presence will enhance the communication and relationship between the Executive Authorities and the Legislature.

We look forward to your favourable reply.

Yours sincerely,



(Wilson OR)

Chairman

Subcommittee on Issues Relating to
the Silver Age Card