政府總部 勞工及福利局

香港添馬添美道 政府總部



LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Central Government Offices Tim Mei Avenue Tamar, Hong Kong

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(Translation)

8 September 2023

Ms Catherina YU
Senior Council Secretary,
Council Business Division 2,
Legislative Council Secretariat,
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms YU,

List of follow-up actions required of the Administration arising from the discussion at the meeting on 25 July 2023

Thank you for your letter of 31 July 2023. The information requested by Members at the captioned meeting is set out below.

The Administration was requested to provide written responses to the following concerns and views raised by members:

(a) members noted that twenty-five categories of professionals were proposed in Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill ("the Bill") as specified professionals who were mandated to report suspected serious child abuse cases in certain circumstances. The Administration was requested to provide information on the professional bodies/organizations it had consulted in formulating the list of the proposed specified professionals, the scope of the consultation, and the views collected;

Children receive essential services regularly in schools as well as

medical and social welfare institutions. Mandating professionals in these sectors to report suspected child abuse cases will create a wide protection web for children for early detection and intervention into child abuse cases and send a strong deterrent signal to potential perpetrators.

The Government conducted two rounds of 22 stakeholder engagement sessions in the third quarter of 2021 and latter half of 2022 respectively to tap views of the social welfare sector, education sector and healthcare sector on the mandatory reporting regime (MRR), as well as conducted consultation with relevant professional bodies/organisations. from these professional bodies/organisations, the Government also invited over 300 organisations from the social welfare sector and representatives from more than 170 secondary schools, primary schools, special schools, kindergartens, private/international schools and the Youth College of the Vocational Training Council to attend the stakeholder engagement sessions. A total of 119 written submissions were received in the two round of engagement. A list of professional bodies/organisations invited is at Annex 1. The Government also consulted Commission on Children, Social Welfare Advisory Committee, Family Council and Women's Commission in two phases in the latter half of 2021 and the latter half of 2022 respectively. The advisory committees and stakeholders agreed on the need to introduce the MRR in Hong Kong and urged the Government to ensure that adequate resources and supportive measures would be put in place before commencement of the Bill. A summary of the main views expressed by stakeholders is at **Annex 2**.

Concerns of professional bodies/organisations of specific sectors are set out below:

(i) As regard the social welfare sector, members of the Social Workers Registration Board (the Board) attending the engagement session generally agreed with the proposal of MRR and there would be no conflict with the code of practice for social workers. Subject to the finalisation of the details of MRR legislation, the code of practice could be reviewed to see if there was a need for improvement. A Member was concerned about the necessity and feasibility of incorporating elements of child protection and mandatory reporting in pre-service training programmes for social workers. Another

Member indicated that while considering complaints about the handling of suspected child abuse cases by social workers, the Board would strike a balance between social workers' obligations of protecting children and reporting child abuse cases. Besides, a Member of the Advisory Committee on Social Work Training and Manpower Planning said that institutions might explore adding elements of child protection and mandatory reporting to pre-service training programmes for social workers. A Member also suggested that in addition to delivering online courses, alternative modes or platforms might be considered for the provision of relevant training to cater for the varied needs of in-service social workers. Meanwhile, the mode of organising collaborative training with district characteristics among different stakeholders had been effective and should be continued to promote pragmatic interdisciplinary cooperation.

As regards the education sector, relevant professional bodies (ii) generally agreed to the proposal of MRR and confirmed their support for the direction of MRR legislation. They agreed that professional practitioners such as teachers should be included in the list of specified professionals subject to the responsibility of MRR in order to cover practitioners fulfilling both criteria in respect of "frequent contacts with children" and "professions or work currently subject to some form of regulation". Stakeholders mainly offered views on the implementation details of the regime, including the liability and protection for the management of schools and frontline education workers under the reporting regime. They were also concerned about the practical operation of reporting under cross-sectorial collaboration. The Government was requested to provide clear guidelines and adequate training for the schools and give illustrations of circumstances to facilitate the mandated reporters to discharge the statutory duty. For education sector, relevant professional bodies considered that there was no conflict between the existing Guidelines on Teachers' Professional Conduct and the proposed MRR. Some stakeholders suggested that elements on child protection and MRR should be included in pre-service training programmes for teachers, and the mandatory reporting requirements should be incorporated in the Guidelines on Teachers' Professional Conduct. In addition, some stakeholders suggested the Government to enhance the promotion of MRR to parents so that they could understand the roles and responsibilities of the mandated reporters.

As regard the healthcare sector, members of health-related boards (iii) and councils as well as the Accredited Healthcare Professional Bodies attending the engagement sessions generally agreed with the proposal of MRR, and raised various suggestions on the actual implementation arrangement. Some stakeholders had reservation on whether individual healthcare professions proposed to be included as mandated reporters fulfilled the criteria of having frequent contact with children. Some considered that relevant examinations/ investigations would be required in order to determine whether individual cases reached the reporting threshold, while different professions might have differing views towards the same case, and hence an appeal mechanism should be set up to enable relevant healthcare professions to defend against accusations of non-reporting or delay in reporting. On implementation, there were suggestions that after finalising of the details of the legislation, specific implementation details and guidelines should be developed to rationalise the reporting workflow in a multi-disciplinary collaborative setting (e.g. hospitals), with a view to fully achieving the legislative intent on child protection. There were also suggestions to appoint a designated reporter within individual organisations to centralise the duty of reporting, and clarify the relevant responsibility of the organisations to follow up on reported On training, some stakeholders suggested to explore cases. including content of child protection and mandatory reporting in the pre-registration training programmes for various healthcare professions. Health Bureau had previously suggested the relevant professional bodies to review their professional guidelines at an appropriate juncture, and would request the professional bodies to comprehensively review whether their professional guidelines should be further refined to ensure there is no conflict with the mandatory reporting requirements after details of the MRR legislation are finalised.

(b) members noted that recurrent provision of \$24.2 million had been approved for creating 41 permanent posts to enhance the Government's enforcement and support capacity, provide appropriate training to practitioners in the relevant professions, strengthen the promotion and public education work on child protection, and facilitate the implementation of the Bill. The Administration was requested to provide information on the scope of duties of these 41 permanent posts, the types of services to be provided upon implementation of the mandatory reporting regime and the projected demand for these services;

In view of stakeholders' views on the complementary measures for MRR, the Government has allocated an additional provision of \$24.1 million in 2023-24 (\$24.2 million additional full-year provision w.e.f. 2024-25) for creating 41 permanent posts, enhancing the Government's enforcement and support capacity, providing appropriate training to practitioners in the relevant professions and strengthening the promotion and public education work on child protection, with a view to dovetailing the implementation of the MRR. The scope of duties of the relevant manpower are as follows:

- (i) Social Welfare Department (SWD) will create 18 additional frontline social worker and supervisory posts in the Family and Child Protective Services Units to cope with the work related to MRR, including handling enquiries from the specified professionals, conducting initial screening, taking immediate child protection actions jointly with the Police as necessary or independently, investigating suspected child abuse incidents, convening multi- disciplinary case conferences on protection of children with suspected maltreatment, providing relevant follow-up services for the children and the families concerned, and making service referrals as appropriate, etc.. SWD will also create 2 clinical psychologist posts to provide the victims of child abuse with psychological assessment and treatment.
- (ii) The Hong Kong Police Force will create 20 permanent posts responsible for handling case triage, investigation, and providing support to the cases concerned, etc., thereby ensuring the investigations and prosecutions are carried out in a professional and efficient manner.

(iii) Education Bureau will create 1 permanent post in the Inspector (Graduate) Grade mainly providing administrative support regarding the implementation of the MRR to schools and appropriate training to school personnel, including the formulation and updating of guidelines for schools, and professional support to schools in the implementation of related school-based mechanisms and practices.

To dovetail with the commencement of the ordinance, the Government will not only provide training for mandated reporters but also draw up a Reporting Guide to assist them in identifying target cases for early identification, reporting and intervention, as well as reducing overreporting. SWD has already embarked on increasing residential child care service places. A new Residential Child Care Centre ("RCCC") with 48 service places will commence operation in the first quarter of 2024. We envisage that each RCCC place can take care of an average of four children in a year (hence a total of 192 children each year), as children residing with family members or relatives would not normally stay in an emergency place for a prolonged period. SWD is considering further measures to increase the supply of emergency places through setting up another RCCC and enhancing publicity to recruit more foster parents.

With reference to the experience in overseas jurisdictions, the implementation of MRR for suspected child abuse cases would lead to the increase of reported cases. The Government is unable to estimate the increase in the number of reported cases and the demand for related services at this stage. The Government will closely monitor the changes in the number of reported cases before and after the implementation of MRR and would timely review the manpower arrangement in the light of the actual situation.

(c) detailed justifications for defining "child" as a person below the age of 18 years proposed under clause 2 of the Bill;

The Bill seeks to ensure early detection of and intervention into serious child abuse cases to achieve the policy objective of child protection. Owing to different policy considerations and legislative intent, "child" may have different definitions in different legislations to achieve the policy objectives of individual pieces of legislation. On the

consideration that the Protection of Children and Juveniles Ordinance (Cap. 213), which is of similar nature of the Bill, defines "child" and "juvenile" as persons aged below 18, and that the existing "Protecting Children from Maltreatment – Procedural Guide for Multi-disciplinary Cooperation" jointly promulgated by SWD and relevant departments, non-governmental organisations and professionals adopts the same age threshold, the Government defines "child" as a person aged below 18 when formulating the Bill.

According to the figures released by the Census and Statistics Department in February 2023, the provisional figure for the child population (aged 0-17) in Hong Kong at the end of 2022 is 924 000 persons. In case the definition of "child" under the Bill is lowered from aged below 18 to below 16, some 107 600 persons aged 16-17 (11.7% of the overall child population) would be excluded from the protection afforded by the Bill, thereby weakening the protection web of MRR. With reference to past experience, if the abuse or neglect is inflicted by the child's parents or caregivers, such cases will less likely be reported by the families concerned. The majority of persons aged below 18 are still at school and do not have independent financial means, making them vulnerable to abuse and neglect. In fact, according to the number of newly registered child protection cases in 2022, more than 210 children aged 15-17 have been abused, accounting for 14.7% of the total number of abused children. To achieve the policy objective of child protection, we consider it more prudent to define "child" as a person under the age of 18.

(d) elaboration on the meaning and application of "harm", "at real risk of suffering serious harm" and "material time" under clause 4 of the Bill; and

"Harm" includes physical injury and psychological injury. Clause 4(3) of the Bill contains examples of an act or omission that may cause serious harm to a child, which have also referred to "physical injury" and "psychological health [being] endangered or impaired".

When considering the standard of proof of "real risk", the court has

¹ According to The Oxford English Dictionary, "real" means "actually existing or present; not imaginary; having a foundation in fact". According to Xiandai Hanyu Cidian (現代漢語詞典), "real" means "in actual existence; something specific" ("實有的;具體的").

pointed out that the phase of "real risk" excludes risk that is merely theoretical or fanciful. In the context of mandatory reporting of child abuse, the specific circumstances of each case have to be looked into when considering whether there is a reasonable ground to suspect that a child is at real risk of suffering serious harm. Specified professionals may holistically consider the child concerned, the suspected abuser, family and environmental factors in assessing whether a child is at a "real risk" of suffering serious harm. For example, if a specified professional comes to notice that a child has a history of being subjected to serious physical abuse and that a responsible person of the child indicates, by word or conduct, that he/she is going to do it again, such factors may constitute reasonable ground to suspect that the child is at "real risk" of suffering serious harm. Moreover, the term "real risk" has also been adopted in existing legislation².

According to the definition under clause 4(6) of the Bill, "material time" means the time at which the ground mentioned in clause 4(1) of the Bill comes to the notice of the specified professional concerned. In other words, "material time" means the time at which a reasonable ground to suspect that a child has been suffering serious harm, or is at real risk of suffering serious harm, comes to the notice of a specified professional.

Given that the nature and complexity of each child abuse case varies, it is considered not practicable to set out whether the mandatory reporting obligation applies to different scenarios in the Bill. Therefore, the Government has provided in the Bill the legal framework and empowering provisions for the MRR, and the Bill empowers the Authority to issue guidelines on the implementation of the MRR. Pursuant to clause 7 of the Bill, the Government plans to draw up the Reporting Guide which will set out the considerations of whether reporting is necessary under different scenarios, so as to assist the specified professionals in mastering the principles of child protection and identifying the cases to be reported under their statutory obligations. Clause 8 of the Bill sets out the effect of the abovementioned guidelines in legal proceedings. The Government will commence the preparatory work for the Reporting Guide in the fourth quarter of this year, in collaboration with the relevant bureaux and departments, and collect views from the professional bodies and sectors. The abovementioned

² For example, section 30(4)(a) of the Labour Tribunal Ordinance (Cap. 25).

approach of formulating a framework by way of legislation to be supplemented by administrative guidelines is modelled on the practice of some common law jurisdictions which are implementing MRR. This approach is also in line with the practice of many local ordinances. The benefit of this approach is that the guidelines can be supplemented and updated flexibly in the light of the implementation experience of the legislation and changes in society, with a view to facilitating early identification, reporting and intervention of child abuse cases to achieve the policy objective of child protection. After the passage of the Bill by the Legislative Council (LegCo) and its commencement, Government will review the relevant court cases from time to time and update the "Reporting Guide" on a regular basis, in order to meet the actual operational needs and changes in the social environment. To tie in with the work of LegCo in scrutinising the Bill, the Government will provide the Bills Committee with the skeleton of the Reporting Guide and the scenario analyses which the industry are concerned in a timely manner, and will continue to discuss and finalise the Reporting Guide with the relevant professional bodies/sectors during the 18-month transitional period after the Bill is passed by LegCo.

(e) examples of prevailing ordinances which provided for the mandatory reporting of certain criminal offences and penalties imposed on the failure to report.

Reference has been made to some local legislations that deal with serious offences, a person who does not report such offences incurs a penalty of 3-month imprisonment and a fine at level 5. Such provisions include:

- (i) Under section 25A of the Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) Ordinance (Cap. 405), where a person knows or suspects that any property (a) in whole or in part directly or indirectly represents any person's proceeds of; (b) was used in connection with; or (c) is intended to be used in connection with, drug trafficking, he shall as soon as it is reasonable for him to do so disclose that knowledge or suspicion, together with any matter on which that knowledge or suspicion is based, to an authorized officer.
- (ii) Under section 25A of the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 455), where a person knows or suspects that any property (a) in whole or in part directly or indirectly represents any person's

proceeds of; (b) was used in connection with; or (c) is intended to be used in connection with, an indictable offence, he shall as soon as it is reasonable for him to do so disclose that knowledge or suspicion, together with any matter on which that knowledge or suspicion is based, to an authorized officer.

(iii) Under section 12 of the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance (Cap. 575), where a person knows or suspects that any property is terrorist property, then the person shall disclose to an authorized officer the information or other matter (a) on which the knowledge or suspicion is based; and (b) as soon as is practicable after that information or other matter comes to the person's attention.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Rachel KWONG)

for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Annex 1

Relevant Professional Bodies/Organisations

Social Welfare Sector

1.	Social Workers Registration Board
2.	Advisory Committee on Social Work Training and
	Manpower Planning
3.	Operators and supervisors/directors of child care service
	organisations
4.	Over 300 organisations from the social welfare sector (see
	Appendix 1)

Education Sector

(I)	School Councils/Associations/Educational Bodies
1.	Hong Kong Primary Education Research Association
2.	Association of Assistant Principals of Government Secondary
	Schools
3.	Council of Non-profit Making Organizations for Pre-primary
	Education
4.	Association of Principals of Government Secondary Schools
5.	Subsidized Primary Schools Council
6.	Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council
7.	The Association of Hong Kong Chinese Middle Schools
8.	Hong Kong Association of the Heads of Secondary Schools
9.	Hong Kong Kindergarten Association
10.	Hong Kong Direct Subsidy Scheme Schools Council
11.	The Association of English Medium Secondary Schools
12.	Hong Kong Special Schools Council
13.	Hong Kong Federation of Education Workers
14.	Hong Kong Education Policy Concern Organization
15.	Hong Kong Aided Primary School Heads Association
16.	Hong Kong Association of Careers Masters and Guidance
	Masters
17.	The Hong Kong Association For School Discipline And

	Counseling Teachers
18.	Education Convergence
19.	Grant Schools Council
(II)	Regional School Heads Associations
20.	Kowloon Region School Heads Association
21.	Hong Kong Island School Heads Association
22.	New Territories School Heads Association
(III)	District School Heads Association
23.	Kowloon City District School Principals' Liaison Committee
24.	Tai Po District Primary School Heads Association
25.	Tai Po District Secondary School Heads Association
26.	Tai Po District Early Childhood Education (ECE) Principal
	Association
27.	Tai Po School Liaison Committee
28.	The Council of Central & Western District School Heads
29.	Yuen Long Primary School Heads Association
30.	Yuen Long District Secondary School Heads Association
31.	Tuen Mun District Primary School Heads Association
32.	Tuen Mun District Secondary School Heads Association
33.	Tuen Mun District Kindergarten Heads Association
34.	North District Primary School Heads Association
35.	North District Secondary School Heads Association
36.	Sai Kung & Tseung Kwan O Secondary School Heads
	Association
37.	Sai Kung District Aided Primary School Heads Association
38.	Sha Tin District Secondary School Heads Association
39.	Eastern District School Liaison Committee
40.	Yau Tsim Mong District School Liaison Committee
41.	Southern District Joint Schools Conference
42.	Hong Kong Shatin District Primary School Heads
	Association
43.	Hong Kong Shatin District Kindergarten Heads Association
44.	Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung & Tsing Yi District Kindergarten
	Heads Association
45.	Tsuen Wan Primary School Heads' Association
46.	The Association of Heads of Secondary School of Tsuen
	Wan, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi District

47.	Sham Shui Po Early Childhood Education Principal
	Association
48.	Sham Shui Po School Liaison Committee
49.	Wong Tai Sin District Primary School Heads Association
50.	Wong Tai Sin District Secondary School Heads Association
51.	Kwai Chung District Primary School Heads Association
52.	Association of School Heads of Islands District
53.	Wan Chai District Headmasters' Conference
54.	Kwun Tong Schools Liaison Committee
(IV)	Representatives from Schools
55.	Over 170 Secondary Schools, Primary Schools, Special
	Schools, Kindergartens and Youth College of the Vocational
	Training Council (See Appendix 2)

Healthcare Sector

(I)	Healthcare Bodies
1.	Department of Health
2.	Hospital Authority
3.	The Hong Kong Private Hospitals Association
(II)	Doctors
4.	The Medical Council of Hong Kong
5.	Hong Kong Academy of Medicine
6.	Hong Kong Medical Association
7.	Hong Kong Doctors Union
8.	The Association of Licentiates of Medical Council of Hong
	Kong
9.	Hong Kong Society of Medical Professionals
10.	Hong Kong Public Doctors' Association
11.	The Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong
12.	The Public Hospital Consultant Association
13.	Federation of Private Healthcare Centers of Hong Kong
14.	Association of Private Medical Specialists of Hong Kong
15.	Medical Conscience
(III)	Dentists and Dental Hygienists
16.	The Dental Council of Hong Kong
17.	Hong Kong Dental Association

18.	The College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong
19.	Government Dental Hygienists' Association
20.	Hong Kong Dental Hygienists' Association
(IV)	Nurses and Midwives
21.	The Nursing Council of Hong Kong
22.	Midwives Council of Hong Kong
23.	College of Nursing, Hong Kong
24.	Hong Kong Society for Nursing Education
25.	The Hong Kong College of Mental Health Nursing
26.	Association of Hong Kong Nursing Staff
27.	Nurses Branch, Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants'
	Association
28.	Enrolled Nurses Branch, Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants'
	Association
29.	Hong Kong Nurses General Union
30.	The Hong Kong Academy of Nursing
31.	Hong Kong Midwives Association
(V)	Chinese Medicine Practitioners
32.	Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong
33.	Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board, Chinese Medicine
	Council of Hong Kong
(VI)	Pharmacists
34.	Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong
35.	The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Hong Kong
36.	The Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong
37.	The Practising Pharmacists Association of Hong Kong
38.	College of Pharmacy Practice
39.	Hong Kong Pharmacists Union
40.	The Hong Kong Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry
41.	Gleneagles Hong Kong Hospital
42.	Pharmacist Connect
(VII)	Allied Health Professions
43.	Supplementary Medical Professions Council
(VIII)	Occupational Therapists
44.	Occupational Therapists Board
45.	Hong Kong Occupational Therapy Association
46.	Hong Kong Institute of Occupational Therapy

(IX)	Physiotherapists
47.	Physiotherapists Board
48.	Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association
49.	Hong Kong Physiotherapists' Union
50.	Physio Action
(X)	Medical Laboratory Technologists
51.	Medical Laboratory Technologists Board
52.	Hong Kong Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences
53.	Institute of Biomedical Science
54.	Medical Technicians and Technologists Branch, The Hong
	Kong Chinese Civil Servants Association
55.	Hong Kong Biomedical Scientists Association
56.	Hong Kong Association of Medical Laboratories Limited
(XI)	Optometrists
57.	Optometrists Board
58.	The Hong Kong Society of Professional Optometrists
59.	The Hong Kong Optometric Association
60.	The Hong Kong Association of Private Practice Optometrists
(XII)	Radiographers
61.	Radiographers Board
62.	Hong Kong Radiographers Association
63.	The Hong Kong Radiological Technologists' Association
64.	Hong Kong Association of Radiation Therapists
65.	The Hong Kong College of Radiographers and Radiation
	Therapists
(XIII)	Chiropractors
66.	Chiropractors Council Hong Kong
67.	Hong Kong Chiropractors' Association
68.	Hong Kong Association of Professional Chiropractors
69.	Chiropractic Doctors' Association of Hong Kong
70.	China Hong Kong Macao Chiropractic Association
71.	Hong Kong Registered Chiropractors' Association
(XIV)	Speech Therapists
72.	Hong Kong Institute of Speech Therapists
(XV)	Audiologists
73.	Hong Kong Institute of Audiologists
(XVI)	Dietitians

74.	Hong Kong Academy of Accredited Dietitians
(XVII)	Educational Psychologists
75.	The Hong Kong Association of Educational Psychologists
(XVIII)	Clinical Psychologists
76.	Hong Kong Institute of Clinical Psychologists
(XIX)	Universities and Academic Institutions
77.	Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong
	Kong
78.	Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
79.	Faculty of Dentistry, The University of Hong Kong
80.	HKU SPACE Community College
81.	School of Nursing, The University of Hong Kong
82.	The Nethersole School of Nursing, The Chinese University of
	Hong Kong
83.	School of Nursing, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
84.	School of Nursing and Health Studies, Hong Kong
	Metropolitan University
85.	School of Nursing, Tung Wah College
86.	School of Health Sciences, Caritas Institute of Higher
	Education
87.	The School of Continuing Education of Hong Kong Baptist
	University
88.	School of Chinese Medicine, The University of Hong Kong
89.	School of Chinese Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong
0.0	Kong
90.	School of Chinese Medicine, Hong Kong Baptist University
91.	School of Pharmacy, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
92.	Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacy, The University
0.2	of Hong Kong
93.	Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, The Hong Kong
0.4	Polytechnic University
94.	School of Medical and Health Sciences, Tung Wah College
95.	Hong Kong Metropolitan University
96.	Caritas Institute of Higher Education
97.	School of Optometry, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Appendix 1

List of Relevant Organisations from the Social Welfare Sector

1	0.2.000.0
1.	0-3 CCC Service Network
2.	Kowloon City Baptist Church Social Services Limited
3.	Kowloon Women's Welfare Club (The)
4.	Kowloon Women's Organisations Federation Limited
5.	Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon (The)
6.	Tai Hang Residents' Welfare Association
7.	Tai Po Baptist Church Social Service
8.	Little Newton International Preschool (Tuen Mun)
9.	Association for Engineering and Medical Volunteer Services
10.	Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims Limited
11.	The Industrial Evangelistic Fellowship Limited
12.	SME Global Alliance Elderly and Special Needs Services Association Limited
13.	Evangelical Free Church of China Social Service Limited
14.	Evangelical Free Church of China - Evangel Children's Home
15.	China Peniel Missionary Society Incorporation
16.	Yuen Long Church (Church of Christ in China) Limited
17.	Hop Yat Church, the Church of Christ in China
18.	Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China (The)
19.	Church of Christ in China Wanchai Church (The)
20.	Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (The)
21.	Chinese Evangelical Zion Church Limited
22.	Chinese Evangelical Zion Church Limited Grace Family and
	Children Mutual Help Centre
23.	Five Districts Business Welfare Association
24.	Yan Oi Tong/Yan Oi Tong Limited
25.	Yan Chai Hospital Social Service Department
26.	Yuen Long Town Hall Management Committee Limited
27.	Yuen Long District Women's Association Limited
28.	Tin Shui Wai Women Association Limited (Neighbourhood
	Support Child Care Project)
29.	Tuen Mun Youths Association
30.	Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired
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31.	Mission Ark Ltd
32.	Hong Kong and Macau Regional Centre of the World Fellowship of
	Buddhists Limited
33.	Mother's Choice
34.	Mother's Choice Child Care Home
35.	People Service Centre Limited
36.	Life Workshop
37.	Celebrate Life Baptist Church
38.	Light and Love Home Limited
39.	Social Service Centre For Personality Development Limited
40.	Perfect Fellowship Limited
41.	Hong Chi Association
42.	Tutor Time International Nursery (Suffolk Campus)
43.	Yu Yee Rehabilitation Centre
44.	Hans Andersen Club
45.	Tsim Sha Tsui District Kaifong Welfare Association
46.	Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong
47.	Sai Kung District Community Centre
48.	Jordan Pak Hoi Nursery
49.	Jordan Valley Kaifong Welfare Association
50.	Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong
51.	Hang Tau Fu Hong Care Home
52.	Windshield Charitable Foundation
53.	Gratia Christian College
54.	Fu Hong Society
55.	Shatin Baptist Church Social Service
56.	Yuk Chi Resource Centre Limited
57.	Against Child Abuse Ltd
58.	Asia Women's League Limited
59.	Kingston Children Centre
60.	Eminent Rehabilitation Center Company Limited
61.	Youth Outreach
62.	Heep Hong Society
63.	Child Helper Development Centre Association
64.	Harmony House Limited
65.	Mongkok Kai-Fong Association Limited (The)
66.	Maxgrace Fuller House

67.	Caritas Institute of Community Education
68.	Caritas Institute of Higher Education
69.	Child Development Centre (The)
70.	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
71.	Tung Wah College
72.	Social Welfare Organizations Employees Union
73.	Cheung Sha Wan Kai Fong Welfare Association Lam Tam Yin Wah
	Day Nursery
74.	Cheung Chau Rural Committee Integrated Youth Centre
75.	Council of Non-profit Making Organizations for Pre-primary
	Education
76.	Po Leung Kuk
77.	Po Leung Kuk Choi Koon Shum (Opulent House) Nursery
78.	South Asian Lutheran Evangelical Mission, Ltd.
79.	The Urban Peacemaker Evangelistic Fellowship Limited
80.	William International Play School
81.	Suen Mei Speech and Hearing Centre
82.	Nesbitt Centre Limited (The)
83.	Government Social Work Officers Association
84.	Government Social Security Staff Association
85.	Parklane Rehabilitation Home
86.	Home Of Joy Limited
87.	Baptist Mid-Missions
88.	ABM Hong Kong Swatow Baptist Church Community Service
	Association (The)
89.	Superioress of the Sisters of the Precious Blood (The)
90.	We Care Social Service Centre Limited
91.	Cannan Nursery (Kowloon Tong)
92.	Cannan Nursery (Siu Sai Wan)
93.	Cannan Nursery (Central)
94.	Cannan Nursery (Whampoa Garden)
95.	Cannan Nursery (Laguna City)
96.	The Open University of Hong Kong Li Ka Shing School of
	Professional and Continuing Education / Hong Kong Metropolitan
	University Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing
	Education
97.	The University of Hong Kong

98.	Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (The)
99.	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
100.	Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies, The Chinese
	University of Hong Kong
101.	The School of Continuing and Professional Studies of the Chinese
	University of Hong Kong
102.	Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club
103.	Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong
104.	Hong Kong Mutual Encouragement Association Limited
105.	Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council (The)
106.	The Open University of Hong Kong / Hong Kong Metropolitan
	University
107.	Hong Kong Tin Shui Wai Women Association (Mutual Help Child
	Care Centre)
108.	Hong Kong Psychological Society
109.	Mental Health Association of Hong Kong (The)
110.	Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre
111.	Hong Kong Federation of the Blind
112.	Hong Kong Blind Union
113.	Hong Kong Council of Early Childhood Education & Services
	Limited
114.	UOW College Hong Kong
115.	Hong Kong West Point Baptist Church
116.	Women's Welfare Club, Western District, Hong Kong
117.	Hong Kong Buddhist Association
118.	The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers
119.	Society of Boys' Centres
120.	Hong Kong Private Hostel for Rehabilitation Association
121.	Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart Diseases Association
	(The)
122.	Asian Outreach Hong Kong Limited
123.	Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights
124.	Caritas - Hong Kong
125.	Women's Welfare Club (Eastern District) Hong Kong (The)
126.	Hong Kong Society for the Blind (The)
127.	Hong Kong Social Workers and Welfare Employees Union
128.	Society for Community Organization

129.	Hong Kong Social Workers Association
130.	Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union
131.	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
132.	Hong Kong Children and Youth Services
133.	Hong Kong Juvenile Care Centre
134.	Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (The)
135.	Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children
136.	Hong Kong Southern District Women's Association (Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project)
137.	Hong Kong Southern District Women's Association Limited
	(Mutual Help Child Care Centre)
138.	City University of Hong Kong
139.	Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited
140.	Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association, Social Work
	Officer Grade Branch
141.	Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association, Social Work
	Assistant Branch
142.	Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association, Social Security
	Officers' Branch
143.	Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association, Social Security
	Assistants' Branch
	Hong Kong Red Cross
145.	Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association (The)
146.	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
147.	The Hong Kong Joint Council of Parents of the Mentally
	Handicapped
148.	Baptist Convention of Hong Kong (The)
149.	Hong Kong Baptist University
150.	Hong Kong Baptist University, School of Continuing Education
151.	Stewards
152.	Hong Kong Nang Yan College of Higher Education
153.	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
154.	Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong (The)
155.	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association
156.	Church of United Brethren in Christ Hong Kong Limited (The)
157.	Hong Kong Christian Service
158.	YMCA of Hong Kong

159.	Hong Kong Christian Mutual Improvement Society
160.	New Life Church of Christ Hong Kong Limited
161.	Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres Limited
162.	Hong Kong Women Foundation Limited
163.	Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited
164.	The Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Sha Tin)
165.	The Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Lee Wai Lee)
166.	Hong Kong Institute of Education / The Education University of
	Hong Kong
167.	Operation Dawn Limited
168.	Hong Kong Polytechnic University
169.	Hong Kong Community College
170.	The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong
171.	Hong Kong Single Parents Association (Neighbourhood Support
	Child Care Project)
172.	Hong Kong Rehabilitation Power
173.	Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (The)
174.	Free Methodist Church of Hong Kong (The)
175.	Hong Kong Sports Association for Persons with Intellectual
	Disability
176.	Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the
	Physically Disabled
177.	Scout Association of Hong Kong
178.	Hong Kong PHAB Association
179.	Hong Kong Sports Association for the Physically Disabled
180.	Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth
181.	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui St. Barnabas' Church
182.	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Ltd.
183.	Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (HK) Limited
184.	Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, the Lutheran Church - Hong
	Kong Synod Limited
185.	Hong Kong Playground Association
186.	Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong (The)
187.	Chiu Yang Residents' Association of Hong Kong Limited
188.	Hong Kong Student Aid Society Limited (The)
189.	Hong Kong Shue Yan University
190.	Endeavourers Hong Kong (The)

191.	Hong Kong Institute of Clinical Psychologists
192.	Hong Kong Clinical Psychologists Association
193.	OIWA Limited
194.	SAHK
195.	Kiangsu Chekiang and Shanghai Residents (Hong Kong) Association
196.	Hong Kong Association of the Deaf
	Hong Kong Society for the Deaf (The)
198.	Ka Lok Association - Home For Rehabilitation Limited
199.	Benji's Centre
200.	Parents' Association of the Mentally Handicapped Limited
201.	Great Honour Rehabilitation Centre
202.	Chai Wan Baptist Church Social Service
203.	Parkview-Rhine Garden International Nursery
204.	Conservative Baptist Yan Mun Church Ltd
205.	Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service
206.	First Assembly of God Church
207.	International Church of the Foursquare Gospel Hong Kong District
	Limited
208.	International Women's League Limited
209.	Pui Chak Resort
210.	Pui Chak Garden
211.	Evangelize China Fellowship Shatin Canaan Church Limited
212.	Wu Oi Christian Centre
213.	Barnabas Charitable Service Association Limited
214.	Christian Zheng Sheng Association
215.	The Church of United Brethren in Christ Social Service Division
216.	Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union Hong Kong Limited
217.	The ELCHK Grace Lutheran Church (Tsuen Wan)
218.	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong
219.	Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service (The)
220.	Christian Family Service Centre
221.	Gracious Shepherd Christian Church Limited
222.	The Christian New Being Fellowship Limited
223.	The Praise Assembly Limited
224.	Christian New Life Association Limited
225.	Mission Covenant Church Limited (The)

226.	Christian Action
227.	United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service
228.	Wai Ji Christian Service
229.	Christian Concern for the Homeless Association
230.	Haven of Hope Christian Service
231.	Hong Kong-Macao Conference of Seventh - Day Adventists
232.	Kei Tak Rehabilitation Home Limited
233.	Women Service Association (Mutual Help Child Care Centre/
	Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project)
234.	Colourful Home Tsuen Wan
235.	DACARS Limited
236.	Salvation Army (The)
237.	Shamshuipo Kai Fong Welfare Advancement Association
238.	Tung Sin Tan (Mutual Help Child Care Centre)
239.	The Pathways Foundation Ltd
240.	Pok Oi Hospital
241.	The Mother Superior of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity
	of the Good Shepherd of Angers at Hong Kong
242.	Methodist Epworth Village Community Centre
243.	Methodist Centre
244.	Asbury Methodist Social Service
245.	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
246.	Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service
247.	Hong Kong and Kowloon Kaifong Women's Association
248.	Hong Kong College of Technology (HKCT) Institute of Higher
	Education / Hong Kong College of Technology
249.	Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church Social Service Limited
250.	Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited
251.	Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Charity Foundation
252.	Shun On Baptist Church Limited
253.	Shun Yan Rehabilitation Home
254.	Grace-to-all Baptist Church Limited
255.	Sik Sik Yuen
256.	Yuen Yuen Institute (The)
257.	The Yuen Yuen Institute Social Service Department
258.	Childtime International Nursery
259.	Loving Kids Community Service Co. Limited

260.	New Kowloon Women Association Limited
261.	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
262.	New Territories Women and Juveniles Welfare Association Limited
	(The)
263.	New Home Association Limited
264.	Sun Fai Rehabilitation Home
265.	Comfort Rehabilitation Home
266.	Comfort Rehabilitation Home (Hang Tau Branch)
267.	Lutheran Philip House Limited
268.	Agency for Volunteer Service
269.	St Stephen's Society Limited
270.	S.K.H. St. Simon's Social Services
271.	SKH St.Matthias' Church Nursery School Limited
272.	S.K.H. St. Christopher's Home
273.	Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
274.	Sing Hong Association Rehabilitation Centre
275.	St. James' Settlement
276.	Society of St. Vincent de Paul Central Council of Hong Kong
277.	Sing Wing Home
278.	Kwai Tsing Rehabilitation Home
279.	Hong Kong Chiu Chow Po Hing Buddhism Association Limited
280.	Glorious Praise Fellowship (Hong Kong) Limited
281.	Watchdog Limited
282.	Fung Kai Public School
283.	Telford Gardens Infant and Toddler Playland
284.	Lok Chi Association Limited
285.	Lok Kwan Social Service
286.	Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (The)
287.	Parents' Association of Pre-school Handicapped Children
288.	Airport Preschool
289.	Home Of Cymbidium
290.	Zion Social Service Limited
291.	The Intellectually Disabled Education & Advocacy League
292.	Lingnan Institute of Further Education
293.	The Lam Tin Estate Kai Fong Welfare Association Limited
294.	Alice Lan and Vera Shen Education Fund Limited
295.	Project Care

296.	The Association of Parents of the Severely Mentally Handicapped
297.	Yew Chung Community College / Yew Chung College of Early
	Childhood Education
298.	Chung Sing Benevolent Society
299.	Home Of Orchid Heart
300.	Emmanuel Church
301.	Kwun Tong Resident Association

Appendix 2

List of Relevant Schools

1.	KCBC Hay Nien (Yan Ping) Primary School
2.	Tai Po Government Primary School
2. 3. 4.	CNEC Lui Ming Choi Primary School
4.	YL Public Middle School Alumni Association Primary School
5.	YL Long Ping Estate Tung Koon Primary School
5. 6.	Yuen Long Long Ping Estate Wai Chow School
7.	The Little Flower's Catholic Primary School
8.	Catholic Mission School
9.	North Point Government Primary School
10.	Buddhist Chi King Primary School
11.	Shatin Tsung Tsin School
12.	TWGH Lo Yu Chik Primary School
13.	PLK Hkta Yuen Yuen Primary School
14.	Carmel Leung Sing Tak School
15.	HHCKLA Buddhist Wong Cho Sum School
16.	HKRSS Tuen Mun Primary School
17.	Hoi Pa Street Government Primary School
18.	Conservative Baptist Lui Ming Choi Primary School
19.	The Salvation Army Centaline Charity Fund Queen's Hill School
20.	Salvation Army Lam Butt Chung Memorial School
21.	Methodist School
22.	TYYI Chan Kwok Chiu Hing Tak Primary School
23.	SKH Tin Wan Chi Nam Primary School
24.	SKH Tsing Yi Chu Yan Primary School
25.	SKH Chai Wan St Michael's Primary School
26.	SKH Wei Lun Primary School
27.	SKH Tseung Kwan O Kei Tak Primary School
28.	SKH St Peter's Primary School
29.	SKH Kam Tin St Joseph's Primary School
30.	SKH Ling Oi Primary School
31.	Our Lady's Primary School
32.	St Paul's Co-Educational College Primary School
33.	St Johannes College

34.	St Charles School
35.	St Louis School (Primary Section)
36.	Sharon Lutheran School
37.	Farm Road Government Primary School
38.	Canossa Primary School (San Po Kong)
39.	Sacred Heart Canossian School Private Section
40.	Fuk Wing Street Government Primary School
41.	Lok Sin Tong Leung Kau Kui Primary School
42.	SPHRC Kung Yik She Secondary School
43.	Wong Shiu Chi Secondary School
44.	Concordia Lutheran School - North Point
45.	Ho Fung College (Sponsored By Sik Sik Yuen)
46.	Toi Shan Association College
47.	Delia Memorial School (Glee Path)
48.	Belilios Public School
49.	Caritas Chong Yuet Ming Secondary School
50.	GCC&ITKD Lau Pak Lok Secondary School
51.	TWGH Lee Ching Dea Memorial College
52.	TWGHs Mr & Mrs Kwong Sik Kwan College
53.	Clementi Secondary School
54.	Carmel Pak U Secondary School
55.	HHCKLA Buddhist Ching Kok Secondary School
56.	HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity
57.	The True Light Middle School of Hong Kong
58.	Rudolf Steiner Education Foundation Hong Kong Maria College
59.	True Light Girls' College
60.	Pui Kiu Middle School
61.	C&MA Sun Kei Secondary School
62.	ELCHK YL Lutheran Secondary School
63.	Tsung Tsin Middle School
64.	Cheung Chuk Shan College
65.	Chan Shu Kui Memorial School
66.	STFA Leung Kau Kui College
67.	San Wui Commercial Society Secondary School
68.	SKH Lui Ming Choi Secondary School
69.	St Antonius Girls' College
70.	Concordia Lutheran School

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71.	Lok Sin Tong Wong Chung Ming Secondary School
72.	Lok Sin Tong Ku Chiu Man Secondary School
73.	Wilderness International Kindergarten
74.	Tai Po Baptist Kindergarten Tin Chak Estate Branch
75.	Tai Po Baptist Kindergarten Wan Tau Tong Estate Branch
76.	Tai Po Rhenish Church Kindergarten
77.	Little Lantau Montessori Kindergarten
78.	Little Newton Anglo-Chinese Kindergarten
79.	Yan Oi Tong Mrs Augusta Cheung Kindergarten
80.	Yan Chai Hospital Choi Pat Tai Kindergarten
81.	St Peter's Catholic Kindergarten
82.	St Paul's Catholic Day Nursery
83.	Sun Island English Kindergarten (Lok Man)
84.	Sunkids Kindergarten
85.	Peace Evangelical Centre Kindergarten (Tin Shui Wai)
86.	Peace Evangelical Centre Kindergarten (Tsing Yi)
87.	Hop Yat Church Chan Pak Wang Memorial Kindergarten
88.	Anchors Kindergarten
89.	Pentecostal Church Of Hong Kong Tai Wo Nursery School
90.	Pentecostal Church Of Hong Kong Leung Sing Tak Anglo-Chinese
	Kindergarten
91.	Buddhist Mr & Mrs Chan Chart Man Kindergarten
92.	Caritas Nursery School - Ta Kwu Ling
93.	Caritas Nursery School - Kennedy Town
94.	TWGHs Shiu Wong Lee Moon Fook Nursery School
95.	Cumberland Presbyterian Church Green Pasture Kindergarten
96.	Po Leung Kuk Fong Wong Woon Tai Kindergarten
97.	Po Leung Kuk Tin Ka Ping Kindergarten
98.	Po Leung Kuk Chi Pui Kindergarten
99.	Po Leung Kuk Cheung Poon Mei Yee Kindergarten
100.	Po Leung Kuk Vicwood Chong Kee Ting Kindergarten
101.	Po Leung Kuk Kim Huynh Kindergarten
102.	The Alliance Kindergarten
103.	Karlam Kindergarten (Tuen Mun Branch)
104.	ESF International Kindergarten (Tsing Yi)
105.	ESF International Kindergarten (Hillside)
106.	Cannan Kindergarten (Kowloon Tong)

107.	Cannan Kindergarten (Siu Sai Wan)
108.	The Boys' And Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Cheerland
	Kindergarten (Wanchai)
109.	CUHK Federation Of Alumni Associations Thomas Cheung
	Kindergarten
110.	Hong Kong Society For The Protection of Children Park'n Shop
	Staff Charitable Fund Nursery School
111.	The True Light Middle School Of Hong Kong (Kindergarten)
112.	Pooi To Primary School (Kindergarten Section)
113.	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association Tsuen Wan
	Nursery School
114.	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association Tai Hon Fan
	Nursery School
115.	Think International Kindergarten
116.	Think International Kindergarten (Nam Cheong)
117.	Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service Pui Yan Pre-Primary School
118.	Luk Yeung Kindergarten
119.	Ma On Shan Ling Liang Kindergarten
120.	ELCHK Tseung Kwan O Kindergarten
121.	Good Health Kindergarten
122.	Kau Yan School (Kindergarten Section)
123.	Semple Kindergarten
124.	A-One Kindergarten
125.	Yue Tin Court Yiu Wing Anglo-Chinese Kindergarten
126.	Oi Kwan Road Baptist Church Lui Kwok Pat Fong Kindergarten
127.	N.T. Assemblies of God Church Wai Yan Kindergarten
128.	New Territories Women & Juveniles Welfare Association Limited
	Fanling Nursery School
129.	Lutheran Philip House Kai Yip Nursery School
130.	SKH St. Peter's Church Kindergarten (Castle Peak)
131.	SKH Kindly Light Church Or Pui Cheung Kindergarten
132.	St Monica's Anglo-Chinese Kindergarten (Wah Kwai Estate)
133.	Immaculate Heart of Mary Kindergarten
134.	St Thomas' Church Kindergarten
135.	St Paul's Church Kindergarten (North Point)
136.	Sharon Lutheran Church Kindergarten (Tsz Oi Branch)
137.	St Philip Lutheran Church Kindergarten

138.	Greenville Anglo-Chinese Kindergarten
139.	Sacred Heart Canossian Kindergarten
140.	Victoria Nursery (Harbour Heights)
141.	Victoria (Belcher) Kindergarten
142.	Tack Ching Kindergarten
143.	Good Hope Primary School Cum Kindergarten
144.	Lok Fu Rhenish Church Kindergarten
145.	The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council Tung Yan Day
	Nursery
146.	Learning Habitat Kindergarten
147.	Regent's Kindergarten (Branch School)
148.	Precious Blood Kindergarten
149.	Kwun Tong Baptist Church Kindergarten
150.	International College Hong Kong
151.	The Independent Schools Foundation Academy
152.	Harrow International School Hong Kong
153.	Christian Alliance International School
154.	Shrewsbury International School Hong Kong
155.	American International School
156.	English Schools Foundation
157.	American School Hong Kong
158.	Malvern College Hong Kong
159.	Hong Kong Academy
160.	Korean International School
161.	The Harbour School
162.	Singapore International School (Hong Kong)
163.	Chinese International School
164.	The International Montessori School - An Imef School
165.	German Swiss International School
166.	Yew Chung International School
167.	Kiangsu-Chekiang College International Section
168.	Hong Chi Morninglight School, Tuen Mun
169.	Hong Kong Red Cross John F. Kennedy Centre
170.	Lutheran School For The Deaf
171.	Haven of Hope Sunnyside School
172.	Youth College of the Vocational Training Council

Summary of Main Views of Stakeholders on the proposed Mandatory Reporting Regime

(A) Views on the Legislative Proposal

Definition of Children

(i) Having considered the definition of children adopted by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the World Health Organization, most stakeholders supported defining children as persons aged under 18. Individual stakeholders proposed to define children as persons aged under 16 to reflect the ability of older children in making informed decisions. Some other individual stakeholders suggested that mentally incapable persons aged over 18 should also be covered.

Definition of Types of Suspected Cases subject to Reporting

- (ii) Some stakeholders were concerned that the reporting threshold were too broad and might cover cases other than child abuse, including bullying among children and accidents involving children etc.; hence suggested that these circumstances should be exempted from the MRR.
- (iii) Some stakeholders suggested that the Mandated Reporters' Guide should focus on elaborating the mandatory reporting thresholds and giving more illustrations of circumstances required reporting.
- (iv) It was suggested that a uniform definition of serious child abuse cases that require reporting should be worked out to provide consistent criteria for stakeholders in different sectors.
- (v) Some stakeholders advised that "neglect", "psychological abuse" and even some physical injuries could hardly be discovered in a timely manner. It was suggested that the Government should provide clearer and more specific guidelines and real-case illustrations of reportable circumstances.

(vi) Some stakeholders said that the reportable circumstances concerning children staying at residential care services units should be clearly set out. For example, whether safety measures, such as applying physical restraints to individual residing children suffering from hyperactivity disorder or serious emotional and behavioural problems, would be regarded as child abuse.

List of Mandated Reporters

- (vii) Most stakeholders of the social welfare and education sector agreed that social workers and teachers etc. should be included in the list of practitioners subject to the mandatory reporting requirement in order to cover practitioners fulfilling both criteria in respect of "frequent contacts with children" and "professions or work currently subject to some form of regulation". Some stakeholders suggested that persons-in-charge of the boarding section of schools should be clearly Some stakeholders of the healthcare sector expressed reservation about whether the 13 healthcare professions subject to statutory registration and the five healthcare professions under the Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions to be included into the mandatory reporting regime (MRR) fulfill the criteria of "frequent contacts with children". Most practitioners pointed out that their contacts with children are limited in terms of duration, frequency and scope; hence they would not have sufficient information or evidence to prove that child abuse was involved in a case and requested clear guidelines to help identify child abuse cases.
- (viii) Some stakeholders suggested that the list should be expanded to cover practitioners who had frequent contacts with children but their professions or work were not currently subject to any forms of regulation, including foster parents, janitors, private tutors, tutors of tutorial schools, and coaches or instructors of various types of activities for children.
- (ix) As the handling of suspected child abuse cases often involved interdisciplinary collaboration, some stakeholders enquired whether professionals in different disciplines should reach a consensus on the same case before reporting it; which party or whether all parties involved should make the report if a suspected case was identified by more than one practitioner simultaneously; and whether a mandated reporter who did not report the case because he/ she knows that

- another mandated reporter had made the report would be subject to criminal liability.
- (x) Some stakeholders were concerned if the mandated reporter was convicted of failing to make a report, whether the employer or supervisor would also be subject to criminal liability. There was also a concern over whether the mandated reporter who had already reported the case to the management would be subject to criminal liability for the latter's failure or delay in reporting the case eventually.

Penalty for Failure to Meet MRR

- (xi) Stakeholders generally recognized that the penalty level should be commensurate with the different nature/seriousness of offences committed by non-reporters relative to perpetrators of child abuse. Heavy penalty has been imposed for serious offences under some local legislation while non-reporting of such serious offences incurs a penalty of 3-month imprisonment and a fine of \$50,000.
- (xii) A few stakeholders opined that the proposed penalty level for failure to meet the MRR was too stringent, which might put stress on staff and lead to disqualification from their professions. It was suggested that a mandated reporter who did not make a report should only be fined for the first-time offence while repeated offences should be subject to fine and imprisonment. Another stakeholder also proposed a reward system in lieu of penalties to alleviate the stress on frontline staff.
- (xiii) Practitioners of the healthcare sector reflected that they in fact had very limited contacts with children in terms of duration, frequency and scope. Hence, in determining the liability of the MRR, considerations for social workers and teachers should not be equally applied to healthcare professionals, and the role of different professions in service delivery should be taken into account.
- (xiv) Individual stakeholders proposed to further raise the penalty level to five years of imprisonment for enhanced deterrence.

Safeguards for Mandated Reporters

- (xv) Many stakeholders opined that the proposed obligation of MRR mainly rested with frontline staff, and expressed concerns that employers or organizations would inhibit/prevent them from fulfilling the obligation. Some stakeholders were worried that they would be treated unreasonably if the employer disagreed with the reporting; the reporter's relationship with the child and the parents would be damaged; or even their personal safety would be endangered. It was suggested that the liability of the employer or organization under the MRR should be explicitly spelt out, e.g. by making express provisions to prohibit the employer or organization from inhibiting/preventing others from fulfilling the obligation, and that any non-compliance by the employer or organization would be liable to the same criminal liability.
- (xvi) It was suggested that any disclosure of mandated reporter's identity or information from which their identity could be deduced should be subject to the same criminal liability, so as to better protect the mandated reporters.
- (xvii) Some stakeholders were concerned that the proposed safeguarding provisions would only cover the reporting of cases that met the mandatory reporting thresholds, and hence reporting cases that fell below the thresholds might lead to prosecution or a breach of the code of professional conduct or ethics.
- (xviii)An organization providing services to victims of sexual violence pointed out that some teenage victims of sexual abuse might be reluctant to seek help for fear of being exposed under the MRR. It was suggested that the victims should be allowed to request professionals not to report their cases when they sought help from non-governmental organizations and that the mandated reporter concerned should be exempted from the MRR.

Reporting Channels

(xix) Some stakeholders were of the view that a clearer definition of "as soon as practicable" should be given so that mandated reporters would not be considered to have missed the timeframe for making reports and therefore would not breach the law inadvertently. Other

- stakeholders were concerned that without a definitive timeline, mandated reporters might delay making the report and hence weaken the protection for children.
- (xx) Some stakeholders suggested that SWD and the Police should consider standardizing the format of the written report and prepare a simple form to facilitate mandated reporters in fulfilling the obligation of MRR. Individual stakeholders urged the Government to provide clearer reporting flow and guidelines. On the other hand, individual stakeholders opined that those who had made reports to the Police should not be required to complete the written report.

Training Arrangements

- (xxi) Stakeholders considered that mandated reporters should be required to receive relevant training to ensure that they had basic capacity for identification and handling of child abuse cases. Some stakeholders were of the view that a clearer and more specific elaboration of the roles and responsibilities of mandated reporters should be included in the training content so as to alleviate concerns of frontline staff. Besides, some stakeholders considered it necessary to ensure that the new legislation is enacted after practitioners have completed the relevant training and that clear and detailed operation guidelines should be provided.
- (xxii) Stakeholders suggested that training for mandated reporters should be included as pre-service training to ensure that practitioners had received relevant training prior to employment. It was also suggested that the training should be included in continuing professional development programmes for relevant professions, covering real-life scenarios and cases of different professionals' daily services, etc..
- (xxiii)A stakeholder suggested that face-to-face training should be provided for frontline staff, in addition to online and self-learning training. Interactive workshops should also be arranged to enhance the ability of frontline education practitioners to make professional judgment and boost their confidence in identification of suspected child abuse cases. Moreover, it was suggested that information related to child protection should be updated regularly, and new or common precedent cases should be added to the training content.

(B) Views on the Preventive and Supportive Measures

- (i) Stakeholders were concerned whether the SWD and relevant government departments had sufficient manpower to cope with the substantial increase in the number of reported cases upon implementation of the MRR. Other stakeholders opined that the legislation might lead to more hidden cases and some perpetrators would be more reluctant to seek assistance or arrange treatment for child abuse victims.
- (ii) Stakeholders worried that given the shortage of places under the existing emergency placement services for children, the services might not be able to address the surge in the number of cases upon implementation of the MRR. It was suggested that SWD should make earlier planning to ensure that suspected child abuse victims could secure suitable placement in time.
- (iii) Some frontline social workers of non-governmental organizations expressed difficulty in dealing with uncooperative parents who did not allow social workers to approach suspected child abuse victim. It was suggested that the Government should delegate more power to social workers and provide concrete support to facilitate their intervention in related cases.
- (iv) Some stakeholders suggested setting up a support hotline or an online quick Questions and Answers platform for operation outside office hours.
- (v) Some stakeholders suggested that a central data bank for children/families at risk should be set up to enable professionals to make reference and facilitate their early identification of child abuse cases.
- (vi) Some stakeholders proposed to promote cross-sectoral collaboration, such as assigning healthcare staff to relevant service units to conduct body check for children in need and assist front line staff in identifying child abuse cases.
- (vii) Some stakeholders opined that ample precautions should be taken, including providing high-risk (e.g. drug abuse, drug addiction and depression) parents and single-parent families with emotional

counselling and other family support services as appropriate, as well as referring their children with special needs for assessment and rehabilitation services to enhance their resilience.

- (viii) Some stakeholders considered that parent and community education should be strengthened to foster positive parenting, develop correct concepts of child protection and provide an enabling environment for the development needs of children.
- (ix) Some stakeholders suggested that guidelines should be given to the management of schools, hospitals and social welfare organizations to ensure that they have sufficient knowledge and understanding to facilitate mandated reporters' fulfilment of their statutory obligation. Individual stakeholders said that legislation and/or guidelines should be drawn up to specify if organizations were authorized to take relevant photos or videos for record and as evidence to support their judgement on the need to report.
- (x) Stakeholders suggested that parent support and education should be strengthened so as to remind parents not to resort to corporal punishment in parenting and help them realize the seriousness of child abuse.
- (xi) Stakeholders suggested that the Government should, in tandem with its efforts on the new legislation, step up public education to raise civic awareness of child protection.
- (xii) Some stakeholders considered that issuing letters to schools who had delayed or failed to report students' continuous absence was inadequate and called on the Government to consider more effective means to ensure schools would report suspected non-attendance cases.