

Index Page

Replies to supplementary questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2024-25

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Session No. : 21

Consolidated e-file name : LWB(L)-2S-e1.docx

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-LWB(L)01	SV063	LEUNG Tsz-wing, Dennis	141	(3) Manpower Development
S-LWB(L)02	SV062	SO Cheung-wing	141	(3) Manpower Development (4) Talent Engagement and Support
S-LWB(L)03	SV061	YIU Pak-leung	141	(7) Subvention: Vocational Training Council (Vocational Training)

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(L)01

(Question Serial No. SV063)

Head: (141) Government Secretariat: Labour and Welfare Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Manpower Development

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Alice LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. The Government is requested to provide the following further information on the tabular breakdown of the statistics on the General Employment Policy under the Talent Admission Scheme in 2023:
 - (i) Details of the category of "Others" under the list of Region;
 - (ii) Details of the category of "Others" under the list of Industry/Sector; and
 - (iii) Details of the category of "Below \$20,000" under the list of Monthly remuneration, including the information on the lowest monthly remuneration.
2. The Government is requested to provide further information on, among the 77 950 dependants arriving in Hong Kong under various talent admission schemes in 2023, (i) the respective numbers of dependent spouses and children; and (ii) the number of dependent children who have enrolled in local public sector schools.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Tsz-wing, Dennis

Reply:

- 1.(i) The approved applicants under the General Employment Policy (GEP) in 2023 come from quite a number of regions, with some recording a low number of cases. A full breakdown by every region was thus not provided in the reply, and some regions are instead included under "Others". In response to the follow-up questions, we set out below a list of regions with more than 1 000 approved applications:

Region	Numbers of applications approved
Taiwan, China	2 632
Japan	2 492
The United Kingdom	2 205
South Korea	2 144
The United States	1 891
The Philippines	1 813
India	1 464
Thailand	1 179
France	1 027

Regions with less than 1 000 approved applications include Malaysia, Australia, Germany, Singapore, Indonesia, Canada, Italy, Macao of China, Russia, South Africa, the Netherlands, Spain, New Zealand, Brazil, Ireland, Belgium, Ukraine, Austria and Pakistan, etc.

- (ii) The earlier reply also provided a breakdown of the numbers of approved applications under the GEP by 16 industries/sectors, of which those not belonging to these 16 industries/sectors were categorised as “Others” in the statistical table. The Immigration Department (ImmD) does not keep a further breakdown on “Others” under industry/sector.
- (iii) The GEP is an employment-tied talent admission scheme, which is market-driven. If an enterprise has a job vacancy and has proved difficulties in local recruitment (except for jobs falling under the professions on the Talent List in shortage of local talents), and the job is normally filled by a holder of a bachelor’s degree or higher qualification in the relevant field, the enterprise may employ an outside talent through the GEP at a remuneration comparable to that of the prevailing Hong Kong professional market. The recruited outside talent may subsequently submit an application under the GEP to the ImmD, together with the employment contract and documentary proof of his/her academic/professional qualifications. As the nature and types of jobs and contract duration of applicants under the GEP vary, their salary levels are not directly comparable.

Indeed, quite a number of approved applications under the GEP involved short-term jobs lasting less than 12 months, and some of them involved jobs lasting less than one month or even less than one week. The table on the breakdown of numbers of approved applicants under the GEP by monthly remuneration in question includes both long-term and short-term jobs, and jobs with a remuneration of “Below \$20,000” are mainly short-term jobs, of which the ImmD does not keep a further breakdown.

- 2.(i) A breakdown of the numbers of dependants who arrived in Hong Kong under various talent admission schemes in 2023 by their relationship with the sponsors (i.e. the approved talents) is tabulated below:

Relationship between dependants and sponsors	Number of persons
Spouses	32 566
Unmarried dependent children under the age of 18	45 198
Others [^]	186
Total	77 950

[^] Including some applicants who have entered into a same-sex civil partnership, same-sex civil union, “same-sex marriage”, opposite-sex civil partnership or opposite-sex civil union outside Hong Kong with sponsors in accordance with the local law in force of the place of celebration.

- (ii) Under the prevailing arrangements, persons who are permitted to reside in Hong Kong as dependants (including dependants of approved applicants under various talent admission schemes) are not required to obtain prior permission from the Director of Immigration for school enrolment in Hong Kong. Hence, the ImmD does not keep statistics on the number of dependants studying in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(L)02

(Question Serial No. SV062)

Head: (141) Government Secretariat: Labour and Welfare Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Manpower Development, (4) Talent Engagement and Support

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Alice LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government mentioned that follow-up surveys had been conducted in November 2023 with persons who had arrived in Hong Kong for more than 6 months with the Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS) visas. The survey results show that about 54% of the incoming talents have been in employment. In this connection, would the Government please further advise the reasons why the remaining some 46% of the incoming talents have not yet secured employment, and the measures to assist them in securing early employment.

Asked by: Hon SO Cheung-wing

Reply:

Persons admitted to Hong Kong under the Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS) are not required to have secured offers of employment in Hong Kong before their applications for two-year visas through the TTPS to explore opportunities in Hong Kong. They are not subject to any other conditions of stay during the period, including the requirement to take up local employment. The first batch of TTPS visas will expire at the end of this year, and only those who have been employed, or have established or joined in business in Hong Kong can be granted extension of stay by then.

The surveyed TTPS entrants moved to Hong Kong for about 6 months, and more than half have been in employment, while the remaining yet to be employed ones are also planning to find jobs or start their own businesses. Thus reflects the general attitude of TTPS entrants in job seeking. The survey did not ask about the reasons why individual talents were not employed, but it is normal for them to take time to settle down with their families, arrange for accommodation, find schools for their children, get to know the community, and then understand the local employment market and look for a job upon their arrival in Hong Kong.

To facilitate the long-term development of talents in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Talent Engage (HKTE) was, established last year, to provide comprehensive one-stop support services for incoming talents and maintain close contact with them to keep track of their

development and needs in Hong Kong. In terms of employment support, apart from featuring about 8 000 real-time quality job opportunities daily in the market on its online platform for direct application by talents, the HKTE has engaged more than 10 human resources consultants as working partners. These working partners will provide personalised job matching and career support services according to the background and specific needs of the job seekers. As at end-March this year, the online platform processed more than 25 000 job-seeking referrals. Moreover, the HKTE, together with its working partners, will organise no less than 36 online or physical thematic seminars or workshops within this year on a wide range of topics such as job seeking, business start-up, education, accommodation, household knowledge and Cantonese learning so as to support talents to adjust to local life as soon as possible.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-LWB(L)03

(Question Serial No. SV061)

Head: (141) Government Secretariat: Labour and Welfare Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Subvention: Vocational Training Council (Vocational Training)

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Alice LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government is requested to provide the number of applications under the Vocational Professionals Admission Scheme (VPAS) in the 2024/2025 academic year as at 29 February 2024.

Asked by: Hon YIU Pak-leung

Reply:

Starting from the 2024/25 admission cohort, non-local students of designated full-time higher diploma programmes of the Vocational Training Council (VTC) can apply for staying in Hong Kong for 1 year after graduation under the Vocational Professionals Admission Scheme (VPAS) to seek jobs relevant to their disciplines. Applications under VPAS will be open after graduation of the first batch of eligible non-local students.

VTC indicated that they have started to receive application for admission to the eligible programmes since the end of January this year. As at mid-April, VTC has received several hundred applications from non-local students. Recruitment of non-local students is still in progress and the final number of applications will be ascertained after completion of the admission procedures in early July.

- End -