

Index Page

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Session No. : 20

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| Reply Serial No. | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---|
| LWB(W)001 | 1826 | LAM Chun-sing | 120 | (2) War Memorial Pensions/Volunteer Pensions |
| LWB(W)002 | 3025 | CHAN Chun-ying | 141 | (2) Social Welfare |
| LWB(W)003 | 0884 | CHAN Kapui, Judy | 141 | (2) Social Welfare |
| LWB(W)004 | 0320 | CHAN Pui-leung | 141 | (2) Social Welfare |
| LWB(W)005 | 2771 | CHAN Wing-kwong | 141 | (5) Subvention: Shine Skills Centres |
| LWB(W)006 | 2604 | KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen | 141 | (6) Subvention: Guardianship Board and Environmental Advisory Service |
| LWB(W)007 | 2605 | KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen | 141 | (5) Subvention: Shine Skills Centres |
| LWB(W)008 | 1815 | LAM Chun-sing | 141 | (2) Social Welfare |
| LWB(W)009 | 1817 | LAM Chun-sing | 141 | (2) Social Welfare |
| LWB(W)010 | 2697 | LAM San-keung | 141 | — |
| LWB(W)011 | 0512 | LAM So-wai | 141 | — |
| LWB(W)012 | 0513 | LAM So-wai | 141 | — |
| LWB(W)013 | 0514 | LAM So-wai | 141 | — |
| LWB(W)014 | 0538 | LAM So-wai | 141 | — |
| LWB(W)015 | 2163 | LEUNG Man-kwong | 141 | — |
| LWB(W)016 | 2173 | LEUNG Man-kwong | 141 | (2) Social Welfare |
| LWB(W)017 | 2939 | LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth | 141 | (5) Subvention: Shine Skills Centres |
| LWB(W)018 | 3188 | LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth | 141 | (2) Social Welfare |
| LWB(W)019 | 0444 | LOONG Hon-biu, Louis | 141 | (2) Social Welfare |
| LWB(W)020 | 0694 | NGAN Man-yu | 141 | (2) Social Welfare |
| LWB(W)021 | 0711 | NGAN Man-yu | 141 | (2) Social Welfare |
| LWB(W)022 | 1248 | TSE Wai-chun, Paul | 141 | (2) Social Welfare |
| LWB(W)023 | 3006 | CHAN Chun-ying | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)024 | 3021 | CHAN Chun-ying | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)025 | 3023 | CHAN Chun-ying | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)026 | 2488 | CHAN Hak-kan | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)027 | 0994 | CHAN Han-pan | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)028 | 1005 | CHAN Han-pan | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)029 | 0633 | CHAN Hoi-yan | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)030 | 0641 | CHAN Hoi-yan | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)031 | 2913 | CHAN Hoi-yan | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)032 | 3099 | CHAN Hoi-yan | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)033 | 3195 | CHAN Hoi-yan | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)034 | 0874 | CHAN Kapui, Judy | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |

| Reply Serial No. | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|--|
| LWB(W)035 | 0875 | CHAN Kapui, Judy | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)036 | 0876 | CHAN Kapui, Judy | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)037 | 0877 | CHAN Kapui, Judy | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)038 | 0878 | CHAN Kapui, Judy | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)039 | 0880 | CHAN Kapui, Judy | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)040 | 0881 | CHAN Kapui, Judy | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)041 | 0882 | CHAN Kapui, Judy | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)042 | 0883 | CHAN Kapui, Judy | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)043 | 0885 | CHAN Kapui, Judy | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)044 | 0886 | CHAN Kapui, Judy | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)045 | 0888 | CHAN Kapui, Judy | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)046 | 0929 | CHAN Kin-por | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)047 | 0930 | CHAN Kin-por | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)048 | 2267 | CHAN Man-ki, Maggie | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)049 | 2268 | CHAN Man-ki, Maggie | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)050 | 2273 | CHAN Man-ki, Maggie | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)051 | 2274 | CHAN Man-ki, Maggie | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)052 | 0312 | CHAN Pui-leung | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)053 | 0407 | CHAN Pui-leung | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)054 | 0409 | CHAN Pui-leung | 170 | (5) Services for Offenders |
| LWB(W)055 | 0410 | CHAN Pui-leung | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)056 | 1056 | CHAN Yung | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)057 | 3091 | CHAN Yung | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)058 | 3092 | CHAN Yung | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)059 | 3180 | CHAN Yung | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)060 | 1871 | CHAU Siu-chung | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)061 | 1872 | CHAU Siu-chung | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)062 | 1873 | CHAU Siu-chung | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)063 | 1874 | CHAU Siu-chung | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)064 | 1875 | CHAU Siu-chung | 170 | — |
| LWB(W)065 | 1876 | CHAU Siu-chung | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)066 | 1877 | CHAU Siu-chung | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)067 | 1878 | CHAU Siu-chung | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)068 | 1879 | CHAU Siu-chung | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)069 | 1718 | CHIU Duncan | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)070 | 0388 | CHOW Man-kong | 170 | — |
| LWB(W)071 | 0389 | CHOW Man-kong | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |

| Reply Serial No. | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---|
| LWB(W)072 | 1070 | HO King-hong, Adrian Pedro | 170 | (7) Young People |
| LWB(W)073 | 2728 | HONG Wen, Wendy | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)074 | 2745 | HONG Wen, Wendy | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)075 | 2747 | HONG Wen, Wendy | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)076 | 2748 | HONG Wen, Wendy | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)077 | 2749 | HONG Wen, Wendy | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)078 | 2750 | HONG Wen, Wendy | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)079 | 3079 | HONG Wen, Wendy | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)080 | 2110 | KAN Wai-mun, Carmen | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)081 | 2111 | KAN Wai-mun, Carmen | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)082 | 2112 | KAN Wai-mun, Carmen | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)083 | 2610 | KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen | 170 | — |
| LWB(W)084 | 2611 | KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)085 | 2612 | KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)086 | 2613 | KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)087 | 2614 | KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen | 170 | (2) Social Security (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)088 | 2615 | KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)089 | 2616 | KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)090 | 2617 | KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen | 170 | (2) Social Security (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)091 | 3269 | KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)092 | 2237 | KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)093 | 2243 | KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)094 | 2253 | KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas | 170 | — |
| LWB(W)095 | 2257 | KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)096 | 2258 | KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)097 | 2259 | KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)098 | 2260 | KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)099 | 2261 | KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)100 | 2262 | KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas | 170 | (7) Young People |

| Reply Serial No. | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--|
| LWB(W)101 | 3110 | KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)102 | 0177 | KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)103 | 0179 | KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)104 | 0183 | KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)105 | 0208 | KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)106 | 2865 | KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)107 | 3203 | KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)108 | 3279 | KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)109 | 0125 | LAI Tung-kwok | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)110 | 0134 | LAI Tung-kwok | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)111 | 0145 | LAI Tung-kwok | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)112 | 1824 | LAM Chun-sing | 170 | (7) Young People |
| LWB(W)113 | 1825 | LAM Chun-sing | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)114 | 1844 | LAM Chun-sing | 170 | (7) Young People |
| LWB(W)115 | 1845 | LAM Chun-sing | 170 | (7) Young People |
| LWB(W)116 | 0483 | LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)117 | 0488 | LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)118 | 0489 | LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)119 | 3030 | LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)120 | 0579 | LAM Lam, Nixie | 170 | — |
| LWB(W)121 | 3073 | LAM Lam, Nixie | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)122 | 3074 | LAM Lam, Nixie | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)123 | 3158 | LAM Lam, Nixie | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)124 | 0837 | LAM San-keung | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)125 | 1762 | LAM Shun-chiu, Dennis | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)126 | 0582 | LAM Siu-lo, Andrew | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)127 | 0583 | LAM Siu-lo, Andrew | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)128 | 0590 | LAM Siu-lo, Andrew | 170 | — |
| LWB(W)129 | 0508 | LAM So-wai | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)130 | 0509 | LAM So-wai | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)131 | 0510 | LAM So-wai | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)132 | 0537 | LAM So-wai | 170 | — |
| LWB(W)133 | 0539 | LAM So-wai | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |

| Reply Serial No. | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---|
| LWB(W)134 | 2577 | LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)135 | 1627 | LEE Hoey Simon | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)136 | 2153 | LEUNG Man-kwong | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)137 | 2156 | LEUNG Man-kwong | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)138 | 2157 | LEUNG Man-kwong | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)139 | 2160 | LEUNG Man-kwong | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)140 | 2948 | LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)141 | 2949 | LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)142 | 2950 | LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)143 | 2951 | LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth | 170 | (7) Young People |
| LWB(W)144 | 2952 | LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth | 170 | (7) Young People |
| LWB(W)145 | 2953 | LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)146 | 3189 | LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare (7) Young People |
| LWB(W)147 | 2620 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)148 | 2621 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)149 | 2622 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)150 | 2623 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)151 | 2624 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)152 | 2625 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)153 | 2626 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)154 | 2627 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)155 | 2629 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)156 | 2630 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | — |
| LWB(W)157 | 2631 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | — |
| LWB(W)158 | 2632 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)159 | 2633 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)160 | 2634 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)161 | 2635 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)162 | 2636 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)163 | 2639 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)164 | 2641 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)165 | 0446 | LOONG Hon-biu, Louis | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)166 | 0795 | MA Fung-kwok | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)167 | 2692 | NG Chau-pei, Stanley | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |

| Reply Serial No. | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--|
| LWB(W)168 | 2693 | NG Chau-pei, Stanley | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)169 | 3069 | NG Chau-pei, Stanley | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)170 | 0693 | NGAN Man-yu | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)171 | 0709 | NGAN Man-yu | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)172 | 3115 | NGAN Man-yu | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)173 | 3116 | NGAN Man-yu | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)174 | 0213 | SHIU Ka-fai | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)175 | 0743 | SHIU Ka-fai | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)176 | 2017 | TAN Yueheng | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)177 | 2018 | TAN Yueheng | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)178 | 2061 | TANG Ka-piu | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)179 | 2062 | TANG Ka-piu | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)180 | 2063 | TANG Ka-piu | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)181 | 2064 | TANG Ka-piu | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)182 | 2065 | TANG Ka-piu | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)183 | 2066 | TANG Ka-piu | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)184 | 2067 | TANG Ka-piu | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)185 | 2069 | TANG Ka-piu | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)186 | 2070 | TANG Ka-piu | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)187 | 2071 | TANG Ka-piu | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)188 | 2072 | TANG Ka-piu | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)189 | 2073 | TANG Ka-piu | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)190 | 2074 | TANG Ka-piu | 170 | — |
| LWB(W)191 | 2079 | TANG Ka-piu | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)192 | 3112 | TANG Ka-piu | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)193 | 1193 | TIEN Puk-sun, Michael | 170 | (7) Young People |
| LWB(W)194 | 1196 | TIEN Puk-sun, Michael | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)195 | 1198 | TIEN Puk-sun, Michael | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)196 | 1202 | TIEN Puk-sun, Michael | 170 | — |
| LWB(W)197 | 1074 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)198 | 1078 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)199 | 1079 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)200 | 1080 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)201 | 1085 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)202 | 1086 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)203 | 1087 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |

| Reply Serial No. | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--|
| LWB(W)204 | 1088 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)205 | 1090 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services (6) Community Development (7) Young People |
| LWB(W)206 | 1091 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)207 | 1093 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)208 | 1095 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)209 | 1096 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)210 | 1097 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)211 | 1100 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)212 | 1102 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)213 | 1105 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly |
| LWB(W)214 | 1106 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)215 | 1107 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)216 | 1108 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)217 | 1109 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)218 | 3067 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)219 | 3068 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)220 | 3271 | TIK Chi-yuen | 170 | (7) Young People |
| LWB(W)221 | 0799 | TSE Wai-chuen, Tony | 170 | (2) Social Security |
| LWB(W)222 | 1060 | WONG Kam-fai, William | 170 | (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services |
| LWB(W)223 | 1415 | YUNG Hoi-yan | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)224 | 1416 | YUNG Hoi-yan | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)225 | 1417 | YUNG Hoi-yan | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)226 | 2880 | ZHANG Xinyu, Gary | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)227 | 2903 | ZHANG Xinyu, Gary | 170 | (1) Family and Child Welfare |
| LWB(W)228 | 0879 | CHAN Kapui, Judy | 173 | (2) Working Family Allowance |
| LWB(W)229 | 0197 | KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian | 173 | (2) Working Family Allowance |
| LWB(W)230 | 2941 | LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth | 173 | (2) Working Family Allowance |
| LWB(W)231 | 2628 | LI Sai-wing, Stanley | 173 | (2) Working Family Allowance |
| LWB(W)232 | 3214 | NGAN Man-yu | 173 | (2) Working Family Allowance |
| LWB(W)233 | 1094 | TIK Chi-yuen | 173 | (2) Working Family Allowance |
| LWB(W)234 | 1099 | TIK Chi-yuen | 173 | (2) Working Family Allowance |
| LWB(W)235 | 3004 | CHAN Chun-ying | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |

| Reply Serial No. | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--|
| LWB(W)236 | 2490 | CHAN Hak-kan | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)237 | 0987 | CHAN Han-pan | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)238 | 0311 | CHAN Pui-leung | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)239 | 2400 | CHAN Siu-hung | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)240 | 1863 | CHAU Siu-chung | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)241 | 2722 | HONG Wen, Wendy | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)242 | 1152 | IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)243 | 2245 | KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)244 | 0307 | LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)245 | 0310 | LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and |

| Reply Serial No. | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| | | | | Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)246 | 1615 | LEE Hoey Simon | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)247 | 1127 | LEE Wai-king, Starry | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)248 | 1653 | LEE Wai-wang, Robert | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)249 | 3184 | LEUNG Hei, Edward | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)250 | 2179 | LEUNG Man-kwong | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)251 | 2068 | TANG Ka-piu | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)252 | 1200 | TIEN Puk-sun, Michael | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)253 | 2878 | ZHANG Xinyu, Gary | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |
| LWB(W)254 | 2887 | ZHANG Xinyu, Gary | 186 | (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for |

| Reply Serial No. | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| | | | | the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities |

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)001

(Question Serial No. 1826)

Head: (120) Pensions

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) War Memorial Pensions/Volunteer Pensions

Controlling Officer: Director of Accounting Services (Susanna CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the war memorial pensions/volunteer pensions, would the Government inform this Committee of:

(1) the respective numbers of recipients of war memorial pensions and volunteer pensions, as well as the respective amounts of monthly pensions payable to single adults and married couples in each of the past 10 years; and

(2) the numbers of new applications for war memorial pensions or volunteer pensions in each of the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

(1) The number of war memorial pensioners/volunteer pensioners in the past 10 years is tabulated below:

| Calendar year | No. of war memorial pensioners | No. of volunteer pensioners |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2014 | 224 | 14 |
| 2015 | 198 | 11 |
| 2016 | 178 | 11 |
| 2017 | 160 | 10 |
| 2018 | 137 | 10 |
| 2019 | 119 | 10 |
| 2020 | 101 | 10 |
| 2021 | 78 | 9 |
| 2022 | 64 | 8 |
| 2023 | 57 | 8 |

The monthly rates of war memorial pension for single adults and married couples in the past 10 years are tabulated below:

| With effect from | War memorial pension (\$) | |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| | Single adult | Married couple |
| 1.4.2014 | 6,913 | 11,618 |
| 1.4.2015 | 7,335 | 12,327 |
| 1.4.2016 | 7,570 | 12,721 |
| 1.4.2017 | 7,729 | 12,988 |
| 1.4.2018 | 7,899 | 13,274 |
| 1.4.2019 | 8,112 | 13,632 |
| 1.4.2020 | 8,347 | 14,027 |
| 1.4.2022 | 8,547 | 14,364 |
| 1.4.2023 | 8,744 | 14,694 |

The monthly rates of volunteer pension may vary according to the circumstances of the individual pensioner (e.g. degree of disablement). Details are provided in Schedule 3 to Schedule 8 to the Volunteer and Naval Volunteer Pensions Ordinance (Cap. 202) (<https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap202>).

- (2) There was no new application for war memorial/volunteer pensions in the past 5 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)002

(Question Serial No. 3025)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the above Programme, the estimates for 2024-25 represent an increase of 27% over the revised estimates for 2023-24. The estimates for this year cover the relevant provision for taking forward legislative work on introducing a mandatory reporting regime for suspected child abuse cases, and overseeing the enhancement of training and preparation of guidelines for practitioners in the relevant professions. Please advise on the following:

1. the estimated expenditure on taking forward legislative work on introducing a mandatory reporting regime for suspected child abuse cases; and
2. the estimated expenditure on overseeing the enhancement of training and preparation of guidelines for practitioners in the relevant professions.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

1. The Government has deployed existing resources to take forward legislative work on the setting up of a mandatory reporting regime for suspected child abuse cases. In 2023-24, the Government allocated an additional provision of \$24.1 million (additional full-year provision of \$24.2 million from 2024-25 onwards) for creating 41 permanent posts, enhancing the Government's enforcement and support capacity, providing appropriate training for 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 mandatory reporting regime for child abuse cases.

The Government will allocate an additional provision of \$171.9 million in 2024-25 (additional full-year provision of \$186.5 million from 2025-26 onwards) for increasing the number of emergency places for residential child care service and strengthening professional support for child abuse victims and their families, with a view to making preparation for coping with the possible upsurge in the number of reported child abuse cases after the mandatory reporting regime comes into effect.

2. The Government has kicked start the formulation of the Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide) and invited professional bodies, professionals and key service providers in the social welfare sector, education sector and healthcare sector who would be mandated reporters, to envisage different potential scenarios of handling suspected child abuse/neglect cases under the reporting threshold set out in the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill (the Bill), raise questions and give views. Currently, the professional consultative panels formed by representatives from the sectors concerned at the invitation of the Government are discussing the case scenarios, questions and views collected, on the basis of which a skeleton document of the Guide will be prepared. To tie in with the scrutiny work of the Legislative Council (LegCo), the Government will provide the Bills Committee with the skeleton of the Guide in a timely manner. There will be an 18-month transitional period after the passage of the Bill by the LegCo, during which the professional consultative panels will continue to conduct focus group discussion with professional bodies/service providers in their respective sectors with a view to completing the Guide before the end of the transitional period, so that briefings on the Guide for professional bodies/service providers in their respective sectors can take place well ahead of the commencement of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance.

The Government has set up an e-learning platform to provide training, reference materials and information to relevant professionals. The Child Protection Online Training comprises online self-learning training and webinars. Module 1 of the online self-learning training was launched in February 2024 to provide training on the basic knowledge on child protection. Module 2 will be rolled out in phases after the enactment of the Bill and will cover basic knowledge on the relevant laws and reporting matters related to the new legislation. In addition, the Government will provide enrichment programmes through webinars for professionals to study different topics related to child protection and to enhance cross-sectoral professional collaboration. Questions and answers sessions will also be included according to training needs to encourage interactive learning. The expenditure involved in training and publicity programmes is about \$2.8 million.

Apart from the Child Protection Online Training, relevant bureaux/departments organisations have been providing and will continue to provide training (including talks, seminars, workshops and/or online training etc.) for professionals relevant to child protection and their specific professions to enhance their knowledge and skills in handling suspected child abuse. The Social Welfare Department will also continue to collaborate with different government departments and organisations to strengthen the training of social workers and relevant professionals, with a view to enhancing their capacity for early identification and handling of suspected child abuse cases.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)003

(Question Serial No. 0884)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients (IDSP), please inform this Committee of the following in the past 3 years:

- (1) the manpower and expenditure involved for the Discharge Planning Teams, with a breakdown by year and by hospital/group of hospitals participating in the IDSP;
- (2) the actual number of participants in the IDSP, the details of the support services provided and the expenditures involved, with a breakdown by year and by hospital/group of hospitals and Home Support Teams (HSTs) participating in the IDSP;
- (3) the number of elderly persons referred to the IDSP, with a breakdown by year and by hospital/group of hospitals and HSTs participating in the IDSP;
- (4) the average cost of each case, as well as the service charges and administrative fees of non-governmental organisations;
- (5) the number of cases, the number of users and the utilisation rates of the IDSP, as well as the number of participants who quitted the IDSP and their reasons for quitting, with a breakdown by year and by age group; and
- (6) the rate of unplanned re-admission to hospital of elderly persons participating in the IDSP each year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

Funded by the Labour and Welfare Bureau and operated by the Hospital Authority (HA), the Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients (IDSP) provides transitional and integrated support services for discharged patients aged 60 or above who are at a higher risk of emergency re-admission. Discharge Planning Teams (DPTs) set up by the public hospitals participating in the IDSP, comprising doctors, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, etc., formulate personalised discharge plans for patients. The DPTs partner with Home Support Teams (HSTs), which are operated by community service providers commissioned by the HA and mainly comprising social workers and care workers, to provide post-discharge support for patients to enable them to age in place, including referring patients in need to the HA's geriatric day hospitals for nursing care and rehabilitation

services, or providing transitional home support services through community service providers. The IDSP also provides trainings to carers, covering areas such as nursing care, general and disease-specific personal care, etc.

In the past 3 years (up to the first 2 quarters of 2023-24), about 33 000 patients participated in the IDSP each year, of which about 9 000 patients were referred to home support services upon discharge, and about 12 000 attendances were recorded in the various trainings provided to carers. The Government has expanded the HA's IDSP since the third quarter of 2023, increasing the number of beneficiaries to 45 000 per annum, with the number of referrals to home care services increasing to 11 000 and the number of attendances in the trainings for carers increasing to about 15 000. The annual total expenditure of the IDSP (including the service fees of community service providers) is as follows:

| Year | Total expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 229.0 |
| 2022-23 | 231.5 |
| 2023-24 (revised estimate) | 277.3 |

Given that each case receives different services, it is difficult to calculate the average cost of each case served. The HA does not maintain a breakdown of the number of cases by age group, the number of people who have left the IDSP and their reasons for leaving.

In 2023-24, the list of public hospitals participating in the IDSP and the community service providers operating the partnering HSTs is as follows:

| | Hospitals participating in the IDSP | Community service providers partnering with the hospital groups and operating the HSTs |
|----|---|---|
| 1 | Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital and Ruttonjee Hospital | Methodist Centre |
| 2 | Queen Mary Hospital | Methodist Centre |
| 3 | Kwong Wah Hospital | The Salvation Army |
| 4 | Queen Elizabeth Hospital | The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council |
| 5 | Tseung Kwan O Hospital | Haven of Hope Christian Service |
| 6 | United Christian Hospital | Haven of Hope Christian Service |
| 7 | Caritas Medical Centre | Caritas – Hong Kong |
| 8 | Princess Margaret Hospital and North Lantau Hospital | The Hong Kong Society for the Aged |
| 9 | Yan Chai Hospital | Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Lady MacLehose Centre |
| 10 | Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital | Tung Wah Group of Hospitals |
| 11 | North District Hospital | Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association |
| 12 | Prince of Wales Hospital | The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong) |

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 13 | Tuen Mun Hospital, Pok Oi Hospital and Tin Shui Wai Hospital | The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong) |
|----|--|---|

The IDSP was introduced on a pilot basis in 2008 and has been made a permanent measure since 2012. The HA evaluated the effectiveness of the IDSP based on the data collected during its trial run. The results showed that patients participating in the IDSP experienced a significant reduction in the use of Accident and Emergency services and the number of emergency hospitalisation. There were also improvements in the measuring indicators of their functional capacity, ability in performing daily self-care activities, and quality of life. The HA has been collecting feedback from service users of the HSTs through questionnaires. The data shows that service users and carers are satisfied with the services and trainings provided by the HSTs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)004

(Question Serial No. 0320)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that additional funding will be injected into the Elder Academy (EA) Development Foundation (Foundation) and the operation of the EA Scheme will continue to be overseen. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the number of learning places provided for the elderly under the EA Scheme and the utilisation rate in each of the past 3 years; and
2. the respective numbers of EAs set up in primary and secondary schools and those set up in post-secondary institutions which have received funding from the Foundation, as well as the respective amounts involved in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. From 2021-22 to 2023-24, over 10 000 learning places were provided for the elderly under the Elder Academy (EA) Scheme annually, with an overall enrolment rate reaching 90%.
2. From 2021-22 to 2023-24, a total of 169 EAs set up in primary and secondary schools and six set up in post-secondary institutions received funding from the EA Development Foundation. The respective amounts were about \$12 million and \$1.2 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)005

(Question Serial No. 2771)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (5) Subvention: Shine Skills Centres

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government sets up the Shine Skills Centres to provide vocational training to persons with disabilities aged 15 or above. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the per capita training expenditure for the persons with disabilities supported under the programme; and
2. the number of participating persons with disabilities who are supported under the programme since its set-up and, among them, the number of successful job matches, with breakdown by age and occupation.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1. On the basis of the latest available data on the annual training expenditure, the per capita training expenditure for full-time and part-time programmes of Shine Skills Centres (SSCs) in the 2022/23 academic year (AY) is as follows:

| Programmes | Per Capita Training Expenditure in 2022/23 AY (\$) |
|-------------------|---|
| Full-time | 154,320 |
| Part-time | 16,590 |

2. Since 1991, the Government has been subventing SSCs of the Vocational Training Council to provide vocational training programmes and ancillary services for persons with disabilities aged 15 or above, with a view to improving their employment prospects and preparing them for open employment. SSCs provide 1 060 training places each year, comprising 660 full-time and 400 part-time training places. The numbers of trainees enrolled for the above programmes in the past 5 academic years are as follows:

| Programme | Number of trainees enrolled | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| | 2019/20 AY | 2020/21 AY | 2021/22 AY | 2022/23 AY | 2023/24 AY (Revised Estimate) |
| Full-time (Note 1) | 616 | 704 | 704 | 619 | 660 |
| Part-time (Note 2) | 90 | 337 | 138 | 295 | 400 |

Note 1: Full-time training programmes are normally of 2-year duration. The number of trainees enrolled includes those undergoing both the first and second years of training.

Note 2: In the 2019/20 to 2022/23 AYs, some part-time training programmes were cancelled or postponed due to the COVID-19 epidemic and other reasons.

SSCs provide employment support to trainees, and conduct an employment survey on current graduates of full-time programmes in March every year to find out their employment situation and needs. Statistics derived from the employment surveys on graduates of full-time programmes of SSCs in the past 5 academic years are as follows:

| Employment situation | Number of persons and percentage (Note 3) | | | | |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|------------|--|
| | 2018/19 AY | 2019/20 AY | 2020/21 AY | 2021/22 AY | 2022/23 AY |
| Open employment | 109 (48.2%) | 113 (32.8%) | 101 (29.4%) | 97 (28.6%) | Information not available as the related employment survey has not been completed. |
| Waiting to report duty/ seeking employment | 14 (6.2%) | 37 (10.7%) | 42 (12.2%) | 27 (8.0%) | |
| Supported employment | 19 (8.4%) | 12 (3.5%) | 28 (8.2%) | 24 (7.1%) | |
| Training at sheltered workshops | 24 (10.6%) | 41 (11.9%) | 22 (6.4%) | 24 (7.1%) | |
| Planning for/pursuing further study | 38 (16.8%) | 96 (27.8%) | 100 (29.2%) | 95 (28.0%) | |
| Others or no response to the survey | 22 (9.7%) | 46 (13.3%) | 50 (14.6%) | 72 (21.2%) | |
| Total (Note 4) | 226 (100%) | 345 (100%) | 343 (100%) | 339 (100%) | |

Note 3: Owing to the COVID-19 epidemic, some trainees extended their years of study and delayed their completion of training. In the results of these employment surveys, these trainees were counted under the academic years in which they should have graduated originally.

Note 4: Percentage may not add up to total due to rounding.

As some graduates did not respond to the employment surveys, the above figures on open employment may be underestimated.

Graduates in open employment are mainly hired by the following industries:

| Industry | Number and percentage of graduates in open employment | | | | |
|--|---|------------|------------|------------|--|
| | 2018/19 AY | 2019/20 AY | 2020/21 AY | 2021/22 AY | 2022/23 AY |
| Restaurant and hotel industry | 57 (52.3%) | 49 (43.4%) | 42 (41.6%) | 48 (49.5%) | Information not available as the related employment survey has not been completed. |
| Wholesale, retail and import/export trades | 15 (13.8%) | 16 (14.2%) | 22 (21.8%) | 18 (18.6%) | |
| Community, social and personal services | 15 (13.8%) | 25 (22.1%) | 12 (11.9%) | 11 (11.3%) | |
| Real estate and business services | 7 (6.4%) | 8 (7.1%) | 14 (13.9%) | 3 (3.1%) | |
| Transport, storage and communications | 7 (6.4%) | 6 (5.3%) | 3 (3.0%) | 7 (7.2%) | |
| Others (Note 5) | 8 (7.3%) | 9 (8.0%) | 8 (7.9%) | 10 (10.3%) | |
| Total (Note 6) | 109 (100%) | 113 (100%) | 101 (100%) | 97 (100%) | |

Note 5: Other industries include schools and tutorial schools, manufacturing, finance and insurance, construction, electricity and gas supply, and government departments (excluding those employed by government service contractors and subvented organisations).

Note 6: Percentage may not add up to total due to rounding.

The employment survey results do not capture age-specific statistics.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)006

(Question Serial No. 2604)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (6) Subvention: Guardianship Board and Environmental Advisory Service

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The aim of the programme "Subvention: Guardianship Board and Environmental Advisory Service" is to support the operation of the Guardianship Board for mentally incapacitated persons. According to the Budget, the estimated financial provision for 2024-25 may be 7.9% lower than the original estimate for 2023-24. In this connection, would the Government inform of the following:

- (1) Results of surveys and views of the grassroots have revealed an increasing salience of the mental health problem of Hong Kong people. In such a social context, why is there still a cut in this year's estimate? In what areas will the expenditure be reduced?
- (2) In addition to supporting the operation of the Guardianship Board for mentally incapacitated persons, the subvention also aims to provide specialist information and advice on ways to improve access facilities to meet the special needs of persons with disabilities through the Environmental Advisory Service. What is the estimated financial provision for providing the aforesaid specialist information and advice? If the budget is limited, will consideration be given to handing this task over to a department specialised in monitoring support for persons with disabilities to consolidate the efforts in this aspect, so as to make more effective use of resources?

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

- (1) The Guardianship Board is established under the Mental Health Ordinance (Cap. 136). Its main statutory function is to make guardianship orders for persons aged 18 or above with decision-making incapacities. The subvention for the Guardianship Board aims to provide the necessary resources for its operation. The subvention for the Environmental Advisory Service is used to pay the Rehabaid Society for providing specialist information and advice, with a view to improving access facilities to meet the special needs of persons with disabilities. The provision for this programme in 2024-25 is about \$1.1 million (7.9%) lower than the revised estimate for 2023-24. This is

mainly due to the reduced provision for operational expenses including end-of-contract gratuities.

- (2) In 2024-25, the subvention for the Environmental Advisory Service has been allocated about \$2.34 million for the Rehabaid Society to provide environmental advisory services, mainly including advisory services on environmental design for persons with special needs, conducting training courses and seminars to promote accessible environment, etc.

In addition, under the policy initiative of the Labour and Welfare Bureau, the Buildings Department commissioned a consultant in February 2024 to review the Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 2008 (2021 Edition) to enhance the standards of barrier-free facilities in private buildings, so as to align with the latest needs and international trends, and ensure that the concept of universal design will be integrated in a way that is practical and applicable to the local settings. The estimated expenditure for the related work is \$11 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)007

(Question Serial No. 2605)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Shine Skills Centres

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The subvention for the Shine Skills Centres (SSCs) aims to improve the employment prospects of persons with disabilities and prepare them for open employment. According to the Budget, the estimate for 2024-25 is 5% higher than the original estimate for 2023-24. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Quite a number of persons with disabilities reflected that the prevailing employment situation was difficult, and those with higher education also encountered difficulties in seeking jobs. What are the reasons for no increase in the estimate for 2024/25 for the various key performance indicators as compared with those for 2023/24?
- (2) What are the number of persons with disabilities trained by the SSCs, the employment rate and the number of those employed in government departments and non-government departments in each of the past 5 years?
- (3) What are the latest number of persons with disabilities on the waiting list of SSCs and their average waiting time? Has the Government planned to increase the number of SSCs and their service places in the next 5 years so as to provide further training and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities?
- (4) Has the Government regularly reviewed the effectiveness of the subvention? If yes, what are the details of the review? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

- (1) The key performance indicators for the SSCs are grouped into 4 categories, i.e. the numbers of training places, trainees enrolled and trainees completed training under full-time and part-time programmes, and the number of comprehensive and specific vocational assessments. The estimates for the various key performance indicators for the 2024/25 academic year (AY) are the same as the revised estimates for the 2023/24 AY, mainly taking into consideration the relatively stable enrolment situation in recent years and the number of training places having met the demand for both full-time and part-time training places. The estimates for the 4 indicators for the 2024/25 AY thus

remain unchanged. While the actual and estimated numbers of training places will remain unchanged, the actual figures for the remaining 3 indicators will be updated after the end of the academic year in August.

- (2) The numbers of trainees enrolled in full-time and part-time programmes of the SSCs in the past 5 AYs are as follows:

| Programme | Number of trainees enrolled | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| | 2019/20 AY | 2020/21 AY | 2021/22 AY | 2022/23 AY | 2023/24 AY (Revised Estimate) |
| Full-time (Note 1) | 616 | 704 | 704 | 619 | 660 |
| Part-time (Note 2) | 90 | 337 | 138 | 295 | 400 |

Note 1: Full-time training programmes are normally of two-year duration. The number of trainees enrolled includes those undergoing both the first and second years of training.

Note 2: In the 2019/20 to 2022/23 AYs, some part-time training programmes were cancelled or postponed due to the COVID-19 epidemic and other reasons.

The statistics derived from the employment surveys on the graduates of the full-time programmes of the SSCs in the past 5 AYs are as follows:

| Employment situation | Number of persons and percentage (Note 3) | | | | |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|------------|--|
| | 2018/19 AY | 2019/20 AY | 2020/21 AY | 2021/22 AY | 2022/23 AY |
| Open employment | 109 (48.2%) | 113 (32.8%) | 101 (29.4%) | 97 (28.6%) | Information not available as the related employment survey has not been completed. |
| Waiting to report duty/seeking employment | 14 (6.2%) | 37 (10.7%) | 42 (12.2%) | 27 (8.0%) | |
| Supported employment | 19 (8.4%) | 12 (3.5%) | 28 (8.2%) | 24 (7.1%) | |
| Training at sheltered workshops | 24 (10.6%) | 41 (11.9%) | 22 (6.4%) | 24 (7.1%) | |
| Planning for/pursuing further study | 38 (16.8%) | 96 (27.8%) | 100 (29.2%) | 95 (28.0%) | |
| Others or no response to the survey | 22 (9.7%) | 46 (13.3%) | 50 (14.6%) | 72 (21.2%) | |
| Total (Note 4) | 226 (100%) | 345 (100%) | 343 (100%) | 339 (100%) | |

Note 3: Owing to the COVID-19 epidemic, some trainees extended their years of study and delayed their completion of training. In the results of these employment surveys, these trainees were counted under the academic years in which they should have graduated originally.

Note 4: Percentages may not add up to the total due to rounding.

As some graduates did not respond to the employment surveys, the above figures on open employment may be underestimated.

Graduates in open employment are mainly hired by the following industries, while the numbers of graduates employed by government departments and their employment rates are set out in the item “Others” (see Note 5):

| Industry | Number and percentage of graduates in open employment | | | | |
|--|---|------------|------------|------------|--|
| | 2018/19 AY | 2019/20 AY | 2020/21 AY | 2021/22 AY | 2022/23 AY |
| Restaurants and hotels | 57 (52.3%) | 49 (43.4%) | 42 (41.6%) | 48 (49.5%) | Information not available as the related employment survey has not been completed. |
| Wholesale, retail and import/export trades | 15 (13.8%) | 16 (14.2%) | 22 (21.8%) | 18 (18.6%) | |
| Community, social and personal services | 15 (13.8%) | 25 (22.1%) | 12 (11.9%) | 11 (11.3%) | |
| Real estate and business services | 7 (6.4%) | 8 (7.1%) | 14 (13.9%) | 3 (3.1%) | |
| Transport, storage and communications | 7 (6.4%) | 6 (5.3%) | 3 (3.0%) | 7 (7.2%) | |
| Others (Note 5) | 8 (7.3%) | 9 (8.0%) | 8 (7.9%) | 10 (10.3%) | |
| Total (Note 6) | 109 (100%) | 113 (100%) | 101 (100%) | 97 (100%) | |

Note 5: Other industries include schools and tutorial schools, manufacturing, finance and insurance, construction, electricity and gas supply, and government departments (excluding those employed by government service contractors and government subvented organisations).

Note 6: Percentages may not add up to the total due to rounding.

- (3) In the past 5 years, applicants meeting the admission requirements of full-time programme after assessment were all given admission offers, while part-time training programmes catering to the demand from non-governmental organisations were all offered. The number of training places could meet the demand and waiting was not required.
- (4) The Vocational Training Council (VTC) has set up the Vocational Training Board for People with Disabilities, comprising members from the business and rehabilitation sectors as well as representatives of relevant government bureaux and departments, to advise on the services, operation and effectiveness of the SSCs. The SSCs review programme contents annually having regard to the development and needs of the industries, including seeking advice from practitioners of relevant industries and modifying programme contents or developing new programmes as necessary. The VTC also submits annual reports on the operation of the SSCs to the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB). The LWB will continue to review these services as appropriate.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)008

(Question Serial No. 1815)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Sham Shui Po Community Living Room (CLR), would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) information on: (i) the number of families served, (ii) the number of members registered, (iii) the average daily attendances; (iv) the average weekly number and the total number of hours of bookings for facilities (including laundry, shared cooking space and shower cubicles etc.); and (v) the number and nature of classes organised since the launch of the Sham Shui Po CLR;
- (2) the number of cases in need of referral to appropriate community services as identified by social workers of the CLR;
- (3) whether the Government has identified suitable sites at present as it had revealed earlier that the CLR programme will be extended to To Kwa Wan and Hung Hom, with an ultimate goal of having a CLR in each district. If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (4) whether the Government will consider purchasing premises to develop CLR through the programme of "Purchase of Premises for the Provision of Welfare Facilities" to ensure stable provision of venues. If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

- (1) and (2) The Government's Pilot Programme on Community Living Room (Pilot Programme) is implemented through tripartite collaboration of the Government, the business sector and the community. It is spearheaded by the Government with premises provided by the business sector and operations run by social welfare organisations commissioned by the Government through funding from the Community Care Fund (CCF). The Pilot Programme is implemented in districts clustered with households residing in subdivided units (SDUs), to provide SDU households with additional living space and help them establish social networks, thereby

enhancing their living standard and sense of belonging to the community. The Sham Shui Po Community Living Room (CLR), which is the first project under the Pilot Programme, commenced operation in December 2023 for a period of 3 years. The key service statistics as at end-February 2024 are set out below:

| Key service statistics | Total (as at end- February 2024) |
|---|---|
| Number of SDU households benefitted | 235 households |
| Number of registered members | 534 persons |
| Cumulative attendances | 14 806 attendances |
| Number of mutual aid groups, talks/activities on health and community resources organised | 14 activities (Note) |
| Number of cases referred to community services | 2 cases |

(Note) Some activities provided more than 1 session.

As the Sham Shui Po CLR has commenced operation for a relatively short period of time, the statistics on the utilisation of individual facilities are not available at this juncture.

- (3) and (4) In March 2024, the Commission on Poverty approved the funding from the CCF to support the launch of 3 new CLRs in To Kwa Wan, Hung Hom and Nam Cheong respectively within 2024. The 3 new CLRs will operate for a period of 3 years, with implementation arrangements similar to those of the Sham Shui Po CLR in general.

The Government will continue to foster tripartite collaboration of the Government, the business sector and the community, and encourage active participation from the business sector in providing venues to set up CLRs in districts clustered with SDU households (such as Yau Tsim Mong, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City and Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing), with a view to benefitting more SDU households.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)009

(Question Serial No. 1817)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Child Development Fund (CDF), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the number of participants recruited in each of the past 3 batches of school-based and non-governmental organisation (NGO)-led projects, with a breakdown by different operating NGOs and schools;
- (2) the percentage of participants who completed the requirement of targeted savings in the past 3 batches of school-based and NGO-led projects;
- (3) whether the Government has assessed the effectiveness of the CDF in alleviating intergenerational poverty; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (4) there are views that the similarity in the nature, concepts and objectives of the CDF and the Strive and Rise Programme may give rise to the problem of duplication of resources, whether the Government will consider merging the 2 programmes to optimise the use of resources; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

- (1) & (2) Details of the Child Development Fund (CDF) projects completed in recent years are as follows:

| Year of implementation [Note 1] | Number of schools [Note 2]/operating NGOs [Note 3] involved | Number of participants | Percentage of participants who have completed the targeted savings programme |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| School-based projects | | | |
| 2018-21 | 10 | 530 | 98.3% |
| 2019-22 | 14 | 748 | 97.5% |
| 2020-23 | 6 [Note 4] | 294 [Note 4] | 96.9% |
| NGO-led projects | | | |
| 2015-18 | 19 | 2 898 | 94.5% |

| Year of implementation [Note 1] | Number of schools [Note 2]/operating NGOs [Note 3] involved | Number of participants | Percentage of participants who have completed the targeted savings programme |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| 2017-20 | 21 | 2 856 | 96.4% |
| 2019-22 | 19 | 2 808 | 96.0% |

Note 1: Each CDF project lasts for 3 years.

Note 2: Only “applicant schools” are counted, excluding “partner schools”.

Note 3: Only “applicant NGOs” are counted, excluding “partner NGOs”. An “Applicant NGO” organising projects in more than 1 district/area in the same batch is counted once.

Note 4: There was a decrease in the number of schools involved and the number of participants owing to the outbreak of COVID-19 epidemic.

- (3) Since the launch of the CDF, the Government has commissioned local universities on 3 occasions to conduct consultancy studies on the projects funded by the CDF, so as to evaluate their effectiveness and their impact on the development progress of participants after graduation from the project. The findings of the studies, which were published in 2013, 2017 and 2020 respectively, consistently showed that the CDF projects had positive impacts on underprivileged children. The projects were effective in developing a positive learning and working attitude for underprivileged children in the long run. The projects also improved significantly participants’ social skills, problem-solving abilities, resource management, future planning, etc., and at the same time helped them develop persistent saving habits. The projects contributed positively to the alleviation of intergenerational poverty. The Labour and Welfare Bureau will continue to oversee the implementation of CDF projects and conduct evaluations as appropriate.
- (4) The Social Welfare Department completed the overall review of the CDF Programme in 2023 to enhance the uniqueness and competitiveness of the Programme, with an aim to ensure the most effective use of resources in supporting underprivileged children. Relevant enhancement measures have been introduced in the projects to be launched this year, such as positioning the target participants to Primary 3 to Primary 6 students to enable the underprivileged children to benefit from the CDF Programme, including character building and development of positive attributes, values and saving habits, at an early developmental stage through the 3 key components, namely “Personal Development Plans”, “Mentorship” and “Targeted Savings”. The enhanced CDF Programme will run in tandem with the Strive and Rise Programme, which focuses on supporting Secondary 1 to 4 students from underprivileged families, particularly those living in sub-divided units, with a view to catering the needs of Primary 3 to Secondary 4 students from underprivileged families in different stages of development and creating synergy.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)010

(Question Serial No. 2697)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In 2023, did the Labour and Welfare Bureau engage external lawyers for consultancy services in accordance with the Stores and Procurement Regulations of the Government without first seeking assistance from the Department of Justice? If so, what were the nature of such services and the expenditures incurred?

Asked by: Hon LAM San-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

The Labour and Welfare Bureau did not engage external lawyers for consultancy services in 2023-24.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)011

(Question Serial No. 0512)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Legislative Council has started to deliberate on the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill since June 2023. The Government has kick-started the formulation of the Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide) and will invite mandated reporters to participate in the three-stage process. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Stage 2 on the formulation of the Guide is conducted between January and April 2024. The Government will form 3 professional consultative panels, each in the social welfare sector, education sector and healthcare sector, to conduct focus group discussion on the scenarios, questions and advice collected from their respective sector under Stage 1, and knock out a skeleton document of the Guide based on such advice for submission to the Bills Committee in a timely manner. How many sessions of focus group discussion has the Government conducted so far? Can the progress in the formulation of the Guide keep up with the original schedule? If not, what are the reasons?
- (2) Would the Government inform this Committee of the member lists of the 3 professional consultative panels? If not, what are the reasons?
- (3) When does the Government expect to submit the skeleton document of the Guide to the Bills Committee?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

- (1) and (3) The Government has kicked start the formulation of the Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide) and invited professional bodies, professionals and key service providers in the social welfare sector, education sector and healthcare sector who would be mandated reporters, to envisage different potential scenarios of handling suspected child abuse/neglect cases under the reporting threshold set out in the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill (the Bill), raise questions and give views. Currently, the professional consultative panels formed by representatives from the sectors concerned at the invitation of the Government are discussing the case scenarios, questions and views collected, on the basis

of which a skeleton document of the Guide will be prepared. To tie in with the scrutiny work of the Legislative Council (LegCo), the Government will provide the Bills Committee with the skeleton of the Guide in a timely manner. There will be an 18-month transitional period after the passage of the Bill by the LegCo, during which the professional consultative panels will continue to conduct focus group discussion with professional bodies/service providers in their respective sectors with a view to completing the Guide before the end of the transitional period, so that briefings on the Guide for professional bodies/service providers in their respective sectors can take place well ahead of the commencement of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance.

- (2) The Government has formed professional consultative panels, each in the social welfare sector, education sector and healthcare sector, comprising representatives from relevant government departments as well as professional bodies and service providers in the sectors concerned. The membership of the professional consultative panels is set out in the Annex.

Membership of the Professional Consultative Panels

Social Welfare Sector

Convenor

Chief Social Work Officer (Domestic Violence), Social Welfare Department

Members (*in alphabetical order of members' surnames*)

Mr Kerin CHAM

Ms CHAN Siu-lai

Ms CHAN Yuet-wah, Judy

Mr CHIANG Chi-hang, Louis

Mrs CHIU CHUI Yuen-fun, Angela

Ms LEE Yuen-sum, Joyce

Ms LEE Yuk-chi, Josephine

Mrs LEUNG LEE Pui-shan, SaSa

Ms LEUNG Wai-ling, Rachel

Ms WONG Chui-ling, Donna

Ms WONG Sim-yim, Rebecca

Mr YUEN Hon-lam, Joseph

Education Sector

Convenor

Principal Inspector (Guidance & Discipline), Education Bureau

Members *(in alphabetical order of members' surnames)*

Ms CHEUNG Hiu-nam

Ms CHEUNG Oi-lin

Mr CHEUNG Yat-ming, Ryan

Ms CHU Pui-man, Peggy

Ms CHUNG Lai-kam, Kathy

Mr FUNG Tze-shun, Josiah

Dr KAM Shau-wan, Sanly

Ms LAM Chui-ling

Mr LAM Tak-yuk, Eddie

Dr LAU Hing-keung, George

Dr LAU Yiu-hung

Mr LEE Lung-fai

Mr LI Kin-man

Ms LIU Fung-heung, Wisa

Ms PUN Siu-fung, Cindy

Dr SUEN Ka-chun

Ms WONG Hoi-ngan

Healthcare Sector

Convenor

Dr LEE Kwok-piu

Members *(in alphabetical order of members' surnames)*

Mr Clement CHAN

Mr CHAN Man-nok

Dr Rony CHO

Mr Edmond FAN

Ms Henny HUI

Prof Patrick IP

Dr LAM Siu-man

Dr LAM Wing-wo

Miss MAN Bo-lin, Manbo

Dr Axel SIU

Dr Angela SZE

Dr TSE Sut-yee

Mr Gary WONG

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)012

(Question Serial No. 0513)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Legislative Council has started to deliberate on the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill (the Bill) since June 2023. The Government has kick-started the formulation of the Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide) and plans to introduce an 18-month transitional period after the passage of the Bill with a view to strengthening training for the relevant practitioners, as well as reviewing and amending the professional codes of practice/guidelines. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the resources and manpower expected to be involved in the abovementioned training and support during the transitional period?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

To dovetail with the commencement of the proposed Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance), the Government will provide training for mandated reporters and draw up a practice guide to assist them in identifying target cases for early identification, reporting and intervention, as well as reducing over-reporting.

The Government has kicked start the formulation of the Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide) and invited professional bodies, professionals and key service providers in the social welfare sector, education sector and healthcare sector who would be mandated reporters, to envisage different potential scenarios of handling suspected child abuse/neglect cases under the reporting threshold set out in the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill (the Bill), raise questions and give views. Currently, the professional consultative panels formed by representatives from the sectors concerned at the invitation of the Government are discussing the case scenarios, questions and views collected are discussed by professional consultative panels formed by representatives from the sectors concerned at the invitation of the Government, on the basis of which a skeleton document of the Guide will be prepared. To tie in with the scrutiny work of the Legislative Council (LegCo), the Government will provide the Bills Committee with the skeleton of the Guide in a timely manner. There will be an 18-

month transitional period after the passage of the Bill by the LegCo, during which the professional consultative panels will continue to conduct focus group discussion with professional bodies/service providers in their respective sectors with a view to completing the Guide before the end of the transitional period, so that briefings on the Guide for professional bodies/service providers in their respective sectors can take place well ahead of the commencement of the Ordinance.

The Government has set up an e-learning platform to provide training, reference materials and information to relevant professionals. The Child Protection Online Training comprises online self-learning training and webinars. Module 1 of the online self-learning training was launched in February 2024 to provide training on the basic knowledge on child protection. Module 2 will be rolled out in phases after the enactment of the Bill and will cover basic knowledge on the relevant laws and reporting matters related to the new legislation. In addition, the Government will provide enrichment programmes through webinars for professionals to study different topics related to child protection and to enhance cross-sectoral professional collaboration. Questions and answers sessions will also be included according to training needs to encourage interactive learning. The expenditure involved in training and publicity programmes is about \$2.8 million.

Apart from the Child Protection Online Training, relevant bureaux/departments (B/Ds)/organisations have been providing and will continue to provide training (including talks, seminars, workshops and/or online training etc.) for professionals relevant to child protection and their specific professions to enhance their knowledge and skills in handling suspected child abuse. The Social Welfare Department will also continue to collaborate with different government departments and organisations to strengthen the training of social workers and relevant professionals, with a view to enhancing their capacity for early identification and handling of suspected child abuse cases.

Upon the enactment of the Bill, the B/Ds concerned will invite professional bodies under their respective purviews to review and amend their professional codes of practice/guidelines as necessary to ensure that these codes/guidelines are in line with the new legislation. The B/Ds concerned have already made initial contacts with relevant professional bodies to secure their understanding and support.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)013

(Question Serial No. 0514)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) has started to deliberate on the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill (the Bill) since June 2023. The Government has kick-started the formulation of the Mandated Reporter Guide. Stakeholders in various professional fields, particularly mandated reporters under the Bill, have submitted their views on the Bill since the LegCo started the deliberation. In view of the concern from various stakeholders, will the Government allocate additional resources to ensure that the stakeholders have a full grasp of the Ordinance during the transitional period? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

To dovetail with the commencement of the proposed Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance), the Government will provide training for mandated reporters and draw up a practice guide to assist them in identifying target cases for early identification, reporting and intervention, as well as reducing over-reporting.

The Government has kicked start the formulation of the Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide) and invited professional bodies, professionals and key service providers in the social welfare sector, education sector and healthcare sector who would be mandated reporters, to envisage different potential scenarios of handling suspected child abuse/neglect cases under the reporting threshold set out in the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill (the Bill), raise questions and give views. Currently, the professional consultative panels formed by representatives from the sectors concerned at the invitation of the Government are discussing the case scenarios, questions and views collected, on the basis of which a skeleton document of the Guide will be prepared. To tie in with the scrutiny work of the Legislative Council (LegCo), the Government will provide the Bills Committee with the skeleton of the Guide in a timely manner. There will be an 18-month transitional period after the passage of the Bill by the LegCo, during which the professional consultative panels will continue to conduct

focus group discussion with professional bodies/service providers in their respective sectors with a view to completing the Guide before the end of the transitional period, so that briefings on the Guide for professional bodies/service providers in their respective sectors can take place well ahead of the commencement of the Ordinance.

The Government has set up an e-learning platform to provide training, reference materials and information to relevant professionals. The Child Protection Online Training comprises online self-learning training and webinars. Module 1 of the online self-learning training was launched in February 2024 to provide training on the basic knowledge on child protection. Module 2 will be rolled out in phases after the enactment of the Bill and will cover basic knowledge on the relevant laws and reporting matters related to the new legislation. In addition, the Government will provide enrichment programmes through webinars for professionals to study different topics related to child protection and to enhance cross-sectoral professional collaboration. Questions and answers sessions will also be included according to training needs to encourage interactive learning. The expenditure involved in training and publicity programmes is about \$2.8 million.

Apart from the Child Protection Online Training, relevant bureaux/departments organisations have been providing and will continue to provide training (including talks, seminars, workshops and/or online training etc.) for professionals relevant to child protection and their specific professions to enhance their knowledge and skills in handling suspected child abuse. The Social Welfare Department will also continue to collaborate with different government departments and organisations to strengthen the training of social workers and relevant professionals, with a view to enhancing their capacity for early identification and handling of suspected child abuse cases.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)014

(Question Serial No. 0538)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

As mentioned in the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address, the Government will, apart from embarking on a study to tackle the issue of subdivided units in the long term, launch a Pilot Programme on Community Living Room (CLR). Will the Government inform this Committee of whether the scope of site identification for CLRs may be expanded by making reference to that for Light Public Housing and transitional housing?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

The current-term Government adopts the strategy of targeted poverty alleviation by directing resources to those most in need. Households residing in subdivided units (SDUs) are one of the target groups identified by the Commission on Poverty (CoP). To provide focused support to SDU households, the Government has launched the Pilot Programme on Community Living Room (CLR) through tripartite collaboration of the Government, the business sector and the community. Spearheaded by the Government with premises provided by the business sector and CLRs operated by social welfare organisations, the Pilot Programme is implemented in districts clustered with SDU households. The CLRs will provide these households with additional living space and help them establish social networks, thereby enhancing their living standard and sense of belonging to the community. The first project under the Pilot Programme is the Sham Shui Po CLR, which commenced operation in December 2023 and has received positive feedback since its launch.

In March 2024, CoP approved the funding from the Community Care Fund to support the launch of 3 new CLRs in To Kwa Wan, Hung Hom and Nam Cheong respectively within 2024. The 3 new CLRs will operate for a period of 3 years, with implementation arrangements similar to those of the Sham Shui Po CLR in generally.

The Government will continue to foster tripartite collaboration of the Government, the business sector and the community, and encourage active participation from the business

sector in setting up CLRs in districts clustered with SDU households (such as Yau Tsim Mong, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City and Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing), with a view to benefitting more SDU households.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)015

(Question Serial No. 2163)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The first Community Living Room (CLR) was rolled out in December 2023 and has been well-received. The Government expects to review the effectiveness 1 year after operation, and considers extending the pilot programme to other communities clustered with households residing in subdivided units (SDUs). In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. what is the estimated total amount of resources allocated by the Government for operating the CLR in the 2024-25 financial year?
2. the total number of SDU households who have been served by the Sham Shui Po CLR and the total attendances since the launch of the project?
3. it is mentioned in the 2023 Policy Address that the target of the CLR is to enable no less than 70% of service users to experience an enhancement in their living space, sense of belonging to the community and interpersonal networks. How does the Government measure the above indicators? Has the current operation of the CLR met the target?
4. the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Chris SUN, stated that 3 more CLRs will be set up in Sham Shui Po and Kowloon City in the coming 6 months. What are the specific sites, service commencement dates and the criteria for selecting operators? What are the respective expenditures for the 3 CLRs?
5. whether the Government has any specific plan to extend the CLR to other districts in addition to the 4 CLRs being operated and planned currently? If yes, what are the expected sites and service commencement dates? If not, what are the reasons?

The Government expects to review the effectiveness of the CLR project 1 year after its trial operation. What criteria and indicators will the Government adopt for the review, and how will the effectiveness be measured and evaluated? What criteria will be adopted to decide whether the CLR should be extended and regularised?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1. The Government's Pilot Programme on Community Living Room (Pilot Programme) is implemented through tripartite collaboration of the Government, the business sector and the community. It is spearheaded by the Government with premises provided by the business sector and operations run by social welfare organisations commissioned by the Government through funding from the Community Care Fund (CCF). The Pilot Programme is implemented in districts clustered with households residing in subdivided units (SDUs), to provide SDU households with additional living space and help them establish social networks, thereby enhancing their living standard and sense of belonging to the community. The Sham Shui Po Community Living Room (CLR), which is the first project under the Pilot Programme, commenced operation in December 2023 for a period of 3 years, with total funding support (including allowance and administrative fees) of \$26.75 million from CCF.
2. The Sham Shui Po CLR commenced operation in December 2023, benefiting 235 SDU households, with a cumulative total of 14 806 attendances, as at end-February 2024.
- 3, 4 and 5. In March 2024, the Commission on Poverty approved the proposal for CCF to provide funding for provision of 3 new CLRs in To Kwa Wan, Hung Hom and Nam Cheong respectively within 2024. The 3 new CLRs will operate for a period of 3 years, with implementation arrangements similar to those of the Sham Shui Po CLR in general. The respective funding amounts are \$31.31 million, \$24.70 million and \$17.32 million, totalling around \$73.33 million.

The Government has set key performance indicator (KPI) for projects under the Pilot Programme. The KPI is considered met if no less than 70% of members experience enhancement in their living space, sense of belonging to the community and social networks after using the CLR facilities. Based on the KPI, social welfare organisations responsible for operating the CLRs will arrange a "Service User Opinion Survey" for service users to complete to assess effectiveness of services provided.

The Government will continue to foster tripartite collaboration of the Government, the business sector and the community, and encourage active participation from the business sector in setting up CLRs in districts clustered with SDU households (such as Yau Tsim Mong, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City and Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing), with a view to benefitting more SDU households.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)016

(Question Serial No. 2173)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is stated in the Budget that the Government will allocate funding of about \$130 million from the Community Care Fund to provide an additional subsidy of \$500 per month for employed disabled recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) as an incentive for employment. Would the Government inform this Committee: apart from cash subsidy, whether the Government will provide assistance for disabled recipients of CSSA intending to join the workforce; if yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

The Government is committed to promoting employment of persons with disabilities so that they can take up productive and gainful employment in the open market on the basis of their abilities. In this connection, the Labour and Welfare Bureau subvents the Shine Skills Centres under the Vocational Training Council to offer a range of vocational training programmes and ancillary services to persons with disabilities aged 15 or above who are assessed as having the potential for open employment.

In addition, for job seekers with disabilities who are fit for open employment, the Labour Department (LD) provides personalised employment services, including employment counselling, job matching and referral, and post-placement follow-up services. The LD implements the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme (WOPS) to encourage employers to hire persons with disabilities. Under the WOPS, eligible employers will be granted an allowance at a maximum of \$60,000 during the 9-month allowance period for engaging each person with disabilities. At the same time, the LD has been promoting the employment of persons with disabilities, enhancing the public's acceptance and support to them, and actively liaising with employers of different sectors to enhance their understanding of the work capabilities of persons with disabilities and encourage them to provide more job vacancies for persons with disabilities.

For persons with disabilities who are unable to take up open employment, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) subvents non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide vocational rehabilitation and training services, such as sheltered workshops, supported employment, integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres and integrated vocational training centres, etc., to enable persons with disabilities with different needs to receive appropriate vocational rehabilitation services in a specially designed training environment, so as to learn to adapt to general work requirements, including developing social skills and building interpersonal relationships. The service operators provide job analysis, job matching and job-specific training for trainees who are ready for employment. They also provide placement-tied skill training, including job attachment and on-the-job training as well as post-placement services.

Moreover, the SWD has been implementing the Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise Project to provide NGOs with seed money to start up small enterprises/businesses, to create employment and on-the-job training opportunities for persons with disabilities. At least half of the employees of the enterprises/businesses receiving funding support must be persons with disabilities. Under the Project, funding support is given in the form of a one-off grant to assist the grantee to pay the necessary set-up costs such as equipment and fitting-out works and/or the anticipated operating loss for the initial period up to 3 years. The maximum amount of the grant is \$3 million.

The SWD has also launched the Support Programme for Employees with Disabilities (SPED) to support persons with disabilities to take up employment. Through the SPED, employers can apply for a one-off subsidy, up to \$40,000 per employee with disabilities, for procurement of assistive devices and/or workplace modifications, to assist employees with disabilities in discharging their duties in the workplace and enhance their work efficiency.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)017

(Question Serial No. 2939)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Shine Skills Centres

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Shine Skills Centres (SSCs) is a leading institution offering vocational training to persons with disabilities aged 15 or above to prepare them for open employment. It is mentioned under this Programme that “the overall performance of the SSCs in the 2023/24 academic year (AY) is expected to be satisfactory”. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the benchmarks for assessing the performance of the SSCs? Is the employment situation of graduates one of these benchmarks?
2. The SSCs currently offer 2-year full-time programmes covering 3 streams, namely the business stream, the information technology stream and the service stream. What was the number of applicants under each stream in each of the past 3 years? Will new streams be introduced in the future to cater for the needs of the job market?
3. Further to the above, what were the graduation rate and placement rate of trainees under each of the aforesaid streams in the past 3 years?
4. What is the current manpower deployed to the Shine Vocational Assessment Service? What was the number of service recipients in each of the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

1. The key performance indicators for the SSCs include the number of training places for full-time and part-time programmes, the number of trainees enrolled, the number of trainees completed training, and the number of comprehensive and specific vocational assessments made. Moreover, to provide continuous employment support to trainees, an employment survey on current graduates of full-time programmes is conducted in March every year to find out their employment situation and needs.
2. As applicants may enrol in programmes under the business, information technology and service streams concurrently, the SSCs do not maintain statistics on the number of applicants by study stream. The SSCs arrange suitable programmes for applicants

based on the results of assessments and admission interviews. The numbers of training places for full-time programmes in the 2023/24 AY are as follows:

| Full-time programmes in the 2023/24 AY | | | Number of training places |
|--|---|--|---------------------------|
| Study Stream | Business | | 162 |
| | Information technology | | 102 |
| | Service | | 366 |
| Others | Fundamental vocational training programme | | 30 |

Applicants meeting the admission requirements after assessment were all given admission offers. The Vocational Training Council will timely review the service of the SSCs and the demand of the employment market to enhance the programmes offered and delivery of service.

3. The employment survey results on graduates of full-time programmes do not provide statistical figures by study stream. Statistics derived from the employment surveys in the past 3 academic years are as follows:

| Employment situation | Number of persons and percentage (Note 1) | | |
|---|---|------------|--|
| | 2020/21 AY | 2021/22 AY | 2022/23 AY |
| Open employment | 101(29.4%) | 97(28.6%) | Information not available as the related employment survey has not been completed. |
| Waiting to report duty/seeking employment | 42(12.2%) | 27(8.0%) | |
| Supported employment | 28(8.2%) | 24(7.1%) | |
| Training at sheltered workshops | 22(6.4%) | 24(7.1%) | |
| Planning for/pursuing further study | 100(29.2%) | 95(28.0%) | |
| Others or no response to the survey | 50(14.6%) | 72(21.2%) | |
| Total (Note 2) | 343(100%) | 339(100%) | |

Note 1: Owing to the COVID-19 epidemic, some trainees extended their years of study and delayed their completion of training. In the results of these employment surveys, these trainees were counted under the academic years in which they should have graduated originally.

Note 2: Percentage may not add up to total due to rounding.

As some graduates did not respond to the employment surveys, the above figures on open employment may be underestimated.

Graduates in open employment are mainly hired by the following industries:

| Industry | Number and percentage of graduates in open employment | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------------|----------------------------------|
| | 2020/21 AY | 2021/22 AY | 2022/23 AY |
| Restaurant and hotel industry | 42(41.6%) | 48(49.5%) | Information not available as the |

| Industry | Number and percentage of graduates in open employment | | |
|--|--|------------|---|
| | 2020/21 AY | 2021/22 AY | 2022/23 AY |
| Wholesale, retail and import/export trades | 22(21.8%) | 18(18.6%) | related employment survey has not been completed. |
| Community, social and personal services | 12(11.9%) | 11(11.3%) | |
| Real estate and business services | 14(13.9%) | 3(3.1%) | |
| Transport, storage and communications | 3(3.0%) | 7(7.2%) | |
| Others (Note 3) | 8(7.9%) | 10(10.3%) | |
| Total (Note 4) | 101(100%) | 97(100%) | |

Note 3: Other industries include schools and tutorial schools, manufacturing, finance and insurance, construction, electricity and gas supply, and government departments (excluding those employed by government service contractors and subvented organisations).

Note 4: Percentage may not add up to total due to rounding.

In general, all trainees of the SSCs can graduate. Individual trainees may delay graduation or drop out due to various circumstances. The SSCs do not maintain statistics on the graduation rates of trainees.

4. The Shine vocational assessment team comprises 12 members, including occupational therapists, student counsellors, senior teachers and executive officers. The numbers of comprehensive and specific vocational assessments completed in the past 3 academic years are as follows:

| Assessment Programme | Number of vocational assessments completed | | |
|----------------------|--|------------|----------------------------------|
| | 2021/22 AY | 2022/23 AY | 2023/24 AY (revised estimate) |
| Comprehensive | 96 | 138 | 180 |
| Specific | 808 | 1 021 | 870 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)018

(Question Serial No. 3188)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned under the Programme that support services will be provided to families, including those in disadvantaged circumstances and lacking means to meet their needs. The current-term Government has launched a Pilot Programme on Community Living Room (CLR), under which the business sector will provide venues and the Community Care Fund will provide funding to commission non-governmental organisations to operate the CLRs. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. it is learned that 3 new CLRs are now under planning, what is the current progress and the expected commissioning date? Which services are more popular in the CLR currently in operation?
2. what is the estimated number of members and attendances of the Pilot Programme on CLR?
3. whether the Government will continually discuss with the business sector to see if more venues can be made available for setting up CLRs in more districts. If yes, what are the details? What is the estimated number of service units which the CLRs will collaborate with for the provision of community information, health assessment, community support and referral services?
4. what is the estimated expenditure involved in each of the CLR projects?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

1. and 2. The Pilot Programme on Community Living Room (Pilot Programme) is implemented through tripartite collaboration of the Government, the business sector and the community. It is spearheaded by the Government with premises provided by the business sector and operations run by social welfare organisations commissioned by the Government through funding from the Community Care Fund (CCF). The Pilot Programme is implemented in districts clustered with households residing in subdivided units (SDUs), to provide SDU households with additional living space and help them establish social networks, thereby enhancing their living standard and sense of belonging to the community. The first project

under the Pilot Programme is the Sham Shui Po Community Living Room (CLR), which commenced operation in December 2023 for a period of 3 years. It is expected to serve at least 500 SDU households, with about 80 000 attendances a year. As the Sham Shui Po CLR has commenced operation for a relatively short period of time, the statistics on the utilisation of individual facilities are not available at this juncture.

In March 2024, the Commission on Poverty approved the proposal for CCF to provide funding for provision of 3 new CLRs in To Kwa Wan, Hung Hom and Nam Cheong respectively within 2024. The 3 new CLRs will operate for a period of 3 years, with implementation arrangements similar to those of the Sham Shui Po CLR in general.

3. The Government will continue to foster tripartite collaboration of the Government, the business sector and the community, and encourage active participation from the business sector in setting up CLRs in districts clustered with SDU households (such as Yau Tsim Mong, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City and Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing), with a view to benefitting more SDU households. Social welfare organisations responsible for operating the CLRs will, having regard to the specific needs of the district concerned, collaborate with local stakeholders for provision of community information, health assessment, community support and referral services, etc.
4. Social welfare organisations are commissioned through funding from CCF to operate CLRs. Operating expenditure covers equipment, furniture and manpower, etc. (but excluding venue rentals, management fees or costs of fitting-out works). The funding amounts for the 3 new CLR projects are \$31.31 million, \$24.70 million and \$17.32 million respectively, or around \$73.33 million in total. Arrangements for each CLR project, including equipment, furniture, manpower, etc., will be adjusted as appropriate with reference to those of similar welfare services and the area of the service units concerned.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)019

(Question Serial No. 0444)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The provision for 2024-25 under this Programme is \$674.6 million, which is considerably higher than the revised provision for 2023-24 by 27.0%. According to the Controlling Officer's explanation, the increase is mainly due to increase in operational expenses and the cash flow requirement for a non-recurrent item. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the details of this non-recurrent item; and
- (b) the manpower and resources allocated for 2024-25 to this non-recurrent item?

Asked by: Hon LOONG Hon-biu, Louis (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The non-recurrent item is the injection of \$40 million into the Elder Academy (EA) Development Foundation in 2024-25 for the sustainable development of the EA Scheme and promotion of active ageing. No additional manpower will be involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)020

(Question Serial No. 0694)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government has engaged a consultant to assist the Commission on Children (CoC) in conducting a study to explore the feasibility and implementation framework of developing a Central Databank on Children (CDC) in Hong Kong to enable the Government and/or relevant non-government stakeholders to collect and share useful data on children. The relevant report was published in mid-2023, which recommended that the establishment of a CDC in Hong Kong should take 10 years in 2 phases, in which the first 5 years will involve the consolidation of data on children across bureaux/departments with emphasis on the monitoring of the macro trend of children and children in 2 priority areas, as well as the commencement of studies on the 2 priority areas of “Children with Risk of Abuse and Neglect” and “Children with Special Educational Needs”; while the second phase involves linkage of various data, longitudinal studies, etc. It is understood that the CoC has accepted the study report. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- whether the Bureau has accepted the recommendations made in the study report. If yes, please give an account of the relevant follow-up actions made by the Bureau with regard to the report, including the implementation framework and timetable for the development of the CDC, as well as the expenditure and manpower deployment involved. If not, what are the reasons?
- the preparation work of the Bureau on the establishment of the databank in 2 phases, as well as the expected time to commence the studies on the 2 priority areas and the specific details; and
- the report recommended the establishment of an office within the Government to implement the work of the CDC, which will be overseen by a working group under the CoC. What is the progress of such work?

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The Government engaged a Consultant to assist the Commission on Children (CoC) in conducting a study to explore the feasibility and implementation framework of developing a

Central Databank on Children (CDC) in Hong Kong. The Consultant drew on overseas experience and views collected from various local stakeholders, and developed the guiding principles for collecting data on children and a management mechanism for projects of the CDC, as well as an information technology framework and a data alignment plan. The study was completed in August 2023 and the report of the study was accepted by CoC. CoC also noted that the development of the CDC involved complex issues, including technical issues such as system security and the scope of data linkage across the databases, as well as the privacy issues arising therefrom. The Government will carefully study the recommendations of the report.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)021

(Question Serial No. 0711)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In 2024-25, the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) will take forward legislative work on introducing a mandatory reporting regime for suspected child abuse cases, and oversee the enhancement of training and preparation of guidelines for practitioners in the relevant professions (the Guidelines) to facilitate early identification of child abuse cases and strengthening of support for child abuse victims and their families. In addition, the Government will also continue to support the Commission on Children (CoC) in implementing various measures to safeguard the interest and well-being of children. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- the progress of the Government's work in preparing the Guidelines and the related expenditure in the 2024-25 financial year, as well as the timetable and estimate for the coming year;
- the LWB has indicated that in order to provide sufficient lead time for "mandatory reporters" to complete the relevant training and for the relevant professional bodies to review and revise the codes of professional practice or guidelines, it is proposed that the mandatory reporting regime be implemented 18 months after the gazettal of the legislation. What measures and resources will the Government have during the 18-month period to ensure and assist various stakeholders in completing the training, as well as reviewing and revising the codes of professional practice or guidelines? Has the Government set any detailed work targets and timetable for the transitional period?
- the specific work, standards and indicators of the LWB in supporting the CoC to implement various measures for safeguarding the interest and well-being of children, apart from assisting in holding meetings; and
- on policies affecting children (including but not limited to the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill and the Advance Decision on Life-sustaining Treatment Bill), has the LWB facilitated CoC members in joining the discussion of related policies? If yes, please explain in detail the assistance provided for each policy; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

The Government has kicked start the formulation of the Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide) and invited professional bodies, professionals and key service providers in the social welfare sector, education sector and healthcare sector who would be mandated reporters, to envisage different potential scenarios of handling suspected child abuse/neglect cases under the reporting threshold set out in the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill (the Bill), raise questions and give views. Currently, the professional consultative panels formed by representatives from the sectors concerned at the invitation of the Government are discussing the case scenarios, questions and views collected, on the basis of which a skeleton document of the Guide will be prepared. To tie in with the scrutiny work of the Legislative Council (LegCo), the Government will provide the Bills Committee with the skeleton of the Guide in a timely manner. There will be an 18-month transitional period after the passage of the Bill by the LegCo, during which the professional consultative panels will continue to conduct focus group discussion with professional bodies/service providers in their respective sectors with a view to completing the Guide before the end of the transitional period, so that briefings on the Guide for professional bodies/service providers in their respective sectors can take place well ahead of the commencement of the Ordinance.

The Government has set up an e-learning platform to provide training, reference materials and information to relevant professionals. The Child Protection Online Training comprises online self-learning training and webinars. Module 1 of the online self-learning training was launched in February 2024 to provide training on the basic knowledge on child protection. Module 2 will be rolled out in phases after the enactment of the Bill and will cover basic knowledge on the relevant laws and reporting matters related to the new legislation. In addition, the Government will provide enrichment programmes through webinars for professionals to study different topics related to child protection and to enhance cross-sectoral professional collaboration. Questions and answers sessions will also be included according to training needs to encourage interactive learning. The expenditure involved in training and publicity programmes is about \$2.8 million.

Apart from the Child Protection Online Training, relevant bureaux/departments (B/Ds)/organisations have been providing and will continue to provide training (including talks, seminars, workshops and/or online training etc.) for professionals relevant to child protection and their specific professions to enhance their knowledge and skills in handling suspected child abuse. The Social Welfare Department will also continue to collaborate with different government departments and organisations to strengthen the training of social workers and relevant professionals, with a view to enhancing their capacity for early identification and handling of suspected child abuse cases.

Upon the enactment of the Bill, the B/Ds concerned will invite professional bodies under their respective purviews to review and amend their professional codes of practice/guidelines as necessary to ensure that these codes/guidelines are in line with the new legislation. The B/Ds concerned have already made initial contacts with relevant professional bodies to secure their understanding and support.

The Commission on Children (CoC) is an on-going, action-oriented and high-level advisory body chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration with secretariat services provided by the Labour and Welfare Bureau. CoC provides overall steer on children initiatives, sets

policy directions, strategies and priorities related to the development and advancement of children, and oversees the implementation of various child-related policy initiatives by B/Ds. Working groups have been set up under CoC to undertake specific areas of work, such as child protection, promotion of children’s rights and development, and public education and engagement. CoC conducts public engagement activities on specific themes at regular intervals to canvass the views of various stakeholders and children on a wide range of child-related issues, and has launched the Funding Scheme for Children’s Well-being and Development to provide funding support to over 150 promotional and public education projects undertaken by non-governmental organisations, schools, child concern groups, etc. for promoting the interests, well-being and development of children. CoC has been actively supporting the legislative work on the Bill. Apart from advising the Government on the proposed mandatory reporting requirements, CoC also organised stakeholder engagement activities in 2022 to collect views from practitioners in relevant sectors, and launched the “Walk with Kids” thematic campaign since 2023 to raise public awareness on child protection.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)022

(Question Serial No. 1248)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Welfare

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Financial Secretary (FS)'s request for the relevant bureaux to review the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme), there are views that the \$2 Scheme, which provides persons aged 60 or above with travelling subsidies, will help replenish the local workforce by reducing the travelling expenses on commuting to and from work of these persons, thus encouraging them to postpone their retirement plans at a time when Hong Kong is facing labour shortage and various trades and industries are experiencing recruitment difficulties.

Any substantial cut in the subsidies or restriction on the use of the \$2 Scheme may dampen these people's motivation for extending their working lives, resulting in a reduction in the labour force.

1. Has the FS examined whether a substantial cut in the subsidies or restriction on the use of the \$2 Scheme will adversely affect the motivation of wage earners aged 60 or above for extending their working lives?
2. Will the FS take into account the above views when considering modifying the \$2 Scheme?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

The Financial Secretary announced in the 2024-25 Budget to review the mode of operation of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) with a view to maintaining the financial sustainability of the Scheme. The Government has stated clearly that it will maintain the policy intent of the \$2 Scheme to build a caring and inclusive society by encouraging the beneficiaries to participate more in community activities, and has no intention to cancel the Scheme or change the existing beneficiary groups. The Government will take into account the effectiveness of different options in containing the growth of expenditure in the review and factors including the practicability of these options.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)023

(Question Serial No. 3006)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

There will be a net reduction of 35 posts under the Programme in 2024-25. Please provide the reasons for the significant reduction in the number of posts, the posts proposed to be deleted, and the total amount of expenditure that can be saved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

In order to maintain the sustainability of our public finances, the Government has strictly controlled the civil service establishment since 2021-22. The Government will continue to implement this initiative, and maintain the target of zero-growth in the civil service establishment in 2024-25, with the aim of containing the establishment at a level not exceeding that as at end-March 2021. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has enhanced effectiveness and efficiency through re-prioritisation, internal redeployment, and streamlining of work processes. Posts which no longer have operational needs would be deleted by SWD after the review of its civil service establishment. In 2024-25, the net reduction of 35 posts under Programme (1) Family and Child Welfare is in the Welfare Worker grade. Based on the notional annual mid-point salary value of the posts involved, it is estimated that about \$12.2 million can be saved this year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)024

(Question Serial No. 3021)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The aim of the Programme is to provide support services for families, including the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children (ASCP(PC)), which will be extended in phases to cover all 18 districts in Hong Kong. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. the timetable for extending ASCP(PC) to cover all 18 districts; and
2. the changes in manpower and estimated expenditure after expanding the service coverage.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will extend ASCP(PC) to cover all districts in Hong Kong in phases within a period of 3 years starting from 2024. The number of centres participating in ASCP(PC) will increase from 16 to 28, while the number of places will increase from 672 to 1 176. SWD will invite non-governmental organisations to submit proposals, and plans to launch the first phase of service extension in the first quarter of 2025.
2. The staffing establishment of each centre of ASCP(PC) includes 1 Assistant Social Work Officer and 2 supporting staff. The annual estimated expenditure for the service extension is about \$14.2 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)025

(Question Serial No. 3023)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government has regularised the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme) since September 2023. The number of CCSVs will increase to 11 000 in 2024-25, involving an annual expenditure of about \$900 million. The Government also regularised the Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme) since last April. From the second quarter of this year, the number of RCSVs will increase to 5 000. The scheme will involve an annual expenditure of about \$1,440 million. In this connection, please provide:

1. the number of CCSV applications, the number of successful applicants and the total expenditure involved in each of the past 3 years; and
2. the number of RCSV applications, the number of elderly persons issued with RCSVs and the total expenditure involved in each of the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

The Government has made the CCSV permanent since September 2023. The number of CCSVs will be increased by 1 000 in 2024-25, bringing the total to 11 000, and will be further increased to 12 000 in 2025-26.

Starting in the second quarter of 2024, the coverage of RCSVs will be expanded from care-and-attention places to nursing home places. An extra 1 000 RCSVs will also be provided, bringing the total to 5 000.

The respective numbers of CCSV and RCSV applicants and recipients, and the amount of subsidy disbursed are set out at Annex.

**Table 1: Numbers of CCSV applicants and recipients,
and the amount of CCSV subsidy disbursed**

| Year | No. of CCSV applicants | No. of CCSV recipients | CCSV subsidy (\$ million) |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 4 703 | 4 715 | 314.4 |
| 2022-23 | 4 375 | 4 396 | 361.7 |
| 2023-24 ^{Note 1} (as at end-December 2023) | 4 875 | 4 727 | 573.5 ^{Note 2} |

Note 1 The Government launched the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV in October 2020, and converted the CCSV Scheme into a recurrent measure in September 2023.

Note 2 Revised estimate for 2023-24.

**Table 2: Numbers of RCSV applicants and recipients,
and the amount of RCSV subsidy disbursed**

| Year | No. of RCSV applicants | No. of RCSV recipients | RCSV subsidy (\$ million) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 1 450 | 719 | 483.6 |
| 2022-23 | 2 296 | 1 309 | 465.2 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 2 495 | 1 435 | 744.4 ^{Note} |

Note Revised estimate for 2023-24.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)026

(Question Serial No. 2488)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the local residential care services for the elderly in the past 5 years, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

- the annual number of subsidised care-and-attention (C&A) and subsidised nursing home (NH) places provided by the Government, along with the manpower and expenditure involved;
- the number of practitioners currently engaged in elderly services, and the projected number for the next 5 years;
- the respective numbers of applications approved and rejected for the Special Scheme to Import Care Workers for Residential Care Homes (the Special Scheme) thus far; and
- the average waiting time for residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and the number of waitlisted elderly persons in the past 5 years, as well as the proportion of waitlisted elderly persons in relation to the total elderly population.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

- The number of places for and total expenditure on subsidised residential care services (RCS) from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are set out at Annexes 1 and 2, respectively. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreement and the relevant statutory staffing requirements, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating subsidised elderly services may determine their staffing establishment and remuneration in accordance with their own human resources policies as well as flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to respond to service needs swiftly and provide services efficiently. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not require NGOs to provide information on the manpower for each subsidised elderly service unit.
- As services for the elderly are wide-ranging and involve different operation modes, SWD does not maintain statistics on the overall number of practitioners engaged in elderly services.

- The Government launched the Special Scheme on 19 June 2023. As at December 2023, 2 rounds of applications, involving a total of 4 838 quotas, were completed. 2 624 and 272 quotas (including those for contract renewal) to import care workers were granted to RCHEs and residential care homes for persons with disabilities, respectively.
- From 2019-20 to 2023-24, the number of persons waitlisted for various subsidised RCS and their percentage out of the total elderly population, as well as their average waiting time are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 3, respectively.

Number of service places for subsidised RCS

| Year | Home for the aged (H/A) place ^{Note 1} | C&A place ^{Note 2} | No. of residential care service vouchers (RCSVs) | NH place ^{Note 3} | Total |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------|
| 2019-20 | 67 | 24 234 | 3 000 | 4 218 | 31 519 |
| 2020-21 | 67 | 24 955 | 3 000 | 4 284 | 32 306 |
| 2021-22 | 63 | 26 152 | 3 000 | 4 365 | 33 580 |
| 2022-23 | 9 | 26 812 | 4 000 | 4 652 | 35 473 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 9 | 27 490 | 4 000 | 5 040 | 36 539 |

Note 1 SWD ceased to accept new applications for H/A places since 1 January 2003. Starting from 2005-06, H/A places have gradually been converted into C&A places that provide continuum of care.

Note 2 Including subsidised C&A places provided at contract homes, subvented C&A homes, private RCHEs participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme, as well as subsidised places provided under the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong.

Note 3 Including subsidised places provided at contract homes, subvented NHs, and self-financing NHs participating in the Nursing Home Place Purchase Scheme.

Expenditure on subsidised RCS

| Year | Expenditure (\$ billion) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 6.4275 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 6.9713 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 7.2653 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 7.4035 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 8.6918 |

Table 1: Number of persons waitlisted for subsidised RCS and their percentage out of the total elderly population ^{Note 1}

| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end- December 2023) Note 4 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| No. of persons waitlisted for C&A places ^{Note 2 Note 3} | 32 880 | 30 857 | 21 990 | 14 040 | 14 332 |
| No. of persons waitlisted for C&A places and their percentage out of the total elderly population | 2.4% | 2.2% | 1.5% | 0.9% | 0.9% |
| No. of persons waitlisted for NH places ^{Note 3} | 6 775 | 5 932 | 4 719 | 2 796 | 2 473 |
| No. of persons waitlisted for NH places and their percentage out of the total elderly population | 0.5% | 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.1% |

Note 1 The figures represent the number of elderly persons aged 65 or above at the end of the respective calendar years, as announced by the Census and Statistics Department.

Note 2 Elderly persons using the RCSVs may be admitted to RCHEs participating in the RCSV Scheme with government subsidies, without having to wait for a vacancy.

Note 3 Excluding elderly persons classified as “inactive cases” on the central waiting list.

Note 4 The total elderly population for the year is provisional.

Table 2: Average waiting time for subsidised RCS

| Service type | Average waiting time (in months) ^{Note} | | | | |
|--------------|--|---------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| C&A place | 21 | 19 | 18 | 14 | 9 |
| NH place | 27 | 22 | 21 | 18 | 11 |

^{Note} Figures represent the average waiting time (in months) for elderly persons who applied for subsidised residential care places and were admitted during the last 3 months of the year concerned (except for 2023-24).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)027

(Question Serial No. 0994)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the phased extension of the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children (ASCP(PC)) to all 18 districts in Hong Kong, please provide the following information:

1. How many districts has ASCP(PC) been extended to thus far? What is the geographical distribution of the districts currently providing the service? When will this service be available in all 18 districts in Hong Kong?
2. What is the current annual funding involved in providing this service? How many children benefit from it?
3. Among the children receiving the service, how many are enrolled in primary school, and how many are in secondary school? What is the distribution of age among them?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1. & 2. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been re-engineering Mutual Help Child Care Centres (MHCCCs) from 2021-22 onwards to provide ASCP(PC) in phases, with a view to further addressing the child care needs in the community. All MHCCCs have been re-engineered by February 2024. By the end of 2023-24, the 16 participating centres located in 8 districts (including Central & Western, Southern, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sham Shui Po, North, Yuen Long and Kwai Tsing districts) provided a total of 672 places. SWD does not have information on the number of children beneficiaries. The revised estimated expenditure for the service in 2023-24 was about \$27.5 million. SWD will extend ASCP(PC) to cover all districts in Hong Kong in phases within 3 years starting from 2024.
3. ASCP(PC) provides child care service for children aged 3 to below 6 or attending nursery (K1), lower (K2) or upper (K3) classes in kindergartens (KG)/KG-cum-child care centres. SWD does not have information on the age distribution of children receiving the service.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**LWB(W)028****(Question Serial No. 1005)**Head: (170) Social Welfare DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Services for The ElderlyControlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and WelfareQuestion:

Regarding exploring the expansion of the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme) to include residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) operated by Mainland entities, please provide the following information:

1. How many residential care places (RCPs) were provided to elderly persons from Hong Kong under the GDRCS Scheme in the past 3 years? How cost effective is the GDRCS Scheme? On average, how much can it reduce an elderly person's waiting time for an RCP compared to the waiting time they would face in Hong Kong?
2. With the proposed expansion of the GDRCS Scheme to include RCHEs operated by Mainland entities, how will the Social Welfare Department (SWD) ensure effective inter-departmental co-ordination, adequate funding supervision, proper handling of service disputes and rigorous quality assessment?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)Reply:

1. SWD purchases service places from RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme based on the number of elderly persons participating in the scheme each year. Eligible elderly persons may join the GDRCS Scheme at their discretion. At present, elderly persons do not have to wait for admission to RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme. The number of service places purchased by SWD and the expenditure involved from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are set out below:

| Year | No. of service places | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|---------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 144 | 15.1 (Actual) |
| 2022-23 | 117 | 13.1 (Actual) |
| 2023-24 | 165 (as at end-December 2023) | 33.7 (Revised estimate) |

2. The Government attaches importance to the quality of Mainland RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme, and has implemented measures to ensure that elderly persons receive well-planned and collaborated subsidised residential care services (RCS) under a

multi-disciplinary setting. The Labour and Welfare Bureau signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) on Collaboration on expanding the GDRCS Scheme with the Department of Civil Affairs of Guangdong Province on 17 November 2023, agreeing to explore cooperation in selecting RCHEs operated by Mainland entities in jointly designated cities within the Greater Bay Area (GBA) for participation in the GDRCS Scheme. The LOI stipulates that participating Mainland RCHEs should be rated 4 stars or above on the “List of Star-rated Senior Care Organizations” by the Department of Civil Affairs of Guangdong Province based on the standards of “Classification and Accreditation for Senior Care Organization of China”, with a minimum of 2 years of operational records. To identify suitable RCHEs to join the GDRCS Scheme, the Government is liaising with relevant departments in Mainland cities within the GBA, and conducting on-site inspections of eligible Mainland RCHEs.

Mainland RCHE operators participating in the GDRCS Scheme are required to sign a Service Agreement (SA) with SWD and fulfill their related responsibilities, including providing RCS that meets the requirements stipulated in the SA, maintaining an effective and sound financial management system, and making relevant reports, books, records and other documents and information available for inspection by SWD when necessary. As required by the SA, operators shall report and submit to SWD any information related to complaints, along with the follow-up actions taken and the results of handling these complaints. SWD will also conduct on-site inspections of the relevant Mainland RCHEs to assess their service performance, review records of service user satisfaction surveys, and gain an understanding of the situations and views of the residents.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)029

(Question Serial No. 0633)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Government will “enhance the services of integrated community centres for mental wellness (ICCMWs) and scale up training for social workers in community mental health service units”, as well as “enhancing peer support services (PSS) and preparing for the setting up of 4 additional parents/ relatives resource centres (PRCs) to support persons in mental recovery and their families”. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. For each subsidised ICCMW, please provide the respective numbers of mental health services users who are persons in mental recovery, persons with suspected mental health problems, and their family members and carers, the number of related activities held, and the expenditure involved.
2. Please provide details regarding the enhancement of ICCMW's services and the estimated expenditure involved.
3. As for “scaling up training for social workers in community mental health service units”, please provide details regarding the provision of training, including the training content, the number of training sessions, the number of target participants and the estimated expenditure involved.
4. As for “preparing for the setting up of 4 additional PRCs”, will the Government set a timetable for this? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides non-governmental organisations with subventions to operate ICCMWs of different scales in various districts according to their service needs. ICCMWs provide one-stop and district-based support services to persons in mental recovery, persons with mental health needs and their carers, as well as organising public programmes related to mental health. SWD does not maintain a breakdown of attendance, number of activities held or expenditure incurred by each ICCMW by category of service users. The attendance and number of mental health related activities held by each ICCMW in the past 3 years are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex, respectively. The expenditure incurred by 24 ICCMWs is set out in Table 3 of Annex.

- 2 & 3. SWD will enhance the ICCMW services in 2024, including strengthening early identification of persons with mental health needs and early intervention, and scaling up the training of social workers in community mental health service units to raise their capacity in handling complicated cases. The training areas include carer support, identification of the needs of persons in mental recovery, crisis management strategies and techniques, mental health first aid knowledge and multi-disciplinary collaboration, etc. In addition, SWD will scale up the training of about 1 000 social workers from community mental health service units starting from the second half of 2024. These enhancement measures involve an additional annual recurrent expenditure of over \$60 million.
4. SWD will set up 4 additional PRCs for carers of persons in mental recovery in the third quarter of 2025 to support persons in mental recovery and their carers. The annual recurrent expenditure involved is about \$18 million.

Table 1 : Attendance of mental health related activities held by various ICCMWs ^{Note}

| ICCMW | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|--|---------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Sunrise Centre, Fu Hong Society | 1 419 | 1 602 | 2 086 |
| Lok Hong Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals | 3 662 | 4 573 | 3 650 |
| The Wellness Centre (Islands), New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 3 971 | 3 659 | 3 244 |
| Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (Eastern), Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service | 5 036 | 6 116 | 6 657 |
| ALOHA (Eastern), Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong | 1 854 | 3 057 | 2 281 |
| Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (Wan Chai), Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service | 4 334 | 4 659 | 3 020 |
| Amity Place (Kwun Tong Central), The Mental Health Association of Hong Kong | 5 169 | 14 204 | 5 214 |
| ALOHA (Wong Tai Sin), Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong | 4 872 | 5 462 | 3 616 |
| Wellness Zone - Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness, Christian Family Service Centre | 2 491 | 2 950 | 3 539 |
| Syner-bright Zone, Stewards | 4 416 | 5 528 | 5 541 |
| Vitality Place, The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong | 6 940 | 7 266 | 6 326 |
| The Wellness Centre (Yau Tsim Mong), New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 4 464 | 5 608 | 3 141 |
| The Wellness Centre (Sham Shui Po), New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 4 207 | 4 896 | 4 272 |
| Take Your Way Clubhouse, Stewards | 14 175 | 11 621 | 9 832 |
| The Wellness Centre (Sha Tin), New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 4 207 | 2 157 | 2 622 |
| Jockey Club Amity Place (Tai Po), The Mental Health Association of Hong Kong | 3 778 | 5 097 | 4 687 |
| Caritas Wellness Link – North District, Caritas Hong Kong | 8 321 | 6 199 | 3 797 |
| Placidity Place, The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong | 5 463 | 5 107 | 5 785 |
| The Wellness Centre (Tin Shui Wai), New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 4 721 | 4 175 | 3 867 |
| Caritas Wellness Link – Tsuen Wan, Caritas Hong Kong | 5 520 | 3 167 | 3 507 |
| Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (Kwai Tsing), Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service | 4 346 | 4 254 | 3 281 |
| The Wellness Centre (Kwai Chung), New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 3 882 | 5 273 | 4 353 |
| The Wellness Centre (Tuen Mun), New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 4 578 | 7 773 | 4 774 |
| The Club, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited | 2 927 | 5 339 | 4 073 |

^{Note} The scale and output standards (OS) of ICCMW in different districts may vary according to the needs of individual district.

Table 2: No. of mental health related activities held by various ICCMWs ^{Note}

| ICCMW | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|--|---------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Sunrise Centre, Fu Hong Society | 80 | 58 | 57 |
| Lok Hong Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals | 154 | 236 | 198 |
| The Wellness Centre (Islands), New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 114 | 124 | 105 |
| Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (Eastern), Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service | 164 | 174 | 146 |
| ALOHA (Eastern), Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong | 76 | 73 | 65 |
| Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (Wan Chai), Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service | 84 | 64 | 46 |
| Amity Place (Kwun Tong Central), The Mental Health Association of Hong Kong | 217 | 311 | 230 |
| ALOHA (Wong Tai Sin), Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong | 132 | 169 | 111 |
| Wellness Zone - Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness, Christian Family Service Centre | 77 | 92 | 57 |
| Syner-bright Zone, Stewards | 88 | 126 | 93 |
| Vitality Place, The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong | 283 | 250 | 235 |
| The Wellness Centre (Yau Tsim Mong), New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 83 | 106 | 93 |
| The Wellness Centre (Sham Shui Po), New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 100 | 127 | 101 |
| Take Your Way Clubhouse, Stewards | 318 | 316 | 370 |
| The Wellness Centre (Sha Tin), New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 57 | 45 | 53 |
| Jockey Club Amity Place (Tai Po), The Mental Health Association of Hong Kong | 205 | 185 | 211 |
| Caritas Wellness Link – North District, Caritas Hong Kong | 101 | 90 | 94 |
| Placidity Place, The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong | 203 | 208 | 177 |
| The Wellness Centre (Tin Shui Wai), New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 139 | 125 | 100 |
| Caritas Wellness Link – Tsuen Wan, Caritas Hong Kong | 107 | 119 | 102 |
| Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (Kwai Tsing), Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service | 104 | 88 | 68 |
| The Wellness Centre (Kwai Chung), New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 86 | 86 | 70 |
| The Wellness Centre (Tuen Mun), New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 89 | 102 | 85 |
| The Club, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited | 79 | 82 | 59 |

Note The scale and OS of ICCMW in different districts may vary according to the needs of individual district.

Table 3: Expenditure incurred by 24 ICCMWs

| Year | 2021-22 (Actual) (\$ million) | 2022-23 (Actual) (\$ million) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) (\$ million) |
|--------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| ICCMWs | 487.5 | 495.7 | 534.9 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)030

(Question Serial No. 0641)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under this Head include “enhancing the services of integrated community centres for mental wellness (ICCMWs) and scaling up training for social workers in community mental health service units”, as well as “enhancing peer support services (PSS) and preparing for the setting up of 4 additional parents/relatives resource centres (PRCs) to support persons in mental recovery and their families”. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. For each subsidised ICCMW, please provide the respective numbers of peer support services users who are persons in mental recovery, persons with suspected mental health problems and their carers, the number of related programmes organised, and the expenditure involved in the past 3 years.
2. Please provide details regarding the enhanced peer support services and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

1. Peer supporters primarily provide services at subvented ICCMWs. Non-governmental organisations operating ICCMWs may deploy these personnel to provide support services at ICCMWs, halfway houses, supported hostels or vocational rehabilitation service units based on operational needs. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not maintain breakdown of figures on the provision of PSS at each subvented ICCMW. The total number of programme sessions organised with the assistance of peer supporters, and the total expenditure on PSS in the past 3 years are set out at Annex.
2. SWD plans to increase the number of full-time peer supporter positions from 40 to at least 70 in 2024-25. To enhance PPS and strengthen carer support, the additional positions will cover newly established senior peer supporter positions and peer supporter positions dedicated to supporting carers. The annual additional recurrent expenditure is estimated at about \$8 million.

Table 1: Total number of programme sessions organised with the assistance of peer supporters

| Year | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|---|----------------|----------------|---|
| Groups/programmes and public education programmes | 3 463 | 3 116 | 2 964 |

Table 2: Total expenditure on PSS

| Year | 2021-22 (Actual) (\$ million) | 2022-23 (Actual) (\$ million) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) (\$ million) |
|---|--|--|--|
| Agency-based PSS in community psychiatric service units | 9.5 | 9.7 | 10.1 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)031

(Question Serial No. 2913)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Paragraph 200 of the Budget Speech stated that the Government will “extend the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children (ASCP(PC)) in phases, starting this year, to cover all districts in Hong Kong. The number of service places will increase to nearly 1 200 within 3 years”. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide information on ASCP and Enhanced ASCP, including the number of places of the ASCP centres, number of service users, average utilisation rate, service fee and the amount of subsidy granted to each service operator in the past 5 years, broken down by District Council (DC) district.
2. Please provide the details of extending ASCP(PC) to cover all districts in Hong Kong and the estimated expenditure involved.
3. What plans does the Government have to enhance ASCP(PC)? Will considerations be given to conduct regular surveys on ASCP(PC) in each district, evaluate the effectiveness, increase the amount of subsidy for service operators, and provide more on-the-job training for after school care tutors? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

1. The information on ASCP and Enhanced ASCP, the number of places provided by ASCP centres, the number of service users and the average utilisation rate in the past 5 years, broken down by DC district are set out at Annex 1 (Tables 1 to 5). The average service fee and the amount of subsidy granted under the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme (FWSS) for ASCP are set out at Annex 2 and 3 respectively.
2. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will extend ASCP(PC) to cover all districts in Hong Kong in phases within a period of 3 years starting from 2024. The number of centres participating in ASCP(PC) will increase from 16 to 28, while the number of places will increase from 672 to 1 176, involving an additional annual expenditure of about \$14.2 million. SWD will invite non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to

submit proposals, and plans to launch the first phase of service extension in the first quarter of 2025.

3. NGOs are subsidised by SWD through Lump Sum Grant subvention to operate ASCP(PC). Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements and the relevant requirements of staffing establishment, NGOs operating the service may flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service output and outcome required. Where financial conditions permit, the Government will consider different options to support parents who are temporarily unavailable to take care of their children due to work or other reasons.

Table 1: Number of service places and utilisation rates of ASCP and Enhanced ASCP by district (2019-20)

| District | ASCP | | | Enhanced ASCP | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | No. of places | No. of users | Utilisation rate ^[Note 1] | No. of places | No. of users ^[Note 2] | Utilisation rate ^[Note 3] |
| Central & Western | 90 | 85 | 94% | - | N.A. | |
| Southern | 286 | 247 | 86% | 16 | 18 | 73% |
| Islands | 248 | 217 | 88% | 42 | 75 | 82% |
| Eastern | 365 | 298 | 82% | 44 | 67 | 79% |
| Wan Chai | 174 | 153 | 88% | 8 | 10 | 80% |
| Kowloon City | 211 | 175 | 83% | 8 | 19 | 89% |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 171 | 148 | 87% | 20 | 37 | 74% |
| Sham Shui Po | 262 | 225 | 86% | 43 | 80 | 57% |
| Kwun Tong | 485 | 438 | 90% | 14 | 27 | 72% |
| Wong Tai Sin | 387 | 356 | 92% | 12 | 11 | 74% |
| Sai Kung | 125 | 115 | 92% | - | N.A. | |
| Sha Tin | 623 | 592 | 95% | 54 | 102 | 83% |
| Tai Po | 203 | 199 | 98% | 6 | 2 | 15% |
| North | 315 | 224 | 71% | 28 | 22 | 29% |
| Yuen Long | 412 | 355 | 86% | 91 | 94 | 70% |
| Tsuen Wan | 175 | 153 | 87% | 8 | 11 | 53% |
| Kwai Tsing | 503 | 425 | 84% | 69 | 77 | 69% |
| Tuen Mun | 494 | 411 | 83% | 35 | 32 | 78% |
| Total | 5 529 | 4 816 | 87% | 498 | 684 | 70% |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note 1] The utilisation rate is based on the number of users.

[Note 2] Each service place may be utilised by more than 1 child.

[Note 3] The utilisation rate is based on actual utilisation of service sessions.

Table 2: Number of service places and utilisation rates of ASCP and Enhanced ASCP by district (2020-21)

| District | ASCP | | | Enhanced ASCP | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | No. of places | No. of users | Utilisation rate ^[Note 1] | No. of places | No. of users ^[Note 2] | Utilisation rate ^[Note 3] |
| Central & Western | 90 | 29 | 32% | - | N.A. | |
| Southern | 306 | 201 | 66% | 16 | 4 | 23% |
| Islands | 254 | 120 | 47% | 52 | 50 | 78% |
| Eastern | 405 | 282 | 70% | 44 | 60 | 100% |
| Wan Chai | 220 | 169 | 77% | 8 | 6 | 63% |
| Kowloon City | 194 | 148 | 76% | 8 | 17 | 73% |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 155 | 120 | 77% | 20 | 22 | 98% |
| Sham Shui Po | 329 | 237 | 72% | 43 | 43 | 41% |
| Kwun Tong | 557 | 345 | 62% | 14 | 16 | 85% |
| Wong Tai Sin | 374 | 227 | 61% | 12 | 11 | 76% |
| Sai Kung | 142 | 121 | 85% | - | N.A. | |
| Sha Tin | 688 | 406 | 59% | 54 | 54 | 71% |
| Tai Po | 224 | 130 | 58% | 6 | 4 | 51% |
| North | 208 | 160 | 77% | 24 | 17 | 50% |
| Yuen Long | 502 | 300 | 60% | 95 | 99 | 100% |
| Tsuen Wan | 191 | 90 | 47% | 8 | 12 | 52% |
| Kwai Tsing | 464 | 363 | 78% | 76 | 93 | 100% |
| Tuen Mun | 476 | 273 | 57% | 35 | 38 | 100% |
| Total | 5 779 | 3 721 | 64% | 515 | 546 | 87% |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note 1] The utilisation rate is based on the number of users.

[Note 2] Each service place may be utilised by more than 1 child.

[Note 3] The utilisation rate is based on actual utilisation of service sessions.

Table 3: Number of service places and utilisation rates of ASCP and Enhanced ASCP by district (2021-22)

| District | ASCP | | | Enhanced ASCP | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | No. of places | No. of users | Utilisation rate ^[Note 1] | No. of places | No. of users ^[Note 2] | Utilisation rate ^[Note 3] |
| Central & Western | 88 | 28 | 32% | - | N.A. | |
| Southern | 321 | 233 | 73% | 16 | - | - |
| Islands | 276 | 147 | 53% | 52 | 61 | 100% |
| Eastern | 338 | 220 | 65% | 52 | 86 | 100% |
| Wan Chai | 156 | 74 | 47% | 8 | 5 | 71% |
| Kowloon City | 210 | 144 | 69% | 8 | 11 | 32% |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 137 | 44 | 32% | 39 | 48 | 89% |
| Sham Shui Po | 293 | 247 | 84% | 43 | 80 | 100% |
| Kwun Tong | 572 | 408 | 71% | 14 | 8 | 73% |
| Wong Tai Sin | 348 | 234 | 67% | 12 | 11 | 100% |
| Sai Kung | 126 | 57 | 45% | - | N.A. | |
| Sha Tin | 807 | 553 | 69% | 54 | 78 | 100% |
| Tai Po | 237 | 139 | 59% | 6 | 1 | 3% |
| North | 244 | 191 | 78% | 24 | 32 | 51% |
| Yuen Long | 504 | 296 | 59% | 118 | 118 | 97% |
| Tsuen Wan | 201 | 111 | 55% | 8 | - | - |
| Kwai Tsing | 562 | 318 | 57% | 86 | 91 | 100% |
| Tuen Mun | 497 | 323 | 65% | 40 | 42 | 100% |
| Total | 5 917 | 3 767 | 64% | 580 | 672 | 94% |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note 1] The utilisation rate is based on the number of users.

[Note 2] Each service place may be utilised by more than 1 child.

[Note 3] The utilisation rate is based on actual utilisation of service sessions.

Table 4: Number of service places and utilisation rates of ASCP and Enhanced ASCP by district (2022-23)

| District | ASCP | | | Enhanced ASCP | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | No. of places | No. of users | Utilisation rate ^[Note 1] | No. of places | No. of users ^[Note 2] | Utilisation rate ^[Note 3] |
| Central & Western | 84 | 78 | 93% | - | N.A. | |
| Southern | 311 | 256 | 82% | 16 | 14 | 73% |
| Islands | 194 | 158 | 81% | 52 | 63 | 100% |
| Eastern | 360 | 337 | 94% | 52 | 89 | 82% |
| Wan Chai | 189 | 178 | 94% | 8 | 5 | 43% |
| Kowloon City | 209 | 163 | 78% | 8 | 16 | 100% |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 134 | 133 | 99% | 45 | 50 | 75% |
| Sham Shui Po | 283 | 253 | 89% | 43 | 58 | 73% |
| Kwun Tong | 563 | 501 | 89% | 14 | 16 | 84% |
| Wong Tai Sin | 321 | 307 | 96% | 24 | 17 | 86% |
| Sai Kung | 154 | 142 | 92% | - | N.A. | |
| Sha Tin | 652 | 602 | 92% | 66 | 86 | 86% |
| Tai Po | 552 | 220 | 40% | 6 | 1 | 6% |
| North | 240 | 220 | 92% | 22 | 19 | 72% |
| Yuen Long | 524 | 446 | 85% | 147 | 127 | 87% |
| Tsuen Wan | 197 | 175 | 89% | 8 | 9 | 45% |
| Kwai Tsing | 533 | 478 | 90% | 97 | 109 | 92% |
| Tuen Mun | 543 | 430 | 79% | 43 | 42 | 100% |
| Total | 6 043 | 5 077 | 84% | 651 | 721 | 86% |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note 1] The utilisation rate is based on the number of users.

[Note 2] Each service place may be utilised by more than 1 child.

[Note 3] The utilisation rate is based on actual utilisation of service sessions.

Table 5: Number of service places and utilisation rates of ASCP and Enhanced ASCP by district (April to December 2023)

| District | ASCP | | | Enhanced ASCP | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | No. of places | No. of users | Utilisation rate ^[Note 1] | No. of places | No. of users ^[Note 2] | Utilisation rate ^[Note 3] |
| Central & Western | 84 | 72 | 86% | - | N.A. | |
| Southern | 281 | 235 | 84% | 16 | 14 | 63% |
| Islands | 178 | 145 | 81% | 52 | 66 | 100% |
| Eastern | 354 | 309 | 87% | 52 | 121 | 88% |
| Wan Chai | 182 | 158 | 87% | 8 | 5 | 31% |
| Kowloon City | 193 | 156 | 81% | 8 | 11 | 100% |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 163 | 159 | 98% | 45 | 54 | 80% |
| Sham Shui Po | 252 | 213 | 85% | 46 | 65 | 73% |
| Kwun Tong | 595 | 523 | 88% | 22 | 23 | 72% |
| Wong Tai Sin | 295 | 271 | 92% | 24 | 18 | 83% |
| Sai Kung | 170 | 156 | 92% | - | N.A. | |
| Sha Tin | 699 | 629 | 90% | 69 | 91 | 68% |
| Tai Po | 207 | 193 | 93% | 6 | 0 | 0% |
| North | 249 | 240 | 96% | 22 | 29 | 72% |
| Yuen Long | 491 | 425 | 87% | 149 | 123 | 88% |
| Tsuen Wan | 185 | 159 | 86% | 8 | 8 | 41% |
| Kwai Tsing | 542 | 495 | 91% | 99 | 100 | 76% |
| Tuen Mun | 533 | 406 | 76% | 43 | 41 | 100% |
| Total | 5 653 | 4 944 | 87% | 669 | 769 | 82% |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note 1] The utilisation rate is based on the number of users.

[Note 2] Each service place may be utilised by more than 1 child.

[Note 3] The utilisation rate is based on actual utilisation of service sessions.

Service fees for ASCP and Enhanced ASCP

| Year | ASCP Average fee ^[Note 1] (monthly fee) (\$) | Enhanced ASCP Average fee (hourly fee) (\$) |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 2019-20 | 1,189 (Morning/afternoon session) 1,385 (Late afternoon session) | Note 2 |
| 2020-21 | 1,322 | Note 2 |
| 2021-22 | 1,397 | Note 2 |
| 2022-23 | 1,462 | Note 2 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 1,471 | 27 |

[Note 1] Since the implementation of enhancement measures by SWD in October 2020, the service hours of ASCP are from after-school hours to 7:00/7:30 p.m. on Monday to Friday, providing a total of 3.5 hours of ASCP each day. Prior to the implementation of the enhancement measures, ASCP was divided into morning, afternoon and late afternoon sessions.

Note 2 Service operators of Enhanced ASCP may set their fees based on the needs of different districts, using various fee structures such as hourly, per session, daily, weekly, or monthly rates. SWD did not maintain records of the average fees for the service before 2023-24.

The amount of subsidies granted for ASCP and Enhanced ASCP ^[Note]

| Year | Amount of subsidy (\$ million) | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| | ASCP | Enhanced ASCP |
| 2019-20 | 18 | 19 |
| 2020-21 | 30 | 23 |
| 2021-22 | 52 | 31 |
| 2022-23 | 57 | 34 |
| 2023-24(Revised Estimate) | 54 | 37 |

[Note] ASCP and Enhanced ASCP are operated by NGOs on a self-financing and fee-charging basis. Through FWSS under ASCP, SWD provides financial assistance to low-income families in need by waiving and reducing the fees of the ASCP for their children. Eligible families in need may approach service operators directly for application for subsidies of full fee-waiving, half fee-reduction or one-third fee-reduction.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)032

(Question Serial No. 3099)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Paragraph 200 of the Budget Speech mentioned that “starting this year, the Government will set up 10 more aided standalone child care centres (CCCs) in phases. The target is to provide nearly 900 additional places for day child care services within 3 years”. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

1. preliminary information regarding the establishment of 10 additional aided standalone CCCs in the next 3 years, including the number of CCCs, number of targeted places, their geographical distribution, reasons for site selection and the estimated expenditure involved;
2. the service fee, number of places, average number of service users, utilisation rate, number of persons waitlisted and their average waiting time, and the amount of subvention for various day child care services (including standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to kindergartens (KGs), Occasional Child Care Service (OCCS), Extended Hours Service (EHS) and Mutual Help Child Care Centres (MHCCCs)) in the past 5 years, broken down by District Council (DC) district; and
3. the manning ratio of qualified child care workers for each of the abovementioned day child care services.
4. In addition to the phased development of 10 more aided standalone CCCs, what plans does the Social Welfare Department (SWD) have to enhance day child care services to support more working families in caring for their children? For example, will SWD consider increasing the subvention for CCCs and the payment rates under the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme, as well as adjusting the manning ratio of qualified child care workers? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yau (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1. SWD will set up 10 more aided standalone CCCs in phases within 3 years starting from 2024, providing about 900 additional places. Among them, 100 places in Queens Hill Estate and 56 places in Wah Ming Estate in Fanling have commenced service in January and March 2024 respectively. The 88 places in Shun Lee Estate in Kwun Tong and

100 places at the Treasury Building in Sham Shui Po are scheduled for commencing operation in 2024-25, whereas the 100 places at Cheung Shun Street in Sham Shui Po and 60 places in Kwai Fong Estate in Kwai Chung will be put into service in 2025-26. The remaining 4 aided standalone CCCs, proposed to be set up in districts such as Kowloon City and Kwun Tong, will collectively provide about 400 additional places, and are scheduled to commence service in 2026-27. The estimated annual expenditure for the 10 additional aided standalone CCCs is about \$66.4 million.

According to the population-based planning ratio incorporated into the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (i.e. 100 aided CCC places for children aged below 3 for every 25 000 persons), SWD has been reserving suitable premises for operating CCCs in different new development areas. For developed areas, SWD will take into account the characteristics of individual districts, including the available CCC places, service utilisation, ratio of subsidised to private child care services, land supply situation, and service demand as a result of demographic changes, etc. when conducting service planning.

2. The service fees, number of places and average utilisation rates for various types of day child care services (including aided standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS and MHCCCs) for the past 5 financial years, broken down by DC district, are set out at Annex.

The monthly fees charged by aided standalone CCCs for children aged below 2 and that charged by aided CCCs (including aided standalone CCCs and aided CCCs attached to KGs) for children aged 2 to below 3 are tabulated as follows:

Table 1: Monthly fees charged by aided standalone CCCs for children aged below 2

| Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Highest monthly fee (\$) | 6,538 | 6,700 | 6,700 | 6,710 | 6,720 |
| Lowest monthly fee (\$) | 4,385 | 4,385 | 4,385 | 4,385 | 4,385 |

Table 2: Monthly fees charged by aided CCCs for children aged 2 to below 3

| Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Highest monthly fee (\$) | 5,865 | 6,499 | 6,509 | 6,521 | 6,802 |
| Lowest monthly fee (\$) | 1,412 | 540 | 540 | 1,831 | 1,831 |

As parents can directly apply for the aforementioned child care services from the service operators according to their needs, without the need to be waitlisted under a central system and the applications are handled by the respective service operators, SWD does not have statistical information on the number of children waitlisted and the average waiting time for these services.

The amounts of government subventions for aided standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, EHS and OCCS in each of the past 5 financial years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Amount of subvention (\$ million) | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------|------|
| | Aided standalone CCC | CCC attached to KG | EHS | OCCS |
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 33.1 | 100.5 | 58.5 | 44.6 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 40.4 | 120.7 | 66.4 | 46.0 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 51.1 | 124.7 | 90.9 | 62.9 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 53.8 | 146.1 | 88.6 | 62.9 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 65.9 | 178.5 | 93.1 | 61.2 |

Operated by non-governmental organisations on a fee-charging and self-financing basis, MHCCCs provide flexible child care service to children aged below 3 (if necessary, children aged below 6 could also use the service).

3. In accordance with the Child Care Services Regulations (CSSR) (Cap. 243A), the child care staff serving in a CCC have to be registered as child care workers upon successful completing a training course approved by the Director of Social Welfare. In accordance with the Child Care Services Ordinance (Cap. 243) and CSSR, the manning ratio for qualified child care worker taking care of children aged 0 to below 2 in day CCCs is 1:8, while the manning ratio for taking care of children aged 2 to below 3 is 1:14. To improve service quality, the Government has allocated additional resources to enhance the above manning ratios to 1:6 and 1:11 respectively since the 2019/20 school year.
4. Starting from April 2024, the Child Care Centre Parent Subsidy will be increased from a maximum of \$600 to \$1,000 per month. This subsidy applies to all aided standalone CCCs and CCCs attached to KGs. It is estimated that this measure will benefit about 10 000 parents and children each year. Where financial conditions permit, the Government will consider different options to support parents who are temporarily unavailable to take care of their children due to work or other reasons.

Table 1: Service fees, number of places and average utilisation rates for aided standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS and MHCCCs (2019-20)

| District | Aided standalone CCC | | CCC attached to KG ^[Note] | | OCCS | | EHS | | MHCCC | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | |
| | - | | - | | Whole day: 64 Half day: 32 Per 2 hours: 16 | | Per hour: 13 | | Per hour: 8-28 | |
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100.0 | 459 | 30.0 | 13 | 34.0 | 99 | 38.0 | 14 | 34.9 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 343 | 60.0 | 17 | 62.0 | 73 | 67.0 | 28 | 1.6 |
| Islands | - | N.A. | 195 | 35.0 | 12 | 41.0 | 27 | 15.0 | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | 64 | 100.0 | 361 | 63.0 | 24 | 38.0 | 189 | 32.0 | - | N.A. |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 99.0 | 161 | 76.0 | 17 | 55.0 | 94 | 40.0 | - | N.A. |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. | 582 | 83.0 | 52 | 58.0 | 226 | 40.0 | 42 | 12.2 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. | 379 | 78.0 | 36 | 53.0 | 210 | 43.0 | 14 | 9.2 |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | 609 | 49.0 | 21 | 32.0 | 94 | 40.0 | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100.0 | 479 | 56.0 | 22 | 48.0 | 151 | 31.0 | - | N.A. |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 100.0 | 240 | 87.0 | 22 | 53.0 | 139 | 34.0 | - | N.A. |
| Sham Shui Po | 62 | 99.0 | 304 | 69.0 | 28 | 61.0 | 165 | 46.0 | 37 | 11.7 |
| Sha Tin | 72 | 100.0 | 450 | 82.0 | 29 | 41.0 | 112 | 37.0 | - | N.A. |
| Tai Po | - | N.A. | 189 | 65.0 | 17 | 54.0 | 94 | 31.0 | 14 | 30.0 |
| North | 51 | 100.0 | 282 | 61.0 | 16 | 36.0 | 82 | 47.0 | 14 | 0.7 |
| Yuen Long | 64 | 100.0 | 340 | 92.0 | 33 | 51.0 | 122 | 38.0 | 42 | 0.1 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 99.0 | 223 | 76.0 | 19 | 55.0 | 98 | 37.0 | 14 | 0.4 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100.0 | 410 | 64.0 | 35 | 46.0 | 138 | 29.0 | 42 | 4.1 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 100.0 | 510 | 67.0 | 36 | 45.0 | 173 | 38.0 | - | N.A. |
| Total | 747 | 100.0 | 6 516 | 66.0 | 449 | 49.0 | 2 286 | 38.0 | 261 | 8.4 |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note] Figures provided by the Education Bureau (EDB) as at September 2019.

Table 2: Service fees, number of places and average utilisation rates for aided standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS and MHCCC (2020-21)

| District | Aided standalone CCC | | CCC attached to KG ^[Note] | | OCCS | | EHS | | MHCCC | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | |
| | - | | - | | Whole day: 64 Half day: 32 Per 2 hours: 16 | | Per hour: 13 | | Per hour: 8-28 | |
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100.0 | 509 | 25.0 | 12 | 7.0 | 99 | 6.0 | 14 | 14.7 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 342 | 54.0 | 17 | 13.0 | 73 | 6.0 | 28 | 0.1 |
| Islands | - | N.A. | 311 | 23.0 | 12 | 4.0 | 27 | 11.0 | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | 64 | 100.0 | 347 | 53.0 | 24 | 13.0 | 189 | 7.0 | - | N.A. |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 97.0 | 170 | 63.0 | 17 | 30.0 | 94 | 5.0 | - | N.A. |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. | 527 | 75.0 | 53 | 7.0 | 226 | 8.0 | 42 | 3.6 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. | 363 | 79.0 | 35 | 6.0 | 210 | 5.0 | 14 | 2.0 |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | 907 | 30.0 | 23 | 3.0 | 94 | 7.0 | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100.0 | 536 | 45.0 | 22 | 10.0 | 151 | 8.0 | - | N.A. |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 98.0 | 276 | 73.0 | 23 | 7.0 | 139 | 6.0 | - | N.A. |
| Sham Shui Po | 62 | 100.0 | 299 | 62.0 | 28 | 11.0 | 165 | 8.0 | 37 | 6.2 |
| Sha Tin | 177 | 92.0 | 458 | 72.0 | 30 | 14.0 | 135 | 8.0 | - | N.A. |
| Tai Po | - | N.A. | 297 | 41.0 | 17 | 9.0 | 94 | 7.0 | 14 | 15.1 |
| North | 51 | 100.0 | 331 | 49.0 | 17 | 10.0 | 82 | 6.0 | 14 | 0.0 |
| Yuen Long | 64 | 100.0 | 343 | 87.0 | 33 | 14.0 | 122 | 8.0 | 42 | 0.0 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 88.0 | 241 | 69.0 | 19 | 20.0 | 98 | 8.0 | 14 | 0.0 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100.0 | 432 | 60.0 | 37 | 8.0 | 138 | 9.0 | 42 | 0.4 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 100.0 | 455 | 64.0 | 33 | 11.0 | 173 | 8.0 | - | N.A. |
| Total | 852 | 97.0 | 7 144 | 54.0 | 452 | 11.0 | 2 309 | 7.0 | 261 | 3.1 |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note] Figures provided by EDB as at September 2020.

Table 3: Service fees, number of places and average utilisation rates for aided standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS and MHCCCs (2021-22)

| District | Aided standalone CCC | | CCC attached to KG ^[Note 1] | | OCCS | | EHS | | MHCCC | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | |
| | - | | - | | Whole day: 64 Half day: 32 Per 2 hours: 16 | | Per hour: 13 | | Per hour: 8-28 | |
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places ^[Note 2] | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100.0 | 566 | 24.0 | 12 | 30.0 | 99 | 24.0 | 14 | 18.8 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 324 | 55.0 | 17 | 28.0 | 73 | 49.0 | 28 | 0.1 |
| Islands | - | N.A. | 297 | 24.0 | 12 | 23.0 | 27 | 0.0 | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | 64 | 100.0 | 413 | 50.0 | 24 | 26.0 | 189 | 25.0 | - | N.A. |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 100.0 | 221 | 59.0 | 17 | 47.0 | 94 | 31.0 | - | N.A. |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. | 566 | 70.0 | 53 | 23.0 | 226 | 20.0 | 14 | 5.3 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. | 409 | 76.0 | 35 | 24.0 | 210 | 21.0 | 0 | 6.7 |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | 821 | 34.0 | 23 | 20.0 | 94 | 13.0 | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100.0 | 495 | 45.0 | 22 | 37.0 | 151 | 16.0 | - | N.A. |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 100.0 | 341 | 60.0 | 23 | 15.0 | 139 | 27.0 | - | N.A. |
| Sham Shui Po | 62 | 100.0 | 384 | 60.0 | 28 | 27.0 | 165 | 27.0 | 0 | 9.3 |
| Sha Tin | 177 | 91.0 | 540 | 71.0 | 30 | 32.0 | 135 | 26.0 | - | N.A. |
| Tai Po | - | N.A. | 341 | 42.0 | 17 | 26.0 | 94 | 8.0 | 0 | 12.4 |
| North | 51 | 100.0 | 416 | 47.0 | 17 | 29.0 | 82 | 42.0 | 0 | 0.2 |
| Yuen Long | 64 | 100.0 | 424 | 84.0 | 33 | 28.0 | 122 | 22.0 | 28 | 0.0 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 99.0 | 281 | 70.0 | 19 | 34.0 | 98 | 32.0 | 14 | 0.5 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100.0 | 510 | 63.0 | 37 | 27.0 | 138 | 13.0 | 28 | 2.2 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 100.0 | 524 | 62.0 | 33 | 21.0 | 173 | 26.0 | - | N.A. |
| Total | 852 | 98.0 | 7 873 | 54.0 | 452 | 27.0 | 2 309 | 24.0 | 126 | 4.4 |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note 1] Figures provided by EDB as at September 2021.

[Note 2] 10 MHCCCs in Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sham Shui Po, Tai Po, North, Yuen Long and Kwai Tsing districts have been re-engineered to provide after-school care service for pre-primary children. As a result, there has been a reduction in the number of service places.

Table 4: Service fees, number of places and average utilisation rates for aided standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS and MHCCCs (2022-23)

| District | Aided standalone CCC ^[Note 1] | | CCC attached to KG ^[Note 2] | | OCCS | | EHS | | MHCCC | |
|-------------------|--|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | |
| | - | | - | | Whole day: 64 Half day: 32 Per 2 hours: 16 | | Per hour: 13 | | Per hour: 8-28 | |
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places ^[Note 3] | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100.0 | 499 | 23.0 | 12 | 37.0 | 99 | 30.0 | 14 | 9.6 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 287 | 57.0 | 17 | 32.0 | 73 | 47.0 | 14 | 0.1 |
| Islands | - | N.A. | 367 | 20.0 | 12 | 14.0 | 27 | 4.0 | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | 64 | 100.0 | 375 | 53.0 | 22 | 25.0 | 175 | 33.0 | - | N.A. |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 100.0 | 246 | 50.0 | 17 | 57.0 | 94 | 35.0 | - | N.A. |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. | 611 | 69.0 | 53 | 30.0 | 226 | 26.0 | 0 | 0.7 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. | 400 | 80.0 | 35 | 37.0 | 210 | 27.0 | - | N.A. |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | 965 | 31.0 | 23 | 27.0 | 94 | 16.0 | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100.0 | 547 | 41.0 | 22 | 48.0 | 151 | 20.0 | - | N.A. |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 100.0 | 365 | 55.0 | 23 | 21.0 | 139 | 34.0 | - | N.A. |
| Sham Shui Po | 62 | 100.0 | 463 | 51.0 | 28 | 30.0 | 165 | 28.0 | - | N.A. |
| Sha Tin | 177 | 98.0 | 589 | 71.0 | 30 | 43.0 | 135 | 27.0 | - | N.A. |
| Tai Po | 92 | 20.0 | 424 | 41.0 | 20 | 55.0 | 111 | 13.0 | - | N.A. |
| North | 51 | 100.0 | 379 | 49.0 | 17 | 45.0 | 82 | 41.0 | - | N.A. |
| Yuen Long | 152 | 91.0 | 385 | 83.0 | 36 | 43.0 | 139 | 32.0 | 28 | 0.0 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 98.0 | 273 | 66.0 | 19 | 26.0 | 98 | 31.0 | 14 | 0.0 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100.0 | 488 | 66.0 | 37 | 39.0 | 138 | 18.0 | 14 | 3.1 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 100.0 | 490 | 60.0 | 33 | 30.0 | 173 | 29.0 | - | N.A. |
| Total | 1 032 | 97.0 | 8 153 | 52.0 | 456 | 36.0 | 2 329 | 27.0 | 84 | 2.1 |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note 1] 2 aided standalone CCCs in Tai Po and Sha Tin districts commenced service in January and March 2023 respectively.

[Note 2] Figures provided by EDB as at September 2022.

[Note 3] 13 MHCCCs in Southern, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sham Shui Po, Tai Po, North, Yuen Long and Kwai Tsing districts have been re-engineered to provide after-school care service for pre-primary children. As a result, there has been a reduction in the number of service places.

Table 5: Service fees, number of places and average utilisation rates for aided standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS and MHCCCs (April to December 2023)

| District | Aided standalone CCC | | CCC attached to KG ^[Note 1] | | OCCS | | EHS | | MHCCC | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | |
| | - | | - | | Whole day: 64 Half day: 32 Per 2 hours: 16 | | Per hour: 13 | | Per hour: 8-28 | |
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places ^[Note 2] | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100.0 | 474 | 27.0 | 14 | 48.0 | 99 | 35.0 | 0 | 10.9 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 274 | 50.0 | 17 | 43.0 | 73 | 63.0 | 14 | 0.0 |
| Islands | - | N.A. | 349 | 22.0 | 12 | 25.0 | 27 | 6.0 | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | 64 | 100.0 | 358 | 59.0 | 22 | 42.0 | 175 | 38.0 | - | N.A. |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 100.0 | 235 | 42.0 | 17 | 69.0 | 94 | 50.0 | - | N.A. |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. | 579 | 69.0 | 48 | 45.0 | 226 | 48.0 | - | N.A. |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. | 381 | 88.0 | 32 | 62.0 | 210 | 41.0 | - | N.A. |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | 919 | 31.0 | 22 | 44.0 | 94 | 26.0 | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100.0 | 520 | 43.0 | 23 | 52.0 | 151 | 30.0 | - | N.A. |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 100.0 | 347 | 57.0 | 22 | 39.0 | 139 | 41.0 | - | N.A. |
| Sham Shui Po | 62 | 100.0 | 441 | 52.0 | 29 | 53.0 | 162 | 42.0 | - | N.A. |
| Sha Tin | 177 | 99.0 | 560 | 74.0 | 31 | 52.0 | 138 | 40.0 | - | N.A. |
| Tai Po | 92 | 83.0 | 403 | 47.0 | 19 | 62.0 | 111 | 31.0 | - | N.A. |
| North | 51 | 100.0 | 360 | 54.0 | 18 | 58.0 | 82 | 55.0 | - | N.A. |
| Yuen Long | 152 | 76.0 | 393 | 93.0 | 39 | 64.0 | 139 | 44.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 100.0 | 261 | 72.0 | 19 | 56.0 | 98 | 40.0 | - | N.A. |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100.0 | 464 | 70.0 | 37 | 44.0 | 138 | 22.0 | 0 | 8.9 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 96.0 | 466 | 73.0 | 34 | 40.0 | 173 | 35.0 | - | N.A. |
| Total | 1 032 | 95.0 | 7 784 | 56.0 | 455 | 51.0 | 2 329 | 39.0 | 14 | 2.7 |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note 1] Figures provided by EDB as at September 2023.

[Note 2] 17 MHCCCs in Central & Western, Southern, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sham Shui Po, Tai Po, North, Yuen Long and Kwai Tsing districts have been re-engineered to provide after-school care service for pre-primary children. As a result, there has been a reduction in the number of service places.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)033

(Question Serial No. 3195)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under this Programme that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will strengthen the home-based child care service (HCCS) under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP) and increase the level of incentive payment for home-based child carers and the number of places. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide information on NSCCP, including the number of places, the number of home-based child carers, their average service hours, the number of service users (broken down by age groups of below 3, 3 to 6 and above 6), the amount of subsidy granted to each service operator, and the service fee they charged in the past 5 years, broken down by District Council (DC) district.
2. What plans does SWD have to strengthen HCCS under NSCCP? Will SWD consider providing systematic on-the-job training and assessment for home-based child carers, establishing a monitoring mechanism to assess their service quality, and implementing a registration and certification regime to ensure the quality of their qualifications? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons for that?
3. Please provide details on SWD's plan to increase in the level of incentive payment for home-based child carers and the number of service places, along with the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

1. The information on NSCCP for the past 5 financial years, broken down by DC district, is provided at Annex. SWD does not have information on the average number of service hours of home-based child carers.
2. To enhance NSCCP, SWD plans to strengthen the training for home-based child carers starting from the fourth quarter of 2024. Trainees are required to undergo 14 hours of basic training, the content of which is standardised and formulated by SWD. This training covers topics such as the physical and psychological development of infants and young children, special developmental milestones and growth needs, care and

communication skills, home safety and hygiene, handling of accidents/special incidents. Home-based child carers who are arranged to take care of children with special learning needs must receive an additional 4 hours of advanced training to learn the knowledge and skills in caring for these children. Service operators are required to evaluate the child care skills and knowledge of home-based child carers after they have completed the training, assess their confidence in providing care services, and determine whether the home environment is suitable for providing care services before arranging them to provide services. The incentive payment for home-based child carers also varies depending on the age of the child under their care and whether the child has special needs.

To ensure service quality, SWD has consistently required service operators under NSCCP to establish mechanisms for recruiting, assessing, selecting and training home-based child carers, as well as for service matching. Social workers from service operators are required to conduct monthly home visits to home-based child carers currently providing services, while child care workers will provide them with individual training/supervision. In addition, service operators are also required to continuously evaluate and follow up on the performance of home-based child carers. Statistics related to the amount of training/supervision provided are included in the service quality indicators, and service operators are required to submit relevant statistical information to SWD on a quarterly basis. SWD will also conduct regular and surprise visits to assess whether service operators are in compliance with the requirements specified in the Service Agreement.

3. Starting from April 2024, SWD will increase the incentive payment for home-based child carers under NSCCP. For carers of infants and young children aged 0 to 3 or children with special learning needs, the rate will be increased to \$60 per hour. For carers of children aged 3 to 9, the rate will be increased to \$40 per hour. The number of places will be increased to about 2 000 from the fourth quarter of 2024. These measures will incur an additional annual recurrent expenditure of about \$293.3 million.

**Table 1: Number of places, number of home-based child carers, number of children served, service fee and subsidy received by service operators under NSCCP
2019-2020**

| District | Number of places [Note 1] | Number of home-based child carers (December 2019) | Number of children served | | | | Basic service fee per hour [Note 2] | | Actual expenditure for 2019-20 [Note 3] (\$ million) |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| | | | Aged below 3 | Aged 3 to below 6 | Aged above 6 | Total | HCCS | Centre-based care group (CCG) | |
| Central & Western | 53 | 40 | 94 | 170 | 147 | 411 | 24 | 24 | 54.1 |
| Wan Chai | 53 | 161 | 8 | 91 | 115 | 214 | 22 | 22 | |
| Eastern | 53 | 176 | 166 | 154 | 107 | 427 | 22 | 22 | |
| Southern | 53 | 29 | 64 | 74 | 43 | 181 | 20 | 12 | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 267 | 307 | 417 | 102 | 826 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sham Shui Po | 53 | 74 | 251 | 310 | 152 | 713 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kowloon City | 53 | 473 | 170 | 199 | 129 | 498 | 20 | 13 | |
| Wong Tai Sin | 53 | 59 | 165 | 329 | 95 | 589 | 18 | 10 | |
| Kwun Tong | 53 | 52 | 230 | 150 | 122 | 502 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kwai Tsing | 53 | 88 | 214 | 266 | 94 | 574 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tsuen Wan | 53 | 56 | 169 | 229 | 263 | 661 | 20 | 13 | |
| Tuen Mun | 53 | 42 | 257 | 389 | 235 | 881 | 20 | 13 | |
| Yuen Long | 53 | 58 | 399 | 611 | 311 | 1 321 | 18 | 13 | |
| North | 53 | 58 | 91 | 129 | 48 | 268 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tai Po | 53 | 64 | 264 | 251 | 167 | 682 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sha Tin | 53 | 87 | 264 | 330 | 311 | 905 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sai Kung | 53 | 114 | 279 | 317 | 150 | 746 | 20 | 13 | |
| Islands | 53 | 16 | 64 | 160 | 81 | 305 | 22 | 13 | |
| Total | 954 | 1 914 | 3 456 | 4 576 | 2 672 | 10 704 | - | - | |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

[Note 2] Operators may determine the amount of fees according to the circumstances of the district. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can apply for fee waivers/reductions.

[Note 3] The expenditure for each year includes the operator's administrative expenses and subsidies granted to service users from low-income families. SWD does not have a breakdown of the expenditure on NSCCP by 18 districts.

**Table 2: Number of places, number of home-based child carers, number of children served, service fee and subsidy received by service operators under NSCCP
2020-2021**

| District | Number of places [Note 1] | Number of home-based child carers (December 2020) | Number of children served | | | | Basic service fee pour hour [Note 2] | | Actual expenditure for 2020-21 [Note 3] (\$ million) |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---|-----|--|
| | | | Aged below 3 | Aged 3 to below 6 | Aged above 6 | Total | HCCS | CCG | |
| Central & Western | 53 | 46 | 71 | 117 | 153 | 341 | 24 | 24 | 58.5 |
| Wan Chai | 53 | 114 | 28 | 84 | 97 | 209 | 22 | 22 | |
| Eastern | 53 | 183 | 143 | 117 | 100 | 360 | 22 | 22 | |
| Southern | 53 | 28 | 46 | 89 | 16 | 151 | 20 | 12 | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 299 | 250 | 179 | 48 | 477 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sham Shui Po | 53 | 38 | 229 | 363 | 186 | 778 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kowloon City | 53 | 489 | 95 | 107 | 42 | 244 | 20 | 13 | |
| Wong Tai Sin | 53 | 22 | 121 | 221 | 80 | 422 | 18 | 10 | |
| Kwun Tong | 53 | 51 | 91 | 94 | 128 | 313 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kwai Tsing | 53 | 41 | 235 | 131 | 55 | 421 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tsuen Wan | 53 | 43 | 79 | 91 | 118 | 288 | 20 | 13 | |
| Tuen Mun | 53 | 36 | 225 | 275 | 219 | 719 | 20 | 13 | |
| Yuen Long | 53 | 32 | 276 | 554 | 284 | 1 114 | 18 | 13 | |
| North | 53 | 54 | 66 | 141 | 96 | 303 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tai Po | 53 | 69 | 189 | 209 | 123 | 521 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sha Tin | 53 | 49 | 174 | 229 | 211 | 614 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sai Kung | 53 | 130 | 162 | 207 | 108 | 477 | 20 | 13 | |
| Islands | 53 | 80 | 64 | 92 | 71 | 227 | 22 | 13 | |
| Total | 954 | 1 804 | 2 544 | 3 300 | 2 135 | 7 979 | - | - | |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

[Note 2] Operators may determine the amount of fees according to the circumstances of the district. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can apply for fee waivers/reductions.

[Note 3] The expenditure for each year includes the operator's administrative expenses and subsidies granted to service users from low-income families. SWD does not have a breakdown of the expenditure on NSCCP by 18 districts.

**Table 3: Number of places, number of home-based child carers, number of children served, service fee and subsidy received by service operators under NSCCP
2021-22**

| District | Number of places [Note 1] | Number of home-based child carers (December 2021) | Number of children served | | | | Basic service fee per hour [Note 2] | | Actual expenditure for 2021-22 [Note 3] (\$ million) |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|--|-----|--|
| | | | Aged below 3 | Aged 3 to below 6 | Aged above 6 | Total | HCCS | CCG | |
| Central & Western | 53 | 32 | 61 | 132 | 162 | 355 | 24 | 24 | 51.2 |
| Wan Chai | 53 | 98 | 58 | 88 | 141 | 287 | 22 | 22 | |
| Eastern | 53 | 58 | 146 | 192 | 90 | 428 | 22 | 22 | |
| Southern | 53 | 26 | 40 | 155 | 88 | 283 | 20 | 12 | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 314 | 293 | 298 | 133 | 724 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sham Shui Po | 53 | 49 | 369 | 397 | 245 | 1 011 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kowloon City | 53 | 515 | 167 | 206 | 215 | 588 | 20 | 13 | |
| Wong Tai Sin | 53 | 45 | 113 | 337 | 171 | 621 | 18 | 10 | |
| Kwun Tong | 53 | 56 | 92 | 126 | 144 | 362 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kwai Tsing | 53 | 55 | 283 | 208 | 128 | 619 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tsuen Wan | 53 | 56 | 151 | 212 | 151 | 514 | 20 | 13 | |
| Tuen Mun | 53 | 31 | 214 | 254 | 299 | 767 | 20 | 13 | |
| Yuen Long | 53 | 72 | 388 | 539 | 382 | 1 309 | 18 | 13 | |
| North | 53 | 70 | 99 | 211 | 172 | 482 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tai Po | 53 | 73 | 133 | 267 | 152 | 552 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sha Tin | 53 | 42 | 190 | 374 | 352 | 916 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sai Kung | 53 | 135 | 176 | 223 | 114 | 513 | 20 | 13 | |
| Islands | 53 | 88 | 112 | 222 | 164 | 498 | 22 | 13 | |
| Total | 954 | 1 815 | 3 085 | 4 441 | 3 303 | 10 829 | - | - | |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

[Note 2] Operators may determine the amount of fees according to the circumstances of the district. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can apply for fee waivers/reductions.

[Note 3] The expenditure for each year includes the operator's administrative expenses and subsidies granted to service users from low-income families. SWD does not have a breakdown of the expenditure on NSCCP by 18 districts.

**Table 4: Number of places, number of home-based child carers, number of children served, service fee and subsidy received by service operators under NSCCP
2022-23**

| District | Number of places [Note 1] | Number of home-based child carers (December 2022) | Number of children served | | | | Basic service fee per hour [Note 2] | | Actual expenditure for 2022-23 [Note 3] (\$ million) |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|--|-----|--|
| | | | Aged below 3 | Aged 3 to below 6 | Aged above 6 | Total | HCCS | CCG | |
| Central & Western | 53 | 29 | 55 | 181 | 177 | 413 | 24 | 24 | 28.3 |
| Wan Chai | 53 | 73 | 32 | 46 | 111 | 189 | 22 | 22 | |
| Eastern | 53 | 59 | 134 | 133 | 59 | 326 | 22 | 22 | |
| Southern | 53 | 27 | 5 | 90 | 76 | 171 | 20 | 12 | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 278 | 218 | 349 | 226 | 793 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sham Shui Po | 53 | 57 | 328 | 307 | 207 | 842 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kowloon City | 53 | 521 | 125 | 169 | 161 | 455 | 20 | 13 | |
| Wong Tai Sin | 53 | 45 | 61 | 287 | 247 | 595 | 18 | 10 | |
| Kwun Tong | 53 | 44 | 115 | 152 | 128 | 395 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kwai Tsing | 53 | 72 | 296 | 217 | 166 | 679 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tsuen Wan | 53 | 63 | 121 | 289 | 235 | 645 | 20 | 13 | |
| Tuen Mun | 53 | 33 | 198 | 246 | 288 | 732 | 20 | 13 | |
| Yuen Long | 53 | 65 | 344 | 400 | 407 | 1 151 | 18 | 13 | |
| North | 53 | 61 | 60 | 160 | 226 | 446 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tai Po | 53 | 69 | 120 | 245 | 215 | 580 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sha Tin | 53 | 41 | 160 | 355 | 333 | 848 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sai Kung | 53 | 139 | 148 | 245 | 198 | 591 | 20 | 13 | |
| Islands | 53 | 83 | 57 | 189 | 222 | 468 | 22 | 13 | |
| Total | 954 | 1 759 | 2 577 | 4 060 | 3 682 | 10 319 | - | - | |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

[Note 2] Operators may determine the amount of fees according to the circumstances of the district. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can apply for fee waivers/reductions.

[Note 3] The expenditure for each year includes the operator's administrative expenses and subsidies granted to service users from low-income families. SWD does not have a breakdown of the expenditure on NSCCP by 18 districts.

**Table 5: Number of places, number of home-based child carers, number of children served, service fee and subsidy received by service operators under NSCCP
2023-24 (April to December 2023)**

| District | Number of places [Note 1] | Number of home-based child carers (December 2023) | Number of children served | | | | Basic service fee pour hour [Note 2] | | Revised estimate for 2023-24 [Note 3] (\$ million) |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---|-----|--|
| | | | Aged below 3 | Aged 3 to below 6 | Aged above 6 | Total | HCCS | CCG | |
| Central & Western | 53 | 59 | 81 | 188 | 118 | 387 | 24 | 24 | 107.7 |
| Wan Chai | 53 | 67 | 24 | 96 | 81 | 201 | 22 | 22 | |
| Eastern | 53 | 103 | 151 | 126 | 52 | 329 | 22 | 22 | |
| Southern | 53 | 30 | 7 | 222 | 193 | 422 | 20 | 12 | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 126 | 160 | 277 | 203 | 640 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sham Shui Po | 53 | 59 | 315 | 230 | 161 | 706 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kowloon City | 53 | 525 | 64 | 122 | 94 | 280 | 20 | 13 | |
| Wong Tai Sin | 53 | 112 | 77 | 212 | 236 | 525 | 18 | 10 | |
| Kwun Tong | 53 | 46 | 111 | 163 | 130 | 404 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kwai Tsing | 53 | 82 | 232 | 119 | 144 | 495 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tsuen Wan | 53 | 77 | 88 | 194 | 98 | 380 | 20 | 13 | |
| Tuen Mun | 53 | 37 | 215 | 246 | 183 | 644 | 20 | 13 | |
| Yuen Long | 53 | 67 | 234 | 351 | 294 | 879 | 18 | 13 | |
| North | 53 | 78 | 45 | 135 | 220 | 400 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tai Po | 53 | 77 | 93 | 158 | 129 | 380 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sha Tin | 53 | 42 | 98 | 223 | 225 | 546 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sai Kung | 53 | 83 | 145 | 179 | 145 | 469 | 20 | 13 | |
| Islands | 53 | 100 | 54 | 203 | 140 | 397 | 22 | 13 | |
| Total | 954 | 1 770 | 2 194 | 3 444 | 2 846 | 8 484 | - | - | |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

[Note 2] Operators may determine the amount of fees according to the circumstances of the district. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can apply for fee waivers/reductions.

[Note 3] The expenditure for each year includes the operator's administrative expenses and subsidies granted to service users from low-income families. SWD does not have a breakdown of the expenditure on NSCCP by 18 districts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)034

(Question Serial No. 0874)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding day child care services, please inform this committee:

- (1) the number of qualified child care workers and their ratios to children receiving day/residential child care services and pre-school rehabilitation services, as well as the expenditure incurred in providing day/residential child care services and pre-school rehabilitation services in 2023-24;
- (2) the average salary and the percentage increase or decrease in the salary of all child care workers over the past 3 years; and
- (3) for day child care services (including standalone child care centres (CCCs) and CCCs attached to kindergartens (KGs) for children aged below 3; Occasional Child Care Service (OCCS), Extended Hours Service (EHS) and Mutual Help Child Care Centres (MHCCCs) for children aged below 6; and the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP) for children aged below 9), (a) the number of service places in each district; (b) the average utilisation rate, number of service users and service fee for each type of service; (c) the number of waitlisted children; (d) the average waiting time; and (e) any other support provided to parents during the waiting period for the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

- (1) & (2) In accordance with the Child Care Services Regulations (CSSR) (Cap. 243A), the child care staff serving in a CCC have to be registered as child care workers upon successful completing a training course approved by the Director of Social Welfare. In accordance with the Child Care Services Ordinance (Cap. 243) and CSSR, the manning ratio for qualified child care workers taking care of children aged 0 to below 2 in day CCCs is 1:8, while the manning ratio for taking care of children aged 2 to below 3 is 1:14. To improve service quality, the Government has allocated additional resources to enhance the above manning ratios to 1:6 and 1:11 respectively since the 2019/20 school year. The manning ratios for child care workers serving in residential child care centres (RCCCs) for children aged below 6 are 1:8 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., and 1:12 between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.

In addition, the manning ratio for qualified child care workers serving in special child care centres (SCCCs) for children aged 2 to 6 is 1:14. As for the staffing establishment of individual service areas, please refer to the Social Welfare Department's (SWD) webpage (<https://www.swd.gov.hk/en/ngo/subventions/suballoc/subvention/nses/>) for details.

Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements and the relevant statutory staffing requirements, non-governmental organisations operating subvented services may determine their staffing establishment in accordance with their human resources policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service output and outcomes required. SWD does not have information on the average salary or the percentage increase or decrease in the salary of all child care workers.

The Government's expenditure on RCCC, aided standalone CCC, aided CCC attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS, NSCCP and pre-school rehabilitation services in 2023-24 is tabulated as follows:

| Service type | Revised estimate of expenditure (\$ million) |
|--|--|
| RCCC | 106.6 |
| Aided standalone CCC | 65.9 |
| Aided CCC attached to KG | 178.5 |
| OCCS | 61.2 |
| EHS | 93.1 |
| NSCCP | 107.7 |
| On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services | 1,207.3 |
| Early Education and Training Centre | 392.2 |
| Integrated Programme in KG-cum-CCC | 166.3 |
| SCCC | 648.6 |

- (3) The service fee, number of places and average utilisation rate of various types of day child care services (including standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS, MHCCCs and NSCCP) for the past 3 financial years, broken down by District Council (DC) district, are tabulated at Annex.

The monthly fees charged by aided standalone CCCs for children aged below 2 and the fees charged by aided CCCs (including aided standalone CCCs and aided CCCs attached to KGs) for children aged 2 to below 3 are tabulated as follows:

Table 1: Monthly fees charged by aided standalone CCCs for children aged below 2

| Year | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Highest monthly fee (\$) | 6,700 | 6,710 | 6,720 |
| Lowest monthly fee (\$) | 4,385 | 4,385 | 4,385 |

Table 2: Monthly fees charged by aided CCCs for children aged 2 to below 3

| Year | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Highest monthly fee (\$) | 6,509 | 6,521 | 6,802 |
| Lowest monthly fee (\$) | 540 | 1,831 | 1,831 |

As parents can apply directly for the aforementioned child care services from the service operators according to their needs, without the need to waitlist the services

under a central system and the applications are handled by the respective service operators, SWD does not have statistical information on the number of children waitlisted and the average waiting time for these services.

Table 1: Service fee, number of places and average utilisation rate of standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS, MHCCCs and NSCCP (2021-22)

| District | Standalone CCC | | CCC attached to KG ^[Note 1] | | OCCS | | EHS | | MHCCC | | NSCCP | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | |
| | - | | - | | Whole day: 64 Half day: 32 Per 2 hours: 16 | | Per hour: 13 | | Per hours: 8-28 | | Per hour for home-based child care service (HCCS): 18-24 Per hour for centre-based care group (CCG): 10-24 | |
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places ^[Note 2] | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places ^[Note 3] | Number of service users |
| Central & Western | 210 | 39.0 | 2 807 | 24.0 | 12 | 30.0 | 99 | 24.0 | 14 | 18.8 | 53 | 355 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 1 199 | 52.0 | 17 | 28.0 | 73 | 49.0 | 28 | 0.1 | 53 | 283 |
| Islands | 46 | 98.0 | 1 161 | 24.0 | 12 | 23.0 | 27 | 0.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 498 |
| Eastern | 260 | 53.0 | 3 776 | 49.0 | 24 | 26.0 | 189 | 25.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 428 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 100.0 | 1 335 | 57.0 | 17 | 47.0 | 94 | 31.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 287 |
| Kwun Tong | 309 | 70.0 | 1 272 | 71.0 | 53 | 23.0 | 226 | 20.0 | 14 | 5.3 | 53 | 362 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. | 606 | 75.0 | 35 | 24.0 | 210 | 21.0 | 0 | 6.7 | 53 | 621 |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | 4 338 | 31.0 | 23 | 20.0 | 94 | 13.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 513 |
| Kowloon City | 1 185 | 54.0 | 4 173 | 45.0 | 22 | 37.0 | 151 | 16.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 588 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 131 | 57.0 | 1 857 | 58.0 | 23 | 15.0 | 139 | 27.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 724 |
| Sham Shui Po | 62 | 100.0 | 1 408 | 59.0 | 28 | 27.0 | 165 | 27.0 | 0 | 9.3 | 53 | 1 011 |
| Sha Tin | 177 | 91.0 | 1 966 | 70.0 | 30 | 32.0 | 135 | 26.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 916 |
| Tai Po | - | N.A. | 1 288 | 43.0 | 17 | 26.0 | 94 | 8.0 | 0 | 12.4 | 53 | 552 |
| North | 51 | 100.0 | 1 087 | 47.0 | 17 | 29.0 | 82 | 42.0 | 0 | 0.2 | 53 | 482 |
| Yuen Long | 64 | 100.0 | 1 310 | 82.0 | 33 | 28.0 | 122 | 22.0 | 28 | 0.0 | 53 | 1 309 |
| Tsuen Wan | 412 | 33.0 | 1 261 | 68.0 | 19 | 34.0 | 98 | 32.0 | 14 | 0.5 | 53 | 514 |
| Kwai Tsing | 60 | 100.0 | 1 285 | 61.0 | 37 | 27.0 | 138 | 13.0 | 28 | 2.2 | 53 | 619 |
| Tuen Mun | 172 | 75.0 | 1 772 | 62.0 | 33 | 21.0 | 173 | 26.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 767 |
| Total | 3 187 | 59.0 | 33 901 | 50.0 | 452 | 27.0 | 2 309 | 24.0 | 126 | 4.4 | 954 | 10 829 |

N.A. - Not applicable

^[Note 1] Figures provided by the Education Bureau (EDB) as at September 2021.

^[Note 2] 10 MHCCCs in Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Tai Po, Kwai Tsing, Wong Tai Sin, Yuen Long and North districts have been re-engineered to provide after-school care service for pre-primary children. As a result, there has been a reduction in the number of service places.

^[Note 3] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

Table 2: Service fee, number of places and average utilisation rate of standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS, MHCCCs and NSCCP (2022-23)

| District | Standalone CCC ^[Note 1] | | CCC attached to KG ^[Note 2] | | OCCS | | EHS | | MHCCC | | NSCCP | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | |
| | - | | - | | Whole day: 64 Half day: 32 Per 2 hours: 16 | | Per hour: 13 | | Per hours: 8-28 | | Per hour for HCCS: 18-24 Per hour for CCG: 10-24 | |
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places ^[Note 3] | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places ^[Note 4] | Number of service users |
| Central & Western | 210 | 34.0 | 2 708 | 23.0 | 12 | 37.0 | 99 | 30.0 | 14 | 9.6 | 53 | 413 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 1 039 | 52.0 | 17 | 32.0 | 73 | 47.0 | 14 | 0.1 | 53 | 171 |
| Islands | 120 | 66.0 | 1 179 | 21.0 | 12 | 14.0 | 27 | 4.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 468 |
| Eastern | 260 | 49.0 | 3 219 | 50.0 | 22 | 25.0 | 175 | 33.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 326 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 100.0 | 1 323 | 48.0 | 17 | 57.0 | 94 | 35.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 189 |
| Kwun Tong | 309 | 64.0 | 1 266 | 69.0 | 53 | 30.0 | 226 | 26.0 | 0 | 0.7 | 53 | 395 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. | 558 | 80.0 | 35 | 37.0 | 210 | 27.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 595 |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | 4 442 | 28.0 | 23 | 27.0 | 94 | 16.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 591 |
| Kowloon City | 1 152 | 59.0 | 4 089 | 42.0 | 22 | 48.0 | 151 | 20.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 455 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 131 | 81.0 | 1 857 | 56.0 | 23 | 21.0 | 139 | 34.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 793 |
| Sham Shui Po | 62 | 100.0 | 1 487 | 50.0 | 28 | 30.0 | 165 | 28.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 842 |
| Sha Tin | 177 | 98.0 | 1 948 | 70.0 | 30 | 43.0 | 135 | 27.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 848 |
| Tai Po | 92 | 20.0 | 1 430 | 41.0 | 20 | 55.0 | 111 | 13.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 580 |
| North | 51 | 100.0 | 1 087 | 49.0 | 17 | 45.0 | 82 | 41.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 446 |
| Yuen Long | 152 | 91.0 | 1 365 | 80.0 | 36 | 43.0 | 139 | 32.0 | 28 | 0.0 | 53 | 1 151 |
| Tsuen Wan | 244 | 45.0 | 1 048 | 63.0 | 19 | 26.0 | 98 | 31.0 | 14 | 0.0 | 53 | 645 |
| Kwai Tsing | 60 | 100.0 | 1 101 | 66.0 | 37 | 39.0 | 138 | 18.0 | 14 | 3.1 | 53 | 679 |
| Tuen Mun | 172 | 68.0 | 1 591 | 60.0 | 33 | 30.0 | 173 | 29.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 732 |
| Total | 3 240 | 63.0 | 32 737 | 48.0 | 456 | 36.0 | 2 329 | 27.0 | 84 | 2.1 | 954 | 10 319 |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note 1] 2 standalone CCCs in Tai Po and Yuen Long districts commenced service in January and March 2023 respectively.

[Note 2] Figures provided by EDB as at September 2022.

[Note 3] 13 MHCCCs in Southern, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sham Shui Po, Tai Po, North, Yuen Long and Kwai Tsing districts have been re-engineered to provide after-school care service for pre-primary children. As a result, there has been a reduction in the number of service places.

[Note 4] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

Table 3: Service fee, number of places and average utilisation rate of standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS, MHCCCs and NSCCP (April to December 2023)

| District | Standalone CCC ^[Note 1] | | CCC attached to KG ^[Note 2] | | OCCS | | EHS | | MHCCC | | NSCCP | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | | Service fee (\$) | |
| | - | | - | | Whole day: 64 Half day: 32 Per 2 hours: 16 | | Per hour: 13 | | Per hours: 8-28 | | Per hour for HCCS: 18-24 Per hour for CCG: 10-24 | |
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places ^[Note 3] | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places ^[Note 4] | Number of service users |
| Central & Western | 48 | 50.0 | 2 896 | 23.0 | 14 | 48.0 | 99 | 35.0 | 0 | 10.9 | 53 | 387 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 1 095 | 46.0 | 17 | 43.0 | 73 | 63.0 | 14 | 0.0 | 53 | 422 |
| Islands | 136 | 66.0 | 1 241 | 24.0 | 12 | 25.0 | 27 | 6.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 397 |
| Eastern | 260 | 46.0 | 3 461 | 46.0 | 22 | 42.0 | 175 | 38.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 329 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 100.0 | 1 420 | 44.0 | 17 | 69.0 | 94 | 50.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 201 |
| Kwun Tong | 309 | 65.0 | 1 300 | 62.0 | 48 | 45.0 | 226 | 48.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 404 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. | 555 | 78.0 | 32 | 62.0 | 210 | 41.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 525 |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | 4 732 | 24.0 | 22 | 44.0 | 94 | 26.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 469 |
| Kowloon City | 1 152 | 54.0 | 4 401 | 39.0 | 23 | 52.0 | 151 | 30.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 280 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 131 | 83.0 | 1 983 | 48.0 | 22 | 39.0 | 139 | 41.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 640 |
| Sham Shui Po | 62 | 100.0 | 1 567 | 48.0 | 29 | 53.0 | 162 | 42.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 706 |
| Sha Tin | 177 | 99.0 | 2 053 | 64.0 | 31 | 52.0 | 138 | 40.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 546 |
| Tai Po | 92 | 83.0 | 1 508 | 38.0 | 19 | 62.0 | 111 | 31.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 380 |
| North | 51 | 100.0 | 1 139 | 47.0 | 18 | 58.0 | 82 | 55.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 400 |
| Yuen Long | 152 | 76.0 | 1 469 | 83.0 | 39 | 64.0 | 139 | 44.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 53 | 879 |
| Tsuen Wan | 244 | 50.0 | 1 114 | 68.0 | 19 | 56.0 | 98 | 40.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 380 |
| Kwai Tsing | 60 | 100.0 | 1 138 | 59.0 | 37 | 44.0 | 138 | 22.0 | 0 | 8.9 | 53 | 495 |
| Tuen Mun | 172 | 74.0 | 1 677 | 56.0 | 34 | 40.0 | 173 | 35.0 | - | N.A. | 53 | 644 |
| Total | 3 094 | 64.0 | 34 749 | 44.0 | 455 | 51.0 | 2 329 | 39.0 | 14 | 2.7 | 954 | 8 484 |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note 1] 1 standalone CCC in Central & Western district has ceased operation in August 2023.

[Note 2] Figures provided by EDB as at September 2023.

[Note 3] 17 MHCCCs in Southern, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sham Shui Po, Tai Po, North, Yuen Long, Kwai Tsing, and Central & Western districts have been re-engineered to provide after-school care service for pre-primary children. As a result, there has been a reduction in the number of service places.

[Note 4] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)035

(Question Serial No. 0875)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide this Committee with the following information for the past 3 years:

- (1) the respective numbers of persons benefited from adoption services and services for street sleepers, as well as the actual or estimated expenditure involved;
- (2) the number of persons benefited from foster care services, as well as the actual or estimated expenditure involved; and
- (3) the respective numbers of persons benefited from the services of refuge centres for women and the Multi-Purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre (MCISC), as well as the actual or estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

- (1) The number of children arranged by the Social Welfare Department for adoption in the past 3 financial years and the expenditure involved are set out in Table 1 of Annex. The number of street sleeper cases receiving support and the expenditure of subvented integrated services for street sleepers are set out in Tables 2 and 3 of Annex, respectively.
- (2) The number of children receiving foster care services in the past 3 financial years and the expenditure involved are set out in Table 4 of Annex.
- (3) The number of service users and the expenditure of refuge centres for women and MCISC in the past 3 financial years are set out in Tables 5 and 6 of Annex, respectively.

Table 1: Number of children adopted and the expenditure involved

| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Number of children adopted | 70 | 82 | 44 |
| Expenditure (\$ million) | 19.4 (Actual) | 19.3 (Actual) | 20.4 (Revised Estimate) |

Table 2: Number of street sleeper cases receiving support

| Year | Number of cases |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2021-22 | 573 |
| 2022-23 | 556 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 639 |

Table 3: Expenditure of subvented integrated services for street sleepers

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 29.9 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 32.6 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 36.2 |

Table 4: Number of children receiving foster care services and the expenditure involved

| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Number of children receiving foster care services | 921 | 892 | 844 |
| Expenditure (\$ million) | 233.7 (Actual) | 237.1 (Actual) | 252.6 (Revised estimate) |

Table 5: Number of service users and expenditure of refuge centres for women

| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|--|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Total number of admissions ^[Note 1] | 962 | 1 033 | 848 |
| Expenditure (\$ million) | 42.6 (Actual) | 43.4 (Actual) | 44.9 (Revised estimate) |

[Note 1] As service users may have multiple admissions to refuge centres in a particular year, admission is counted on a headcount basis.

Table 6: Number of service users and expenditure of MCISC

| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|--|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Total number of admissions ^[Note 2] | 288 | 273 | 238 |
| Expenditure (\$ million) | 18.8 (Actual) | 19.0 (Actual) | 19.9 (Revised estimate) |

[Note 2] As service users may have multiple admissions to MCISC in a particular year, admission is counted on a headcount basis.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)036

(Question Serial No. 0876)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP):

- (1) Please provide the actual annual expenditure on NSCCP for each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by expenditure item (such as incentive payment, staff salaries, training for child carers, administrative expenses, etc.).
- (2) For each of the past 3 years, please provide the following information for the 18 districts in Hong Kong:
 - (a) the number of places and number of home-based child carers;
 - (b) the amount of subvention for each service operator and the service fee they charge;
 - (c) the hourly wage of home-based child carers; and
 - (d) the number of service users, broken down by age groups of 0 to 2, 3 to 5 and 6 to 9; and
- (3) the number of subvented places, amount of additional funding and estimated expenditure on NSCCP in 2024-25.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Ka-pui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

- (1) The expenditure on NSCCP in the past 3 financial years is tabulated as follows. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) allocates funding to service operators based on the expenditure in operating NSCCP, which includes staff salaries, costs for recruiting and training home-based child carers, incentive payments, service promotion costs and subsidies for service fee waivers/reductions, etc. At the same time, service operators are required to provide a minimum number of places and employ staff in accordance with the staffing establishment stipulated in the Service Agreement (SA) for operating NSCCP. They must also meet the service output and outcome standards specified in the SA. Subject to their compliance with these requirements, service operators may flexibly deploy the funding to operate NSCCP. Therefore, SWD does not have the breakdown of the expenditure on NSCCP as requested in the question.

| Year | Expenditure on NSCCP (\$ million) |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 51.2 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) ^[Note 1] | 28.3 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) ^[Note 2] | 107.7 |

[Note 1] The decrease in expenditure for 2022-23 was due to the fact that part of the funding for 2022-23 was disbursed in 2023-24.

[Note 2] The increase in expenditure for 2023-24 was due to the fact that part of the funding for 2022-23 was disbursed in 2023-24.

- (2) The information on NSCCP over the past 3 financial years, broken down by District Council district, is set out at Annex. The current incentive payment for home-based child carers is set at the standard rate of \$25 per hour. Starting from April 2024, the rate will be increased to \$60 per hour for carers of infants and young children aged 0 to 3 or children with special learning needs. For carers of children aged 3 to 9, the rate will be increased by 60%, to \$40 per hour.
- (3) Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of home-based child care service places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand, and additional funding will be granted accordingly. Starting from the fourth quarter of 2024, SWD will double the number of NSCCP places to around 2 000, incurring an additional recurrent expenditure of about \$293.3 million each year. The estimated expenditure on NSCCP for 2024-25 is about \$268.9 million.

Table 1: Number of places, number of home-based child carers, number of children served, service fee and amount of subsidy granted to service operators of NSCCP (2021-22)

| District | Number of places [Note 1] | Number of home-based child carers (December 2021) | Number of children served | | | | Basic service fee per hour [Note 2] | | Actual expenditure for 2021-22 [Note 3] (\$ million) |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| | | | Aged below 3 | Aged 3 to below 6 | Aged above 6 | Total | Home-based child care service (HCCS) | Centre-based care group (CCG) | |
| Central & Western | 53 | 32 | 61 | 132 | 162 | 355 | 24 | 24 | 51.2 |
| Wan Chai | 53 | 98 | 58 | 88 | 141 | 287 | 22 | 22 | |
| Eastern | 53 | 58 | 146 | 192 | 90 | 428 | 22 | 22 | |
| Southern | 53 | 26 | 40 | 155 | 88 | 283 | 20 | 12 | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 314 | 293 | 298 | 133 | 724 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sham Shui Po | 53 | 49 | 369 | 397 | 245 | 1 011 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kowloon City | 53 | 515 | 167 | 206 | 215 | 588 | 20 | 13 | |
| Wong Tai Sin | 53 | 45 | 113 | 337 | 171 | 621 | 18 | 10 | |
| Kwun Tong | 53 | 56 | 92 | 126 | 144 | 362 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kwai Tsing | 53 | 55 | 283 | 208 | 128 | 619 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tsuen Wan | 53 | 56 | 151 | 212 | 151 | 514 | 20 | 13 | |
| Tuen Mun | 53 | 31 | 214 | 254 | 299 | 767 | 20 | 13 | |
| Yuen Long | 53 | 72 | 388 | 539 | 382 | 1 309 | 18 | 13 | |
| North | 53 | 70 | 99 | 211 | 172 | 482 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tai Po | 53 | 73 | 133 | 267 | 152 | 552 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sha Tin | 53 | 42 | 190 | 374 | 352 | 916 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sai Kung | 53 | 135 | 176 | 223 | 114 | 513 | 20 | 13 | |
| Islands | 53 | 88 | 112 | 222 | 164 | 498 | 22 | 13 | |
| Total | 954 | 1 815 | 3 085 | 4 441 | 3 303 | 10 829 | - | - | |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

[Note 2] Operators may determine the amount of fees according to the circumstances of the district. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can apply for fee waivers/reductions.

[Note 3] The expenditure for each year includes the operator's administrative expenses and subsidies granted to service users from low-income families.

Table 2: Number of places, number of home-based child carers, number of children served, service fee and amount of subsidy granted to service operators of NSCCP (2022-23)

| District | Number of places [Note 1] | Number of home-based child carers (December 2022) | Number of children served | | | | Basic service fee per hour [Note 2] | | Actual expenditure for 2022-23 [Note 3] (\$ million) |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|--|-----|--|
| | | | Aged below 3 | Aged 3 to below 6 | Aged above 6 | Total | HCCS | CCG | |
| Central & Western | 53 | 29 | 55 | 181 | 177 | 413 | 24 | 24 | 28.3 |
| Wan Chai | 53 | 73 | 32 | 46 | 111 | 189 | 22 | 22 | |
| Eastern | 53 | 59 | 134 | 133 | 59 | 326 | 22 | 22 | |
| Southern | 53 | 27 | 5 | 90 | 76 | 171 | 20 | 12 | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 278 | 218 | 349 | 226 | 793 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sham Shui Po | 53 | 57 | 328 | 307 | 207 | 842 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kowloon City | 53 | 521 | 125 | 169 | 161 | 455 | 20 | 13 | |
| Wong Tai Sin | 53 | 45 | 61 | 287 | 247 | 595 | 18 | 10 | |
| Kwun Tong | 53 | 44 | 115 | 152 | 128 | 395 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kwai Tsing | 53 | 72 | 296 | 217 | 166 | 679 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tsuen Wan | 53 | 63 | 121 | 289 | 235 | 645 | 20 | 13 | |
| Tuen Mun | 53 | 33 | 198 | 246 | 288 | 732 | 20 | 13 | |
| Yuen Long | 53 | 65 | 344 | 400 | 407 | 1 151 | 18 | 13 | |
| North | 53 | 61 | 60 | 160 | 226 | 446 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tai Po | 53 | 69 | 120 | 245 | 215 | 580 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sha Tin | 53 | 41 | 160 | 355 | 333 | 848 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sai Kung | 53 | 139 | 148 | 245 | 198 | 591 | 20 | 13 | |
| Islands | 53 | 83 | 57 | 189 | 222 | 468 | 22 | 13 | |
| Total | 954 | 1 759 | 2 577 | 4 060 | 3 682 | 10 319 | - | - | |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

[Note 2] Operators may determine the amount of fees according to the circumstances of the district. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can apply for fee waivers/reductions.

[Note 3] The expenditure for each year includes the operator's administrative expenses and subsidies granted to service users from low-income families.

Table 3: Number of places, number of home-based child carers, number of children served, service fee and amount of subsidy granted to service operators of NSCCP (2023-24) (April to December 2023)

| District | Number of places [Note 1] | Number of home-based child carers (December 2023) | Number of children served | | | | Basic service fee per hour [Note 2] | | Revised estimate for 2023-24 [Note 3] (\$ million) |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--|-----|--|
| | | | Aged below 3 | Aged 3 to below 6 | Aged above 6 | Total | HCCS | CCG | |
| Central & Western | 53 | 59 | 81 | 188 | 118 | 387 | 24 | 24 | 107.7 |
| Wan Chai | 53 | 67 | 24 | 96 | 81 | 201 | 22 | 22 | |
| Eastern | 53 | 103 | 151 | 126 | 52 | 329 | 22 | 22 | |
| Southern | 53 | 30 | 7 | 222 | 193 | 422 | 20 | 12 | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 126 | 160 | 277 | 203 | 640 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sham Shui Po | 53 | 59 | 315 | 230 | 161 | 706 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kowloon City | 53 | 525 | 64 | 122 | 94 | 280 | 20 | 13 | |
| Wong Tai Sin | 53 | 112 | 77 | 212 | 236 | 525 | 18 | 10 | |
| Kwun Tong | 53 | 46 | 111 | 163 | 130 | 404 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kwai Tsing | 53 | 82 | 232 | 119 | 144 | 495 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tsuen Wan | 53 | 77 | 88 | 194 | 98 | 380 | 20 | 13 | |
| Tuen Mun | 53 | 37 | 215 | 246 | 183 | 644 | 20 | 13 | |
| Yuen Long | 53 | 67 | 234 | 351 | 294 | 879 | 18 | 13 | |
| North | 53 | 78 | 45 | 135 | 220 | 400 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tai Po | 53 | 77 | 93 | 158 | 129 | 380 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sha Tin | 53 | 42 | 98 | 223 | 225 | 546 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sai Kung | 53 | 83 | 145 | 179 | 145 | 469 | 20 | 13 | |
| Islands | 53 | 100 | 54 | 203 | 140 | 397 | 22 | 13 | |
| Total | 954 | 1 770 | 2 194 | 3 444 | 2 846 | 8 484 | - | - | |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

[Note 2] Operators may determine the amount of fees according to the circumstances of the district. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can apply for fee waivers/reductions.

[Note 3] The expenditure for each year includes the operator's administrative expenses and subsidies granted to service users from low-income families.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)037

(Question Serial No. 0877)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please inform this Committee of the following for the past 3 years:

- (1) the staffing and expenditure of the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs), as well as the proportion of its expenditure to the total expenditure of the Department;
- (2) the number of domestic violence cases handled each year, broken down by physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence and multiple violence;
- (3) the number of child abuse cases handled and the number of children involved, broken down by gender and age of the child, case type (physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence and multiple violence) and relationship between the child and the abuser/perpetrator; and
- (4) the Department's specific measures to combat domestic violence, the effectiveness of such measures, and the expenditure or estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- (1) The staffing establishment of FCPSUs of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in the past 3 years consisted of 14 Senior Social Work Officers, 155 Social Work Officers and 51 Assistant Social Work Officers. The revised estimated expenditure of FCPSUs in 2023-24 was \$313 million, which constituted about 0.3% of the total expenditure of SWD.
- (2) & (3) The number of newly reported cases of domestic violence involving spouse/cohabitant battering cases and the number of newly registered child protection cases from 2021 to 2023 as collected by the Central Information System on Spouse/Cohabitant Battering Cases and Sexual Violence Cases and the Child Protection Registry of SWD by type and relationship between the abuser/perpetrator and the victim/maltreated child are tabulated at Annex.

- (4) SWD will continue to provide a wide range of preventive, supportive and specialised services to support victims of domestic violence (including child abuse) and families in need. These services are provided through integrated family service centres/integrated services centres, FCPSUs, Clinical Psychology Units, family support networking teams, refuge centres for women, the Family Crisis Support Centre, the Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre, the Victim Support Programme for Victims of Family Violence, residential child care services and child care centres, etc. The estimated expenditure of these services in 2024-25 is about \$5.815 billion. In addition, SWD has earmarked about \$4.4 million for organising publicity and public education programmes on prevention of domestic violence (including child abuse) for the year 2024-25.

Spouse/cohabitant battering cases

(1) Newly reported spouse/cohabitant battering cases

| Type \ Year | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Physical violence | 2 203 | 1 649 | 1 528 |
| Sexual violence | 27 | 17 | 9 |
| Psychological violence | 275 | 189 | 153 |
| Multiple violence | 210 | 222 | 248 |
| Total | 2 715 | 2 077 | 1 938 |

Newly registered child protection cases

(2) Distribution of newly registered child protection cases by type

| Type \ Year | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Physical harm/abuse | 593 | 652 | 602 |
| Neglect | 275 | 276 | 310 |
| Sexual abuse | 448 | 443 | 509 |
| Psychological harm/abuse | 9 | 15 | 7 |
| Multiple abuses | 42 | 53 | 29 |
| Total | 1 367 | 1 439 | 1 457 |

(3) Gender of maltreated children

| Gender \ Year | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Female | 848 | 866 | 880 |
| Male | 519 | 573 | 577 |
| Total | 1 367 | 1 439 | 1 457 |

(4) Distribution of maltreated children by age ^[Note 1]

| Age \ Year | 2021 | 2022 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 0-2 | 190 | 230 |
| 3-5 | 148 | 142 |
| 6-8 | 224 | 200 |
| 9-11 | 248 | 273 |
| 12-14 | 351 | 383 |
| 15-17 | 206 | 211 |
| Total | 1 367 | 1 439 |

[Note 1] The age distribution of maltreated children in 2023 is not yet available.

(5) Relationship between the perpetrator and the maltreated child ^[Note 2]

| Relationship with the maltreated child | Number of perpetrators | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| Parent/Sibling/Step-parent/Grandparent/Relative | 999 | 993 | 986 |
| Family friend/Parent of peer/Schoolmate/Friend/Peer | 170 | 193 | 201 |
| Carer/School teacher/School personnel/Staff of boarding section of school/Tutor/Coach/Religious personnel | 65 | 114 | 134 |
| Co-tenant/Neighbour/Inmate of residential service | 11 | 6 | 14 |
| Unrelated person | 145 | 159 | 142 |
| Unidentified person/Other | 51 | 50 | 62 |
| Total | 1 441 | 1 515 | 1 539 |

[Note 2] The number of perpetrators and the number of maltreated children do not tally because a perpetrator may harm/maltreat more than 1 child and a child may be harmed/maltreated by more than 1 perpetrator.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)038

(Question Serial No. 0878)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide this Committee with the following information regarding residential child care services (RCCS) for the past 3 years:

- (1) For each service operator, please provide (a) the number of places; (b) the number of service users, broken down by age; (c) the average duration of receiving services; and (d) the number of waitlisted children.
- (2) How many staff members are responsible for inspecting RCCS? What is the amount of expenditure involved, and what proportion does it represent in relation to the total expenditure of the Social Welfare Department (SWD)?
- (3) How many times were staff members sent to inspect and supervise RCCS? What was the expenditure involved? Specifically, how the inspection and supervision of RCCS will be strengthened in 2024-25? What is the estimated expenditure involved?
- (4) How many complaints against RCCS have been handled? What are the causes for these complaints?
- (5) How many non-compliance cases have been found during inspections? What are the violations, and what penalties have been imposed?
- (6) How many non-compliance cases have been prosecuted? Please provide details of the offences and the penalties imposed.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

- (1) The number of places, average length of stay and number of children waitlisted for foster care service, small group home (SGH) and residential home for children (RHC) (including residential child care centre (RCCC), children's home and boys'/girls' home/hostel) in the past 3 years are set out at Annex 1. The age distribution of service users of foster care service, SGH and RHC is set out at Annex 2.

- (2) & (3) All RCCCs and residential special child care centres (RSCCCs) must be registered in accordance with the Child Care Services Ordinance (Cap. 243) and the Child Care Services Regulations (Cap. 243A), and must comply with the requirements stipulated in the Ordinance and the Regulations mentioned above, as well as the Operation Manual for Pre-primary Institutions. The Child Care Centre Advisory Inspectorate (CCCAI) of SWD conducts regular and surprise inspections at standalone child care centres (CCCs) and processes applications for the registration of standalone CCCs to ensure that the service units comply with the statutory requirements in areas such as staffing, space and design, safety measures, quality of care, etc. Since February 2022, inspectors of CCCAI have conducted at least 6 surprise inspections (during office and non-office hours) at subvented RCCCs/RSCCCs every 12 months, and will increase the frequency of inspections as required based on risk management.

To enhance the depth and breadth of inspections and monitoring, and to provide immediate professional advice/feedback and take follow-up actions during inspections, SWD added 2 former law enforcement officers to CCCAI through internal redeployment of manpower resources in 2022, and 1 social worker and 1 registered nurse to the staffing establishment of CCCAI in 2023-24. At present, the staffing establishment of CCCAI comprises 1 Social Work Officer, 5 social workers and 1 nurse. The staffing establishment of CCCAI and the relevant payroll costs in the past 3 years are set out at Annex 3.

- (4) To ensure CCCs comply with the statutory requirements and safeguard the well-being of children under their care, CCCAI will investigate complaints involving CCCs. In the past 3 years, CCCAI received a total of 10 complaints against RCCCs and RSCCCs involving child care arrangements and suspected child abuse incidents.
- (5) & (6) If any CCC is found not complying with the statutory requirements, CCCAI will issue written advice, warnings or directions in light of the nature and severity of the non-compliance. If the CCC concerned persistently fails to comply with the requirements, prosecution may be initiated. The Director of Social Welfare may consider cancelling the registration of the CCC concerned where circumstances warrant it. In the past 3 years, CCCAI issued 6 written advice to RCCCs/RSCCCs, reminding them to strengthen safety measures for children. In addition, it issued 4 written warnings and 1 direction on remedial measures in relation to child abuse incidents. After receiving written advice, warnings or directions from CCCAI, the CCCs concerned have promptly implemented improvements and rectified the non-compliance or irregularities.

Number of places, average length of stay and number of children waitlisted for foster care service, SGH and RHC (including RCCC, children's home and boys'/girls' home/hostel) in the past 3 years

| Item | Year | Foster care service | SGH | RHC |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Number of places | 2021-22 | 1 130 | 924 | 1 832 |
| | 2022-23 | 1 130 | 954 | 1 832 |
| | 2023-24 ^[Note 1] | 1 230 ^[Note 2] | 978 | 1 832 |
| Average length of stay in months ^{[Note 3] [Note 4]} | 2021-22 | 31.16 | 33.67 | 22.01 |
| | 2022-23 | 34.90 | 32.27 | 24.57 |
| | 2023-24 ^[Note 5] | 42.50 | 36.18 | 21.69 |
| Number of waitlisted children (monthly average) | 2021-22 | 314 | 363 | 224 |
| | 2022-23 | 289 | 388 | 296 |
| | 2023-24 ^[Note 5] | 292 | 342 | 280 |

[Note 1] Statistics as at 31 December 2023.

[Note 2] In 2023-24, a total of 100 places were added to foster care service.

[Note 3] The figures include both ordinary and emergency services.

[Note 4] SWD usually calculates the average length of stay of children upon their withdrawal from RCCS in months. To ensure the consistency of information and for ease of cross reference, the above figures are also calculated in months.

[Note 5] Statistics from April to December 2023.

Age distribution of service users of foster care service, SGH and RHC in the past 3 years (as at end-December)

| Year | Distribution by age | Foster care service ^[Note 1] | SGH ^[Note 2] | RHC |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|------------|
| 2021 | Newborn to aged below 6 | 428 | 16 | 242 |
| | Aged 6 to below 12 | 350 | 363 | 295 |
| | Aged 12 to below 18 | 139 | 447 | 848 |
| | Aged 18 or above | 2 | 17 | 130 |
| 2022 | Newborn to aged below 6 | 403 | 14 | 220 |
| | Aged 6 to below 12 | 330 | 350 | 304 |
| | Aged 12 to below 18 | 147 | 460 | 907 |
| | Aged 18 or above | – | 6 | 140 |
| 2023 | Newborn to aged below 6 | 385 | 21 | 211 |
| | Aged 6 to below 12 | 319 | 373 | 308 |
| | Aged 12 to below 18 | 139 | 497 | 829 |
| | Aged 18 or above | 1 | 11 | 139 |

[Note 1] Under exceptional circumstances, children receiving foster care service may extend their stay beyond 18 years of age.

[Note 2] SGH targets to serve children aged 4 to below 18. Under exceptional circumstances, children receiving service at SGH may extend their stay beyond 18 years of age.

Table 1: Staffing establishment and payroll costs of CCCAI

| Staffing establishment \ Year | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 2024-25 (Estimate) |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Social worker | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Registered nurse | - | - | - | 1 |
| Total | 5 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Payroll costs (\$ million) | 3.96 | 4.06 | 3.20 | 5.3 |

Table 2: Payroll costs for employing former law enforcement officers

| Year | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 2024-25 (Estimated expenditure) |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| Payroll costs (\$ million) | 1.01 | 0.82 | 1.11 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)039

(Question Serial No. 0880)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding day care centres/units for the elderly (DEs/DCUs), please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the latest number of persons on the waiting list; and
- (2) the number of service users, number of current service users, average waiting time for the services, number of elderly persons who passed away while waiting for the services, number of service units and their staffing levels, and average monthly cost and expenditure per service place in each of the past 3 years, broken down by 18 districts across the territory and age.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

- (1) The number of persons waitlisted for DEs/DCUs at the end of December 2023 was 1 897.
- (2) The full-year number of service users and number of persons receiving services from 2021-22 to 2023-24 broken down by District Council (DC) district are set out at Annexes 1 to 2, respectively. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have a breakdown of such information by age.

The average waiting time for DEs/DCUs and number of elderly persons who passed away while waiting for DEs/DCUs from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are set out at Annex 3. SWD does not have a breakdown of such information by DC district or age.

The number of DEs/DCUs from 2021-22 to 2023-24 broken down by DC district is set out at Annex 4.

Under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, service operators may flexibly deploy resources and arrange suitable staffing to meet the requirements as set out in the Funding and Service Agreements. In February 2017, SWD uploaded the notional staffing establishment of subvented services to the following webpage:

https://www.swd.gov.hk/en/ngo/subventions/suballoc/subvention/nses/nses_es/index.html

The average monthly cost per service place and total annual expenditure for DEs/DCUs from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are set out below:

| Year | Average monthly cost per service place (\$) | Total annual expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 12,083 | 473.9 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 12,346 | 505.2 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 12,829 | 545.5 |

Full-year number of DE/DCU service users

| District | Full-year no. of service users | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|---|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (from April to December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 304 | 314 | 293 |
| Eastern | 542 | 574 | 556 |
| Wan Chai | 230 | 225 | 214 |
| Southern | 213 | 226 | 222 |
| Islands | 80 | 88 | 93 |
| Kwun Tong | 939 | 948 | 852 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 613 | 701 | 666 |
| Sai Kung | 459 | 462 | 436 |
| Kowloon City | 310 | 330 | 309 |
| Sham Shui Po | 533 | 578 | 531 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 309 | 319 | 307 |
| Sha Tin | 693 | 853 | 816 |
| Tai Po | 144 | 297 | 309 |
| North | 90 | 201 | 258 |
| Yuen Long | 451 | 451 | 412 |
| Tsuen Wan | 370 | 417 | 365 |
| Kwai Tsing | 550 | 579 | 564 |
| Tuen Mun | 506 | 586 | 599 |
| Total | 7 336 | 8 149 | 7 802 |

Number of persons receiving services at DEs/DCUs

| District | No. of persons receiving services | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 210 | 204 | 218 |
| Eastern | 393 | 392 | 411 |
| Wan Chai | 170 | 162 | 165 |
| Southern | 151 | 158 | 171 |
| Islands | 64 | 66 | 67 |
| Kwun Tong | 637 | 626 | 647 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 458 | 487 | 512 |
| Sai Kung | 311 | 309 | 334 |
| Kowloon City | 228 | 241 | 238 |
| Sham Shui Po | 375 | 381 | 395 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 212 | 221 | 243 |
| Sha Tin | 495 | 587 | 618 |
| Tai Po | 104 | 179 | 209 |
| North | 65 | 128 | 189 |
| Yuen Long | 311 | 289 | 302 |
| Tsuen Wan | 263 | 272 | 295 |
| Kwai Tsing | 375 | 378 | 411 |
| Tuen Mun | 377 | 419 | 459 |
| Total | 5 199 | 5 499 | 5 884 |

Average waiting time for DEs/DCUs and number of elderly persons who passed away while waiting

| Year | Average waiting time (in months) (average of the past 3 months) | No. of waitlisted elderly persons who passed away |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 2021-22 | 8 | 41 |
| 2022-23 | 4 | 75 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 4 | 47 |

Number of DEs/DCUs

| District | No. | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Eastern | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Wan Chai | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Southern | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Islands | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Kwun Tong | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Sai Kung | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Kowloon City | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Sham Shui Po | 8 | 8 | 9 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Sha Tin | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| Tai Po | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| North | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Yuen Long | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Tsuen Wan | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Kwai Tsing | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Tuen Mun | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Total | 93 | 96 | 99 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)040

(Question Serial No. 0881)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services (Navigation Scheme), please provide the following information for each of the past 3 years:

- (1) the number of participants;
- (2) the respective numbers of persons who completed and dropped out of the Navigation Scheme and their reasons for dropping out;
- (3) the number of persons articulated to other nursing courses through the Navigation Scheme; and
- (4) the specific outcomes of the Navigation Scheme, the government expenditure involved, as well as the expected number of participants, salary expenses, number of training places and estimated expenditure for the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

- (1) to (3) The numbers of persons admitted, graduated and dropped out from the Navigation Scheme, as well as the number of graduates pursuing further studies in nursing or medical service-related courses each year from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are tabulated at Annex. The reasons for trainees to drop out of the Navigation Scheme include pursuing further studies and moving on to other jobs, etc.
- (4) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the Navigation Scheme in 2015-16 and enhanced it in 2020-21 to provide a total of 1 200 training places within the next 5 years starting from the same year, involving a total expenditure of about \$266 million.

As at end-December 2023, the enhanced Navigation Scheme has recruited a total of 1 233 trainees, of whom 383 have graduated. According to the information provided by some trainees at the time of graduation, 230 of them will continue to be employed in social welfare service units. Operators may recruit more trainees than the current year's training quota by utilising the surplus resources from previous years due to trainees dropping out of the Navigation Scheme. The

estimated expenditure for the Navigation Scheme is around \$17.3 million in 2024-25. In 2023-24, trainees employed as care workers upon admission to the Navigation Scheme received a monthly salary of \$15,910, and a monthly salary of \$18,340 upon promotion to health workers.

SWD regularly meets with various operators to exchange views on the progress and effectiveness of the Navigation Scheme, with a view to ensuring that their arrangements comply and align with the objectives of the Navigation Scheme.

Number of persons admitted, graduated and dropped out from the Navigation Scheme, and the number of graduates pursuing further studies in related courses from 2021-22 to 2023-24

| Admission year | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|---|----------------|--|--|
| No. of persons admitted | 368 | 222 | 225 |
| No. of graduates | 159 | In training and have not graduated yet | In training and have not graduated yet |
| No. of dropouts | 200 | 113 | 76 |
| No. of graduates pursuing further studies in nursing or medical service-related courses | 27 | In training and have not graduated yet | In training and have not graduated yet |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)041

(Question Serial No. 0882)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for the Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide information on the following for each of the past 3 years:

- (1) the number of different ranks of care staff engaged by subvented elderly service units, as well as their average age and salary;
- (2) the number of training places for frontline care staff and number of graduates;
- (3) the number of new recruits and the turnover rate of frontline care staff;
- (4) the number of foreign care staff engaged; and
- (5) ways to attract more people to join the elderly service sector.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

- (1) & (3) Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreement and the relevant statutory staffing requirements, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating subvented elderly services may determine their staffing establishment and remuneration in accordance with their own human resources policies and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to respond swiftly to service needs and provide welfare services efficiently. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not require NGOs to report the number of care staff, their age, salary and turnover rate, as well as the number of new recruits for each subvented elderly service unit.
- (2) As at the end of December 2023, the Director of Social Welfare has approved 30 training institutions to organise a total of 55 health worker training courses applicable to residential care homes (RCHs) for the elderly (RCHes) and RCHs for persons with disabilities (RCHDs). In addition, there are different organisations in Hong Kong offering elderly service training courses for different types of front-line care staff. Since these courses are not provided or approved by SWD, SWD does not have relevant information on the numbers of training places or graduates of these courses.

- (4) Employers in the elderly care service sector were given approval to import 1 631 elderly care workers through the Supplementary Labour Scheme (SLS) in 2021. To help RCHs face the challenge of manpower shortage during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government relaxed certain requirements for the sector to import care workers through SLS from March to May 2022. RCHEs were given approval to import 3 441 care workers in the year.

The Government launched the Special Scheme to Import Care Workers for RCHs (Special Scheme) on 19 June 2023. Since then, SLS of the Labour Department no longer accepted applications from RCHs for the importation of care workers. For SLS applications submitted prior to that date, approvals were given for RCHEs to import 793 care workers in 2023. Besides, a total of 2 624 quotas to import care workers (including those for contract renewal) were granted to various RCHEs under the Special Scheme in the same year.

- (5) SWD implemented the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services (Navigation Scheme) in 2015-16, and enhanced it in 2020-21 to provide a total of 1 200 training places within the next 5 years. Apart from receiving on-the-job training in elderly or rehabilitation service units, trainees are also provided with government subsidies to pursue a relevant two-year part-time diploma course.

Since November 2020, SWD has launched a series of promotional activities, such as advertising on online platforms and public transport to promote the care industry, with a view to attracting more young people to join the social welfare care sector.

SWD will continue to implement the Enrolled Nurse (General) Training Programme for the Welfare Sector for 5 consecutive academic years from 2023-24 to 2027-28, and subsidise over 1 700 additional students to enrol in the training programme, i.e. providing an additional of 427 subsidised places per cohort. Students are required to work as Enrolled Nurses (General) in welfare service organisations recognised by SWD to provide elderly, rehabilitation, family and child care, or correctional services for a minimum of 3 consecutive years after completing the training programme.

SWD commissioned a consultant to commence a study on 1 July 2023 to holistically review the skill and qualification requirements of staff who provide health and rehabilitation services in RCHs, so as to establish professional standards and a career progression path for them. One area within the scope of the review is to explore the feasibility of setting up a new rank of senior health worker in RCHs so that local health workers with suitable training can take up more health and rehabilitation work in a position with more professional development and career progression, thereby assisting the RCH sector to attract and retain the talent required. The study is expected to be completed in 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)042

(Question Serial No. 0883)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide information on the following for each of the past 3 years:

- (1) the number of staff responsible for conducting inspections at residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), and the related expenditure as a percentage of the total expenditure of the Social Welfare Department (SWD);
- (2) the number of inspections and regulatory visits to RCHEs and the expenditure involved, as well as the specific measures to strengthen the inspection and monitoring of RCHEs in 2024-25 and the estimated expenditure involved;
- (3) the number of complaints against RCHEs handled, along with the causes of the complaints;
- (4) the number of warning or advisory letters issued to RCHEs, along with the causes for issuing such letters; and
- (5) the number of non-compliant cases found during inspections, along with the nature of these non-compliances and the penalties imposed.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

- (1) The number of inspectors responsible for conducting inspections at RCHEs under SWD's Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE) and the related payroll cost in the past 3 years are set out in Table 1 of Annex. In addition, since February 2017, SWD has recruited 8 retired disciplined service officers on contract terms to assist in carrying out inspections at RCHEs and residential care homes for persons with disabilities. The payroll cost so incurred, which accounted for 0.06% of SWD's overall expenditure in the past 3 years, is set out in Table 2 of Annex.
- (2) LORCHE's inspectors will conduct surprise inspections at RCHEs and, having regard to the issues and nature of suspected non-compliance of each individual RCHE, formulate customised and targeted strategies and action plans. These include conducting surprise inspections at RCHEs in a flexible manner, either with

a small team or a multi-disciplinary inspectorate team, at various times during office and non-office hours. The number of inspections conducted by SWD at RCHEs in the past 3 years is set out in Table 3 of Annex. The estimated payroll cost for LORCHE's inspectors in 2024-25 is \$55.59 million.

- (3) LORCHE is responsible for investigating complaints against RCHEs. If any non-compliance is found, LORCHE will, based on the nature and severity of the non-compliance, issue advisory letters, warning letters and written directions for remedial measures, or instigate prosecution against the relevant RCHEs. The number of complaints against RCHEs in the past 3 years is set out in Table 4 of Annex. These complaints include issues related to staffing arrangement, protection of privacy, drug management, infection control, nursing and personal care services, and fire safety, etc.
- (4) & (5) If RCHEs are found to be in contravention of the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Cap. 459), Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Regulation (Cap. 459A) or Code of Practice for Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) in the course of handling complaints or during inspections, LORCHE will, based on the nature and severity of the non-compliance, issue advisory letters, warning letters and written directions for remedial measures, or instigate prosecution against the relevant RCHEs. The respective numbers of advisory letters and warning letters issued to RCHEs in the past 3 years are set out in Table 5 of Annex. The categories of non-compliances include staffing arrangement, protection of privacy, drug management, infection control, nursing and personal care services, and fire safety, etc.

Table 1: Staffing establishment ^{Note} and payroll cost of LORCHE

| Year | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Total (persons) | 71 | 72 | 72 |
| Payroll cost (\$ million) | 51.31 | 53.14 | 41.69 |

^{Note} Excluding the 8 retired disciplined service officers employed on contract terms.

Table 2: Payroll cost for recruiting retired disciplined service officers

| Year | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Payroll cost (\$ million) | 4.14 | 4.21 | 3.26 |

Table 3: Number of inspections conducted by LORCHE

| Year | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Total | 5 324 | 5 902 | 4 185 |

Table 4: Number of complaints handled by LORCHE

| Year | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Total | 110 | 111 | 97 |

Table 5: Number of advisory letters and warning letters issued to RCHEs by LORCHE

| Year | 2021-21 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|--|----------------|----------------|--|
| No. of cases issued with advisory letters | 2 348 | 2 229 | 1 599 |
| No. of cases issued with warning letters | 112 | 114 | 61 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)043

(Question Serial No. 0885)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please inform this Committee of the following for each of the past 5 years:

- (1) the number of residential care homes (RCHs) for persons with disabilities (RCHDs);
- (2) the number of staff members responsible for conducting inspections of RCHDs; and their share of the overall expenditure of the Social Welfare Department (SWD);
- (3) the frequency and expenditure of conducting inspections and monitoring of RCHDs; as well as the specific plans for strengthening inspection and monitoring in 2024-25 and the estimated expenditure involved;
- (4) the numbers of formal complaints received, cases reported to the Police and special incident reports, broken down by subvented, self-financing and private RCHs; and
- (5) the number of non-compliance cases found during inspections, along with the details of non-compliances and the penalties imposed.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

- (1) The number of RCHDs in each of the past 5 years is set out in Table 1 of Annex.
- (2) The number of inspectors responsible for conducting inspections of RCHDs under SWD's Licensing Office of RCHDs (LORCHD) and the related payroll cost in each of the past 5 years are set out in Table 2 of Annex. In addition, SWD has employed a total of 8 retired disciplined services officers on contract terms to assist in carrying out inspections at RCHs for the elderly (RCHes) and RCHDs since February 2017. The relevant payroll cost is set out in Table 3 of Annex.
- (3) The Government attaches great importance to the service quality of RCHDs. To strengthen the monitoring and enhance the service quality of RCHDs, SWD has implemented continuous measures, including improving inspection strategies and strengthening inspection back-up, reviewing the legislation and codes of practice and formulating nursing care-related guidelines, enhancing the quality and skills of operators/home managers/ staff of RCHDs, and stepping up law enforcement and increasing transparency, etc. The RCHs Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments)

Ordinance 2023 (the Amendment Ordinance) was gazetted on 16 June 2023 to enhance the quality of RCHs in various aspects, including enhancing the minimum staffing requirements, increasing the minimum area of floor space per resident, strengthening the accountability of RCH operators, introducing a registration system for home managers, improving the registration system for health workers, enhancing the regulation of medicine administration, use of restraints and protection of residents' dignity and privacy, and raising the penalties for offences, etc. These statutory requirements will be implemented in phases to further enhance the quality of RCHs.

Regarding strengthening the inspection and monitoring of RCHDs, SWD's inspectors will, having regard to the items and nature of non-compliance of individual RCHDs, formulate specific, concrete and targeted strategies and action plans. This includes surprise inspections to RCHDs with a small team or a multi-disciplinary inspectorate team at different times during office and non-office hours. To increase the transparency of the monitoring mechanism for RCHDs, SWD will upload the warning records of non-compliant RCHDs onto its website and the Information Website for RCHDs, and the records will be kept for 12 and 24 months, respectively, for public inspection.

The number of inspections conducted at RCHDs by LORCHD in each of the past 5 years is set out in Table 4 of Annex. The estimated payroll cost for LORCHD's inspectors in 2024-25 is \$19.84 million.

- (4) The number of complaints against subvented, self-financing and private RCHDs received by SWD in each of the past 5 years are set out in Table 5 of Annex. The number of special incident reports on RCHDs received by SWD in the same period is set out in Table 6 of Annex. SWD does not have a breakdown on the number of complaints by type of RCHD or the number of cases reported to the Police by RCHDs.
- (5) If RCHDs are found to have failed to comply with the requirements of the RCHs (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance, the RCHs (Persons with Disabilities) Regulation or the Code of Practice for RCHDs in the course of handling complaints or conducting inspections, LORCHD will consider issuing advisory letters, warning letters and written directions for remedial measures, or instigating prosecutions against the relevant RCHDs depending on the nature and severity of the irregularities. The respective number of advisory letters and warning letters issued by SWD to RCHDs in each of the past 5 years are set out in Table 7 of Annex.

Table 1: Number of RCHDs

| Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| No. of RCHDs | 323 | 334 | 335 | 339 | 339 |

Table 2: Staffing establishment^{Note} and payroll cost for inspectors of LORCHD

| Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| Staffing establishment of inspectors (persons) | 24 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 27 |
| Payroll cost (\$ million) | 16.77 | 16.77 | 17.47 | 19.08 | 14.88 |

Note Excluding retired disciplined services officers employed on contract terms

Table 3: Payroll cost for employing retired disciplined services officers^{Note}

| Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| Payroll cost (\$ million) | 4.14 | 4.14 | 4.14 | 4.21 | 3.26 |

Note 8 retired disciplined services officers assist in carrying out inspections at RCHEs and RCHDs

Table 4: Number of inspections conducted at RCHDs by LORCHD

| Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| No. of inspections conducted | 2 157 | 1 910 | 1 824 | 2 096 | 1 441 |

Table 5: Number of complaint cases received by LORCHD

| Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| Subvented RCHDs | 21 | 25 | 57 | 67 | 53 |
| Self-financing RCHDs | - | - | - | 2 | 3 |
| Private RCHDs | 3 | 16 | 25 | 29 | 27 |

Table 6: Number of special incident reports received by LORCHD

| Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| Special incident reports | 252 | 235 | 445 | 397 | 283 |

Table 7: Number of advisory letters and warning letters issued to non-compliant^{Note} RCHDs by LORCHD

| Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| Advisory letter | 243 | 239 | 211 | 263 | 185 |
| Warning letter | 4 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 13 |

^{Note} The categories of non-compliance cases include home management, staffing arrangement, protection of privacy, abuse, drug management, infection control, fire safety, nursing and personal care services, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)044

(Question Serial No. 0886)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding pre-school rehabilitation services, including early education and training centres (EETCs), integrated programme in kindergarten-cum-child care centres (IP), special child care centres (SCCCs), occasional child care service (OCCS) for disabled children and on-site pre-school rehabilitation services (OPRS), please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the number of children with special needs assessed to be in need of pre-school rehabilitation services in the past 3 years;
- (2) the number of services places, actual number of additional service places, utilisation rate, service cost per person, number of persons waitlisted and their average waiting time for each service in the past 3 years, broken down by 18 districts across the territory;
- (3) the number of applicants, number of service users and number of persons applying for a freeze on service allocation in the past 3 years, broken down by district of residence, age group and gender;
- (4) the numbers of service sessions and cases followed up through OPRS in the past 3 years, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved; and
- (5) the number of service places and estimated expenditure for each service for 2024-25.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

- (1) The Child Assessment Service (CAS) of the Department of Health provides comprehensive professional assessment services for children under the age of 12 with suspected developmental problems. The number of case referrals by CAS to pre-school rehabilitation services and school rehabilitation services in 2021, 2022 and 2023 was 16 371, 13 984 and 14 972 (provisional figures), respectively. CAS does not maintain the number of referrals to pre-school rehabilitation services separately. Apart from CAS, non-governmental organisations and private recognised professionals also offer assessment services. Therefore, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the number of children with special needs assessed to be in need of pre-school rehabilitation services.

- (2) The number of service places, actual number of additional service places, number of persons waitlisted, average waiting time, utilisation rate, and average monthly cost per place for various pre-school rehabilitation services (including EETCs, IP, SCCCs, OCCS for disabled children and OPRS) in the past 3 years, broken down by administrative district of SWD, are set out at Annex 1. As places of OPRS are available in all districts in the territory and allocated on an agency basis, SWD does not have information on the number of OPRS places broken down by district. Regarding OCCS for disabled children, applications can be made by parents/carers to the service operators directly or through referral by medical social workers, family caseworkers, staff of pre-school rehabilitation service centres, etc. Therefore, SWD does not have information on the number of persons waitlisted, their average waiting time or utilisation rate of the service.
- (3) The numbers of new applicants and service users of various pre-school rehabilitation services (including OPRS, EETCs, IP and SCCCs) in the past 3 years, broken down by SWD administrative district and age group, are set out at Annex 2. SWD does not have the statistics on the numbers of applicants and service users for pre-school rehabilitation services broken down by gender, or the number of persons who have applied for a freeze on service allocation.
- (4) SWD does not have information on the numbers of service sessions and cases followed up through OPRS. The manpower involved in OPRS includes Social Work Officers, Assistant Social Work Officers, Social Work Assistants, Clinical/Educational Psychologists, Senior Special Child Care Workers, Special Child Care Workers, Speech Therapists, Physiotherapists I, Occupational Therapists I, Occupational Therapist Assistants, Welfare Workers, Clerical Assistants and Drivers. The expenditure involved in the past 3 years is set out at Annex 3.
- (5) In 2024-25, the numbers of service places and the estimated expenditure for various pre-school rehabilitation services (including OPRS, EETCs, IP, SCCCs and OCCS for disabled children) are set out at Annex 4.

Table 1a: Number of service places of EETCs

| District | No. of service places of EETCs | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 473 | 473 | 473 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 401 | 401 | 401 |
| Kwun Tong | 390 | 390 | 390 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 604 | 604 | 604 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 231 | 231 | 231 |
| Sham Shui Po | 400 | 523 | 523 |
| Sha Tin | 381 | 381 | 381 |
| Tai Po/North | 487 | 487 | 487 |
| Yuen Long | 172 | 172 | 172 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 406 | 406 | 406 |
| Tuen Mun | 229 | 325 | 325 |
| Total | 4 174 | 4 393 | 4 393 |

Table 1b : Number of service places of IP

| District | No. of service places of IP | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 132 | 138 | 138 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 186 | 168 | 168 |
| Kwun Tong | 228 | 228 | 228 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 240 | 240 | 240 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 210 | 216 | 216 |
| Sham Shui Po | 108 | 114 | 114 |
| Sha Tin | 168 | 168 | 168 |
| Tai Po/North | 168 | 168 | 168 |
| Yuen Long | 186 | 186 | 186 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 198 | 198 | 198 |
| Tuen Mun | 156 | 156 | 156 |
| Total | 1 980 | 1 980 | 1 980 |

Table 1c: Number of service places of SCCCs

| District | No. of service places of SCCCs | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 313 | 313 | 313 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 216 | 216 | 246 |
| Kwun Tong | 186 | 186 | 186 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 425 | 425 | 425 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Sham Shui Po | 235 | 295 | 357 |
| Sha Tin | 138 | 168 | 168 |
| Tai Po/North | 299 | 299 | 299 |
| Yuen Long | 108 | 108 | 108 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 180 | 180 | 180 |
| Tuen Mun | 144 | 144 | 144 |
| Total | 2 274 | 2 364 | 2 456 |

Table 1d: Number of service places of OCCS for disabled children

| District | No. of service places of OCCS for disabled children | | |
|------------------------------------|---|------------|--|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Kwun Tong | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 19 | 19 | 19 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Sham Shui Po | 13 | 16 | 19 |
| Sha Tin | 10 | 13 | 13 |
| Tai Po/North | 17 | 17 | 17 |
| Yuen Long | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Tuen Mun | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Total | 111 | 117 | 120 |

Table 1e: Number of service places of OPRS

| Service type | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|--------------|---------|---------|--|
| OPRS | 9 074 | 10 074 | 10 124 |

Table 2: Actual number of additional service places of pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|--|
| OPRS | 1 000 | 1 000 | 50 |
| EETC | 286 | 219 | - |
| SCCC | 104 | 90 | 92 |
| OCCS for disabled children | 9 | 6 | 3 |

Table 3a: Number of persons waitlisted for OPRS

| District | No. of persons waitlisted for OPRS ^{Note} | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------|--|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 241 | 220 | 209 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 217 | 218 | 224 |
| Kwun Tong | 248 | 253 | 268 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 267 | 334 | 332 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 205 | 260 | 292 |
| Sham Shui Po | 143 | 186 | 180 |
| Sha Tin | 242 | 330 | 301 |
| Tai Po/North | 224 | 285 | 333 |
| Yuen Long | 353 | 385 | 465 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 280 | 355 | 308 |
| Tuen Mun | 283 | 253 | 319 |
| Total | 2 703 | 3 079 | 3 231 |

^{Note} The figure does not include users of pre-school rehabilitation services who are now receiving transitional services of EETCs, or users who are waiting for a change of service type/choice of centre.

Table 3b: Number of persons waitlisted for EETCs

| District | No. of persons waitlisted for EETCs ^{Note} | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------|--|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 99 | 86 | 48 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 120 | 91 | 82 |
| Kwun Tong | 106 | 103 | 78 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 133 | 132 | 110 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 138 | 98 | 78 |
| Sham Shui Po | 79 | 79 | 54 |
| Sha Tin | 84 | 115 | 109 |
| Tai Po/North | 122 | 113 | 70 |
| Yuen Long | 141 | 134 | 109 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 124 | 144 | 108 |
| Tuen Mun | 112 | 102 | 64 |
| Total | 1 258 | 1 197 | 910 |

Note The figure does not include users of pre-school rehabilitation services who are waiting for a change of service type/choice of centre.

Table 3c: Number of persons waitlisted for IP

| District | No. of persons waitlisted for IP ^{Note} | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|--|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 23 | 20 | 17 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 37 | 35 | 29 |
| Kwun Tong | 70 | 50 | 38 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 69 | 55 | 51 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 56 | 53 | 38 |
| Sham Shui Po | 40 | 31 | 27 |
| Sha Tin | 37 | 34 | 33 |
| Tai Po/North | 46 | 40 | 43 |
| Yuen Long | 70 | 68 | 47 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 47 | 38 | 36 |
| Tuen Mun | 46 | 58 | 32 |
| Total | 541 | 482 | 391 |

Note The figure does not include users of pre-school rehabilitation services who are now receiving transitional services of EETCs, or users who are waiting for a change of service type/choice of centre.

Table 3d: Number of persons waitlisted for SCCCs

| District | No. of persons waitlisted for SCCCs ^{Note} | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------|--|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 98 | 99 | 90 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 126 | 145 | 119 |
| Kwun Tong | 86 | 70 | 61 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 98 | 108 | 69 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 131 | 106 |
| Sham Shui Po | 61 | 71 | 60 |
| Sha Tin | 92 | 75 | 53 |
| Tai Po/North | 94 | 85 | 84 |
| Yuen Long | 214 | 190 | 173 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 112 | 110 | 97 |
| Tuen Mun | 88 | 107 | 92 |
| Total | 1 168 | 1 191 | 1 004 |

Note The figure does not include users of pre-school rehabilitation services who are now receiving transitional services of EETCs or OPRS, or users who are waiting for a change of service type/choice of centre.

Table 4: Average waiting time for pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | Average waiting time (in months) ^{Note 1} | | |
|--|--|---------|---------|
| | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
| OPRS | 5.2 | 4.3 | 4.2 |
| EETC | 8 | 5.4 | 5 |
| IP | 8 | 6.3 | 5.3 |
| SCCC | 19.9 | 20.2 | 19.3 |
| OCCS for disabled children ^{Note 2} | - | - | - |

Note 1 As the average waiting time is compiled on a financial-year basis from 1 April of a year to 31 March of the next year, the figure for 2023-24 is not yet available.

Note 2 The service may admit service users directly or through referral and hence SWD does not have the statistics on waiting time.

Table 5: Utilisation rates of pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|--|---------|---------|--|
| OPRS | 98.4% | 98.8% | 98.4% |
| EETC | 95.4% | 95.1% | 93.2% |
| IP | 97.9% | 97.2% | 94.8% |
| SCCC | 94.7% | 93.0% | 96.1% |
| OCCS for disabled children ^{Note} | - | - | - |

Note The service may admit service users directly or through referral and hence SWD does not have the statistics on the number of service users.

Table 6: Average monthly cost per place for pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | Average cost per place per month | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 (Actual) (\$) | 2022-23 (Actual) (\$) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) (\$) |
| Pre-school rehabilitation service | 9,764 | 9,950 | 10,695 |

**Table 1a: District of residence and age distribution
of new applicants for OPRS in 2021-22**

| District | No. of new applicants | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 110 | 232 | 75 | 417 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 146 | 230 | 55 | 431 |
| Kwun Tong | 120 | 348 | 79 | 547 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 125 | 357 | 76 | 558 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 107 | 260 | 59 | 426 |
| Sham Shui Po | 73 | 176 | 48 | 297 |
| Sha Tin | 134 | 309 | 82 | 525 |
| Tai Po/North | 89 | 306 | 74 | 469 |
| Yuen Long | 109 | 336 | 91 | 536 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 96 | 336 | 97 | 529 |
| Tuen Mun | 134 | 266 | 70 | 470 |
| Total | 1 243 | 3 156 | 806 | 5 205 |

**Table 1b: District of residence and age distribution
of new applicants for OPRS in 2022-23**

| District | No. of new applicants | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 121 | 203 | 60 | 384 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 105 | 217 | 46 | 368 |
| Kwun Tong | 116 | 335 | 98 | 549 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 141 | 433 | 88 | 662 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 91 | 311 | 87 | 489 |
| Sham Shui Po | 66 | 223 | 47 | 336 |
| Sha Tin | 123 | 327 | 89 | 539 |
| Tai Po/North | 105 | 375 | 108 | 588 |
| Yuen Long | 138 | 361 | 95 | 594 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 143 | 421 | 85 | 649 |
| Tuen Mun | 119 | 227 | 53 | 399 |
| Total | 1 268 | 3 433 | 856 | 5 557 |

**Table 1c: District of residence and age distribution
of new applicants for OPRS in 2023-24
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | No. of new applicants | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 74 | 205 | 38 | 317 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 89 | 180 | 39 | 308 |
| Kwun Tong | 110 | 273 | 54 | 437 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 124 | 331 | 80 | 535 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 81 | 269 | 56 | 406 |
| Sham Shui Po | 50 | 160 | 39 | 249 |
| Sha Tin | 95 | 271 | 49 | 415 |
| Tai Po/North | 84 | 275 | 87 | 446 |
| Yuen Long | 97 | 324 | 61 | 482 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 79 | 277 | 67 | 423 |
| Tuen Mun | 112 | 214 | 41 | 367 |
| Total | 995 | 2 779 | 611 | 4 385 |

**Table 1d: District of residence and age distribution
of new applicants for EETCs in 2021-22**

| District | No. of new applicants | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 65 | 70 | 19 | 154 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 99 | 72 | 23 | 194 |
| Kwun Tong | 105 | 49 | 20 | 174 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 155 | 77 | 33 | 265 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 113 | 61 | 19 | 193 |
| Sham Shui Po | 69 | 41 | 18 | 128 |
| Sha Tin | 71 | 68 | 23 | 162 |
| Tai Po/North | 80 | 75 | 17 | 172 |
| Yuen Long | 102 | 52 | 22 | 176 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 107 | 72 | 14 | 193 |
| Tuen Mun | 77 | 50 | 12 | 139 |
| Total | 1 043 | 687 | 220 | 1 950 |

**Table 1e: District of residence and age distribution
of new applicants for EETCs in 2022-23**

| District | No. of new applicants | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 76 | 51 | 20 | 147 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 79 | 42 | 22 | 143 |
| Kwun Tong | 93 | 60 | 17 | 170 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 108 | 103 | 28 | 239 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 79 | 69 | 20 | 168 |
| Sham Shui Po | 68 | 73 | 19 | 160 |
| Sha Tin | 113 | 90 | 25 | 228 |
| Tai Po/North | 87 | 84 | 27 | 198 |
| Yuen Long | 68 | 43 | 21 | 132 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 91 | 88 | 17 | 196 |
| Tuen Mun | 56 | 40 | 20 | 116 |
| Total | 918 | 743 | 236 | 1 897 |

**Table 1f: District of residence and age distribution
of new applicants for EETCs in 2023-24
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | No. of new applicants | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 54 | 35 | 4 | 93 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 62 | 49 | 12 | 123 |
| Kwun Tong | 47 | 49 | 14 | 110 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 81 | 67 | 14 | 162 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 60 | 49 | 14 | 123 |
| Sham Shui Po | 36 | 38 | 5 | 79 |
| Sha Tin | 61 | 63 | 23 | 147 |
| Tai Po/North | 58 | 57 | 16 | 131 |
| Yuen Long | 42 | 50 | 12 | 104 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 59 | 66 | 13 | 138 |
| Tuen Mun | 28 | 33 | 11 | 72 |
| Total | 588 | 556 | 138 | 1 282 |

**Table 1g: District of residence and age distribution
of new applicants for IP in 2021-22**

| District | No. of new applicants | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 18 | 27 | 3 | 48 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 26 | 25 | 2 | 53 |
| Kwun Tong | 50 | 36 | 4 | 90 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 53 | 55 | 6 | 114 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 48 | 45 | 2 | 95 |
| Sham Shui Po | 22 | 23 | 2 | 47 |
| Sha Tin | 45 | 40 | 2 | 87 |
| Tai Po/North | 54 | 26 | 1 | 81 |
| Yuen Long | 61 | 40 | 6 | 107 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 39 | 37 | 5 | 81 |
| Tuen Mun | 49 | 26 | 1 | 76 |
| Total | 465 | 380 | 34 | 879 |

**Table 1h: District of residence and age distribution
of new applicants for IP in 2022-23**

| District | No. of new applicants | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 9 | 20 | 2 | 31 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 21 | 22 | 2 | 45 |
| Kwun Tong | 37 | 39 | 1 | 77 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 32 | 49 | 4 | 85 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 29 | 38 | 7 | 74 |
| Sham Shui Po | 20 | 27 | 4 | 51 |
| Sha Tin | 33 | 28 | 1 | 62 |
| Tai Po/North | 34 | 31 | 0 | 65 |
| Yuen Long | 62 | 26 | 0 | 88 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 37 | 41 | 5 | 83 |
| Tuen Mun | 37 | 27 | 0 | 64 |
| Total | 351 | 348 | 26 | 725 |

**Table 1i: District of residence and age distribution
of new applicants for IP in 2023-24
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | No. of new applicants | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 17 | 11 | 3 | 31 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 21 | 14 | 2 | 37 |
| Kwun Tong | 20 | 32 | 3 | 55 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 31 | 39 | 4 | 74 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 34 | 34 | 3 | 71 |
| Sham Shui Po | 12 | 19 | 1 | 32 |
| Sha Tin | 12 | 18 | 6 | 36 |
| Tai Po/North | 29 | 25 | 0 | 54 |
| Yuen Long | 32 | 30 | 0 | 62 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 20 | 24 | 2 | 46 |
| Tuen Mun | 21 | 11 | 0 | 32 |
| Total | 249 | 257 | 24 | 530 |

**Table 1j: District of residence and age distribution
of new applicants for SCCCs in 2021-22**

| District | No. of new applicants | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 95 | 39 | 1 | 135 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 101 | 45 | 3 | 149 |
| Kwun Tong | 58 | 40 | 2 | 100 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 88 | 34 | 2 | 124 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 52 | 29 | 3 | 84 |
| Sham Shui Po | 33 | 21 | 3 | 57 |
| Sha Tin | 43 | 19 | 2 | 64 |
| Tai Po/North | 58 | 41 | 3 | 102 |
| Yuen Long | 70 | 61 | 6 | 137 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 72 | 52 | 1 | 125 |
| Tuen Mun | 42 | 32 | 2 | 76 |
| Total | 712 | 413 | 28 | 1 153 |

**Table 1k: District of residence and age distribution
of new applicants for SCCCs in 2022-23**

| District | No. of new applicants | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 65 | 32 | 3 | 100 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 109 | 33 | 3 | 145 |
| Kwun Tong | 42 | 36 | 3 | 81 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 57 | 46 | 6 | 109 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 61 | 56 | 6 | 123 |
| Sham Shui Po | 40 | 26 | 2 | 68 |
| Sha Tin | 36 | 21 | 3 | 60 |
| Tai Po/North | 41 | 47 | 1 | 89 |
| Yuen Long | 49 | 45 | 2 | 96 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 57 | 36 | 5 | 98 |
| Tuen Mun | 30 | 16 | 0 | 46 |
| Total | 587 | 394 | 34 | 1 015 |

**Table 1l: District of residence and age distribution
of new applicants for SCCCs in 2023-24
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | No. of new applicants | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 49 | 29 | 3 | 81 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 68 | 31 | 4 | 103 |
| Kwun Tong | 29 | 17 | 0 | 46 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 22 | 18 | 2 | 42 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 32 | 39 | 4 | 75 |
| Sham Shui Po | 21 | 23 | 2 | 46 |
| Sha Tin | 23 | 11 | 0 | 34 |
| Tai Po/North | 40 | 20 | 3 | 63 |
| Yuen Long | 38 | 28 | 1 | 67 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 38 | 29 | 3 | 70 |
| Tuen Mun | 20 | 15 | 2 | 37 |
| Total | 380 | 260 | 24 | 664 |

Table 2a: District of residence and age distribution of service users of OPRS in 2021-22

| District | No. of service users | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 5 | 278 | 363 | 646 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 17 | 365 | 355 | 737 |
| Kwun Tong | 11 | 440 | 605 | 1 056 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 3 | 436 | 580 | 1 019 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 12 | 348 | 429 | 789 |
| Sham Shui Po | 3 | 218 | 310 | 531 |
| Sha Tin | 9 | 369 | 557 | 935 |
| Tai Po/North | 5 | 329 | 439 | 773 |
| Yuen Long | 2 | 369 | 473 | 844 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 4 | 361 | 540 | 905 |
| Tuen Mun | 4 | 331 | 363 | 698 |
| Total | 75 | 3 844 | 5 014 | 8 933 |

Table 2b: District of residence and age distribution of service users of OPRS in 2022-2023

| District | No. of service users | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 11 | 312 | 382 | 705 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 8 | 412 | 422 | 842 |
| Kwun Tong | 3 | 456 | 663 | 1 122 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 9 | 521 | 630 | 1 160 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 5 | 356 | 489 | 850 |
| Sham Shui Po | 1 | 241 | 341 | 583 |
| Sha Tin | 4 | 380 | 548 | 932 |
| Tai Po/North | 7 | 375 | 519 | 901 |
| Yuen Long | 3 | 412 | 600 | 1 015 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 3 | 416 | 610 | 1 029 |
| Tuen Mun | 2 | 358 | 450 | 810 |
| Total | 56 | 4 239 | 5 654 | 9 949 |

Table 2c: District of residence and age distribution of service users of OPRS in 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023)

| District | No. of service users | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 10 | 344 | 404 | 758 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 16 | 417 | 390 | 823 |
| Kwun Tong | 15 | 497 | 552 | 1 064 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 18 | 578 | 597 | 1 193 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 10 | 372 | 464 | 846 |
| Sham Shui Po | 2 | 269 | 314 | 585 |
| Sha Tin | 9 | 399 | 520 | 928 |
| Tai Po/North | 7 | 367 | 518 | 892 |
| Yuen Long | 2 | 450 | 564 | 1 016 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 4 | 489 | 581 | 1 074 |
| Tuen Mun | 5 | 360 | 418 | 783 |
| Total | 98 | 4 542 | 5 322 | 9 962 |

Table 2d: District of residence and age distribution of service users of EETCs in 2021-22

| District | No. of service users | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 83 | 185 | 127 | 395 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 71 | 189 | 137 | 397 |
| Kwun Tong | 58 | 163 | 142 | 363 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 108 | 243 | 192 | 543 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 86 | 181 | 154 | 421 |
| Sham Shui Po | 55 | 115 | 99 | 269 |
| Sha Tin | 99 | 185 | 156 | 440 |
| Tai Po/North | 88 | 132 | 123 | 343 |
| Yuen Long | 32 | 126 | 100 | 258 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 62 | 152 | 129 | 343 |
| Tuen Mun | 32 | 97 | 79 | 208 |
| Total | 774 | 1 768 | 1 438 | 3 980 |

Table 2e: District of residence and age distribution of service users of EETCs in 2022-23

| District | No. of service users | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 53 | 177 | 172 | 402 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 27 | 206 | 170 | 403 |
| Kwun Tong | 62 | 178 | 138 | 378 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 80 | 239 | 203 | 522 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 70 | 197 | 160 | 427 |
| Sham Shui Po | 65 | 150 | 104 | 319 |
| Sha Tin | 77 | 199 | 174 | 450 |
| Tai Po/North | 66 | 191 | 154 | 411 |
| Yuen Long | 32 | 123 | 116 | 271 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 54 | 165 | 154 | 373 |
| Tuen Mun | 18 | 97 | 108 | 223 |
| Total | 604 | 1 922 | 1 653 | 4 179 |

Table 2f: District of residence and age distribution of service users of EETCs in 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023)

| District | No. of service users | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 82 | 186 | 119 | 387 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 48 | 211 | 140 | 399 |
| Kwun Tong | 66 | 171 | 132 | 369 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 85 | 236 | 197 | 518 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 62 | 182 | 132 | 376 |
| Sham Shui Po | 55 | 161 | 114 | 330 |
| Sha Tin | 85 | 196 | 134 | 415 |
| Tai Po/North | 86 | 209 | 134 | 429 |
| Yuen Long | 35 | 122 | 94 | 251 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 55 | 189 | 141 | 385 |
| Tuen Mun | 37 | 109 | 88 | 234 |
| Total | 696 | 1 972 | 1 425 | 4 093 |

Table 2g: District of residence and age distribution of service users of IP in 2021-22

| District | No. of service users | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 6 | 59 | 63 | 128 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 9 | 51 | 97 | 157 |
| Kwun Tong | 4 | 91 | 124 | 219 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 6 | 101 | 119 | 226 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 9 | 90 | 121 | 220 |
| Sham Shui Po | 1 | 48 | 73 | 122 |
| Sha Tin | 10 | 89 | 68 | 167 |
| Tai Po/North | 5 | 69 | 96 | 170 |
| Yuen Long | 9 | 80 | 107 | 196 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 7 | 89 | 93 | 189 |
| Tuen Mun | 1 | 76 | 67 | 144 |
| Total | 67 | 843 | 1 028 | 1 938 |

Table 2h: District of residence and age distribution of service users of IP in 2022-23

| District | No. of service users | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 3 | 47 | 65 | 115 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 2 | 59 | 79 | 140 |
| Kwun Tong | 2 | 98 | 115 | 215 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 5 | 114 | 111 | 230 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 5 | 87 | 122 | 214 |
| Sham Shui Po | 7 | 57 | 73 | 137 |
| Sha Tin | 5 | 83 | 80 | 168 |
| Tai Po/North | 4 | 83 | 85 | 172 |
| Yuen Long | 6 | 77 | 115 | 198 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 6 | 89 | 90 | 185 |
| Tuen Mun | 6 | 67 | 77 | 150 |
| Total | 51 | 861 | 1 012 | 1 924 |

**Table 2i: District of residence and age distribution of service users of IP in 2023-24
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | No. of service users | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 5 | 49 | 49 | 103 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 4 | 63 | 64 | 131 |
| Kwun Tong | 12 | 96 | 116 | 224 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 7 | 112 | 111 | 230 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 13 | 108 | 87 | 208 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 62 | 68 | 130 |
| Sha Tin | 9 | 70 | 93 | 172 |
| Tai Po/North | 9 | 80 | 79 | 168 |
| Yuen Long | 15 | 108 | 69 | 192 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 8 | 85 | 79 | 172 |
| Tuen Mun | 7 | 65 | 75 | 147 |
| Total | 89 | 898 | 890 | 1 877 |

Table 2j: District of residence and age distribution of service users of SCCCs in 2021-22

| District | No. of service users | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 7 | 102 | 122 | 231 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 5 | 68 | 114 | 187 |
| Kwun Tong | 4 | 56 | 138 | 198 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 4 | 94 | 180 | 278 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 2 | 57 | 118 | 177 |
| Sham Shui Po | 4 | 41 | 93 | 138 |
| Sha Tin | 4 | 42 | 132 | 178 |
| Tai Po/North | 4 | 65 | 154 | 223 |
| Yuen Long | 3 | 43 | 155 | 201 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 6 | 64 | 167 | 237 |
| Tuen Mun | 3 | 35 | 67 | 105 |
| Total | 46 | 667 | 1 440 | 2 153 |

Table 2k: District of residence and age distribution of service users of SCCCs in 2022-23

| District | No. of service users | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 4 | 78 | 153 | 235 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 3 | 69 | 121 | 193 |
| Kwun Tong | 1 | 65 | 157 | 223 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 6 | 99 | 179 | 284 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 4 | 58 | 136 | 198 |
| Sham Shui Po | 4 | 35 | 92 | 131 |
| Sha Tin | 2 | 56 | 126 | 184 |
| Tai Po/North | 2 | 72 | 152 | 226 |
| Yuen Long | 3 | 32 | 165 | 200 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 5 | 52 | 146 | 203 |
| Tuen Mun | 1 | 22 | 98 | 121 |
| Total | 35 | 638 | 1 525 | 2 198 |

Table 2l: District of residence and age distribution of service users of SCCCs in 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023)

| District | No. of service users | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 6 | 89 | 117 | 212 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 6 | 91 | 105 | 202 |
| Kwun Tong | 4 | 72 | 150 | 226 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 7 | 100 | 187 | 294 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 6 | 98 | 136 | 240 |
| Sham Shui Po | 7 | 50 | 90 | 147 |
| Sha Tin | 5 | 78 | 122 | 205 |
| Tai Po/North | 2 | 94 | 123 | 219 |
| Yuen Long | 3 | 44 | 190 | 237 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 1 | 77 | 142 | 220 |
| Tuen Mun | 2 | 37 | 118 | 157 |
| Total | 49 | 830 | 1 480 | 2 359 |

Expenditure on OPRS

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 888.6 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 1,015.8 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 1,207.3 |

**Numbers of service places and estimated expenditure for
various pre-school rehabilitation services in 2024-25**

| Service type | 2024-25 | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | No. of service places | Estimated expenditure (\$ million) |
| OPRS | 10 124 | 1,254.0 |
| EETC | 4 665 | 408.4 |
| IP | 1 980 | 165.8 |
| SCCC | 2 576 | 691.2 |
| OCCS for disabled children | 124 | 4.7 |
| Total | 19 469 | 2,524.1 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)045

(Question Serial No. 0888)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund), please inform this committee:

- (1) of the number of elderly and rehabilitation service units applying for the I&T Fund and the administrative expenses incurred in the past 3 years;
- (2) of the number of elderly and rehabilitation service units procuring or renting technology products with the I&T Fund, the total amount of funding approved, and the number of technology products procured or rented in each of the past 3 years; and
- (3) whether there are statistics on the main types of technology products purchased by elderly and rehabilitation service units in the past 3 years; if so, of the details.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

- (1) & (2) The Government allocated \$1 billion to launch the I&T Fund in December 2018 to subsidise eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent or trial technology products, with a view to improving the quality of life of service users and reducing the pressure on care staff and carers. From 2021-22 to 2023-24 (as at the end of February 2024), 5 tranches of grants totalling around \$370 million have been approved under the I&T Fund to subsidise about 1 650 elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure or rent over 11 100 items of technology products. Relevant information is set out at Annex.

In 2018-19, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) set up a secretariat to co-ordinate the operation of the I&T Fund. The secretariat has 11 time-limited posts in the Social Work Officer and supporting general grades, with an annual expenditure of about \$6.4 million. In addition, starting from 2018, SWD has commissioned the Hong Kong Council of Social Service to promote the use of technology products among social welfare organisations and carers, involving an annual expenditure of about \$3.75 million.

- (3) Currently, the types of products most commonly applied for procurement by service units include smart hospital beds with extra low position, equipment, assessment tools and accessories for occupational therapy/physiotherapy/speech therapy, tilt-in-space/height adjustable shower chairs, companion robots and smart anti-wandering systems, etc.

**Information pertaining to the approval of applications under the I&T Fund
from 2021-22 to 2023-24 (as at 29 February 2024)**

| Tranche no. (application period) | No. of service units applying for the grant | No. of service units approved for the grant | No. of products approved | Amount of grant (\$ million) |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| 5 (February to May 2021) | 634 | 618 | 2 647 | 86 |
| 6 (September to October 2021) | 508 | 466 | 1 463 | 56 |
| 7 (January to March 2022) | 346 | 314 | 987 | 34 |
| 8 (September to November 2022) | 1 082 | 1 018 | 5 544 | 174 |
| 9 (May to August 2023) | 706 | 258 | 547 | 19 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)046

(Question Serial No. 0929)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is stated in Programme (3) that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will complete the Review of Manpower for Healthcare Services in Residential Care Homes (RCHs) (the Review). However, some members of the sector have pointed out that there is still a shortage of manpower, leading to cases of lapses in care. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) What review did SWD conduct in 2022-23 to ensure appropriate care for the elderly? What are the details?
- 2) Have any instances of non-compliance been identified since the Review? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

As announced in the 2022 Policy Address, the Government will undertake a holistic review of the skill and qualification requirements of RCH staff, so as to establish professional standards and a career progression path to assist the RCH sector in attracting and retaining the talent required. The consultant commissioned by SWD commenced a study in July 2023 to holistically review the skill and qualification requirements of staff who provide health and rehabilitation services in residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs). One area within the scope of the review is to explore the feasibility of setting up a new rank of senior health worker in RCHs so that local health workers with suitable training can take up more health and rehabilitation work in a position with more professional development and career progression. The study is expected to be completed in 2024.

The Government attaches importance to the service quality of RCHEs and strives to strengthen monitoring on and enhance the service quality of the RCH sector. SWD regulates RCHEs based on a licensing system put in place under the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Cap. 459). Professional inspectorate teams of SWD will conduct surprise inspections at RCHEs, as well as investigating complaints and special incident reports, etc. If any non-compliance is found, SWD will consider the nature and severity of the non-compliance before issuing advisory letters, warning letters and written directions for

remedial measures, or instigating prosecution against the relevant RCHEs. In 2023-24 (as at the end of December 2023), 1 660 RCHEs were issued advisory or warning letters due to non-compliance. The categories of irregularities include staffing arrangement, protection of privacy, drug management, infection control, fire safety, nursing and personal care services, etc. 7 RCHEs were convicted during the same period due to insufficient staffing.

The RCH Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2023 was gazetted in June 2023, with the aim of enhancing the quality of RCHEs and RCHDs. The new RCH staffing requirements, among others, will be implemented in phases starting from June 2024. The new statutory staffing requirement will facilitate RCHs in providing more adequate care to their residents. In addition to the aforementioned consultancy study relating to the skill and qualification requirements of RCH staff, SWD has also implemented the Special Scheme to Import Care Workers for RCHs and subsidised more students aspiring to join the social welfare sector to enrol in the Enrolled Nurse (General) Training Programme, with a view to enhancing manpower supply and training for the sector.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)047

(Question Serial No. 0930)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is stated in Programme (3) that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will make an additional injection into the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund), and expand the scope of the I&T Fund to eligible service units for the benefit of those in need. In this connection, would the Government please provide this Committee with the following information:

1. How many eligible individuals have benefited from the I&T Fund since its establishment?
2. Has SWD conducted any review on whether the introduction of gerontechnology products helps to improve the service quality of various residential care homes and alleviate their manpower strain? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

The Government allocated \$1 billion to launch the I&T Fund in December 2018 to subsidise eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent or trial technology products, with a view to improving the quality of life of service users and reducing the pressure on care staff and carers. As at the end of February 2024, grants totalling around \$660 million have been approved under the I&T Fund to subsidise about 1 900 elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure or rent over 18 000 items of technology products. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not maintain statistics on the number of persons who benefitted from using the technology products.

SWD regularly reviews the use of the I&T Fund, and collects feedback on the I&T Fund and technology products from stakeholders through on-site visits, questionnaires and other means to evaluate the effectiveness of the I&T Fund. Respondents, including service operators, staff and service users, have all provided positive feedback on the technology products approved for use by service operators. In particular, they were of the opinion that these

products could enhance the functioning of service users in daily activities, reduce the risk of workplace accidents, and enhance the occupational safety and health of staff members.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)048

(Question Serial No. 2267)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Under Programme (3), it is mentioned that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the Designated Hotline for Carer Support (the Carer Hotline) in 2023 to enhance support for carers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the expenditure and staffing establishment for the Carer Hotline; and
2. details regarding the utilisation of the Carer Hotline, including i) the utilisation situation; ii) the waiting time for callers to be connected to operators during different time periods; iii) the frequency of callers voluntarily disconnecting the call or experiencing sudden disconnections while waiting to be connected to operators; and iv) the time taken by operators to handle individual cases.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

SWD has commissioned the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals to operate the 24-hour Carer Hotline, with 30 phone lines answered by over 100 professional social workers on shift duties. The annual expenditure involved is about \$12 million. As at 29 February 2024, the Carer Hotline has received a total of 12 957 calls. The nature of calls received by the Carer Hotline is categorised at Annex. SWD does not have information on the waiting time for callers to be connected during different time periods, the frequency of callers voluntarily disconnecting the call or experiencing sudden disconnections while waiting to be connected, or the time taken by carer hotline operators to handle individual cases.

**Nature of calls received by the Carer Hotline in 2023-24
(as at 29 February 2024)**

| Nature of call | Number of calls |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Emotional problem | 4 332 |
| Enquiry on community support services | 3 093 |
| Caring issues | 1 976 |
| Financial problem | 1 027 |
| Health problem | 578 |
| Mental health problem | 543 |
| Enquiry on residential care services | 427 |
| Request for respite services | 412 |
| Family relationship problem | 242 |
| Housing/accommodation problem | 145 |
| Others | 182 |
| Total | 12 957 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)049

(Question Serial No. 2268)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Under Programme (1), it is mentioned that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to re-engineer the Mutual Help Child Care Centres (MHCCCs) in phases to provide after-school care service for pre-primary children. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the expenditure and staffing establishment (SE) involved? Please also provide an update on the progress of the re-engineering of MHCCCs; and
2. Are there any anticipated targets for the re-engineering of MHCCCs and will there be a review of the effectiveness of the re-engineering exercise in the coming year? If yes, what is the current situation? If no, what are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

- 1 & 2. SWD has been re-engineering MHCCCs from 2021-22 onwards to provide after-school care service for pre-primary children in phases. All MHCCCs have been re-engineered by February 2024. The revised estimate of expenditure for the relevant service in 2023-24 was about \$27.5 million. The SE of each centre includes 1 Assistant Social Work Officer and 2 supporting staff.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)050

(Question Serial No. 2273)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Paragraph 200 of the Budget Speech mentioned that starting this year, the Government will set up 10 more aided standalone child-care centres (CCCs) in phases. The target is to provide nearly 900 additional places for child day-care services within 3 years. The Government will also extend the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children (ASCP(PC)) in phases starting this year to cover all districts in Hong Kong. The number of places will increase to nearly 1 200 within 3 years. In this connection, please provide this Committee with the following information:

1. How many additional aided standalone CCCs does the Bureau plan to set up this year? How many places will be available for children under the age of 3 in these newly established CCCs?
2. Regarding the extension of ASCP(PC), what is the average number of places that the Department plans to offer for each of the 18 districts in Hong Kong this year?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up 10 more aided standalone CCCs in phases within 3 years starting from 2024, providing about 900 additional places. Among them, 100 places in Queens Hill Estate and 56 places in Wah Ming Estate in Fanling have commenced service in January and March 2024 respectively. The 88 places in Shun Lee Estate in Kwun Tong and 100 places at the Treasury Building in Sham Shui Po are scheduled for commencing operation in 2024-25. Altogether, the above-mentioned centres provide a total of 344 places for children under the age of 3.
2. SWD will extend ASCP(PC) to cover all districts in Hong Kong in phases within a period of 3 years starting from 2024. The number of centres participating in ASCP(PC) will increase from 16 to 28, and the number of places will increase from 672 to 1 176. The estimated number of places in various districts upon the full extension of ASCP(PC) is set out at Annex.

Number of places available in various districts upon the full extension of ASCP(PC)

| District | Number of places | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| | By the end of 2023-24 | Number of additional places | Total |
| Central & Western | 42 | - | 42 |
| Southern | 84 | - | 84 |
| Islands | - | 42 | 42 |
| Eastern | - | 42 | 42 |
| Wan Chai | - | 42 | 42 |
| Kwun Tong | 84 | - | 84 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 42 | - | 42 |
| Sai Kung | - | 42 | 42 |
| Kowloon City | - | 42 | 42 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | - | 42 | 42 |
| Sham Shui Po | 126 | - | 126 |
| Sha Tin | - | 42 | 42 |
| Tai Po | - | 42 | 42 |
| North | 42 | - | 42 |
| Yuen Long | 126 | - | 126 |
| Tsuen Wan | - | 42 | 42 |
| Kwai Tsing | 126 | - | 126 |
| Tuen Mun | - | 42 | 42 |
| 2 other centres will be located in districts with greater service demand | | 84 | 84 |
| Total | 672 | 504 | 1 176 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)051

(Question Serial No. 2274)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Under Programme (1) of this Head, it is noted in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25 that the Department will continue to formulate the implementation details of the mandatory reporting regime (MRR) for suspected child abuse cases, including the enhancement of training and drawing up of guidelines for practitioners in the relevant professions. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. What is the current progress of implementing this initiative?
2. What specific tasks and measures will the Department undertake during this financial year to implement MRR?
3. What is the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. The Government has kicked start a participative process for the formulation of the Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide) and has invited professional bodies, professionals and key service providers of the social welfare sector, education sector and healthcare sector, who will be the mandatory reporters, to envisage different potential scenarios of handling suspected child abuse/neglect cases under the reporting threshold set out in the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill (the Bill), reflect questions and provide advice. Currently, professional consultative panels of respective sectors formed at the invitation of the Government are discussing the case scenarios, questions and views collected, and a skeleton document of the Guide will be knocked out based on these discussions. To tie in with the work of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in scrutinising the Bill, the Government will provide the Bills Committee with the skeleton document of the Guide in a timely manner. After enactment of the Bill by LegCo, there will be an 18-month transitional period, during which the professional panels will continue to conduct focus group discussions with professional bodies/service providers in their respective sectors, with a view to completing the Guide before the end of the transitional period, so that briefings on the Guide for professional

bodies/service providers in their respective sectors can take place well ahead of the commencement of the Ordinance.

The Government has set up an e-learning platform to provide training, reference materials and information for relevant professionals. The Child Protection Online Training comprises online self-learning training and webinars. Module 1 of the online self-learning training has been launched in February 2024 to provide training on the basic knowledge on child protection. Module 2 will be rolled out in phases after the enactment of the Bill and will cover the basic knowledge on the relevant legal and reporting issues related to the new legislation. In addition, the Government will also organise webinars to provide the professionals with enrichment programmes to discuss different topics related to child protection and to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration among professionals. Q&A sessions will also be included according to training needs to encourage interactive learning. The expenditure involved in training and promotion is about \$2.8 million.

Apart from the Child Protection Online Training, relevant bureaux/departments/organisations have been providing, and will continue to provide, professionals with training (including talks, seminars, workshops and online training, etc.) relating to child protection and their specific professions to enhance their knowledge and skills in handling suspected child abuse. The Social Welfare Department will also continue to collaborate with different government departments and organisations to enhance training for social workers and relevant professionals, in order to strengthen their capability for early identification and handling of suspected child abuse cases.

- 2 & 3. The Government has allocated an additional provision of \$24.1 million in 2023-24 (\$24.2 million additional full-year provision with effect from 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 complementing the implementation of MRR.

In addition, the Government will allocate an additional provision of \$171.9 million in 2024-25 (additional full-year provision of \$186.5 million from 2025-26) to increase the number of emergency residential care places and strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families, so as to making preparations for coping with possible upsurge of reported child abuse cases after the MRR has come into effect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)052

(Question Serial No. 0312)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25, it is mentioned that there is a need to strengthen the home-based child care service (HCCS) under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP) and increase the level of incentive payment for home-based child carers and the number of places. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. The estimated expenditure and staffing establishment involved.
2. Earlier, there was significant public concern regarding a suspected abuse case involving a 9-month-old baby girl under the care of a home-based child carer. How many cases of abuse and complaint have been received by the Government since the introduction of HCCS? Please also provide information on the outcomes of the subsequent handling of these cases.
3. Apart from enhancing NSCCP and increasing the level of incentive payment for home-based child carers, will the Government also review the relevant processes and guidelines to strengthen child protection and prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will increase the incentive payment for home-based child carers under NSCCP from April 2024, as well as the number of HCCS places under NSCCP from the fourth quarter of 2024. These measures involve an annual recurrent expenditure of around \$293.3 million. SWD will subsidise non-governmental organisations under a lump sum grant to operate NSCCP, which will be implemented in the fourth quarter of 2024. The staffing establishment for each service team under NSCCP includes 2 Assistant Social Work Officers, 2 Social Work Assistants, 1 Child Care Worker and 2 Welfare Workers.
2. NSCCP has served 150 000 children since its launch. SWD has received 2 established cases of physical abuse/neglect, and 1 complaint about the attitude of a home-based child carer and transport arrangements. Regarding the cases involving physical abuse/neglect, as per the advice of multi-disciplinary case conferences, alternative

home-based child carers have been assigned to continue caring for the children involved, while the home-based child carers concerned have ceased to participate in NSCCP. As for the complaint regarding dissatisfaction with the attitude of a home-based child carer and transport arrangements, the service user chose to continue receiving the service after mediation. In the light of these cases and incidents, SWD has requested service operators to review their assessment and service matching arrangements for HCCS and to strengthen the training for home-based child carers.

3. To ensure service quality, SWD has consistently required service operators under NSCCP to establish mechanisms for recruiting, assessing, screening and training home-based child carers, as well as for service matching. Social workers from the service operators are required to conduct monthly home visits to home-based child carers currently providing services, while child care workers will provide home-based child carers with individual training/supervision. In addition, service operators are also required to continuously evaluate and follow up on the performance of home-based child carers. Statistics related to the amount of training/supervision provided are included in the service quality standards, and service operators are required to submit relevant statistical information to SWD on a quarterly basis. SWD will also conduct regular and surprise visits to assess whether service operators are in compliance with the requirements specified in the Service Agreement.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)053

(Question Serial No. 0407)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25, the Department mentioned that it will set up a residential child care centre (RCCC) to increase the number of emergency places for residential child care services (RCCS). Regarding RCCS, please provide the following information:

1. Has an operator been identified for the newly established RCCC? What are the number of available residential places for children and the number of care staff respectively?
2. In 2024-25, the number of places in residential homes for children (RHCs) will increase by 48 compared to the revised estimate in 2023-24, while the enrolment rate remains unchanged. What are the reasons for that?
3. What are the reasons for the number of places and enrolment rates of foster care services and small group homes (SGHs) in 2024-25 to remain unchanged compared to the revised estimate in 2023-24? Will the Department consider adjusting the number of places based on the actual demand from children?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has chosen a service operator for the new RCCC, which will provide 48 emergency residential care service places. Its staffing establishment is tabulated as follow:

| Position/Rank | Number |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Assistant Social Work Officer | 1 |
| Social Work Assistant | 3 |
| Registered Nurse | 2 |
| Enrolled Nurse | 4 |
| Child Care Supervisor | 1 |
| Senior Child Care Worker | 4 |
| Child Care Worker | 28 |
| Child Care Aide | 5 |
| Clinical Psychologist | 0.8 |
| Clerical Assistant | 1 |
| Cook | 1 |
| Workman II | 4 |

2. It takes time for the non-governmental organisations operating the service to handle enrolment applications and complete the relevant procedures. Therefore, the enrolment rate of RHCs in 2024-25 is expected to be similar to that of the revised estimate in 2023-24.
3. SWD has added a total of 54 SGH places and 7 emergency/short-term care places in SGH in 2022-23 and 2023-24, and has also added 100 foster care places in 2023-24. As the numbers of SGH and foster care places will remain unchanged in 2024-25, the estimated number of places and enrolment rates for these two types of services will also remain unchanged compared to 2023-24.

SWD will continue to closely monitor the demand for and utilisation of various types of RCCS, and identify suitable premises for increasing SGH and RCCC service places. It will also make full use of available resources to increase the number of foster care places in phases in order to meet service demand.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)054

(Question Serial No. 0409)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In 2023, the Department provided integrated probation and community service order (CSO) service, operated remand homes and residential training institutions, supported the Post-Release Supervision of Prisoners Scheme and the Young Offender Assessment Panel, and provided counselling, group activities, residential services, aftercare services and employment assistance for ex-offenders. Please inform this Committee:

1. of the number of persons who received probation and CSO services in the past year, with a breakdown by age group, gender and occupation, and whether the effectiveness of such services has been evaluated;
2. of the number of people currently waitlisted for remand homes and residential training institutions, along with their average and longest waiting times; and
3. of the number of practitioners currently engaged in services for offenders, the percentage of vacancies by job type, and the estimated number of such practitioners in the coming 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. Services for offenders under the Social Welfare Department (SWD) include probation and CSO services, and services provided through the Tuen Mun Children and Juvenile Home (TMCJH), Post-Release Supervision of Prisoners Scheme (PRSS) and Young Offender Assessment Panel (YOAP). SWD also subsidises non-governmental organisations (NGOs) through the Lump Sum Grant (LSG) Subvention System to provide counselling, group activities, residential services, pre-release preparation services (PRPS) and employment development services, etc. for ex-offenders at the community level to help them re-integrate into the community and lead a law-abiding life.

The number of recipients of services for offenders, as well as their age and gender distribution in 2023 are set out at Annex 1. SWD does not have information on the occupations of the recipients of services for offenders.

SWD has established outcome standards for services for offenders. The results of the outcome evaluation for these services over the past year are set out at Annex 2.

2. TMCJH is a gazetted home that serves the functions of a remand home, a place of refuge, an approved institution and a reformatory school. It provides temporary custody and residential training to children/juveniles with adjustment problems as well as young offenders, in accordance with the relevant laws. TMCJH is required to give effect to court directions by admitting the relevant children/juveniles for residential services, without the need for a waiting list.
3. As at 31 December 2023, the number of SWD staff engaged in providing or handling services for offenders is set out at Annex 3. SWD will continue to flexibly deploy manpower to provide the relevant statutory services in accordance with court directions and relevant statutory requirements.

SWD does not have information on the number of staff engaging in services for offenders within subvented NGOs. Under the LSG Subvention System, service operators of subvented NGOs may flexibly deploy resources and arrange suitable manpower to meet the requirements set out in the Funding and Service Agreements.

**Number of Recipients of Services for Offenders,
and their Age and Gender Distribution for 2023**

| Service | Gender | Age group | | | | | |
|--|--------|-----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| | | under 14 | 14 to under 16 | 16 to under 18 | 18 to under 21 | 21 to under 25 | 25 and above |
| Services for Offenders provided by SWD | | | | | | | |
| Probation service ^{Note 1} (no. of cases) | M | 20 | 161 | 208 | 226 | 190 | 1 065 |
| | F | 4 | 27 | 27 | 44 | 36 | 489 |
| CSO ^{Note 2} (no. of cases) | M | N.A. | 3 | 16 | 63 | 205 | 2 044 |
| | F | N.A. | - | 2 | 11 | 36 | 449 |
| TMCJH | | | | | | | |
| ● Probation home ^{Note 3} (cases served) | M | 2 | 26 | 3 | N.A. | | |
| | F | 2 | 10 | 2 | N.A. | | |
| ● Reformatory school ^{Note 4} (cases served) | M | 6 | 12 | 2 | N.A. | | |
| | F | N.A. | | | | | |
| ● Remand home/Place of refuge ^{Note 5} (cases served) | M | 124 | 442 | 38 | 3 | N.A. | |
| | F | 129 | 155 | 28 | 2 | N.A. | |
| PRSS ^{Note 6} (no. of cases) | M | N.A. | | | | | 815 |
| | F | N.A. | | | | | 118 |
| YOAP ^{Note 7} (no. of cases) | M | N.A. | 39 | 36 | 35 | 3 | N.A. |
| | F | N.A. | 13 | 7 | 1 | N.A. | N.A. |
| Services for Offenders provided by subvented NGOs^{Note 8} | | | | | | | |
| Hostel service, integrated service centre (ISC), employment development service and PRPS ^{Note 9} (no. of persons served) | 6 088 | | | | | | |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 In accordance with the Probation of Offenders Ordinance (Cap 298), an offender aged of or above 10 may be placed under a Probation Order by the court.

Note 2 In accordance with the Community Service Orders Ordinance (Cap 378), an offender aged of or above 14 who is convicted of an offence punishable with imprisonment may be placed under a Community Service Order by the court.

Note 3 The service targets are young offenders aged 10 to under 16 who are sentenced to probation homes in accordance with the Probation of Offenders Ordinance (Cap 298).

Note 4 The service targets are young male offenders aged 10 to under 16 who are sentenced to reformatory schools in accordance with the Reformatory Schools Ordinance (Cap 225).

Note 5 The service targets of remand homes are children and young persons aged 10 to under 16 who are sentenced to remand homes in accordance with the Juvenile Offenders Ordinance (Cap 226). The service targets of places of refuge include: (1) children and young persons aged 8 to under 21 who are sentenced to places of refuge under the Protection of Children and Juveniles Ordinance (Cap 213); (2) young illegal immigrants aged under 18 who are sentenced to places of refuge under the Immigration Ordinance (Cap 115); and (3) children and juveniles aged 12 to under 18 who are sentenced to places of refuge under the Child Abduction and Custody Ordinance (Cap 512).

Note 6 In accordance with the Post-Release Supervision of Prisoners Ordinance (Cap 475), the service targets are aged 21 or above who are assessed by the Post-Release Supervision Board as required to comply with supervision orders.

Note 7 The service targets are young male offenders aged 14 to under 25 and young female offenders aged 14 to under 21.

Note 8 SWD does not have information on the age and gender of related service users.

Note 9 Service users may use more than 1 type of service.

Outcomes of Services for Offenders

Table 1: Outcomes of various services for offenders provided by SWD

| Service | Outcome indicator | Agreed level | Service performance in 2023 |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Probation service | Cases with a Probation Order satisfactorily completed within a year (%) | 80% | 90% |
| CSO service | Cases with a CSO satisfactorily completed within a year (%) | 90% | 96% |
| TMCJH | | | |
| ● Probation home | Cases with residential training satisfactorily completed within a year (%) | 80% | 95% |
| ● Reformatory school | Cases with residential training satisfactorily completed within a year (%) | 80% | 88% |
| ● Remand home/place of refuge | Rate of successful home-bound statutory custody within a year | 100% | 100% |
| PRSS | Cases satisfactorily completed within a year (%) | 95% | 96% |
| YOAP | Cases with penalty proposal adopted by courts within a year (%) | N.A. | 96% |

Table 2: Outcomes of various services for offenders provided by subvented NGOs

| Service | Outcome indicator | Agreed level | Service performance in 2022-23 ^{Note 1} |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------|--|
| Hostel service | ● Service users indicating that hostel service met their need of transitional accommodation | 70% | 98% |
| | ● Service users indicating enhancement of problem-solving capability after receiving hostel service | 70% | 98% |
| | ● Service users indicating satisfaction after receiving hostel service | 70% | 98% |
| ISC ^{Note 2} | ● Service users indicating satisfaction after receiving ISC service | 70% | 90% |
| | ● Service users indicating enhancement of problem-solving capability after receiving ISC service | 70% | 94% |
| | ● Service users indicating enhancement of support network after receiving ISC service | 70% | 90% |
| Employment development service | ● Service users indicating enhancement of confidence in their employability after receiving Employment Development Service | 75% | 99% |
| | ● Service users indicating satisfaction after receiving Employment Development Service | 70% | 100% |
| PRPS | ● Service users indicating enhancement of knowledge of community resources after attending inmate interviews of PRPS in penal institutions | 80% | 96% |

^{Note 1} As the outcomes of services for offenders provided by subvented NGOs are reported only after the end of each financial year, the level of service performance reported here refers to that of 2022-23.

^{Note 2} ISCs provide counselling, group activities, service referrals and community support services, etc.

**Number of SWD staff members engaging in various services for offenders
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| Service | Number of persons |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Probation and CSO | 124 |
| TMCJH | 131 |
| PRSS | 9 |
| YOAP | 3 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)055

(Question Serial No. 0410)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will explore the expansion of the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme) to include residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) operated by Mainland entities. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

1. the expenditure and effectiveness of the GDRCS Scheme in the past 3 years, as well as the estimated expenditure and specific plans for the upcoming year;
2. the number of elderly persons admitted to RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme and their average waiting time for each of the past 5 years; and
3. the names and locations of the RCHEs operated by Mainland entities that are planned to be included in the expanded GDRCS Scheme in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

1. The number of service places purchased by the Social Welfare Department through the GDRCS Scheme each year is based on the number of elderly persons participating in the scheme. The expenditure involved in the past 3 years and the coming year is set out below:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 15.1 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 13.1 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 33.7 |
| 2024-25 (Estimate) | 32.5 |

2. The number of new elderly participants admitted to RCHEs each year from 2019-20 to 2023-24 is as follows:

| Year | No. of newly admitted persons |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2019-20 | 34 |
| 2020-21 | 7 |
| 2021-22 | 22 |
| 2022-23 | 6 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 63 |

Eligible elderly persons may join the GDRCS Scheme at their discretion. At present, elderly persons do not have to wait for admission to RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme.

3. The Labour and Welfare Bureau signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) on Collaboration on expanding the GDRCS Scheme with the Department of Civil Affairs of Guangdong Province on 17 November 2023, agreeing to explore cooperation in selecting RCHEs operated by Mainland entities in jointly designated cities within the Greater Bay Area (GBA) for participation in the GDRCS Scheme. The LOI stipulates that participating Mainland RCHEs should be rated 4 stars or above on the “List of Star-rated Senior Care Organizations” by the Department of Civil Affairs of Guangdong Province based on the standards of “Classification and Accreditation for Senior Care Organization of China”, with a minimum of 2 years of operational records.

To identify suitable RCHEs to join the GDRCS Scheme, the Government is liaising with relevant departments in Mainland cities within the GBA, and conducting on-site inspections of eligible Mainland RCHEs. The Government will explore the expansion of the GDRCS Scheme to include RCHEs operated by Mainland entities in 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)056

(Question Serial No. 1056)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Bureau will “engage the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) in Tsuen Wan and Southern Districts on a pilot basis to help identify singleton and doubleton elderly, carers of elderly persons and carers of persons with disabilities (PWDs) with welfare needs in the 2 districts, provide them with support and make referrals to welfare units as appropriate, and assist needy households to install emergency alarm systems (EAS)” in the coming year.

- 1) What is the estimated manpower and expenditure required for the installation of EAS? How many elderly persons and carers are expected to benefit from it?
- 2) What are the assessment criteria for selecting beneficiaries among singleton and doubleton elderly? When will the initiative be implemented?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1 & 2) The Government has launched the Pilot Scheme on Supporting Elderly and Carers (the Pilot Scheme) at the end of March 2024. Taking Tsuen Wan and Southern District as pilot points, Care Teams are engaged to help identify households of singleton and doubleton elderly, carers of elderly persons/PWDs in need through visits or contacts, and refer these cases to social welfare service units for follow-up. The Care Teams will also assist in referring eligible elderly persons and PWDs to install and use EAS (known as “Safety Bell”) with government subsidy. The households receiving the subsidy to install ESA under the Pilot Scheme should meet the following three requirements:

- (1) Belonging to one of the following categories:
 - a. singleton elderly persons aged 65 or above;
 - b. all members of the household being elderly persons aged 65 or above;
 - c. all members of the household being elderly persons aged 65 or above and/or PWDs; or
 - d. singleton PWDs aged below 65.

- (2) Not meeting the eligibility criteria for the existing EAS allowance at the time of application (i.e. currently not qualifying for the EAS allowance provided by the Social Welfare Department and the Housing Department/Hong Kong Housing Society); and
- (3) Meeting the income criterion, including (a) currently receiving the Old Age Living Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme; or (b) having an income not exceeding the specified limit.

The subsidy scheme will be launched in April 2024 for a period of 1 year, with an estimated expenditure of approximately \$2 million. It is estimated that about 1 000 elderly persons and PWDs will benefit from it.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)057

(Question Serial No. 3091)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (2) Social Security
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

- 1) Please provide the number of enquiries and assistance requests made by elderly persons who have returned to Hong Kong in the past 3 years under the Guangdong (GD) Scheme and the Fujian (FJ) Scheme.
- 2) Please provide the manpower and expenditure involved in caring for elderly persons who have returned to Hong Kong under the GD Scheme and FJ Scheme.
- 3) If there is no data available, does the Government have any plans to conduct a survey on the number of elderly persons who have returned to Hong Kong in order to enhance monitoring of the Schemes?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

- 1) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides services to recipients of the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme based on their actual needs. However, SWD does not have information on the number of enquiries or assistance requests made by elderly persons returning to Hong Kong under these 2 schemes.
- 2) The Social Security Branch and Social Security Field Units of SWD are responsible for administering the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and the Social Security Allowance Scheme (including the Old Age Living Allowance, the Old Age Allowance, the Disability Allowance, the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme). Their duties include appointing 2 agents to help implement the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme in GD and FJ provinces, respectively. Handling cases related to the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme is part of the day-to-day work of the aforementioned SWD personnel. As a result, SWD cannot account separately for the manpower and expenditure involved in following up on the elderly recipients returning to Hong Kong under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme.
- 3) The table below provides the number of elderly persons who have returned to Hong Kong for personal reasons and subsequently left the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme between 2021-22 and 2023-24:

| Year | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|-----------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| GD Scheme | 845 | 937 | 1 354 |
| FJ Scheme | 51 | 77 | 94 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)058

(Question Serial No. 3092)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Bureau will continue implementing “the enhanced Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services (Navigation Scheme) to encourage more young people to join the elderly and rehabilitation care services” in the coming year.

- 1) What is the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?
- 2) Some views suggest that there is a shortage of young people in care services. In this regard, will the number of training places for the Navigation Scheme be increased?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

- 1) The estimated expenditure for the Navigation Scheme is around \$17.3 million in 2024-25. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) implements the Navigation Scheme by deploying existing manpower.
- 2) SWD enhanced the Navigation Scheme in 2020-21, and starting from the same year, a total of 1 200 training places will be provided over the next 5 years. Operators may recruit more trainees than the current year's training quota by utilising the surplus resources from previous years due to trainees dropping out of the Navigation Scheme. As at the end of December 2023, the enhanced Navigation Scheme has recruited a total of 1 233 trainees.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)059

(Question Serial No. 3180)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In the coming year, the Bureau will explore the expansion of the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme) to include residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) operated by Mainland entities.

- 1) What is the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?
- 2) Will the Bureau collaborate with other bureaux and relevant Mainland authorities? If so, what manpower and expenditure will be earmarked for this purpose?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

The Labour and Welfare Bureau signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) on Collaboration on expanding the GDRCS Scheme with the Department of Civil Affairs of Guangdong Province on 17 November 2023, agreeing to explore cooperation in selecting RCHEs operated by Mainland entities in jointly designated cities within the Greater Bay Area (GBA) for participation in the GDRCS Scheme. With the assistance of relevant local authorities of GBA Mainland cities, the Government has conducted on-site inspections at Mainland RCHEs to identify suitable RCHEs to join the GDRCS Scheme. The estimated expenditure for the GDRCS Scheme in 2024-25 is about \$32.5 million.

Staff from a total of 4 posts within the Social Welfare Department (SWD), including those from the Social Work Officer and Clerical grades, are involved in the implementation of the GDRCS Scheme. SWD has not calculated the payroll costs separately for the staff involved in implementing the GDRCS Scheme, as they also handle other duties.

With the number of participating elderly persons and RCHEs continuing to grow in the future, SWD will require more resources to implement the GDRCS scheme. SWD will review the need for additional manpower and expenditure from time to time, and seek the necessary resources under the established mechanism accordingly.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)060

(Question Serial No. 1871)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Neighborhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) (i) the number of home-based child carers; (ii) their turnover rate; (iii) the number of places; and (iv) the utilisation rate in each district under NSCCP in each of the past 5 years, broken down by District Council (DC) district;
- (2) whether any complaints against the service provided by home-based child carers under NSCCP have been received; if yes, the number of complaints and the reasons behind these complaints; and whether any carers have been suspended or disqualified from providing services as a result of investigations into these complaints; if yes, the number of cases and the reasons for suspension or disqualification in each of the past 5 years; and
- (3) the manpower and the expenditure involved in the 2-tier training framework to be introduced by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) reportedly in the fourth quarter of this year for strengthening home-based child carers' training, and whether the training framework will be applicable to existing carers.

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

- (1) The information regarding NSCCP for the past 5 financial years, broken down by DC district, is provided at Annex. SWD does not have information on the turnover rate of home-based child carers or the utilisation rate of service places.
- (2) SWD has not received any complaints against the service provided by home-based child carers in the past 5 financial years.
- (3) SWD will increase the incentive payment for home-based child carers under NSCCP from April 2024 and the number of places of home-based child care service (HCCS) from the fourth quarter of 2024. It will also strengthen the training for home-based child carers, and the training framework will be applicable to existing home-based child carers, too. These measures involve an annual recurrent expenditure of about \$293.3 million. SWD will subsidise non-governmental organisations through Lump

Sum Grant subvention to operate NSCCP that will be launched in the fourth quarter of 2024, and provide relevant training courses. The staffing establishment for each service team under NSCCP includes 2 Assistant Social Work Officers, 2 Social Work Assistants, 1 Child Care Worker and 2 Welfare Workers. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements, service operators may flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service output and outcomes required.

Table 1: Numbers of home-based child carers, places and children served under NSCCP (2019-20)

| District | Number of home-based child carers (December 2019) | Number of places [Note 1] | Number of children served |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Central & Western | 40 | 53 | 411 |
| Wan Chai | 161 | 53 | 214 |
| Eastern | 176 | 53 | 427 |
| Southern | 29 | 53 | 181 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 267 | 53 | 826 |
| Sham Shui Po | 74 | 53 | 713 |
| Kowloon City | 473 | 53 | 498 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 59 | 53 | 589 |
| Kwun Tong | 52 | 53 | 502 |
| Kwai Tsing | 88 | 53 | 574 |
| Tsuen Wan | 56 | 53 | 661 |
| Tuen Mun | 42 | 53 | 881 |
| Yuen Long | 58 | 53 | 1 321 |
| North | 58 | 53 | 268 |
| Tai Po | 64 | 53 | 682 |
| Sha Tin | 87 | 53 | 905 |
| Sai Kung | 114 | 53 | 746 |
| Islands | 16 | 53 | 305 |
| Total | 1 914 | 954 | 10 704 |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

Table 2: Numbers of home-based child carers, places and children served under NSCCP (2020-21)

| District | Number of home-based child carers (December 2020) | Number of places [Note 1] | Number of children served |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Central & Western | 46 | 53 | 341 |
| Wan Chai | 114 | 53 | 209 |
| Eastern | 183 | 53 | 360 |
| Southern | 28 | 53 | 151 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 299 | 53 | 477 |
| Sham Shui Po | 38 | 53 | 778 |
| Kowloon City | 489 | 53 | 244 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 22 | 53 | 422 |
| Kwun Tong | 51 | 53 | 313 |
| Kwai Tsing | 41 | 53 | 421 |
| Tsuen Wan | 43 | 53 | 288 |
| Tuen Mun | 36 | 53 | 719 |
| Yuen Long | 32 | 53 | 1 114 |
| North | 54 | 53 | 303 |
| Tai Po | 69 | 53 | 521 |
| Sha Tin | 49 | 53 | 614 |
| Sai Kung | 130 | 53 | 477 |
| Islands | 80 | 53 | 227 |
| Total | 1 804 | 954 | 7 979 |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

Table 3: Numbers of home-based child carers, places and children served under NSCCP (2021-22)

| District | Number of home-based child carers (December 2021) | Number of places [Note 1] | Number of children served |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Central & Western | 32 | 53 | 355 |
| Wan Chai | 98 | 53 | 287 |
| Eastern | 58 | 53 | 428 |
| Southern | 26 | 53 | 283 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 314 | 53 | 724 |
| Sham Shui Po | 49 | 53 | 1 011 |
| Kowloon City | 515 | 53 | 588 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 45 | 53 | 621 |
| Kwun Tong | 56 | 53 | 362 |
| Kwai Tsing | 55 | 53 | 619 |
| Tsuen Wan | 56 | 53 | 514 |
| Tuen Mun | 31 | 53 | 767 |
| Yuen Long | 72 | 53 | 1 309 |
| North | 70 | 53 | 482 |
| Tai Po | 73 | 53 | 552 |
| Sha Tin | 42 | 53 | 916 |
| Sai Kung | 135 | 53 | 513 |
| Islands | 88 | 53 | 498 |
| Total | 1 815 | 954 | 10 829 |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

Table 4: Numbers of home-based child carers, places and children served under NSCCP (2022-23)

| District | Number of home-based child carers (December 2022) | Number of places [Note 1] | Number of children served |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Central & Western | 29 | 53 | 413 |
| Wan Chai | 73 | 53 | 189 |
| Eastern | 59 | 53 | 326 |
| Southern | 27 | 53 | 171 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 278 | 53 | 793 |
| Sham Shui Po | 57 | 53 | 842 |
| Kowloon City | 521 | 53 | 455 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 45 | 53 | 595 |
| Kwun Tong | 44 | 53 | 395 |
| Kwai Tsing | 72 | 53 | 679 |
| Tsuen Wan | 63 | 53 | 645 |
| Tuen Mun | 33 | 53 | 732 |
| Yuen Long | 65 | 53 | 1 151 |
| North | 61 | 53 | 446 |
| Tai Po | 69 | 53 | 580 |
| Sha Tin | 41 | 53 | 848 |
| Sai Kung | 139 | 53 | 591 |
| Islands | 83 | 53 | 468 |
| Total | 1 759 | 954 | 10 319 |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

Table 5: Numbers of home-based child carers, places and children served under NSCCP (April to December 2023)

| District | Number of home-based child carers (December 2023) | Number of places [Note 1] | Number of children served |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Central & Western | 59 | 53 | 387 |
| Wan Chai | 67 | 53 | 201 |
| Eastern | 103 | 53 | 329 |
| Southern | 30 | 53 | 422 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 126 | 53 | 640 |
| Sham Shui Po | 59 | 53 | 706 |
| Kowloon City | 525 | 53 | 280 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 112 | 53 | 525 |
| Kwun Tong | 46 | 53 | 404 |
| Kwai Tsing | 82 | 53 | 495 |
| Tsuen Wan | 77 | 53 | 380 |
| Tuen Mun | 37 | 53 | 644 |
| Yuen Long | 67 | 53 | 879 |
| North | 78 | 53 | 400 |
| Tai Po | 77 | 53 | 380 |
| Sha Tin | 42 | 53 | 546 |
| Sai Kung | 83 | 53 | 469 |
| Islands | 100 | 53 | 397 |
| Total | 1 770 | 954 | 8 484 |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)061

(Question Serial No. 1872)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding day child care services, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the numbers of (i) child care centres (CCCs) and (ii) child care service places (separately for children aged below 2 and children aged 2 to below 3) for the past 5 years up to the present in every District Council (DC) district; and
- (2) (i) the number of places provided by aided standalone CCCs for children aged below 2, (ii) the child population, (iii) the ratio of places to child population, (iv) the utilisation rate of places, and (v) the average waiting time for applicants for the past 5 years up to the present in every DC district.
- (3) Last year, the Government announced the phased development of 10 aided standalone CCCs, providing nearly 900 additional places for day child care services. Please provide the estimated expenditure, the geographical distribution (by DC district) and the estimated service commencement dates for the additional places.

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

- (1) The numbers of CCCs (including standalone CCCs and CCCs attached to kindergartens (KGs)) and places provided in the past 5 financial years, broken down by district in Hong Kong, are set out at Annex 1.
- (2) The number of places and average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs for children aged below 2 in the past 5 financial years, broken down by district in Hong Kong, are set out at Annex 2. Since parents can directly apply for the places of standalone CCCs from the service operators based on their needs, without being waitlisted under a central system, and as applications are handled by the respective service operators, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the ratio of places to child population and the average waiting time for applicants.
- (3) SWD will set up 10 more aided standalone CCCs in phases within 3 years starting from 2024, providing about 900 additional places. Among them, 100 places in Queens Hill Estate and 56 places in Wah Ming Estate in Fanling have commenced service in January and March 2024 respectively. The 88 places in Shun Lee Estate in Kwun Tong and

100 places at the Treasury Building in Sham Shui Po are scheduled for commencing operation in 2024-25, whereas the 100 places at Cheung Shun Street in Sham Shui Po and 60 places in Kwai Fong Estate in Kwai Chung will be put into service in 2025-26. The remaining 4 aided standalone CCCs, proposed to be set up in districts such as Kowloon City and Kwun Tong, will collectively provide about 400 additional places, and are scheduled to commence service in 2026-27. The estimated annual expenditure of the 10 aided standalone CCCs is about \$66.4 million.

Table 1: Numbers of standalone CCCs and CCCs attached to KGs and number of places provided (2019-20)

| District | Standalone CCC | | Number of centres | CCC attached to KG ^[Note] | | Number of centres |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | Children aged below 2 | Children aged 2 to 3 | | Children aged below 2 | Children aged 2 to 3 | |
| | Number of places | Number of places | | Number of places | Number of places | |
| Central & Western | 48 | 162 | 2 | 80 | 2 118 | 27 |
| Southern | - | - | - | 126 | 1 144 | 19 |
| Islands | 22 | 24 | 1 | 14 | 1 027 | 14 |
| Eastern | 64 | 196 | 2 | 320 | 3 364 | 53 |
| Wan Chai | 68 | - | 2 | 16 | 824 | 17 |
| Kwun Tong | 15 | 292 | 2 | 60 | 1 343 | 39 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | - | - | 31 | 706 | 26 |
| Sai Kung | - | - | - | 62 | 2 872 | 34 |
| Kowloon City | 103 | 1 306 | 8 | 153 | 4 155 | 50 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 116 | 3 | 48 | 1 304 | 25 |
| Sham Shui Po | 48 | 14 | 1 | 16 | 1 294 | 24 |
| Sha Tin | 72 | - | 1 | 16 | 2 047 | 41 |
| Tai Po | - | - | - | 14 | 952 | 18 |
| North | 51 | - | 1 | 8 | 926 | 20 |
| Yuen Long | 64 | 102 | 2 | 48 | 1 348 | 32 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 336 | 3 | 24 | 1 204 | 23 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 28 | 1 | 26 | 1 362 | 32 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | - | 1 | - | 1 914 | 33 |
| Total | 826 | 2 576 | 30 | 1 062 | 29 904 | 527 |

[Note] Figures provided by the Education Bureau (EDB) as at September 2019.

Table 2: Numbers of standalone CCCs and CCCs attached to KGs and number of places provided (2020-21)

| District | Standalone CCC | | Number of centres | CCC attached to KG ^[Note] | | Number of centres |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | Children aged below 2 | Children aged 2 to 3 | | Children aged below 2 | Children aged 2 to 3 | |
| | Number of places | Number of places | | Number of places | Number of places | |
| Central & Western | 48 | 162 | 2 | 80 | 2 600 | 29 |
| Southern | - | - | - | 126 | 1 023 | 19 |
| Islands | 22 | 24 | 1 | 14 | 1 089 | 14 |
| Eastern | 64 | 196 | 2 | 318 | 3 911 | 54 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | - | 1 | 16 | 823 | 16 |
| Kwun Tong | 17 | 292 | 2 | 60 | 1 143 | 39 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | - | - | 31 | 511 | 24 |
| Sai Kung | - | - | - | 166 | 3 990 | 35 |
| Kowloon City | 103 | 1 222 | 7 | 152 | 4 494 | 50 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 116 | 3 | 48 | 1 138 | 25 |
| Sham Shui Po | 48 | 14 | 1 | 16 | 1 472 | 26 |
| Sha Tin | 144 | 33 | 2 | 16 | 1 791 | 42 |
| Tai Po | - | - | - | 14 | 1 215 | 18 |
| North | 51 | - | 1 | - | 872 | 20 |
| Yuen Long | 64 | - | 1 | 48 | 1 206 | 33 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 336 | 3 | 24 | 1 076 | 23 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 28 | 1 | 26 | 1 149 | 31 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 50 | 2 | - | 1 602 | 32 |
| Total | 880 | 2 473 | 29 | 1 155 | 31 105 | 530 |

[Note] Figures provided by EDB as at September 2020.

Table 3: Numbers of standalone CCCs and CCCs attached to KGs and number of places provided (2021-22)

| District | Standalone CCC | | Number of centres | CCC attached to KG ^[Note] | | Number of centres |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | Children aged below 2 | Children aged 2 to 3 | | Children aged below 2 | Children aged 2 to 3 | |
| | Number of places | Number of places | | Number of places | Number of places | |
| Central & Western | 48 | 162 | 2 | 80 | 2 727 | 28 |
| Southern | - | - | - | 126 | 1 073 | 18 |
| Islands | 22 | 24 | 1 | 14 | 1 147 | 14 |
| Eastern | 64 | 196 | 2 | 320 | 3 456 | 53 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | - | 1 | 16 | 1 319 | 17 |
| Kwun Tong | 17 | 292 | 2 | 60 | 1 212 | 39 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | - | - | 31 | 575 | 24 |
| Sai Kung | - | - | - | 156 | 4 182 | 36 |
| Kowloon City | 103 | 1 082 | 6 | 152 | 4 021 | 45 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 32 | 2 | 48 | 1 809 | 29 |
| Sham Shui Po | 48 | 14 | 1 | 16 | 1 392 | 28 |
| Sha Tin | 144 | 33 | 2 | 16 | 1 950 | 41 |
| Tai Po | - | - | - | 14 | 1 274 | 18 |
| North | 51 | - | 1 | - | 1 087 | 20 |
| Yuen Long | 64 | - | 1 | 48 | 1 262 | 33 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 336 | 3 | 24 | 1 237 | 23 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 28 | 1 | 26 | 1 259 | 29 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 108 | 3 | - | 1 772 | 34 |
| Total | 880 | 2 307 | 28 | 1 147 | 32 754 | 529 |

[Note] Figures provided by EDB as at September 2021.

Table 4: Numbers of standalone CCCs and CCCs attached to KGs and number of places provided (2022-23)

| District | Standalone CCC | | Number of centres | CCC attached to KG ^[Note] | | Number of centres |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | Children aged below 2 | Children aged 2 to 3 | | Children aged below 2 | Children aged 2 to 3 | |
| | Number of places | Number of places | | Number of places | Number of places | |
| Central & Western | 48 | 162 | 2 | 80 | 2 628 | 27 |
| Southern | - | - | - | 88 | 951 | 17 |
| Islands | 88 | 32 | 2 | 14 | 1 165 | 15 |
| Eastern | 64 | 196 | 2 | 311 | 2 908 | 48 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | - | 1 | 16 | 1 307 | 17 |
| Kwun Tong | 17 | 292 | 2 | 60 | 1 206 | 40 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | - | - | 31 | 527 | 24 |
| Sai Kung | - | - | - | 156 | 4 286 | 38 |
| Kowloon City | 103 | 1 049 | 6 | 152 | 3 937 | 44 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 32 | 2 | 48 | 1 809 | 29 |
| Sham Shui Po | 48 | 14 | 1 | 16 | 1 471 | 28 |
| Sha Tin | 144 | 33 | 2 | 16 | 1 932 | 41 |
| Tai Po | 70 | 22 | 1 | 14 | 1 416 | 19 |
| North | 51 | - | 1 | - | 1 087 | 20 |
| Yuen Long | 130 | 22 | 2 | 48 | 1 317 | 33 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 168 | 2 | 24 | 1 024 | 23 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 28 | 1 | - | 1 101 | 28 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 108 | 3 | - | 1 591 | 34 |
| Total | 1 082 | 2 158 | 30 | 1 074 | 31 663 | 525 |

[Note] Figures provided by EDB as at September 2022.

Table 5: Numbers of standalone CCCs and CCCs attached to KGs and number of places provided (April to December 2023)

| District | Standalone CCC | | Number of centres | CCC attached to KG ^[Note] | | Number of centres |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | Children aged below 2 | Children aged 2 to 3 | | Children aged below 2 | Children aged 2 to 3 | |
| | Number of places | Number of places | | Number of places | Number of places | |
| Central & Western | 48 | - | 1 | 80 | 2 816 | 28 |
| Southern | - | - | - | 88 | 1 007 | 18 |
| Islands | 90 | 46 | 2 | 14 | 1 227 | 15 |
| Eastern | 64 | 196 | 2 | 314 | 3 147 | 46 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | - | 1 | 16 | 1 404 | 17 |
| Kwun Tong | 17 | 292 | 2 | 56 | 1 244 | 38 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | - | - | 30 | 525 | 24 |
| Sai Kung | - | - | - | 156 | 4 576 | 38 |
| Kowloon City | 103 | 1 049 | 6 | 152 | 4 249 | 45 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 32 | 2 | 48 | 1 935 | 29 |
| Sham Shui Po | 48 | 14 | 1 | 16 | 1 551 | 24 |
| Sha Tin | 144 | 33 | 2 | 16 | 2 037 | 39 |
| Tai Po | 70 | 22 | 1 | 14 | 1 494 | 19 |
| North | 51 | - | 1 | - | 1 139 | 19 |
| Yuen Long | 130 | 22 | 2 | 48 | 1 421 | 33 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 168 | 2 | 24 | 1 090 | 23 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 28 | 1 | - | 1 138 | 28 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 108 | 3 | - | 1 677 | 34 |
| Total | 1 084 | 2 010 | 29 | 1 072 | 33 677 | 517 |

[Note] Figures provided by EDB as at September 2023.

Table 1: Number of places and average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs for children aged below 2 (2019-20)

| District | Aided standalone CCC | |
|-------------------|----------------------|---|
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate ^[Note] (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100 |
| Southern | - | N.A. |
| Islands | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | 64 | 100 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 99 |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 100 |
| Sham Shui Po | 48 | 99 |
| Sha Tin | 72 | 100 |
| Tai Po | - | N.A. |
| North | 51 | 100 |
| Yuen Long | 64 | 100 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 99 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 100 |
| Total | 733 | 100 |

N.A. - Not applicable

^[Note] The average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs is calculated based on all age groups in the whole centre.

Table 2: Number of places and average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs for children aged below 2 (2020-21)

| District | Aided standalone CCC | |
|-------------------|----------------------|---|
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate ^[Note] (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100 |
| Southern | - | N.A. |
| Islands | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | 64 | 100 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 97 |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 98 |
| Sham Shui Po | 48 | 100 |
| Sha Tin | 144 | 92 |
| Tai Po | - | N.A. |
| North | 51 | 100 |
| Yuen Long | 64 | 100 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 88 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 100 |
| Total | 805 | 97 |

N.A. - Not applicable

^[Note] The average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs is calculated based on all age groups in the whole centre.

Table 3: Number of places and average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs for children aged below 2 (2021-22)

| District | Aided standalone CCC | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--|
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate ^[Note] (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100 |
| Southern | - | N.A. |
| Islands | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | 64 | 100 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 100 |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 100 |
| Sham Shui Po | 48 | 100 |
| Sha Tin | 144 | 91 |
| Tai Po | - | N.A. |
| North | 51 | 100 |
| Yuen Long | 64 | 100 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 99 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 100 |
| Total | 805 | 98 |

N.A. - Not applicable

^[Note] The average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs is calculated based on all age groups in the whole centre.

Table 4: Number of places and average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs for children aged below 2 (2022-23)

| District | Aided standalone CCC | |
|-------------------|----------------------|---|
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate ^[Note 1] (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100 |
| Southern | - | N.A. |
| Islands | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | 64 | 100 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 100 |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 100 |
| Sham Shui Po | 48 | 100 |
| Sha Tin | 144 | 98 |
| Tai Po | 70 | 20 ^[Note 2] |
| North | 51 | 100 |
| Yuen Long | 130 | 91 ^[Note 3] |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 98 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 100 |
| Total | 941 | 97 |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note 1] The average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs is calculated based on all age groups in the whole centre.

[Note 2] The first additional aided standalone CCC in the district commenced operation in January 2023.

[Note 3] The second additional aided standalone CCC in the district commenced operation in March 2023.

Table 5: Number of places and average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs for children aged below 2 (April to December 2023)

| District | Aided standalone CCC | |
|-------------------|----------------------|---|
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate ^[Note 1] (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100 |
| Southern | - | N.A. |
| Islands | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | 64 | 100 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 100 |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 100 |
| Sham Shui Po | 48 | 100 |
| Sha Tin | 144 | 99 |
| Tai Po | 70 | 83 |
| North | 51 | 100 |
| Yuen Long | 130 | 76 ^[Note 2] |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 100 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 96 |
| Total | 941 | 95 |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note 1] The average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs is calculated based on all age groups in the whole centre.

[Note 2] The second additional aided standalone CCC in the district commenced operation in March 2023.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)062

(Question Serial No. 1873)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Old Age Allowance (OAA), Disability Allowance and Old Age Living Allowance (OALA), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the number of OAA cases and the expenditure involved in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by age group and District Council (DC) district;
- (2) the numbers of OAA cases under the Guangdong (GD) Scheme and the Fujian (FJ) Scheme and the expenditure involved in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by age group;
- (3) the number of Normal Disability Allowance (NDA) cases and the expenditure involved in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by age group and DC district;
- (4) the number of Higher Disability Allowance (HDA) cases and the expenditure involved in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by age group and DC district;
- (5) the number of OALA cases and the expenditure involved in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by age group and DC district;
- (6) the numbers of OALA cases under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme and the expenditure involved in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by age group; and
- (7) whether the Government has compiled statistics on the number of applicants under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme who failed to meet the eligibility due to their absence from Hong Kong for more than 56 days (but no more than 90 days) in each of the past 5 years, considering the Government's announcement in the past year regarding the relaxation of the pre-application absence limit from 56 days to 90 days of the one-year continuous residence requirement under the SSA Scheme.

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

- (1) to (6) From 2021-22 to 2023-24, the numbers of OAA and OALA cases (excluding those under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme), with a breakdown by age group and district, are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of the Annex; the numbers of OAA and OALA cases under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme, with a breakdown by age group,

are set out in Tables 3 and 4; the numbers of NDA and HDA cases, with a breakdown by age group and district, are set out in Table 5; and the expenditure on the SSA Scheme by type of allowance is set out in Table 6.

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have a breakdown of the expenditure on OAA and OALA by age group, or the expenditure on SSA Scheme by district.

- (7) SWD does not have the requested information regarding the number of applicants under SSA Scheme who failed to meet the eligibility due to their absence from Hong Kong for more than 56 days (but no more than 90 days).

Table 1 Number of OAA cases (excluding those under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme) from 2021-22 to 2023-24 by age group and district

| District ^{Note} | 2021-22 | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Number of OAA cases | | | |
| | Aged 70 to 74 | Aged 75 to 79 | Aged 80 or above | Total |
| Central & Western | 7 259 | 3 668 | 5 772 | 16 699 |
| Eastern | 18 243 | 9 136 | 13 457 | 40 836 |
| Islands | 2 895 | 1 278 | 1 373 | 5 546 |
| Kowloon City | 9 706 | 5 429 | 8 589 | 23 724 |
| Kwai Tsing | 7 729 | 4 131 | 4 428 | 16 288 |
| Kwun Tong | 9 506 | 4 866 | 6 597 | 20 969 |
| North | 4 972 | 2 082 | 2 490 | 9 544 |
| Sai Kung | 8 142 | 3 712 | 3 840 | 15 694 |
| Sha Tin | 14 901 | 6 342 | 6 767 | 28 010 |
| Sham Shui Po | 7 255 | 3 911 | 5 688 | 16 854 |
| Southern | 6 554 | 3 138 | 4 167 | 13 859 |
| Tai Po | 6 022 | 2 540 | 2 668 | 11 230 |
| Tsuen Wan | 6 818 | 3 559 | 3 905 | 14 282 |
| Tuen Mun | 8 572 | 3 477 | 2 872 | 14 921 |
| Wan Chai | 5 045 | 2 750 | 5 129 | 12 924 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 6 412 | 3 258 | 4 788 | 14 458 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 7 279 | 4 283 | 6 129 | 17 691 |
| Yuen Long | 9 269 | 4 140 | 4 510 | 17 919 |
| Total | 146 579 | 71 700 | 93 169 | 311 448 |

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

| District ^{Note} | 2022-23 | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Number of OAA cases | | | |
| | Aged 70 to 74 | Aged 75 to 79 | Aged 80 or above | Total |
| Central & Western | 7 464 | 4 343 | 5 610 | 17 417 |
| Eastern | 18 537 | 10 708 | 13 017 | 42 262 |
| Islands | 3 104 | 1 502 | 1 404 | 6 010 |
| Kowloon City | 9 971 | 6 139 | 8 461 | 24 571 |
| Kwai Tsing | 7 762 | 4 453 | 4 203 | 16 418 |
| Kwun Tong | 9 733 | 5 328 | 6 286 | 21 347 |
| North | 5 567 | 2 449 | 2 406 | 10 422 |
| Sai Kung | 8 728 | 4 333 | 3 876 | 16 937 |
| Sha Tin | 15 691 | 7 452 | 6 711 | 29 854 |
| Sham Shui Po | 7 594 | 4 300 | 5 454 | 17 348 |
| Southern | 6 688 | 3 739 | 4 069 | 14 496 |
| Tai Po | 6 747 | 3 079 | 2 620 | 12 446 |
| Tsuen Wan | 7 047 | 3 990 | 3 852 | 14 889 |
| Tuen Mun | 9 329 | 3 923 | 2 937 | 16 189 |
| Wan Chai | 5 170 | 3 156 | 5 046 | 13 372 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 6 496 | 3 568 | 4 398 | 14 462 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 7 443 | 4 804 | 5 971 | 18 218 |
| Yuen Long | 10 110 | 4 832 | 4 455 | 19 397 |
| Total | 153 181 | 82 098 | 90 776 | 326 055 |

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

| District ^{Note} | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Number of OAA cases | | | |
| | Aged 70 to 74 | Aged 75 to 79 | Aged 80 or above | Total |
| Central & Western | 7 520 | 4 857 | 5 643 | 18 020 |
| Eastern | 18 742 | 11 794 | 13 118 | 43 654 |
| Islands | 3 203 | 1 719 | 1 448 | 6 370 |
| Kowloon City | 10 111 | 6 680 | 8 582 | 25 373 |
| Kwai Tsing | 7 789 | 4 798 | 4 275 | 16 862 |
| Kwun Tong | 10 014 | 5 748 | 6 320 | 22 082 |
| North | 6 009 | 2 806 | 2 476 | 11 291 |
| Sai Kung | 9 136 | 4 900 | 4 035 | 18 071 |
| Sha Tin | 16 201 | 8 585 | 6 797 | 31 583 |
| Sham Shui Po | 7 718 | 4 611 | 5 501 | 17 830 |
| Southern | 6 814 | 4 151 | 4 180 | 15 145 |
| Tai Po | 7 290 | 3 468 | 2 761 | 13 519 |
| Tsuen Wan | 7 260 | 4 368 | 3 936 | 15 564 |
| Tuen Mun | 9 743 | 4 472 | 3 086 | 17 301 |
| Wan Chai | 5 173 | 3 612 | 5 095 | 13 880 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 6 753 | 3 815 | 4 368 | 14 936 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 7 464 | 5 224 | 6 045 | 18 733 |
| Yuen Long | 10 744 | 5 432 | 4 612 | 20 788 |
| Total | 157 684 | 91 040 | 92 278 | 341 002 |

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 2 Number of OALA cases (excluding those under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme) from 2021-22 to 2023-24 by age group and district

| District ^{Note} | 2021-22 | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Number of OALA cases | | | | |
| | Aged 65 to 69 | Aged 70 to 74 | Aged 75 to 79 | Aged 80 or above | Total |
| Central & Western | 1 908 | 2 475 | 1 524 | 3 576 | 9 483 |
| Eastern | 10 165 | 12 483 | 7 737 | 15 273 | 45 658 |
| Islands | 3 494 | 3 096 | 1 702 | 2 539 | 10 831 |
| Kowloon City | 6 582 | 7 375 | 5 108 | 9 365 | 28 430 |
| Kwai Tsing | 16 655 | 16 574 | 11 474 | 15 980 | 60 683 |
| Kwun Tong | 21 000 | 21 604 | 14 053 | 23 131 | 79 788 |
| North | 9 073 | 7 229 | 3 863 | 5 943 | 26 108 |
| Sai Kung | 10 303 | 9 624 | 5 787 | 8 622 | 34 336 |
| Sha Tin | 18 955 | 19 757 | 11 100 | 15 875 | 65 687 |
| Sham Shui Po | 10 856 | 9 951 | 5 617 | 10 757 | 37 181 |
| Southern | 5 153 | 5 861 | 3 888 | 7 975 | 22 877 |
| Tai Po | 9 042 | 7 611 | 3 784 | 6 002 | 26 439 |
| Tsuen Wan | 5 325 | 5 869 | 4 299 | 7 046 | 22 539 |
| Tuen Mun | 17 224 | 16 184 | 7 606 | 9 015 | 50 029 |
| Wan Chai | 874 | 1 095 | 702 | 1 988 | 4 659 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 13 269 | 12 651 | 8 139 | 16 922 | 50 981 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 4 232 | 4 570 | 2 795 | 5 234 | 16 831 |
| Yuen Long | 16 013 | 12 429 | 6 363 | 9 256 | 44 061 |
| Total | 180 123 | 176 438 | 105 541 | 174 499 | 636 601 |

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

| District ^{Note} | 2022-23 | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Number of OALA cases | | | | |
| | Aged 65 to 69 | Aged 70 to 74 | Aged 75 to 79 | Aged 80 or above | Total |
| Central & Western | 2 155 | 2 520 | 1 784 | 3 516 | 9 975 |
| Eastern | 11 246 | 12 864 | 9 037 | 15 085 | 48 232 |
| Islands | 4 060 | 3 418 | 2 019 | 2 594 | 12 091 |
| Kowloon City | 7 059 | 7 719 | 5 727 | 9 504 | 30 009 |
| Kwai Tsing | 18 405 | 17 450 | 12 593 | 16 377 | 64 825 |
| Kwun Tong | 22 803 | 22 828 | 15 673 | 23 145 | 84 449 |
| North | 10 788 | 8 436 | 4 466 | 6 011 | 29 701 |
| Sai Kung | 11 632 | 10 436 | 6 592 | 8 810 | 37 470 |
| Sha Tin | 20 653 | 21 106 | 13 097 | 16 203 | 71 059 |
| Sham Shui Po | 12 232 | 11 124 | 6 532 | 10 772 | 40 660 |
| Southern | 5 722 | 6 128 | 4 488 | 7 862 | 24 200 |
| Tai Po | 10 123 | 8 481 | 4 368 | 6 033 | 29 005 |
| Tsuen Wan | 5 863 | 6 228 | 4 700 | 7 139 | 23 930 |
| Tuen Mun | 18 861 | 17 899 | 9 103 | 9 278 | 55 141 |
| Wan Chai | 987 | 1 193 | 838 | 1 954 | 4 972 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 14 817 | 13 504 | 8 998 | 16 562 | 53 881 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 4 765 | 4 814 | 3 204 | 5 201 | 17 984 |
| Yuen Long | 18 792 | 14 045 | 7 334 | 9 391 | 49 562 |
| Total | 200 963 | 190 193 | 120 553 | 175 437 | 687 146 |

^{Note} The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

| District ^{Note} | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Number of OALA cases | | | | |
| | Aged 65 to 69 | Aged 70 to 74 | Aged 75 to 79 | Aged 80 or above | Total |
| Central & Western | 2 243 | 2 604 | 1 974 | 3 477 | 10 298 |
| Eastern | 11 593 | 12 943 | 10 009 | 15 075 | 49 620 |
| Islands | 4 427 | 3 695 | 2 255 | 2 681 | 13 058 |
| Kowloon City | 7 265 | 7 892 | 6 128 | 9 738 | 31 023 |
| Kwai Tsing | 19 242 | 18 110 | 13 388 | 16 989 | 67 729 |
| Kwun Tong | 23 764 | 23 436 | 16 896 | 23 392 | 87 488 |
| North | 11 621 | 9 228 | 4 949 | 6 237 | 32 035 |
| Sai Kung | 12 296 | 10 952 | 7 262 | 9 046 | 39 556 |
| Sha Tin | 21 349 | 22 018 | 14 467 | 16 699 | 74 533 |
| Sham Shui Po | 12 874 | 11 860 | 7 168 | 10 999 | 42 901 |
| Southern | 5 851 | 6 330 | 4 745 | 7 887 | 24 813 |
| Tai Po | 10 501 | 9 055 | 4 997 | 6 143 | 30 696 |
| Tsuen Wan | 5 937 | 6 362 | 4 980 | 7 312 | 24 591 |
| Tuen Mun | 19 497 | 18 954 | 10 296 | 9 765 | 58 512 |
| Wan Chai | 1 001 | 1 241 | 929 | 1 993 | 5 164 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 15 477 | 14 082 | 9 655 | 16 565 | 55 779 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 4 940 | 5 078 | 3 526 | 5 327 | 18 871 |
| Yuen Long | 20 058 | 15 166 | 8 146 | 9 628 | 52 998 |
| Total | 209 936 | 199 006 | 131 770 | 178 953 | 719 665 |

^{Note} The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 3 Numbers of OAA and OALA cases under the GD Scheme from 2021-22 to 2023-24 by age group

| Year | OAA | | | | OALA | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Aged 70 to 74 | Aged 75 to 79 | Aged 80 or above | Total | Aged 65 to 69 | Aged 70 to 74 | Aged 75 to 79 | Aged 80 or above | Total |
| 2021-22 | 2 575 | 2 036 | 2 985 | 7 596 | 2 507 | 3 434 | 2 169 | 3 803 | 11 913 |
| 2022-23 | 2 850 | 2 234 | 2 924 | 8 008 | 3 503 | 4 001 | 2 612 | 3 910 | 14 026 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 3 195 | 2 308 | 2 900 | 8 403 | 4 390 | 4 629 | 3 174 | 4 286 | 16 479 |

Table 4 Numbers of OAA and OALA cases under the FJ scheme from 2021-22 to 2023-24 by age group

| Year | OAA | | | | OALA | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| | Aged 70 to 74 | Aged 75 to 79 | Aged 80 or above | Total | Aged 65 to 69 | Aged 70 to 74 | Aged 75 to 79 | Aged 80 or above | Total |
| 2021-22 | 199 | 178 | 217 | 594 | 218 | 281 | 237 | 633 | 1 369 |
| 2022-23 | 220 | 204 | 212 | 636 | 277 | 280 | 284 | 639 | 1 480 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 246 | 230 | 207 | 683 | 340 | 351 | 333 | 725 | 1 749 |

Table 5 Numbers of NDA and HDA cases from 2021-22 to 2023-24 by age group and district

| District ^{Note} | 2021-22 | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | NDA | | | HDA | | |
| | Aged below 65 | Aged 65 or above | Total | Aged below 65 | Aged 65 or above | Total |
| Central & Western | 2 499 | 1 122 | 3 621 | 224 | 510 | 734 |
| Eastern | 9 203 | 2 812 | 12 015 | 599 | 1 193 | 1 792 |
| Islands | 2 694 | 360 | 3 054 | 150 | 117 | 267 |
| Kowloon City | 5 089 | 1 503 | 6 592 | 388 | 652 | 1 040 |
| Kwai Tsing | 9 527 | 1 645 | 11 172 | 608 | 517 | 1 125 |
| Kwun Tong | 11 452 | 1 715 | 13 167 | 835 | 834 | 1 669 |
| North | 5 932 | 869 | 6 801 | 419 | 389 | 808 |
| Sai Kung | 6 388 | 1 158 | 7 546 | 579 | 474 | 1 053 |
| Sha Tin | 12 361 | 2 306 | 14 667 | 993 | 1 090 | 2 083 |
| Sham Shui Po | 6 918 | 1 337 | 8 255 | 493 | 572 | 1 065 |
| Southern | 5 314 | 1 464 | 6 778 | 391 | 458 | 849 |
| Tai Po | 5 726 | 1 090 | 6 816 | 393 | 415 | 808 |
| Tsuen Wan | 3 942 | 1 072 | 5 014 | 337 | 360 | 697 |
| Tuen Mun | 9 667 | 1 636 | 11 303 | 597 | 518 | 1 115 |
| Wan Chai | 1 262 | 672 | 1 934 | 93 | 407 | 500 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 7 423 | 1 272 | 8 695 | 556 | 520 | 1 076 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 3 435 | 1 210 | 4 645 | 270 | 484 | 754 |
| Yuen Long | 11 123 | 1 543 | 12 666 | 838 | 610 | 1 448 |
| Total | 119 955 | 24 786 | 144 741 | 8 763 | 10 120 | 18 883 |

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

| District ^{Note} | 2022-23 | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | NDA | | | HDA | | |
| | Aged below 65 | Aged 65 or above | Total | Aged below 65 | Aged 65 or above | Total |
| Central & Western | 2 628 | 1 157 | 3 785 | 198 | 484 | 682 |
| Eastern | 9 485 | 2 810 | 12 295 | 591 | 1 152 | 1 743 |
| Islands | 2 834 | 397 | 3 231 | 143 | 114 | 257 |
| Kowloon City | 5 280 | 1 553 | 6 833 | 409 | 610 | 1 019 |
| Kwai Tsing | 9 791 | 1 636 | 11 427 | 649 | 500 | 1 149 |
| Kwun Tong | 11 787 | 1 749 | 13 536 | 852 | 755 | 1 607 |
| North | 6 198 | 924 | 7 122 | 455 | 365 | 820 |
| Sai Kung | 6 635 | 1 232 | 7 867 | 588 | 463 | 1 051 |
| Sha Tin | 12 496 | 2 318 | 14 814 | 951 | 1 015 | 1 966 |
| Sham Shui Po | 7 207 | 1 350 | 8 557 | 500 | 585 | 1 085 |
| Southern | 5 417 | 1 486 | 6 903 | 369 | 436 | 805 |
| Tai Po | 5 810 | 1 136 | 6 946 | 380 | 387 | 767 |
| Tsuen Wan | 4 100 | 1 071 | 5 171 | 321 | 347 | 668 |
| Tuen Mun | 10 131 | 1 678 | 11 809 | 588 | 506 | 1 094 |
| Wan Chai | 1 331 | 672 | 2 003 | 103 | 378 | 481 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 7 584 | 1 283 | 8 867 | 539 | 467 | 1 006 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 3 518 | 1 197 | 4 715 | 284 | 495 | 779 |
| Yuen Long | 11 489 | 1 612 | 13 101 | 827 | 619 | 1 446 |
| Total | 123 721 | 25 261 | 148 982 | 8 747 | 9 678 | 18 425 |

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

| District ^{Note} | 2023-24 (as at end-December2023) | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | NDA | | | HDA | | |
| | Aged below 65 | Aged 65 or above | Total | Aged below 65 | Aged 65 or above | Total |
| Central & Western | 2 591 | 1 226 | 3 817 | 203 | 471 | 674 |
| Eastern | 9 569 | 2 994 | 12 563 | 608 | 1 211 | 1 819 |
| Islands | 2 921 | 434 | 3 355 | 155 | 123 | 278 |
| Kowloon City | 5 419 | 1 651 | 7 070 | 418 | 642 | 1 060 |
| Kwai Tsing | 9 879 | 1 741 | 11 620 | 661 | 548 | 1 209 |
| Kwun Tong | 12 124 | 1 870 | 13 994 | 849 | 780 | 1 629 |
| North | 6 421 | 1 053 | 7 474 | 480 | 368 | 848 |
| Sai Kung | 6 730 | 1 320 | 8 050 | 590 | 497 | 1 087 |
| Sha Tin | 12 669 | 2 481 | 15 150 | 976 | 1 044 | 2 020 |
| Sham Shui Po | 7 458 | 1 443 | 8 901 | 519 | 603 | 1 122 |
| Southern | 5 486 | 1 584 | 7 070 | 365 | 441 | 806 |
| Tai Po | 5 895 | 1 183 | 7 078 | 400 | 404 | 804 |
| Tsuen Wan | 4 164 | 1 174 | 5 338 | 347 | 367 | 714 |
| Tuen Mun | 10 208 | 1 812 | 12 020 | 637 | 520 | 1 157 |
| Wan Chai | 1 324 | 709 | 2 033 | 99 | 387 | 486 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 7 646 | 1 362 | 9 008 | 548 | 469 | 1 017 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 3 646 | 1 253 | 4 899 | 283 | 515 | 798 |
| Yuen Long | 11 850 | 1 688 | 13 538 | 853 | 626 | 1 479 |
| Total | 126 000 | 26 978 | 152 978 | 8 991 | 10 016 | 19 007 |

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 6 Expenditure on SSA Scheme from 2021- 22 to 2023-24 by type of allowance

| Type of allowance ^{Note 1} | Expenditure ^{Note 2} (\$ million) | | |
|--|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 (Actual) | 2022-23 (Actual) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) |
| OAA | 5,530 | 6,021 | 6,585 |
| OALA ^{Note 3} | 28,857 | 31,999 | 36,352 |
| OAA under the GD Scheme- | 137 | 143 | 167 |
| OALA under the GD Scheme ^{Note 3} | 549 | 598 | 819 |
| OAA under the FJ Scheme | 11 | 11 | 14 |
| OALA under the FJ Scheme ^{Note 3} | 63 | 68 | 85 |
| HDA | 893 | 920 | 1,043 |
| - <i>Aged below 60</i> | 318 | 334 | 376 |
| - <i>Aged 60 or above</i> | 575 | 586 | 667 |
| NDA | 3,715 | 3,947 | 4,212 |
| - <i>Aged below 60</i> | 2,495 | 2,656 | 2,829 |
| - <i>Aged 60 or above</i> | 1,219 | 1,290 | 1,383 |

Note 1 OAA applicants must be aged 70 or above. OALA applicants must be aged 65 or above. There is no age requirement for DA applicants.

Note 2 The actual expenditures for 2021-22 and 2022-23 and the revised estimate of expenditure for 2023-24 include the payment of an additional half-month of the allowances in the year concerned.

Note 3 The Normal and Higher OALAs were merged in September 2022. The merged OALA adopts the more lenient asset limits of the Normal OALA and the payment rate of the Higher OALA.

Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)063

(Question Serial No. 1874)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Social Security
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance (TAVA) Scheme, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) (i) the number of applications received; (ii) the number of applications approved; (iii) the average amount of assistance paid in respect of the approved applications; and (iv) the average processing time for each application, with a breakdown by type of grant (i.e. burial grant, death grant, injury grant, disability grant and interim maintenance grant) in each of the past 5 years;
- (2) the current balance of the TAVA Fund; and
- (3) whether any cases involving fraudulent claims of TAVA were identified in each of the past 5 years; if so, the number of such cases and the average amount of assistance involved; among these cases, the respective numbers of prosecution and conviction cases, as well as the average penalty imposed on conviction cases?

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

- (1) The numbers of TAVA applications received and approved from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are set out in Table 1 of Annex. The amount of assistance paid to each victim under the scheme depends on the severity of their injury and level of disability. Therefore, the amount of assistance paid in each case varies. The average amount of assistance paid, which is calculated based on the number of applications approved and the amount of entitlements, is set out in Table 2 of Annex. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the average processing time for each application. In general, payment will be issued to successful TAVA applications within 7 working days after completion of investigation and authorisation.
- (2) The accumulated surplus of the TAVA Fund as at 31 March 2023 was about \$1,568 million.

- (3) The scheme aims at providing speedy financial assistance to road traffic accident victims or the surviving dependants of deceased traffic accident victims. To guard against abuse and fraud, SWD strictly verifies every application, including seeking written confirmation from the Police on whether a traffic accident is involved and maintaining close liaison with the Hospital Authority and the Department of Health to ensure the injuries sustained by the applicants are related to the traffic accidents concerned. Actions are taken to strengthen the procedures of checking income proof during the processing of application for interim maintenance grant under the scheme. In addition, SWD also verifies whether the applicants have made any claim for damages or compensation through other means for the same traffic accident and informs insurance companies in writing on the disbursement of payment in a timely manner to avoid double compensation.

Obtaining TAVA by deception is a criminal offence. Applicants may be prosecuted under the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210) and be liable on conviction to imprisonment of a maximum of 14 years. Recently, the Independent Commission Against Corruption has announced the completion of investigation on a fraud case in relation to TAVA and the laying of charges against concerned persons. SWD will continue to monitor the implementation of the scheme, and refer suspected fraud cases to the Police for investigations. SWD does not have the other information sought.

Table 1: Numbers of TAVA applications received and approved from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | Number of applications received (cases) | Number of applications approved (cases) |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 2019-20 | 9 342 | 6 820 |
| 2020-21 | 10 371 | 9 013 |
| 2021-22 | 10 500 | 8 320 |
| 2022-23 | 10 236 | 8 848 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 8 374 | 6 921 |

Table 2: Average amount of assistance paid per TAVA case from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | Average amount of assistance paid per case (\$) |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 2019-20 | 43,548 |
| 2020-21 | 46,544 |
| 2021-22 | 49,916 |
| 2022-23 | 50,554 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 52,839 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)064

(Question Serial No. 1875)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The 2019-20 Budget proposed an allocation of \$20 billion to purchase 60 properties for accommodating more than 130 welfare facilities. The allocation was approved in June 2020. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) For each purchased property since the approval of the allocation, please provide the following details:
 - (i) address;
 - (ii) floor area;
 - (iii) welfare facilities provided;
 - (iv) price at the time of purchase; and
 - (v) number of beneficiaries upon service commencement.
- (2) What is the current balance of the allocation? What resources have been earmarked for related work in 2024-25?
- (3) Has there been an evaluation of the effectiveness of identifying and purchasing properties with the allocation? If yes, please provide details. If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

With the assistance of the Government Property Agency (GPA), the Social Welfare Department (SWD) is striving to identify suitable premises for purchase through different channels. As at 29 February 2024, SWD has incurred about \$240 million in actual expenditure on "purchase of welfare premises" under the Capital Works Reserve Fund, covering the payment for 5 premises. 2 of these premises are located in Sham Shui Po District, while the remaining 3 are located in Central and Western District, Eastern District and Kwun Tong District respectively. These premises are for operating a Parents/Relatives Resource Centre, a Support Centre for Persons with Autism and a neighbourhood elderly centre, as well as for providing on-site pre-school rehabilitation services.

The progress of purchasing premises, as well as the number, location, expenditure, purpose and service capacity of such premises, depend on the availability of suitable properties in the market and various external factors, including whether the properties for sale have fire safety and barrier-free access facilities, whether the size and location meet operational requirements, whether the surrounding land uses are compatible with welfare uses, and whether the selling prices fall within the acceptable price range determined by GPA with reference to market value. Currently, SWD and GPA are continuing their efforts to identify and purchase suitable premises, and have earmarked about \$499 million for related work in 2024-25. If market conditions permit, the goal of SWD and GPA is to purchase as many premises as possible in order to provide more welfare facilities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)065

(Question Serial No. 1876)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the implementation of the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Please provide information about the SFS Scheme in each of the past 5 years:
 - (i) the staffing establishment and expenditure involved;
 - (ii) the number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) commissioned to provide employment support services under the SFS Scheme;
 - (iii) the number of service recipients under the SFS Scheme, with a breakdown by age group (i.e. aged 15 to 29, aged 30 to 39, aged 40 to 49 and aged 50 to 59);
 - (iv) the number of persons who have secured employment or returned to mainstream schooling, and the percentage they account for in the number of participants under the SFS Scheme; and
 - (v) the cumulative number of persons who have left the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) net, and the percentage they account for in the number of participants under the SFS Scheme.
- (2) Will key performance indicators be established to better evaluate the effectiveness of the SFS Scheme in terms of the percentages of persons who have secured employment, returned to mainstream schooling, or left the CSSA net?

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

- (1)(i) In January 2013, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance (IEAPS), under which non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are commissioned to provide services to able-bodied CSSA recipients to encourage and assist them in increasing their employability and securing paid employment. In April 2020, SWD enhanced the services to improve the effectiveness of NGOs in providing the relevant services. The Social Security Branch and Social Security Field Units of SWD are responsible for the work relating to IEAPS and employment support services,

including monitoring the operation of related services by 26 NGOs. Since implementing IEAPS and employment support services is part of the day-to-day work of the Social Security Branch and Social Security Field Units, SWD cannot account separately for the manpower and expenditure involved.

The expenditure incurred by SWD on commissioning NGOs to provide IEAPS and employment support services from 2019-20 to 2023-24 is tabulated below:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 137 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 152 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 153 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 157 |
| 2023-24 (Revised Estimate) | 160 |

- (1)(ii) SWD commissioned 26 NGOs to operate IEAPS and enhanced employment support services each year from 2019-20 to 2023-24.
- (1)(iii) A total headcount of 15 292 persons received employment support services from April to the end of December 2023. SWD does not have a breakdown of the number of headcount of persons who received employment support services by year or age prior to April 2023.
- (1)(v) From April to the end of December 2023, there were 1 478 (or 9.7%) and 103 (or 0.7%) headcount of persons who received employment support services had secured employment or returned to mainstream schooling respectively for at least 1 month. SWD does not have a breakdown by year prior to April 2023.
- (1)(vi) From April to the end of December 2023, there were 351 (or 2.3%) and 37 (or 0.2%) headcount of persons who received employment support services left the CSSA net owing to securing employment or returning to mainstream schooling respectively. SWD does not have a breakdown by year prior to April 2023.
- (2) The performance requirements and service performance of NGOs during the current contract period of employment support services (i.e. from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2025) are provided at Annex. SWD will review the relevant services before existing contract expires.

**Performance requirements and service performance of NGOs
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| Category of services | Performance requirements <i>(Performance requirements that NGOs are required to meet during the contract period from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2025)</i> | | Service performance <i>(Service performance of NGOs for the 45-month period from 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2023)</i> | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| | Percentage of service recipients having secured employment or returned to mainstream schooling for at least 1 month | Percentage of service recipients having secured employment or returned to mainstream schooling for at least 3 months | Percentage of assisting service recipients to secure employment or return to mainstream schooling for at least 1 month | Percentage of assisting service recipients to secure employment or return to mainstream schooling for at least 3 months |
| Services for unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 15 to 64 ^[Note 1] <i>(represents the percentage of service recipients having secured paid employment ^[Note 2] or returned to mainstream schooling)</i> | 25% | 20% | 21.9% | 16.7% |
| Services for single parents and child carers on CSSA with their youngest child aged 12 to 14 ^[Note 1] <i>(represents the percentage of service recipients having secured paid employment with at least 32 working hours in a month)</i> | 40% | 30% | 31.9% | 25.7% |

[Note 1] Able-bodied CSSA adults aged 60 to 64 may receive employment support services on a voluntary basis.

[Note 2] For unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 15 to 59, paid employment refers to employment with monthly earnings no less than the prescribed level (\$2,630 per month with effect from 1 February 2024) and working hours no less than 120 hours per month.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)066

(Question Serial No. 1877)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund), will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) (i) the amount of grant approved; (ii) the number of service units subsidised; (iii) the number and major type of products procured or rented; and (iv) the number of beneficiaries for each tranche, with a breakdown by type of service units (i.e. residential care home for the elderly (RCHE) and residential rehabilitation home) and operation mode (i.e. subvented home, contract home, self-financing RCHE and private home), since the launch of the I&T Fund in 2018;
- (2) whether the effectiveness of using gerontechnology products in residential care homes operated by different types of service units and with different operation modes has been reviewed;
- (3) the respective numbers of applications received and approved so far for trial of technology products under the I&T Fund, the average amount of grant approved and the average vetting time required since the Government's announcement of injecting an additional \$1 billion into the I&T Fund last year to enhance the subsidies for eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent and trial technology products;
- (4) the current balance of the I&T Fund; and
- (5) whether the Government will consider relaxing the application for I&T Fund to include individual applicants for more persons in need to apply for the use of gerontechnology products to improve their quality of life; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

- (1) The Government allocated \$1 billion to launch the I&T Fund in December 2018 to subsidise eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent or trial technology products, with a view to improving the quality of life of service users and reducing the pressure on care staff and carers. Since September 2022, the eligibility

for the I&T Fund has been extended from subvented service units to all private and self-financing RCHEs and residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs). Details pertaining to the approval of grants for RCHEs and RCHDs under the I&T Fund are set out at Annex. Currently, the types of products most commonly applied for procurement by service units include smart hospital beds with extra low position, equipment, assessment tools and accessories for occupational therapy/physiotherapy/speech therapy, tilt-in-space/height adjustable shower chairs, companion robots and smart anti-wandering systems, etc. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not maintain statistics on the number of persons who have used these technology products.

- (2) SWD regularly reviews the use of the I&T Fund, and collects feedback on the I&T Fund and technology products from stakeholders through on-site visits, questionnaires and other means to evaluate the effectiveness of the I&T Fund. Respondents, including service operators, staff and service users, have all provided positive feedback on the technology products approved for use by service units. In particular, they were of the opinion that these products could enhance the functioning of service users in daily activities and enhance the occupational safety and health of staff. SWD will continue to collect stakeholders' feedback on the scope and eligibility criteria of the I&T Fund.
- (3) Eligible service units may identify suitable technology research and development companies as working partners, and apply for trial use of their technology products specifically designed and developed for the nursing and rehabilitation needs of elderly persons or persons with disabilities. As at the end of February 2024, SWD approved a total of 5 projects for the trial of newly developed technology products, involving an expenditure of about \$12 million. These products include a fall prevention management system, a smart bedside intelligence management system, an interactive rehabilitation assessment and training system, a smart transportation robot suite and a sleep management system.
- (4) As at the end of February 2024, grants totalling around \$670 million have been approved under the I&T Fund to subsidise eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent or trial technology products. The balance of the I&T Fund was about \$330 million.
- (5) At present, the types of technology products in use include products, equipment, tools and mobile applications that assist in enhancing the efficiency and quality of care. This entails the utilisation of high-end hardware and software, necessitating the provision of guidance and assistance by professionals within the service units to enable service users to employ these technology products correctly, thereby ensuring their safety and effective use of the products. SWD currently has no plan to allow individuals to apply for the I&T Fund. Starting from September 2023, SWD has extended the scope of the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly to cover rental of assistive technology products, allowing eligible frail elderly persons to rent aids for daily living, aids for walking or mobility transfer, and aids for bathing or toileting with CCSV from recognised service providers.

**Statistics pertaining to the approval of grants for RCHEs and RCHDs
under the I&T Fund**

(as at 29 February 2024)

| Tranche no. (application period) | Type of service unit | No. of service units | No. of products approved | Amount of grant approved (\$ million) |
|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 (December 2018 to February 2019) | Subvented/subsidised RCHE | 112 | 460 | 22 |
| | Subvented/subsidised RCHD | 23 | 66 | 4 |
| 2 (June to September 2019) | Subvented/subsidised RCHE | 170 | 829 | 32 |
| | Subvented/subsidised RCHD | 119 | 357 | 20 |
| 3 (February to April 2020) | Subvented/subsidised RCHE | 158 | 624 | 28 |
| | Subvented/subsidised RCHD | 68 | 155 | 10 |
| 4 (August to November 2020) | Subvented/subsidised RCHE | 169 | 1003 | 34 |
| | Subvented/subsidised RCHD | 108 | 230 | 15 |
| 5 (February to May 2021) | Subvented/subsidised RCHE | 177 | 1061 | 33 |
| | Subvented/subsidised RCHD | 88 | 279 | 13 |
| 6 (September to October 2021) | Subvented/subsidised RCHE | 125 | 543 | 20 |
| | Subvented/subsidised RCHD | 88 | 180 | 10 |
| 7 (January to March 2022) | Subvented/subsidised RCHE | 81 | 351 | 12 |
| | Subvented/subsidised RCHD | 48 | 115 | 4 |
| 8 ^{Note} (September to November 2022) | Subvented/subsidised RCHE | 172 | 97 | 28 |
| | Non-subsidised private or self-financing RCHE | 279 | 2302 | 79 |
| | Subvented/subsidised RCHD | 117 | 431 | 20 |
| | Non-subsidised private or self-financing RCHD | 21 | 104 | 3 |
| 9 (May to August 2023) | Subvented/subsidised RCHE | 48 | 110 | 4 |
| | Non-subsidised private or self-financing RCHE | 32 | 90 | 2 |
| | Subvented/subsidised RCHD | 52 | 84 | 3 |
| | Non-subsidised private or self-financing RCHD | 5 | 7 | 0.4 |

^{Note} The eligibility for applying for procurement and rental of technology products has been extended to non-subsidised private or self-financing RCHEs and RCHDs starting with the Eighth Tranche launched in September 2022.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1878)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has implemented the 5-year Training Subsidy Scheme for Staff of Residential Care Homes (the Scheme) since 2019 to provide full subsidies for home managers, health workers and care workers of all residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) across the territory to enrol in training courses recognised under the Qualifications Framework (QF). In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the respective numbers of (i) RCHE staff and (ii) RCHD staff enrolled in related training courses each year since the implementation of the Scheme, broken down by post (i.e. home manager, health worker and care worker);
- (2) the manpower involved, as well as the amount of course fee subsidy, training allowance for residential care homes (RCHs), and other administrative expenses incurred each year; and
- (3) whether the effectiveness of the Scheme has been reviewed; if yes, of the details; if no, of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

To enhance the service quality of RCHEs and RCHDs on a continuous basis, SWD has implemented a 5-year scheme in phases since March 2019 to provide full subsidies for home managers, health workers and care workers of all RCHEs and RCHDs in the territory to enrol in QF-recognised training courses. As at the end of December 2023, a total of 4 973 RCH staff have enrolled in the training courses under the Scheme. The number of trainees in the past 5 years is set out at Annex.

SWD has set a maximum course fee subsidy for each trainee of the relevant courses. A training allowance is also be provided for RCHEs and RCHDs concerned in order to maintain their operations through appropriate manpower deployment while their health workers and care workers are attending the courses, and to provide on-site training support and conduct on-the-job assessments for the trainees concerned. The amounts of the course fee subsidy and training allowance (if applicable) for each trainee of the courses are as follows:

| Course | Maximum course fee subsidy for each trainee | Amount of training allowance per trainee | Total |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---------|
| Training for Home Managers (Course A) | \$4,000 | N.A. | \$4,000 |
| Training for Home Managers (Course B) | \$6,000 | | \$6,000 |
| Advanced Training for Health Workers | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | \$6,000 |
| Training for Care Workers | \$2,000 | \$2,200 | \$4,200 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Once the trainees have been issued graduate certificates by the training institutes upon completion of the relevant courses, the RCHs concerned may apply to SWD for full reimbursement of the course fees already paid. Since SWD has implemented the Scheme through internal redeployment of manpower resources, there are no additional manpower or administrative costs involved.

After assessing the effectiveness of the Scheme and considering the views of the sector, SWD has decided to extend the Scheme by 3 years to subsidise more RCH staff to enrol in the related training courses, thereby continuously enhancing the quality of residential care services.

Numbers of RCHE and RCHD home managers, health workers and care workers enrolled in related training courses from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Post and number of enrolment | Home manager | | | | Health worker | | Care worker | | Total |
|-----------------------------------|--|------|--|------|--------------------------------------|------|---------------------------|------|--------------|
| | Training for Home Manager (Course A) ^{Note 1} | | Training for Home Manager (Course B) ^{Note 2} | | Advanced Training for Health Workers | | Training for Care Workers | | |
| | RCHE | RCHD | RCHE | RCHD | RCHE | RCHD | RCHE | RCHD | |
| Year | | | | | | | | | |
| 2019-20 ^{Note 3} | 45 | 5 | 187 | 39 | 51 | 13 | 132 | 32 | 504 |
| 2020-21 ^{Note 3} | 99 | 51 | 172 | 12 | 95 | 48 | 330 | 84 | 891 |
| 2021-22 | 51 | 83 | 130 | 5 | 81 | 65 | 440 | 163 | 1 018 |
| 2022-23 | 164 | 180 | 148 | 29 | 54 | 36 | 574 | 174 | 1 359 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 135 | 137 | 185 | 23 | 33 | 31 | 451 | 206 | 1 201 |
| Total: | 950 | | 930 | | 507 | | 2 586 | | 4 973 |
| | 1 880 | | | | | | | | |

Note 1 Trainees must be home managers currently employed by RCHEs or RCHDs or other staff nominated by RCHEs or RCHDs, who are the related professionals registered under the Laws of Hong Kong, including social workers, nurses, medical practitioners, Chinese medicine practitioners, occupational therapists, physiotherapists or pharmacists.

Note 2 Trainees must be home managers currently employed by RCHEs or RCHDs, or other staff nominated by RCHEs or RCHDs.

Note 3 The number of RCH staff participating in the Scheme was affected during the COVID-19 pandemic as RCHE and RCHD staff had to focus on stepping up various anti-pandemic measures and the face-to-face classes of the training courses were intermittently suspended by the Training Institutes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)068

(Question Serial No. 1879)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the total number of RCHEs currently offering residential care services for the elderly in Hong Kong and the number of service places they provide, with a breakdown by type of subsidy (i.e. subsidised and non-subsidised places) and operation mode (i.e. nursing home (NH) places, care-and-attention (C&A) places and home for the aged (H/A) places with no long-term care element);
- (2) the staffing establishment (SE) and expenditure of the past 5 years for each of the 4 professional inspectorate teams responsible for conducting inspections of RCHEs under the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE) of the Social Welfare Department's (SWD) Licensing and Regulation Branch;
- (3) the respective numbers of surprise inspections conducted by LORCHE during office and non-office hours, the respective numbers of advisory letters and warning letters issued, and the respective numbers of prosecution and conviction cases under the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (the Ordinance) or its subsidiary legislation in each of the past 5 years;
- (4) the names, addresses, offence(s) committed, dates of conviction and penalties of the convicted RCHEs among the conviction cases mentioned in item (3); and
- (5) whether the convicted RCHEs among the conviction cases mentioned in item (3) have had their licences cancelled or their licence renewals refused; if yes, please provide the number of such RCHEs and the reason(s) for the cancellation of or refusal to renew their licences.

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

- (1) As at the end of December 2023, there are a total of 813 licensed RCHEs under the Ordinance (Cap. 459) in Hong Kong, providing a total of 77 216 residential care places (RCPs). The number of these RCPs, with a breakdown by type of subsidy and operation mode, is set out in Table 1 of Annex.

- (2) The SE of inspectors responsible for conducting inspections at RCHEs under SWD's LORCHE and the related payroll cost from 2019-20 to 2023-24 (as at the end of December 2023) are set out in Table 2 of Annex.
- (3) LORCHE's inspectors will conduct surprise inspections at RCHEs and, having regard to the issues and nature of suspected non-compliance of each individual RCHE, formulate customised and targeted strategies and action plans. These include conducting surprise inspections at RCHEs in a flexible manner, either with a small team or a multi-disciplinary inspectorate team, at various times during office and non-office hours. If RCHEs are found to be in contravention of the Ordinance, the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Regulation (Cap. 459A) (the Regulation) or the Code of Practice for Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) (the Code of Practice) during inspections, LORCHE will consider the nature and severity of the non-compliance before issuing advisory letters, warning letters and written directions for remedial measures, or instigating prosecution against the relevant RCHEs. From 2019-20 to 2023-24 (as at the end of December 2023), the number of inspections conducted by SWD at RCHEs is set out in Table 3 of Annex, while the respective numbers of advisory letters and warning letters issued to non-compliant RCHEs and the number of RCHEs convicted are set out in Table 4 of Annex.
- (4) & (5) The information regarding RCHEs that have been convicted of contravening the Ordinance, the Regulation or the Code of Practice from 2019-20 to 2023-24 (as at the end of December 2023) is provided in Table 5 of Annex. None of these RCHEs have had their licences cancelled or their licence renewals refused.

Table 1 Number of RCPs by type of subsidy and operation mode as at end-December 2023

| Type of RCP | Subsidised place | Non-subsidised place | Total |
|--------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| NH place | 3 466 | 1 786 | 5 252 |
| C&A place | 31 490 | 40 051 | 71 541 |
| H/A place | 9 | 414 | 423 |
| Total | 34 965 | 42 251 | 77 216 |

Table 2 SE ^{Note 1} and payroll cost for inspectors of LORCHE

| Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Total (person) | 70 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 72 |
| Payroll cost (\$ million) | 50.53 | 50.53 | 51.31 | 53.14 | 41.69 |

Note 1 Excluding retired disciplined service officers employed on contract terms to assist in carrying out inspections at RCHEs and residential care homes for persons with disabilities.

Table 3 Number of inspections conducted by LORCHE

| Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Total | 5 308 | 5 668 | 5 324 | 5 902 | 4 185 |

Table 4 Numbers of advisory letters and warning letters issued to non-compliant RCHEs by LORCHE and number of cases involving convicted RCHEs

| Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Advisory letter | 2 394 | 2 199 | 2 348 | 2 229 | 1 599 |
| Warning letter | 118 | 114 | 112 | 114 | 61 |
| Conviction case | 13 | 40 | 28 | 8 | 7 |

Table 5 Information regarding RCHEs that have been convicted of contravening the Ordinance, the Regulation or the Code of Practice from 2019-20 to 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023)

| | Name of RCHE | Address | Offence | Date of conviction | Penalty (Fine) |
|----|-------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Touch Home For The Elderly Limited | 1/F and 2/F, Comfort Mansion, 888 Canton Road, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 21.5.2019 | \$3,000 |
| 2 | Yin Nin Home For The Elderly | G/F of 311, 313, 315 and 319 Wo Yi Hop Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 5.6.2019 | \$3,000 |
| 3 | Prosperous Nursing Centre Limited | 1/F, Sham Tsung Court, 17 to 19 Wong Chuk Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 4.7.2019 | \$4,000 |
| 4 | The Arch Home For The Elderly | 1/F, Conwell Mansion, 120 Wharf Road, North Point, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 19.9.2019 | \$3,000 |
| 5 | Chun Fai Home For The Aged | Shops 1-4 on G/F and Units 1-4 on 1/F, Peter's House, 55-57 Ming Fung Street, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 17.10.2019 | \$3,000 |
| 6 | Cornwall Elderly's Home | Shops A to E of G/F and Flat A of 3/F, Dai Nam Building, Ping On Lane, Section D of Lot 1211 In DD6, Tai Po, New Territories | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 29.10.2019 | \$3,000 |
| 7 | (Ap Lei Chau) Kin Pak Home For Aged | 2/F, Ning Fung Mansion, 25-31 Main Street, Ap Lei Chau, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 11(1)(c) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on care workers | 31.10.2019 | \$3,000 |
| 8 | Hong Wai Home Centre Limited | Flats A and B on 1/F, 2/F and 4/F and Flat B on 3/F, Fook Hong Court, 18 Grampian Road, Kowloon City, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 5.12.2019 | \$2,000 |
| 9 | Hong Wai Home Centre Limited | Flats A and B on 1/F, 2/F and 4/F and Flat B on 3/F, Fook Hong Court, 18 Grampian Road, Kowloon City, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 5.12.2019 | \$2,000 |
| 10 | Fu Hong Home For The Elderly | 1/F (West Wing), Elite Garden, 11 Tsing Chui Path, Tuen Mun, New Territories | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 6.12.2019 | \$2,500 |
| 11 | Fu Hong Home For The Elderly | 1/F (West Wing), Elite Garden, 11 Tsing Chui Path, Tuen Mun, New Territories | In contravention of section 11(1)(c) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on care workers | 6.12.2019 | \$2,500 |

| | Name of RCHE | Address | Offence | Date of conviction | Penalty (Fine) |
|----|---|--|---|--------------------|----------------|
| 12 | St Francis Old Age Home (Sheung Shui) Limited | 1/F, 35 Fu Hing Street, Sheung Shui, New Territories | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 23.12.2019 | \$2,000 |
| 13 | Grand Smile Home For The Aged | Flats A to G, 2/F, 190 Aberdeen Main Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 16.1.2020 | \$4,000 |
| 14 | Fung Shing Care Home | Shops 1 to 7, G/F, Kwai Loong Building, 53 to 73 Tai Loong Street, Kwai Chung, New Territories | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 6.5.2020 | \$2,500 |
| 15 | Fung Shing Care Home | Shops 1 to 7, G/F, Kwai Loong Building, 53 to 73 Tai Loong Street, Kwai Chung, New Territories | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 6.5.2020 | \$2,500 |
| 16 | Lok Yee Sanatorium | Shop A on G/F, and 1/F, Moon Wah Building, 9 to 23 Sui Man Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 21(6)(d) of the Ordinance: Failed to comply with the requirements of a direction given under section 19 of the Ordinance in writing by the Director of Social Welfare within the period indicated | 7.5.2020 | \$10,000 |
| 17 | On Ling Aged Home | 1/F and 2/F, View Court, 82 Pau Chung Street, Tokwawan, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 8.5.2020 | \$2,000 |
| 18 | Hong Wai Home Centre Limited | Flats A and B on 1/F, 2/F and 4/F and Flat B on 3/F, Fook Hong Court, 18 Grampian Road, Kowloon City, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 12.5.2020 | \$4,000 |
| 19 | Ping Che Elderly Caring Home Limited | Lot No. 1620 in DD 77, Ta Kwu Ling, New Territories (also known as Portion of G/F, Whole of 1/F and 2/F, No. 2 Ping Che New Village) | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 18.5.2020 | \$4,000 |
| 20 | Cornwall Elderly's Home | Shops A to E of G/F and Flat A of 3/F, Dai Nam Building, Ping On Lane, Section D of Lot 1211 in DD6, Tai Po, New Territories | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 26.5.2020 | \$4,000 |
| 21 | Grand Smile Home For The Aged | Flats A to G, 2/F, 190 Aberdeen Main Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong | Section 21(3)(b) of the Ordinance: Operated an RCHE in any premises other than the premises indicated in the licence so issued | 28.5.2020 | \$5,000 |
| 22 | Note 2 | Note 2 | Section 21(3)(b) of the Ordinance: Operated an RCHE in any premises other than the premises indicated in the licence so issued | 28.5.2020 | \$3,000 |

| | Name of RCHE | Address | Offence | Date of conviction | Penalty (Fine) |
|----|--------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 23 | Note 2 | Note 2 | Section 21(3)(b) of the Ordinance: Operated an RCHE in any premises other than the premises indicated in the licence so issued | 28.5.2020 | \$3,000 |
| 24 | Note 2 | Note 2 | Section 21(3)(b) of the Ordinance: Operated an RCHE in any premises other than the premises indicated in the licence so issued | 28.5.2020 | \$3,000 |
| 25 | Long Life Elderly Home | 2/F, Silver Bright Building, 244 to 248 Tai Po Road, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 28.5.2020 | \$3,000 |
| 26 | Kong Shing Home For The Aged Limited | Front Portion of Shop A on G/F, and 1/F and 2/F, 373 to 379 Castle Peak Road, Kowloon | In contravention of section 21(6)(d) of the Ordinance: Failed to comply with the requirements of a direction given under section 19 of the Ordinance in writing by the Director of Social Welfare within the period indicated | 23.6.2020 | \$7,240 |
| 27 | Note 2 | Note 2 | In contravention of section 21(6)(d) of the Ordinance: Failed to comply with the requirements of a direction given under section 19 of the Ordinance in writing by the Director of Social Welfare within the period indicated | 23.6.2020 | \$7,240 |
| 28 | Kong Shing Home For The Aged Limited | Front Portion of Shop A on G/F, and 1/F and 2/F, 373 to 379 Castle Peak Road, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 23.6.2020 | \$3,000 |
| 29 | Chi Oi Home For The Aged | 2/F, Wing Kee Commercial Building, 156 to 162 Castle Peak Road, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 9.7.2020 | \$5,000 |
| 30 | Chi Oi Home For The Aged | 2/F, Wing Kee Commercial Building, 156 to 162 Castle Peak Road, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 9.7.2020 | \$5,000 |
| 31 | Value Care Elderly Center | G/F (Portion) of 26 Fir Street and 1/F of Fuk Hing Building, 20-26 Fir Street, Tai Kok Tsui, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 14.7.2020 | \$5,000 |
| 32 | Value Care Elderly Center | G/F (Portion) of 26 Fir Street and 1/F of Fuk Hing Building, 20-26 Fir Street, Tai Kok Tsui, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(c) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on care workers | 14.7.2020 | \$5,000 |
| 33 | Value Care Elderly Center | G/F (Portion) of 26 Fir Street and 1/F of Fuk Hing Building, 20-26 Fir Street, Tai Kok Tsui, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 14.7.2020 | \$5,000 |

| | Name of RCHE | Address | Offence | Date of conviction | Penalty (Fine) |
|----|--|--|---|--------------------|----------------|
| 34 | Gospel Mansion | 1/F and 2/F, Cheong Fat Mansion, 2 Tak Cheong Lane, Mong Kok, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 16.7.2020 | \$15,000 |
| 35 | Gospel Mansion | 1/F and 2/F, Cheong Fat Mansion, 2 Tak Cheong Lane, Mong Kok, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 16.7.2020 | \$15,000 |
| 36 | Elder May Moon Happiness Home Limited | 1/F, Morning Ray Mansion, 182 to 186 Ma Tau Wai Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 30.7.2020 | \$3,000 |
| 37 | Comfort Home For Aged Limited | Shop 1 on G/F, and 1/F and 2/F, Kam Pui Building, 14 Shek Man Path, Kwai Chung, New Territories | In contravention of section 11(1)(e) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on nurses | 5.8.2020 | \$1,000 |
| 38 | Cornwall Elderly's Home | Shops A to E of G/F and Flat A of 3/F, Dai Nam Building, Ping On Lane, Section D of Lot 1211 In DD6, Tai Po, New Territories | In contravention of section 21(6)(d) of the Ordinance: Failed to comply with the requirements of a direction given under section 19 of the Ordinance in writing by the Director of Social Welfare within the period indicated | 11.8.2020 | \$3,000 |
| 39 | Note 2 | Note 2 | In contravention of section 21(6)(d) of the Ordinance: Failed to comply with the requirements of a direction given under section 19 of the Ordinance in writing by the Director of Social Welfare within the period indicated | 11.8.2020 | \$1,000 |
| 40 | Ping Che Elderly Caring Home Limited | Lot No. 1620 In DD 77, Ta Kwu Ling, New Territories (also known as Portion of G/F, Whole of 1/F and 2/F, No. 2 Ping Che New Village) | In contravention of section 21(6)(d) of the Ordinance: Failed to comply with the requirements of a direction given under section 19 of the Ordinance in writing by the Director of Social Welfare within the period indicated | 18.8.2020 | \$4,000 |
| 41 | Note 2 | Note 2 | In contravention of section 21(6)(d) of the Ordinance: Failed to comply with the requirements of a direction given under section 19 of the Ordinance in writing by the Director of Social Welfare within the period indicated | 18.8.2020 | \$1,000 |
| 42 | Christianity Tin Lun Lok Home For Aged | Shop C of G/F, and 1/F to 3/F, Yee On Building, 163 Ap Lei Chau Main Street, Aberdeen, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 25.8.2020 | \$3,000 |

| | Name of RCHE | Address | Offence | Date of conviction | Penalty (Fine) |
|----|---------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|----------------|
| 43 | Shun Yan Elderly Centre | 1/F, Lee Tak Cheong Mansion, 94 to 98 Yee Kuk Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon | In contravention of section 21(6)(d) of the Ordinance: Failed to comply with the requirements of a direction given under section 19 of the Ordinance in writing by the Director of Social Welfare within the period indicated | 1.9.2020 | \$5,000 |
| 44 | Note 2 | Note 2 | In contravention of section 21(6)(c) of the Ordinance: Refused to produce any book, document or other article upon being so required under section 18 or furnished any information which is false in a material particular and which he knows or reasonably ought to know is false in such particular | 24.11.2020 | \$6,000 |
| 45 | Hang On Aged Home | Flats A, B and C, 1/F, Tung Fat House, 308 Sai Yeung Choi Street North, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 2.12.2020 | \$1,500 |
| 46 | Fu Hong Home For The Elderly | 1/F (West Wing), Elite Garden, 11 Tsing Chui Path, Tuen Mun, New Territories | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 18.12.2020 | \$6,000 |
| 47 | Fu Hong Home For The Elderly | 1/F (West Wing), Elite Garden, 11 Tsing Chui Path, Tuen Mun, New Territories | In contravention of section 11(1)(c) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on care workers | 18.12.2020 | \$6,000 |
| 48 | I-Feng Aged Center | Flats 314, 315 and 316, 2/F, Block A, I-Feng Mansions, 237 To Kwa Wan Road, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 30.12.2020 | \$2,500 |
| 49 | Chi Oi Home For The Aged | 2/F, Wing Kee Commercial Building, 156 to 162 Castle Peak Road, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 7.1.2021 | \$5,000 |
| 50 | Chi Oi Home For The Aged | 2/F, Wing Kee Commercial Building, 156 to 162 Castle Peak Road, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 7.1.2021 | \$5,000 |
| 51 | Yan On Home For Aged | Flats A and B, 1/F, Golden Cell Court, 252 to 256 Castle Peak Road, Kowloon | In contravention of section 21(6)(d) of the Ordinance: Failed to comply with the requirements of a direction given under section 19 of the Ordinance in writing by the Director of Social Welfare within the period indicated | 11.3.2021 | \$3,000 |
| 52 | Eternal Elderly Home (2nd Home) | 2/F, Shui Fung Building, 9 Temple Street, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 18.3.2021 | \$5,000 |

| | Name of RCHE | Address | Offence | Date of conviction | Penalty (Fine) |
|----|--|---|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 53 | Eternal Elderly Home (2nd Home) | 2/F, Shui Fung Building, 9 Temple Street, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 18.3.2021 | \$5,000 |
| 54 | Kwong On Home For Elderly (Yuen Long) Limited | 1/F, Hing Loong Building, 6 Hung Min Court, Yuen Long, New Territories | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 30.4.2021 | \$7,000 |
| 55 | The King's Elderly Home | Shop 1 of G/F, and 1/F, Empire Apartments, 293 to 299 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 11.5.2021 | \$2,500 |
| 56 | The Perfect Harmony Home For The Elderly Limited | Flats A to F, 2/F, Tin Po Building, 74 Hau Tei Square, Tsuen Wan, New Territories | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 27.5.2021 | \$3,000 |
| 57 | Hong Tat (Shun Tin) Elderly Care Centre | Unit EH1, G/F, Shun Tin Market, Shun Tin Estate, Kwun Tong, Kowloon | In contravention of section 21(6)(d) of the Ordinance: Failed to comply with the requirements of a direction given under section 19 of the Ordinance in writing by the Director of Social Welfare within the period indicated | 1.6.2021 | \$10,000 |
| 58 | Yan Chi Home For The Aged | 2/F, Johnson Mansion, 428 to 438 Queen's Road West, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 21(6)(c) of the Ordinance: Refused to produce any book, document or other article upon being so required under section 18 or furnished any information which is false in a material particular and which he knows or reasonably ought to know is false in such particular | 8.6.2021 | \$10,000 |
| 59 | Note 2 | Note 2 | In contravention of section 21(6)(c) of the Ordinance: Refused to produce any book, document or other article upon being so required under section 18 or furnished any information which is false in a material particular and which he knows or reasonably ought to know is false in such particular | 8.6.2021 | \$10,000 |
| 60 | Yan Chi Home For The Aged | 2/F, Johnson Mansion, 428 to 438 Queen's Road West, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 15.6.2021 | \$4,000 |

| | Name of RCHE | Address | Offence | Date of conviction | Penalty (Fine) |
|----|---|--|---|--------------------|----------------|
| 61 | Health Care Home For Aged | G/F and M/F, 11 to 13 San Kin Street, Sheung Shui, New Territories | In contravention of section 21(6)(d) of the Ordinance: Failed to comply with the requirements of a direction given under section 19 of the Ordinance in writing by the Director of Social Welfare within the period indicated | 22.6.2021 | \$2,500 |
| 62 | Health Care Home For Aged | G/F and M/F, 11 to 13 San Kin Street, Sheung Shui, New Territories | In contravention of section 21(6)(d) of the Ordinance: Failed to comply with the requirements of a direction given under section 19 of the Ordinance in writing by the Director of Social Welfare within the period indicated | 22.6.2021 | \$2,500 |
| 63 | Note 2 | Note 2 | In contravention of section 21(6)(d) of the Ordinance: Failed to comply with the requirements of a direction given under section 19 of the Ordinance in writing by the Director of Social Welfare within the period indicated | 22.6.2021 | \$2,500 |
| 64 | Note 2 | Note 2 | In contravention of section 21(6)(d) of the Ordinance: Failed to comply with the requirements of a direction given under section 19 of the Ordinance in writing by the Director of Social Welfare within the period indicated | 22.6.2021 | \$2,500 |
| 65 | Tai Chung Elderly Care Centre Limited | Rooms 203, 204, 205, 301 and 302, Block B, I-Feng Mansion, 237A To Kwa Wan Road, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 5.8.2021 | \$5,000 |
| 66 | Tai Chung Elderly Care Centre Limited | Rooms 203, 204, 205, 301 and 302, Block B, I-Feng Mansion, 237A To Kwa Wan Road, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(c) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on care workers | 5.8.2021 | \$5,000 |
| 67 | Tai Chung Elderly Care Centre Limited | Rooms 203, 204, 205, 301 and 302, Block B, I-Feng Mansion, 237A To Kwa Wan Road, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 5.8.2021 | \$5,000 |
| 68 | Hong Tat (Shun Tin) Elderly Care Centre | Unit EH1, G/F, Shun Tin Market, Shun Tin Estate, Kwun Tong, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 24.8.2021 | \$3,800 |
| 69 | Hong Tat (Shun Tin) Elderly Care Centre | Unit EH1, G/F, Shun Tin Market, Shun Tin Estate, Kwun Tong, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 24.8.2021 | \$3,800 |
| 70 | Po Pak Gerocomy Centre | 2/F, Chelsea Court, 38 to 48 Shun Ning Road, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 2.9.2021 | \$18,000 |

| | Name of RCHE | Address | Offence | Date of conviction | Penalty (Fine) |
|----|------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|----------------|
| 71 | Po Pak Gerocomy Centre | 2/F, Chelsea Court, 38 to 48 Shun Ning Road, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 2.9.2021 | \$18,000 |
| 72 | Hong Nga Residential Care Home (1) | 1/F, Tak On Mansion, 32 to 34 Morrison Hill Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 21(6)(c) of the Ordinance: Refused to produce any book, document or other article upon being so required under section 18 or furnished any information which is false in a material particular and which he knows or reasonably ought to know is false in such particular | 7.9.2021 | \$3,000 |
| 73 | Note 2 | Note 2 | In contravention of section 21(6)(c) of the Ordinance: Refused to produce any book, document or other article upon being so required under section 18 or furnished any information which is false in a material particular and which he knows or reasonably ought to know is false in such particular | 7.9.2021 | \$3,000 |
| 74 | Note 2 | Note 2 | In contravention of section 21(6)(c) of the Ordinance: Refused to produce any book, document or other article upon being so required under section 18 or furnished any information which is false in a material particular and which he knows or reasonably ought to know is false in such particular | 7.9.2021 | \$3,000 |
| 75 | Hong Nga Residential Care Home (1) | 1/F, Tak On Mansion, 32 to 34 Morrison Hill Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 21(6)(c) of the Ordinance: Refused to produce any book, document or other article upon being so required under section 18 or furnished any information which is false in a material particular and which he knows or reasonably ought to know is false in such particular | 7.9.2021 | \$3,000 |
| 76 | Shun Fuk Home For Aged | 3/F, Fu Chau Building, 485 to 491 Un Chau Street, Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 30.9.2021 | \$3,000 |
| 77 | Shun Fuk Home For Aged | 3/F, Fu Chau Building, 485 to 491 Un Chau Street, Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 30.9.2021 | \$3,000 |

| | Name of RCHE | Address | Offence | Date of conviction | Penalty (Fine) |
|----|--|--|---|--------------------|----------------|
| 78 | Kin Ling Elderly Home | 2/F, Yen Yin Building, 7 to 10 Ferry Street, Jordan, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 7.10.2021 | \$4,000 |
| 79 | Elderly Care 2000 Company Limited | 1/F, Wing Hang Building, 66 and 68 Fu Shin Street, Tai Po, New Territories | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 2.11.2021 | \$1,000 |
| 80 | Long Kind House | Entrance of G/F, and 1/F, Po Wai Building, 59 to 67 Bulkeley Street, Hung Hom, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement | 16.12.2021 | \$8,000 |
| 81 | Hong Fook Sanatorium For The Aged Home | Flat E, 3/F, Maylun Apartments, 23 Shu Kuk Street, North Point, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 31.12.2021 | \$1,000 |
| 82 | Sun Hung Fook Home For The Elderlies | Flat B, 1/F, Kim Fat Mansion, 11 Shau Kei Wan Main Street East, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 12.4.2022 | \$6,000 |
| 83 | Telford Home For The Elderly Limited | Flats A and B, 1/F, 36 Ting Yip Street, Ngau Tau Kok, Kowloon | In contravention of section 21(6)(d) of the Ordinance: Failed to comply with the requirements of a direction given under section 19 of the Ordinance in writing by the Director of Social Welfare within the period indicated | 12.5.2022 | \$7,000 |
| 84 | Note 2 | Note 2 | In contravention of section 21(6)(d) of the Ordinance: Failed to comply with the requirements of a direction given under section 19 of the Ordinance in writing by the Director of Social Welfare within the period indicated | 12.5.2022 | \$4,000 |
| 85 | Caine Home For The Elderly Limited | Upper Ground Floor, 3 and 3A Castle Road, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 21.6.2022 | \$2,000 |
| 86 | Elder May Moon Happiness Home Limited | 1/F, Morning Ray Mansion, 182 to 186 Ma Tau Wai Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 21.6.2022 | \$5,000 |
| 87 | Loc Ling Elderly Home | Flats 1-12, 1/F, Hin Fai Building, 129 to 135 Castle Peak Road, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 23.6.2022 | \$3,500 |
| 88 | City Nursing Centre Second Branch | Rooms A and E, 5/F, Continental Mansion, 294 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 19.7.2022 | \$3,000 |

| | Name of RCHE | Address | Offence | Date of conviction | Penalty (Fine) |
|----|---|---|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 89 | Ming Yuet Home For The Elderly | 1/F and 2/F, Ming Yuet Building, 47 to 51 Pau Chung Street, To Kwa Wan, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 9.12.2022 | \$4,800 |
| 90 | Fook On Home For The Aged | 3/F of 46 and 48, 5/F of 48 Leighton Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 6.6.2023 | \$3,500 |
| 91 | Ever Happy Aged Home | 1/F, King Yip Building, 5 to 11 Un Chau Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 28.6.2023 | \$3,000 |
| 92 | Shui On Nursing Centre (Hing Wah) Company Limited | Unit A, 6/F, Carpark Building, Hing Wah (I) Estate, Chai Wan, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 25.7.2023 | \$3,500 |
| 93 | Yi Yeung Old Man's Home | 1/F and 2/F, Lee Kong Commercial Building, 115 Woosung Street, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 23.8.2023 | \$3,000 |
| 94 | Gracious Alliance | Shop 3 (Portion) on G/F, The Whole of 1/F and 2/F, Harrow Mansion, 170 to 172 Aberdeen Main Road, Hong Kong | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 12.12.2023 | \$1,500 |
| 95 | Yi Yeung Old Man's Home | 1/F and 2/F, Lee Kong Commercial Building, 115 Woosung Street, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(d) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on health workers | 13.12.2023 | \$2,500 |
| 96 | Yi Yeung Old Man's Home | 1/F and 2/F, Lee Kong Commercial Building, 115 Woosung Street, Kowloon | In contravention of section 11(1)(b) of the Regulation: Failed to meet the statutory staffing requirement on ancillary workers | 13.12.2023 | \$2,500 |

Note 2 As the person convicted was not the operator of the RCHE, the name and address of the relevant RCHE are not shown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)069

(Question Serial No. 1718)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Starting this year, the Government will set up 10 more aided standalone child care centres (CCCs) in phases. The target is to provide nearly 900 additional places for day child care services within 3 years. The Government will also extend the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children (ASCP(PC)) in phases to cover all districts in Hong Kong starting this year. The number of service places will increase to nearly 1 200 within 3 years. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- (1) the specific arrangements for setting up 10 more aided standalone CCCs, including the number of phases involved, the number of CCCs to be established in each phase, the expenditure involved, the location of each CCC, the number of places provided, and the manpower required; and
- (2) the specific arrangements for extending ASCP(PC) to cover all districts in Hong Kong, including the number of phases involved, the districts covered in each phase, the number of places provided, the manpower required and the expenditure involved.
- (3) Has an assessment been conducted to determine the gap between the increased service places provided by the additional CCCs and the extension of ASCP(PC) and the actual demand in each district? Besides these 2 initiatives, what plan does the Government have to further narrow the gap?

Asked by: Hon CHIU Duncan (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

- (1) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up 10 more aided standalone CCCs in phases within 3 years starting from 2024, providing about 900 additional places. Among them, 100 places in Queens Hill Estate and 56 places in Wah Ming Estate in Fanling have commenced service in January and March 2024 respectively. The 88 places in Shun Lee Estate in Kwun Tong and 100 places at the Treasury Building in Sham Shui Po are scheduled for commencing operation in 2024-25, whereas the 100 places at Cheung Shun Street in Sham Shui Po and 60 places in Kwai Fong Estate in Kwai Chung will be put into service in 2025-26. The remaining 4 aided standalone CCCs, proposed to be set up in districts such as Kowloon City and Kwun Tong, will collectively provide about 400 additional places, and are scheduled to commence service in 2026-27. The estimated annual expenditure for the 10 additional aided standalone CCCs is about \$66.4 million.

In accordance with the Child Care Services Regulations (CCSR) (Cap 243A), child care staff serving in a CCC have to be registered as child care workers upon successfully completing a training course approved by the Director of Social Welfare. In accordance with the Child Care Services Ordinance (Cap. 243) and CCSR, the manning ratio for qualified child care worker taking care of children aged 0 to below 2 in day CCCs is 1:8, while the manning ratio for taking care of children aged 2 to below 3 is 1:14. To improve service quality, the Government has allocated additional resources to enhance the above manning ratios to 1:6 and 1:11 respectively since the 2019/20 school year.

- (2) SWD will extend ASCP(PC) to cover all districts in Hong Kong in phases within a period of 3 years starting from 2024. The number of centres participating in ASCP(PC) will increase from 16 to 28, and the number of places will increase from 672 to 1 176. By the end of 2023-24, there are 16 centres of ASCP(PC) located in 8 districts including the Central & Western, Southern, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sham Shui Po, North, Yuen Long and Kwai Tsing districts. SWD plans to extend the service to cover the remaining 10 districts (namely the Islands, Eastern, Wan Chai, Sai Kung, Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong, Sha Tin, Tai Po, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun districts) in phases. The operating expenditure of ASCP(PC) is subsidised through Lump Sum Grant subvention. Each centre of ASCP(PC) provides 42 service places, and the staffing establishment includes 1 Assistant Social Work Officer and 2 supporting staff. SWD will invite non-governmental organisations to submit proposals, and plans to launch the first phase of service extension in the first quarter of 2025. The estimated annual expenditure involved is about \$14.2 million.
- (3) SWD will take into account the characteristics of individual districts, including the available CCC places, service utilisation, ratio of subsidised to private child care services, land supply situation, and service demand as a result of demographic changes, etc. when conducting service planning, in order to better meet the service demand in the community.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)070

(Question Serial No. 0388)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In 2024-25, the estimated expenditure of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) is about \$120.1 billion, representing a 10.6% increase compared to the \$108.6 billion in 2023-24. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The amount of subventions granted to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) by SWD under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System (LSGSS) in 2023-24, with a tabulated breakdown by NGO and the corresponding subvention amount received.
2. The estimated amount of subventions to be granted to NGOs by SWD under the LSGSS in 2024-25, with a tabulated breakdown by NGO and the provisional subvention amount to be received.
3. Will any portion of the increased estimate be used for introducing new dedicated subsidy schemes for district grassroots organisations, agriculture and fisheries organisations, youth groups, women's groups, and associations of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, and increasing the subsidies for these organisations or groups by drawing reference from the "Clansmen Culture Promotion Scheme", in order to better achieve the objectives of "strengthening communications with district grassroots organisations and groups" and "setting up a systematic network of volunteers"?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

- 1 & 2. The list of NGOs operating subvented welfare services under the LSGSS, along with the amount of subventions received by them, from 2023-24 to 2024-25 is set out at Annex.
3. The Government has always been committed to building a caring community and looking after the underprivileged, which is demonstrated by the continuous increase in recurrent expenditure on social welfare. To meet the ever-changing service needs in society, the Government will review publicly-funded services and projects from time to time, and provide different types of subsidies to NGOs. The objective is to empower NGOs to not only enhance and improve existing services

but also develop innovative modes of welfare service delivery, thus keeping pace with the latest social developments and changing times.

Currently, SWD invites NGOs to bid for subvented services by submitting proposals. Starting from the first quarter of 2024, SWD has implemented 2 new measures regarding bidding for new subvented welfare projects, including (1) adding a requirement to the assessment criteria for track record in the past 3 years of organising or assisting to organise activities or service projects in response to or in support of government policies/measures, such as activities related to social or welfare policies/measures, national affairs/national development, celebrations of the anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the anniversary of the reunification of Hong Kong with China; and (2) increasing the weighing of establishing liaison or service networks in the districts to highlight the importance of strategic collaborations at the district level. These new measures will help ensure that NGOs fully implement various welfare initiatives to benefit those in need and the underprivileged in the community.

**SWD's subventions (revised estimate) to NGOs
under LSGSS in 2023-24**

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>2023-24</u> <u>Subventions</u> ^{Note 1} <u>(revised estimate)</u> <u>(\$)</u> |
|------------|---|--|
| 1 | Tung Wah Group of Hospitals | 2,083,018,665 |
| 2 | Caritas - Hong Kong | 1,553,336,404 |
| 3 | Po Leung Kuk | 1,407,445,547 |
| 4 | Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited | 1,262,272,540 |
| 5 | SAHK | 785,958,679 |
| 6 | Salvation Army (The) | 714,995,633 |
| 7 | Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (The) | 692,923,422 |
| 8 | Christian Family Service Centre | 663,891,976 |
| 9 | Hong Kong Christian Service | 648,513,508 |
| 10 | Hong Kong Family Welfare Society | 611,397,361 |
| 11 | Yan Chai Hospital | 602,831,719 |
| 12 | Heep Hong Society | 586,449,219 |
| 13 | Hong Chi Association | 576,433,612 |
| 14 | St. James' Settlement | 530,404,159 |
| 15 | Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, the Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod Limited | 505,845,928 |
| 16 | Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service | 483,805,209 |
| 17 | Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (The) | 481,949,040 |
| 18 | Hong Kong Society for the Aged (The) | 474,922,703 |
| 19 | Fu Hong Society | 469,799,625 |
| 20 | Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong | 446,092,380 |
| 21 | Haven of Hope Christian Service | 445,085,332 |
| 22 | Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association | 443,609,288 |
| 23 | New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 429,419,556 |
| 24 | Pok Oi Hospital | 318,788,166 |
| 25 | Mental Health Association of Hong Kong (The) | 312,361,887 |
| 26 | Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (The) | 299,356,765 |
| 27 | Hong Kong Children and Youth Services | 297,126,664 |
| 28 | Wai Ji Christian Service | 259,946,100 |
| 29 | Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association | 255,586,734 |
| 30 | Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong | 250,543,426 |
| 31 | Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service | 239,249,065 |
| 32 | Yan Oi Tong | 239,182,337 |
| 33 | Sik Sik Yuen | 236,833,291 |
| 34 | Hong Kong Society for the Blind (The) | 183,006,035 |
| 35 | Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children | 163,790,265 |
| 36 | Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong (The) | 156,323,664 |
| 37 | International Social Service Hong Kong Branch | 135,708,587 |
| 38 | Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre | 134,235,054 |
| 39 | Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service (The) | 124,055,130 |
| 40 | Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon (The) | 123,313,810 |
| 41 | Hong Kong Playground Association | 117,158,842 |
| 42 | Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service | 114,300,156 |
| 43 | Helping Hand | 114,165,190 |

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>2023-24</u> |
|------------|--|--|
| | | <u>Subventions</u> ^{Note 1} <u>(revised estimate)</u> <u>(\$)</u> |
| 44 | Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (The) | 113,203,885 |
| 45 | Stewards | 111,798,210 |
| 46 | Methodist Centre | 99,086,619 |
| 47 | Hong Kong Society for the Deaf (The) | 87,404,746 |
| 48 | Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong | 83,398,773 |
| 49 | Hong Kong Student Aid Society Limited (The) | 83,154,547 |
| 50 | Sheng Kung Hui St. Christopher's Home Limited | 82,885,365 |
| 51 | Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Charity Foundation | 80,672,657 |
| 52 | Methodist Epworth Village Community Centre, Social Welfare | 79,706,922 |
| 53 | Hong Kong PHAB Association | 79,221,870 |
| 54 | Society of Boys' Centres | 76,277,154 |
| 55 | Chi Lin Nunnery | 74,917,895 |
| 56 | Hong Kong Buddhist Association (The) | 70,571,776 |
| 57 | Asia Women's League Limited | 66,270,764 |
| 58 | Yuen Yuen Institute (The) | 57,151,373 |
| 59 | Scout Association of Hong Kong | 54,436,151 |
| 60 | Women's Welfare Club (Eastern District) Hong Kong (The) | 53,546,456 |
| 61 | Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club | 52,591,141 |
| 62 | Chung Sing Benevolent Society | 51,979,821 |
| 63 | Mongkok Kai-Fong Association Limited (The) | 51,135,888 |
| 64 | Chung Shak Hei (Cheung Chau) Home for the Aged Limited | 50,292,094 |
| 65 | Hong Kong Council of Social Service (The) | 48,113,862 |
| 66 | Ching Chung Taoist Association of Hong Kong Limited | 47,786,946 |
| 67 | Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong | 47,077,928 |
| 68 | Kiangsu Chekiang and Shanghai Residents (Hong Kong) Association | 45,973,472 |
| 69 | Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (The) | 42,417,871 |
| 70 | Chuk Lam Ming Tong Limited | 40,005,003 |
| 71 | Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart Diseases Association (The) | 39,135,753 |
| 72 | Hong Kong ABWE Social Services | 38,436,643 |
| 73 | Yuen Long Town Hall Management Committee Limited | 38,211,629 |
| 74 | Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union Hong Kong Limited | 36,780,316 |
| 75 | Church of United Brethren in Christ Hong Kong Limited (The) | 36,342,059 |
| 76 | Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council (The) | 34,853,348 |
| 77 | Fung Kai Public School | 33,822,074 |
| 78 | The Mother Superior of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd of Angers at Hong Kong | 29,375,873 |
| 79 | Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited | 29,205,009 |
| 80 | Asbury Methodist Social Service | 28,445,551 |
| 81 | Hong Kong Bodhi Siksa Society Limited (The) | 28,285,768 |
| 82 | Association for Engineering and Medical Volunteer Services | 27,523,984 |
| 83 | Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited | 26,621,093 |
| 84 | Evangelical Free Church of China Social Service Limited | 25,655,907 |
| 85 | Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired | 25,119,459 |
| 86 | Hong Kong Juvenile Care Centre | 24,906,482 |
| 87 | Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church Social Service Limited | 24,147,299 |
| 88 | Watchdog Limited | 23,642,023 |

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>2023-24</u> |
|------------|--|--|
| | | <u>Subventions</u> ^{Note 1} <u>(revised estimate)</u> <u>(\$)</u> |
| 89 | Free Methodist Church of Hong Kong (The) | 23,330,709 |
| 90 | United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service | 22,932,368 |
| 91 | Mother's Choice Limited | 22,612,879 |
| 92 | Kowloon Women's Welfare Club (The) | 21,310,644 |
| 93 | Hong Kong-Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists | 20,813,179 |
| 94 | Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association (The) | 20,013,864 |
| 95 | Superioress of the Sisters of the Precious Blood (The) | 19,130,746 |
| 96 | Women's Welfare Club, Western District, Hong Kong | 16,291,014 |
| 97 | Hong Kong Mutual Encouragement Association Limited | 16,223,998 |
| 98 | Evangelical Free Church of China - Evangel Children's Home | 16,039,251 |
| 99 | New Territories Women and Juveniles Welfare Association Limited (The) | 15,974,983 |
| 100 | Hong Kong and Kowloon Kaifong Women's Association | 15,510,434 |
| 101 | Youth Outreach | 15,455,010 |
| 102 | Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong (The) | 15,107,339 |
| 103 | Tung Lum Nien Fah Tong Limited | 14,939,090 |
| 104 | ABM Hong Kong Swatow Baptist Church Community Service Association (The) | 14,531,004 |
| 105 | Christian New Being Fellowship Limited (The) | 14,408,248 |
| 106 | Chinese Evangelical Zion Church Limited | 13,793,072 |
| 107 | Project Care | 13,791,924 |
| 108 | Hong Kong Christian Mutual Improvement Society | 13,708,119 |
| 109 | New Life Church of Christ Hong Kong Limited | 12,865,935 |
| 110 | Tung Sin Tan Home for the Aged | 12,836,956 |
| 111 | International Church of the Foursquare Gospel Hong Kong District Limited | 12,581,625 |
| 112 | Fung Ying Seen Koon | 12,147,778 |
| 113 | Harmony House Limited | 11,916,694 |
| 114 | Zion Social Service Limited | 10,632,682 |
| 115 | Child Development Centre (The) | 10,327,027 |
| 116 | Operation Dawn Limited | 10,313,062 |
| 117 | Baptist Mid-Missions | 10,288,502 |
| 118 | Lutheran Philip House Limited | 9,803,597 |
| 119 | Sai Kung District Community Centre | 9,192,004 |
| 120 | Lam Tin Estate Kai Fong Welfare Association Limited (The) | 9,001,373 |
| 121 | Barnabas Charitable Service Association Limited (The) | 8,623,606 |
| 122 | Hong Kong Red Cross | 8,234,978 |
| 123 | Mission Covenant Church Limited (The) | 8,028,445 |
| 124 | Asian Outreach Hong Kong Limited | 7,815,892 |
| 125 | Agency for Volunteer Service | 7,532,188 |
| 126 | Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth | 7,265,091 |
| 127 | Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong (The) | 6,878,317 |
| 128 | Hong Kong Blind Union | 6,870,253 |
| 129 | Kowloon City Baptist Church Social Services | 6,688,272 |
| 130 | Hong Kong Women Foundation Limited | 6,557,535 |
| 131 | International Women's League Limited | 6,438,023 |
| 132 | Jordan Valley Kaifong Welfare Association | 6,404,317 |
| 133 | Light and Love Home Limited | 6,369,341 |

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>2023-24</u> |
|------------|---|--|
| | | <u>Subventions</u> ^{Note 1} <u>(revised estimate)</u> <u>(\$)</u> |
| 134 | Christian Nationals' Evangelism Commission Grace Light Neighbourhood Elderly Centre | 6,301,187 |
| 135 | Fo Guang Shan International Buddhist Progress Society (Hong Kong) Limited | 6,297,060 |
| 136 | China Peniel Missionary Society Incorporation | 6,296,834 |
| 137 | Hong Kong West Point Baptist Church | 6,256,972 |
| 138 | Endeavourers Hong Kong (The) | 6,253,448 |
| 139 | Tsim Sha Tsui District Kaifong Welfare Association | 6,253,072 |
| 140 | Hop Yat Church, the Church of Christ in China, Social Service Department | 6,150,134 |
| 141 | Hong Kong and Macau Regional Centre of the World Fellowship of Buddhists Limited | 6,044,903 |
| 142 | Shamshuipo Kai Fong Welfare Advancement Association | 5,757,755 |
| 143 | Hong Kong Rehabilitation Power | 5,749,462 |
| 144 | Suen Mei Speech and Hearing Centre | 5,403,119 |
| 145 | Society for Community Organization | 5,119,641 |
| 146 | Hans Andersen Club | 4,909,598 |
| 147 | Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui St. Simon's Social Services | 4,763,053 |
| 148 | Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary | 4,715,665 |
| 149 | Kwun Tong Resident Association | 4,615,137 |
| 150 | Yuk Chi Resource Centre Limited | 4,432,442 |
| 151 | Lok Chi Association Limited | 4,311,998 |
| 152 | Hong Kong Federation of the Blind | 4,184,891 |
| 153 | Nesbitt Centre Limited (The) | 4,122,481 |
| 154 | Hong Kong, China Sports Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability | 4,057,597 |
| 155 | Tin Shui Wai Women Association Limited | 3,930,895 |
| 156 | Women Service Association Limited | 3,878,891 |
| 157 | Alice Lan and Vera Shen Education Fund Limited | 3,689,208 |
| 158 | Cheung Chau Rural Committee Integrated Youth Centre | 3,640,614 |
| 159 | Tai Hang Residents' Welfare Association | 3,632,758 |
| 160 | Hong Kong Southern District Women's Association Limited | 3,605,359 |
| 161 | Hong Kong Sports Association for the Physically Disabled | 3,111,755 |
| 162 | Five Districts Business Welfare Association | 2,849,352 |
| 163 | Kowloon Women's Organisations Federation Limited | 2,848,842 |
| 164 | Against Child Abuse Ltd | 2,739,768 |
| 165 | Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited | 2,453,916 |
| 166 | SKH St. Matthias' Church Nursery School Limited | 2,354,224 |
| 167 | Society of St. Vincent de Paul Central Council of Hong Kong | 2,212,050 |
| 168 | Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims Limited | 1,965,053 |
| 169 | Emmanuel Church | 1,943,634 |
| 170 | Cheung Sha Wan Kai Fong Welfare Association Lam Tam Yin Wah Day Nursery | 1,938,233 |
| 171 | People Service Centre Limited | 1,424,421 |
| 172 | Yuen Long District Women's Association Limited | 1,424,421 |
| | Total ^{Note 2} | 24,090,193,343 |

Note 1 Subventions includes LSG subventions (including subventions on provident fund (PF)) and other subventions (such as Rent and Rates, Central Items, etc.).

Note 2 Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

**SWD's subventions (provisional) to NGOs
Under LSGSS in 2024-25**

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>2024-25</u> <u>Subventions</u> <small>Note 1</small> <u>(provisional)</u> <u>(\$)</u> |
|------------|---|---|
| 1 | Tung Wah Group of Hospitals | 2,051,430,901 |
| 2 | Caritas - Hong Kong | 1,535,519,864 |
| 3 | Po Leung Kuk | 1,375,795,576 |
| 4 | Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited | 1,202,472,334 |
| 5 | SAHK | 750,172,839 |
| 6 | Salvation Army (The) | 703,768,454 |
| 7 | Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (The) | 681,768,212 |
| 8 | Christian Family Service Centre | 663,909,859 |
| 9 | Hong Kong Christian Service | 620,590,963 |
| 10 | Hong Kong Family Welfare Society | 601,490,646 |
| 11 | Yan Chai Hospital | 593,321,336 |
| 12 | Hong Chi Association | 583,030,759 |
| 13 | Heep Hong Society | 575,704,181 |
| 14 | St. James' Settlement | 504,514,574 |
| 15 | Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, the Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod Limited | 499,786,206 |
| 16 | Hong Kong Society for the Aged (The) | 476,080,967 |
| 17 | Fu Hong Society | 468,582,432 |
| 18 | Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service | 461,793,872 |
| 19 | Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (The) | 459,392,375 |
| 20 | Haven of Hope Christian Service | 438,530,969 |
| 21 | New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 434,434,626 |
| 22 | Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong | 424,763,912 |
| 23 | Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association | 419,330,642 |
| 24 | Mental Health Association of Hong Kong (The) | 314,450,223 |
| 25 | Pok Oi Hospital | 303,369,219 |
| 26 | Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (The) | 292,230,879 |
| 27 | Hong Kong Children and Youth Services | 284,890,360 |
| 28 | Wai Ji Christian Service | 259,959,936 |
| 29 | Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association | 255,578,756 |
| 30 | Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong | 241,256,435 |
| 31 | Sik Sik Yuen | 239,909,615 |
| 32 | Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service | 238,450,374 |
| 33 | Yan Oi Tong | 197,836,258 |
| 34 | Hong Kong Society for the Blind (The) | 175,351,463 |
| 35 | Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong (The) | 156,210,095 |
| 36 | International Social Service Hong Kong Branch | 135,545,045 |
| 37 | Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre | 134,074,999 |
| 38 | Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children | 129,013,004 |
| 39 | Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon (The) | 124,949,003 |
| 40 | Hong Kong Playground Association | 117,085,563 |
| 41 | Stewards | 113,246,589 |
| 42 | Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service (The) | 105,205,890 |
| 43 | Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (The) | 104,425,757 |
| 44 | Helping Hand | 103,182,851 |
| 45 | Methodist Centre | 95,825,871 |

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>2024-25</u> |
|------------|--|---|
| | | <u>Subventions</u> <small>Note 1</small> <u>(provisional)</u> <u>(\$)</u> |
| 46 | Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong | 85,084,095 |
| 47 | Hong Kong Society for the Deaf (The) | 84,902,953 |
| 48 | Hong Kong Student Aid Society Limited (The) | 81,945,783 |
| 49 | Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Charity Foundation | 80,622,106 |
| 50 | Hong Kong PHAB Association | 80,208,798 |
| 51 | Methodist Epworth Village Community Centre, Social Welfare | 79,410,106 |
| 52 | Sheng Kung Hui St. Christopher's Home Limited | 77,920,151 |
| 53 | Society of Boys' Centres | 76,465,318 |
| 54 | Chi Lin Nunnery | 73,536,655 |
| 55 | Hong Kong Buddhist Association (The) | 69,569,563 |
| 56 | Asia Women's League Limited | 67,446,911 |
| 57 | Women's Welfare Club (Eastern District) Hong Kong (The) | 54,646,436 |
| 58 | Scout Association of Hong Kong | 54,175,087 |
| 59 | Chung Sing Benevolent Society | 53,298,953 |
| 60 | Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club | 52,738,977 |
| 61 | Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service | 51,485,006 |
| 62 | Yuen Yuen Institute (The) | 51,226,815 |
| 63 | Chung Shak Hei (Cheung Chau) Home for the Aged Limited | 51,003,908 |
| 64 | Mongkok Kai-Fong Association Limited (The) | 50,923,313 |
| 65 | Hong Kong Council of Social Service (The) | 48,472,614 |
| 66 | Ching Chung Taoist Association of Hong Kong Limited | 47,127,354 |
| 67 | Kiangsu Chekiang and Shanghai Residents (Hong Kong) Association | 45,412,699 |
| 68 | Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong | 45,329,210 |
| 69 | Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (The) | 41,867,159 |
| 70 | Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart Diseases Association (The) | 40,128,503 |
| 71 | Chuk Lam Ming Tong Limited | 40,079,867 |
| 72 | Yuen Long Town Hall Management Committee Limited | 38,714,448 |
| 73 | Hong Kong ABWE Social Services | 34,870,024 |
| 74 | Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council (The) | 34,388,065 |
| 75 | Fung Kai Public School | 33,952,048 |
| 76 | Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union Hong Kong Limited | 32,360,158 |
| 77 | Church of United Brethren in Christ Hong Kong Limited (The) | 29,414,612 |
| 78 | The Mother Superior of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd of Angers at Hong Kong | 29,324,662 |
| 79 | Hong Kong Bodhi Siksa Society Limited (The) | 29,299,872 |
| 80 | Asbury Methodist Social Service | 28,540,460 |
| 81 | Association for Engineering and Medical Volunteer Services | 27,714,246 |
| 82 | Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited | 27,547,420 |
| 83 | Watchdog Limited | 25,116,268 |
| 84 | Hong Kong Juvenile Care Centre | 24,738,166 |
| 85 | Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church Social Service Limited | 24,355,892 |
| 86 | Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired | 24,197,584 |
| 87 | Mother's Choice Limited | 23,823,017 |
| 88 | United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service | 23,001,268 |
| 89 | Evangelical Free Church of China Social Service Limited | 22,980,734 |
| 90 | Free Methodist Church of Hong Kong (The) | 22,809,509 |
| 91 | Hong Kong-Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists | 21,056,190 |
| 92 | Kowloon Women's Welfare Club (The) | 21,053,490 |

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>2024-25</u> |
|------------|---|---|
| | | <u>Subventions</u> ^{Note 1} <u>(provisional)</u> <u>(\$)</u> |
| 93 | Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association (The) | 20,121,036 |
| 94 | Superiress of the Sisters of the Precious Blood (The) | 19,093,598 |
| 95 | Hong Kong Mutual Encouragement Association Limited | 16,649,392 |
| 96 | Evangelical Free Church of China - Evangel Children's Home | 16,102,184 |
| 97 | International Church of the Foursquare Gospel Hong Kong District Limited | 15,606,663 |
| 98 | Youth Outreach | 15,533,343 |
| 99 | Women's Welfare Club, Western District, Hong Kong | 15,532,691 |
| 100 | Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong (The) | 15,120,968 |
| 101 | Tung Lum Nien Fah Tong Limited | 15,072,608 |
| 102 | ABM Hong Kong Swatow Baptist Church Community Service Association (The) | 14,527,965 |
| 103 | Christian New Being Fellowship Limited (The) | 14,463,418 |
| 104 | Hong Kong Christian Mutual Improvement Society | 14,167,360 |
| 105 | Project Care | 13,761,316 |
| 106 | New Territories Women and Juveniles Welfare Association Limited (The) | 13,401,632 |
| 107 | New Life Church of Christ Hong Kong Limited | 13,334,447 |
| 108 | Hong Kong and Kowloon Kaifong Women's Association | 13,134,443 |
| 109 | Fung Ying Seen Koon | 12,684,637 |
| 110 | Tung Sin Tan Home for the Aged | 12,313,008 |
| 111 | Harmony House Limited | 11,935,178 |
| 112 | Chinese Evangelical Zion Church Limited | 10,784,141 |
| 113 | Zion Social Service Limited | 10,406,262 |
| 114 | Operation Dawn Limited | 10,354,642 |
| 115 | Child Development Centre (The) | 10,092,121 |
| 116 | Lam Tin Estate Kai Fong Welfare Association Limited (The) | 9,014,514 |
| 117 | Baptist Mid-Missions | 8,942,029 |
| 118 | Sai Kung District Community Centre | 8,889,351 |
| 119 | Barnabas Charitable Service Association Limited (The) | 8,685,373 |
| 120 | Hong Kong Red Cross | 8,256,510 |
| 121 | Asian Outreach Hong Kong Limited | 8,065,495 |
| 122 | Lutheran Philip House Limited | 7,971,277 |
| 123 | Agency for Volunteer Service | 7,761,680 |
| 124 | Mission Covenant Church Limited (The) | 7,742,171 |
| 125 | Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth | 7,232,179 |
| 126 | Jordan Valley Kaifong Welfare Association | 7,196,786 |
| 127 | Kowloon City Baptist Church Social Services | 6,918,316 |
| 128 | Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong (The) | 6,888,756 |
| 129 | Hong Kong Blind Union | 6,833,842 |
| 130 | Hong Kong Women Foundation Limited | 6,820,520 |
| 131 | International Women's League Limited | 6,696,607 |
| 132 | Light and Love Home Limited | 6,615,515 |
| 133 | Christian Nationals' Evangelism Commission Grace Light Neighbourhood Elderly Centre | 6,550,550 |
| 134 | Fo Guang Shan International Buddhist Progress Society (Hong Kong) Limited | 6,546,654 |
| 135 | China Peniel Missionary Society Incorporation | 6,526,440 |
| 136 | Hong Kong West Point Baptist Church | 6,505,493 |
| 137 | Hans Andersen Club | 6,501,821 |
| 138 | Endeavourers Hong Kong (The) | 6,501,567 |

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>2024-25</u> <u>Subventions</u> ^{Note 1} <u>(provisional)</u> <u>(\$)</u> |
|------------|--|---|
| 139 | Tsim Sha Tsui District Kaifong Welfare Association | 6,484,070 |
| 140 | Hop Yat Church, the Church of Christ in China, Social Service Department | 6,135,258 |
| 141 | Shamshuipo Kai Fong Welfare Advancement Association | 6,007,341 |
| 142 | Hong Kong Rehabilitation Power | 5,770,097 |
| 143 | Suen Mei Speech and Hearing Centre | 5,405,758 |
| 144 | Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited | 5,333,028 |
| 145 | Society for Community Organization | 5,130,975 |
| 146 | Yuk Chi Resource Centre Limited | 4,436,112 |
| 147 | Lok Chi Association Limited | 4,223,632 |
| 148 | Hong Kong Federation of the Blind | 4,149,606 |
| 149 | Nesbitt Centre Limited (The) | 4,143,095 |
| 150 | Hong Kong and Macau Regional Centre of the World Fellowship of Buddhists Limited | 4,082,853 |
| 151 | Hong Kong, China Sports Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability | 4,020,270 |
| 152 | Cheung Chau Rural Committee Integrated Youth Centre | 3,644,406 |
| 153 | Tai Hang Residents' Welfare Association | 3,640,320 |
| 154 | Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary | 3,543,409 |
| 155 | Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui St. Simon's Social Services | 3,541,720 |
| 156 | Hong Kong Sports Association for the Physically Disabled | 3,071,288 |
| 157 | Against Child Abuse Ltd | 2,740,703 |
| 158 | Alice Lan and Vera Shen Education Fund Limited | 2,533,089 |
| 159 | Kowloon Women's Organisations Federation Limited | 2,388,602 |
| 160 | Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited | 2,372,266 |
| 161 | Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims Limited | 1,978,401 |
| 162 | SKH St. Matthias' Church Nursery School Limited | 1,931,633 |
| 163 | Five Districts Business Welfare Association | 1,891,064 |
| 164 | Society of St. Vincent de Paul Central Council of Hong Kong | 1,614,866 |
| 165 | Cheung Sha Wan Kai Fong Welfare Association Lam Tam Yin Wah Day Nursery | 1,417,910 |
| 166 | Hong Kong Southern District Women's Association Limited | 1,290,147 |
| 167 | Women Service Association Limited | 1,275,891 |
| 168 | Tin Shui Wai Women Association Limited | 1,240,847 |
| 169 | People Service Centre Limited | 1,194,302 |
| 170 | Kwun Tong Resident Association | 1,194,302 |
| 171 | Yuen Long District Women's Association Limited | 1,194,302 |
| 172 | Emmanuel Church | 850,071 |
| | Total ^{Note 2} | 23,416,249,290 |

Note 1 Including LSG subventions (including subventions on PF) and other subventions (such as Rent and Rates, Central Items, etc.). The subventions for 2024-25 is provisional. Certain subvented items (such as the food cost for the Short-term Food Assistance Service and the operating expenditure, fee waivers/reductions and incentive payments for the Neighborhood Support Child Care Project) are not included as their subventions are adjusted quarterly/half-yearly based on service usage.

Note 2 Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)071

(Question Serial No. 0389)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government is responsible for “providing child care services, enhancing child development and safeguarding children’s well-being”. Regarding children with special educational needs (SEN), particularly pre-school children with SEN who are followed up by the Bureau, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of case referrals made by the Child Assessment Service (CAS) to pre-school rehabilitation services and school rehabilitation services in the past year;
2. the current average waiting time, number of service places, numbers of service places and waitlisted children broken down by administrative district of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), age distribution of service users, utilisation rate and average monthly cost per place for pre-school rehabilitation services (including on-site pre-school rehabilitation services (OPRS), early education and training centres (EETCs), integrated programme in kindergarten-cum-child care centres (IP) and special child care centres (SCCCs)); and
3. given the increase in the estimated expenditure under this Programme, whether there are other specific measures to support pre-school SEN children and grassroots families with SEN children; if yes, what is the estimated expenditure involved; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1. The CAS of the Department of Health provides comprehensive professional assessment services for children under the age of 12 with suspected developmental problems. In 2023, the total number of case referrals made by CAS to pre-school rehabilitation services and school rehabilitation services was 14 972 (provisional figure).
2. The current average waiting time, number of service places, numbers of service places and waitlisted children broken down by administrative district of SWD, as well as age distribution of service users, utilisation rate and average cost per place per month for various pre-school rehabilitation services (including OPRS, EETCs, IP and SCCC) are set out in Tables 1 to 7 of Annex 1. As places of OPRS are available in all districts in the territory and allocated on an agency basis, SWD does not have information on the number of OPRS places broken down by district.

3. The estimated expenditure for pre-school rehabilitation services in 2024-25 has increased by about \$84 million, mainly due to the addition of 372 service places for pre-school rehabilitation services (including EETCs and SCCCs), and the regularisation of the Tier 1 Support Services. The regularised Tier 1 Support Services have been extended to cover nearly 900 pre-primary institutions and have been integrated with OPRS, so as to provide comprehensive and timely assistance to pre-school children with different levels of special needs through inter-disciplinary service teams under a school-based and integrated approach.

Table 1: Average waiting time for pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | Average waiting time (in months) ^{Note} |
|--------------|--|
| | 2022-23 |
| OPRS | 4.2 |
| EETC | 5 |
| IP | 5.3 |
| SCCC | 19.3 |

^{Note} As the average waiting time is compiled on a financial-year basis covering the 1st day of April of a year to the 31st day of March of the next year, the figure for 2023-24 is not yet available.

Table 2: Number of service places for pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| OPRS | 10 124 |
| EETC | 4 393 |
| IP | 1 980 |
| SCCC | 2 456 |

Table 3: Number of service places for pre-school rehabilitation services broken down by administrative district of SWD

| District | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | No. of service places for EETCs | No. of service places for IP | No. of service places for SCCCs |
| Central/Western/ Southern & Islands | 473 | 138 | 313 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 401 | 168 | 246 |
| Kwun Tong | 390 | 228 | 186 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 604 | 240 | 425 |
| Kowloon City/ Yau Tsim Mong | 231 | 216 | 30 |
| Sham Shui Po | 523 | 114 | 357 |
| Sha Tin | 381 | 168 | 168 |
| Tai Po/North | 487 | 168 | 299 |
| Yuen Long | 172 | 186 | 108 |
| Tsuen Wan/ Kwai Tsing | 406 | 198 | 180 |
| Tuen Mun | 325 | 156 | 144 |
| Total | 4 393 | 1 980 | 2 456 |

Table 4: Number of children waitlisted for pre-school rehabilitation services broken down by administrative district of SWD

| District | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | No. of children waitlisted for OPRS | No. of children waitlisted for EETCs | No. of children waitlisted for IP | No. of children waitlisted for SCCCs |
| Central/Western/ Southern & Islands | 209 | 48 | 17 | 90 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 224 | 82 | 29 | 119 |
| Kwun Tong | 268 | 78 | 38 | 61 |
| Wong Tai Sin/ Sai Kung | 332 | 110 | 51 | 69 |
| Kowloon City/ Yau Tsim Mong | 292 | 78 | 38 | 106 |
| Sham Shui Po | 180 | 54 | 27 | 60 |
| Sha Tin | 301 | 109 | 33 | 53 |
| Tai Po/North | 333 | 70 | 43 | 84 |
| Yuen Long | 465 | 109 | 47 | 173 |
| Tsuen Wan /Kwai Tsing | 308 | 108 | 36 | 97 |
| Tuen Mun | 319 | 64 | 32 | 92 |
| Total | 3 231 ^{Note 1} | 910 ^{Note 2} | 391 ^{Note 1} | 1 004 ^{Note 3} |

Note 1 The figure does not include users of pre-school rehabilitation services who are now receiving transitional services of EETCs, or users who are waiting for a change of service type/choice of centre.

Note 2 The figure does not include users of pre-school rehabilitation services who are waiting for a change of service type/choice of centre.

Note 3 The figure does not include users of pre-school rehabilitation services who are now receiving transitional services of EETCs or OPRS, or users who are waiting for a change of service type/choice of centre.

Table 5: Age distribution of users of pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | No. of service users | | | |
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| OPRS | 98 | 4 542 | 5 322 | 9 962 |
| EETC | 696 | 1 972 | 1 425 | 4 093 |
| IP | 89 | 898 | 890 | 1 877 |
| SCCC | 49 | 830 | 1 480 | 2 359 |

Table 6: Utilisation rate of pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|---------------------|--|
| OPRS | 98.4% |
| EETC | 93.2% |
| IP | 94.8% |
| SCCC | 96.1% |

Table 7: Average cost per place per month for pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) (\$) |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Pre-school rehabilitation services | 10,695 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)072

(Question Serial No. 1070)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The recruitment of mentees for the second cohort of the Strive and Rise Programme (the Programme) has concluded. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. It has been reported that the number of mentees has increased from 2 800 to 4 000, and the Programme has been extended to include Secondary Four students from underprivileged families. Have there been any changes in the numbers of mentees and mentors in the second cohort?
2. It has been reported that the Programme has received support from over 170 enterprises and organisations, raising about \$140 million. Please provide details on the utilisation of funds as at February 2024, as well as the number and names of the supporting organisations.
3. According to the Programme, each mentee is paired with a volunteer mentor who primarily assists them in building self-confidence, fostering a positive mindset, setting personal goals, and developing sound financial concepts through sharing life experiences. Please provide a table listing the industries and fields that the participating mentors work in or come from, along with their respective occupations.

Asked by: Hon HO King-hong, Adrian Pedro (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1. The second cohort of the Programme has admitted a total of 3 885 mentees upon verification of applications. As at end-February 2024, about 3 100 mentors have been recruited for the second cohort (some mentors are paired with 2 mentees).
2. The funds raised for the Programme are utilised to provide each mentee with a start-up sum of \$5,000 and a scholarship of \$5,000, with the administrative expenses borne by the Government. As at end-February 2024, start-up sums and scholarships totalling \$26.435 million have been provided to the mentees from the first cohort. The second cohort of the Programme has received support from over 210 organisations. The list of supporting organisations can be found on the Programme's website at <https://www.striveandrise.gov.hk/en/partners-page/>.

3. As at end-February 2024, the industries in which the participating mentors of the second cohort are engaged are at Annex.

Industries in which mentors of the Programme are engaged

| Industry | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. | Finance and insurance |
| 2. | Communications/Information technology |
| 3. | Engineering and construction |
| 4. | Education |
| 5. | Government/Public administration |
| 6. | Transportation and logistics |
| 7. | Social services |
| 8. | Medical |
| 9. | Legal |
| 10. | Hotel/Tourism |
| 11. | Catering |
| 12. | Entrepreneur |
| 13. | Science/Research |
| 14. | Environmental protection/Green industry |
| 15. | Disciplined services |
| 16. | Performing arts/Art |
| 17. | Sports |
| 18. | Creative industry |
| 19. | Fashion and beauty |
| 20. | Others |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)073

(Question Serial No. 2728)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding 1) the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, and 2) the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme (which includes Old Age Allowance (OAA), the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA), the Guangdong (GD) Scheme and the Fujian (FJ) Scheme) under the social security system administered by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), please provide the following information:

The projected expenditure growth for these 2 schemes over the next 10 financial years; total expenditure for each scheme after 10 financial years; and the respective percentage shares of the total social welfare expenditure for each scheme.

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

The estimated expenditure for the CSSA Scheme in 2024-25 ^[Note] is approximately \$23.055 billion, representing an increase of 1.9% compared to the revised estimated expenditure for 2023-24 ^[Note], and accounting for 19.2% of the total estimated expenditure of SWD for 2024-25. Constituting 42.9% of the total estimated expenditure of SWD, the estimated expenditure for OAA, OALA, the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme under the SSA Scheme in the same year ^[Note] is tabulated as follows:

| Type of allowance | Estimated expenditure for 2024-25 ^[Note] (\$ million) (year-on-year growth) |
|-------------------|---|
| OAA | 7,270 (+10.4%) |
| OALA | 42,806 (+17.8%) |
| GD Scheme | 1,367 (+38.6%) |
| FJ Scheme | 130 (+31.3%) |

^[Note] The revised estimated expenditure for 2023-24 and the estimated expenditure for 2024-25 include the payment of an additional half-month of CSSA standard rates or the allowances in the year.

As the future expenditure of these 2 schemes is subject to various factors, such as the social and economic conditions of Hong Kong, the fiscal position of the Government, inflation, and the number of applicants and recipients under the 2 schemes, SWD is unable to provide estimates for the expenditure, growth rates and percentage shares of SWD's total expenditure for each scheme beyond 2024-25.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)074

(Question Serial No. 2745)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is stated in the Budget Speech (paragraph 200) that starting this year, the Government will set up 10 more aided standalone child care centres (CCCs) in phases. The target is to provide nearly 900 additional places for day child care services within 3 years. The Government will also extend the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children (ASCP(PC)) in phases to cover all districts in Hong Kong starting this year. The number of service places will increase to nearly 1 200 within 3 years. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of organisations operating standalone CCCs, the number of places and the utilisation rate of standalone CCCs in Hong Kong by district in each of the past 3 years;
2. the districts, the locations and the number of places of the 10 aided standalone CCCs to be set up in the future;
3. the number of organisations, the number of places and the utilisation rate of ASCP(PC) in each district for the past 3 years;
4. the districts, the locations and the numbers of places involved in the phased extension of ASCP(PC) in future; and
5. given that the current utilisation rates of some of the standalone CCCs and ASCP(PC) are not high, whether the Government will review the effectiveness of their services and explore ways to increase the utilisation rates of these services to better support family carers?

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1. The number of aided standalone CCCs in various districts in Hong Kong, their number of places and average utilisation rates in the past 3 financial years are set out at Annex 1.

2. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up 10 more aided standalone CCCs in phases within 3 years starting from 2024, providing about 900 additional places. Among them, 100 places in Queens Hill Estate and 56 places in Wah Ming Estate in Fanling have commenced service in January and March 2024 respectively. The 88 places in Shun Lee Estate in Kwun Tong and 100 places at the Treasury Building in Sham Shui Po are scheduled for commencing operation in 2024-25, whereas the 100 places at Cheung Shun Street in Sham Shui Po and 60 places in Kwai Fong Estate in Kwai Chung will be put into service in 2025-26. The remaining 4 aided standalone CCCs, proposed to be set up in districts such as Kowloon City and Kwun Tong, will collectively provide about 400 additional places, and are scheduled to commence service in 2026-27.
3. The number of centres, the number of service places and the average utilisation rate of ASCP(PC) in each district for the past 3 financial years are set out at Annex 2.
4. SWD will invite non-governmental organisations to submit proposals to extend ASCP(PC) to suitable locations. The estimated number of places available in various districts upon the full extension of ASCP(PC) is set out at Annex 3.
5. SWD has been re-engineering Mutual Help Child Care Centres (MHCCCs) from 2021-22 onwards to provide after-school care service for pre-primary children in phases. Centres of ASCP(PC) have commenced service since August 2021 with both the number of service places and the average utilisation rate steadily increasing in general. SWD has put in place a performance monitoring mechanism, for which service operators are required to provide services in accordance with the requirements stipulated in the Funding and Service Agreement and meet the specified service output and outcome standards. In addition, SWD regularly produces publicity materials to promote day child care services, while service operators also organise promotional activities in various districts, including setting up street booths, distributing leaflets and displaying promotional banners to publicise their services and recruit service users.

Table 1: Number of centres, number of places and average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs by district (2021-22)

| District | Aided standalone CCC | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| | Number of centres | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | 1 | 48 | 100 |
| Southern | - | - | N.A. |
| Islands | - | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | 1 | 64 | 100 |
| Wan Chai | 1 | 48 | 100 |
| Kwun Tong | - | - | N.A. |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | - | N.A. |
| Sai Kung | - | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | 1 | 67 | 100 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 1 | 99 | 100 |
| Sham Shui Po | 1 | 62 | 100 |
| Sha Tin | 2 | 177 | 91 |
| Tai Po | - | - | N.A. |
| North | 1 | 51 | 100 |
| Yuen Long | 1 | 64 | 100 |
| Tsuen Wan | 1 | 76 | 99 |
| Kwai Tsing | 1 | 32 | 100 |
| Tuen Mun | 1 | 64 | 100 |
| Total | 13 | 852 | 98 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Table 2: Number of centres, number of places and average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs by district (2022-23)

| District | Aided standalone CCC | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| | Number of centres | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | 1 | 48 | 100 |
| Southern | - | - | N.A. |
| Islands | - | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | 1 | 64 | 100 |
| Wan Chai | 1 | 48 | 100 |
| Kwun Tong | - | - | N.A. |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | - | N.A. |
| Sai Kung | - | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | 1 | 67 | 100 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 1 | 99 | 100 |
| Sham Shui Po | 1 | 62 | 100 |
| Sha Tin | 2 | 177 | 98 |
| Tai Po | 1 | 92 | 20 ^[Note 1] |
| North | 1 | 51 | 100 |
| Yuen Long | 2 | 152 | 91 ^[Note 2] |
| Tsuen Wan | 1 | 76 | 98 |
| Kwai Tsing | 1 | 32 | 100 |
| Tuen Mun | 1 | 64 | 100 |
| Total | 15 | 1 032 | 97 |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note 1] The first additional aided standalone CCC in the district commenced operation in January 2023.

[Note 2] The second additional aided standalone CCC in the district commenced operation in March 2023.

Table 3: Number of centres, number of places and average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs by district

(April to December 2023)

| District | Aided standalone CCC | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| | Number of centres | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | 1 | 48 | 100 |
| Southern | - | - | N.A. |
| Islands | - | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | 1 | 64 | 100 |
| Wan Chai | 1 | 48 | 100 |
| Kwun Tong | - | - | N.A. |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | - | N.A. |
| Sai Kung | - | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | 1 | 67 | 100 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 1 | 99 | 100 |
| Sham Shui Po | 1 | 62 | 100 |
| Sha Tin | 2 | 177 | 99 |
| Tai Po | 1 | 92 | 83 |
| North | 1 | 51 | 100 |
| Yuen Long | 2 | 152 | 76 ^[Note] |
| Tsuen Wan | 1 | 76 | 100 |
| Kwai Tsing | 1 | 32 | 100 |
| Tuen Mun | 1 | 64 | 96 |
| Total | 15 | 1 032 | 95 |

N.A. - Not applicable

^[Note] The second additional aided standalone CCC in the district commenced operation in March 2023.

Table 1: Number of centres, number of places and average utilisation rate of ASCP(PC) by district (2021-22)

| District | ASCP(PC) | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Number of centres | Number of places ^[Note] | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | - | - | N.A. |
| Southern | - | - | N.A. |
| Islands | - | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | - | - | N.A. |
| Wan Chai | - | - | N.A. |
| Kwun Tong | 2 | 84 | 35 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 1 | 42 | 0 |
| Sai Kung | - | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | - | - | N.A. |
| Yau Tsim Mong | - | - | N.A. |
| Sham Shui Po | 3 | 126 | 46 |
| Sha Tin | - | - | N.A. |
| Tai Po | 1 | 42 | 39 |
| North | 1 | 42 | 1 |
| Yuen Long | 1 | 42 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan | - | - | N.A. |
| Kwai Tsing | 1 | 42 | 20 |
| Tuen Mun | - | - | N.A. |
| Total | 10 | 420 | 32 |

N.A. - Not applicable

^[Note] 10 centres in Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Tai Po, Kwai Tsing, Wong Tai Sin, North and Yuen Long districts commenced service in August 2021 and February 2022.

Table 2: Number of centres, number of places and average utilisation rate of ASCP(PC) by district (2022-23)

| District | ASCP(PC) | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Number of centres | Number of places ^[Note] | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | - | - | N.A. |
| Southern | 1 | 42 | 23 |
| Islands | - | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | - | - | N.A. |
| Wan Chai | - | - | N.A. |
| Kwun Tong | 3 | 126 | 43 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 1 | 42 | 69 |
| Sai Kung | - | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | - | - | N.A. |
| Yau Tsim Mong | - | - | N.A. |
| Sham Shui Po | 3 | 126 | 71 |
| Sha Tin | - | - | N.A. |
| Tai Po | 1 | 42 | 41 |
| North | 1 | 42 | 28 |
| Yuen Long | 1 | 42 | 42 |
| Tsuen Wan | - | - | N.A. |
| Kwai Tsing | 2 | 84 | 58 |
| Tuen Mun | - | - | N.A. |
| Total | 13 | 546 | 53 |

N.A. - Not applicable

^[Note] 3 centres in Southern, Kwun Tong and Kwai Tsing districts commenced service in February 2023.

**Table 3: Number of centres, number of places and average utilisation rate of
ASCP(PC) by district
(April to December 2023)**

| District | ASCP(PC) | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Number of centres | Number of places ^[Note] | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | 1 | 42 | 9 |
| Southern | 1 | 42 | 37 |
| Islands | - | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | - | - | N.A. |
| Wan Chai | - | - | N.A. |
| Kwun Tong | 3 | 126 | 54 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 1 | 42 | 85 |
| Sai Kung | - | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | - | - | N.A. |
| Yau Tsim Mong | - | - | N.A. |
| Sham Shui Po | 3 | 126 | 74 |
| Sha Tin | - | - | N.A. |
| Tai Po | 1 | 42 | 47 |
| North | 1 | 42 | 71 |
| Yuen Long | 3 | 126 | 48 |
| Tsuen Wan | - | - | N.A. |
| Kwai Tsing | 3 | 126 | 56 |
| Tuen Mun | - | - | N.A. |
| Total | 17 | 714 | 57 |

N.A. - Not applicable

^[Note] 4 centres in Central & Western, Yuen Long and Kwai Tsing districts commenced service in August 2023. As at 31 December 2023, 17 centres provided a total of 714 places (42 places each), of which 2 will cease service after March 2024. In addition, 1 MHCCC completed re-engineering to commence service in the first quarter of 2024. Therefore, there will be a net increase of 3 centres of ASCP(PC) from 13 to 16 by the end of 2023-24 compared to 2022-23, while the number of places will increase from 546 to 672.

Number of places available in various districts upon the full extension of ASCP(PC)

| District | Number of places | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | By the end of 2023-24 | Additional places | Total |
| Central & Western | 42 | - | 42 |
| Southern | 84 | - | 84 |
| Islands | - | 42 | 42 |
| Eastern | - | 42 | 42 |
| Wan Chai | - | 42 | 42 |
| Kwun Tong | 84 | - | 84 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 42 | - | 42 |
| Sai Kung | - | 42 | 42 |
| Kowloon City | - | 42 | 42 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | - | 42 | 42 |
| Sham Shui Po | 126 | - | 126 |
| Sha Tin | - | 42 | 42 |
| Tai Po | - | 42 | 42 |
| North | 42 | - | 42 |
| Yuen Long | 126 | - | 126 |
| Tsuen Wan | - | 42 | 42 |
| Kwai Tsing | 126 | - | 126 |
| Tuen Mun | - | 42 | 42 |
| 2 other centres will be located in districts with greater service demand | | 84 | 84 |
| Total | 672 | 504 | 1 176 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)075

(Question Serial No. 2747)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme administered by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), please inform this Committee of:

1. the number of CSSA cases, total number of recipients and total expenditure involved for each of the past 5 financial years;
2. the number of CSSA recipients who were children born in Hong Kong with both parents being Mainland residents, along with the expenditure involved for the past 5 financial years; and
3. the number of children who were born in Hong Kong with both parents being Mainland residents and had social workers from SWD serving as their guardians, and who successfully received CSSA in the past 5 financial years.

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

1. The numbers of CSSA cases and recipients from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are set out in Table 1 of Annex. The total expenditure for the CSSA Scheme from 2019-20 to 2023-24 is set out in Table 2 of Annex.
- 2 & 3. The number of CSSA recipients who were children born in Hong Kong with both parents being Mainland residents from 2019 to 2023 is set out in Table 3 of Annex. SWD does not have the other information sought.

Table 1 Numbers of CSSA cases and recipients from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---|
| Number of cases | 222 691 | 223 792 | 216 688 | 205 592 | 200 400 |
| Number of recipients | 310 153 | 319 191 | 302 599 | 285 253 | 273 941 |

Table 2 Total expenditure for the CSSA Scheme from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | Expenditure ^[Note] (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|---|
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 22,667 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 22,853 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 22,909 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 23,196 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 22,625 |

[Note] The actual expenditure for 2019-20 includes the payment of 1 additional month of CSSA standard rates in the year, a one-off grant of \$2,500 to each needy student, and an extra 1 month of CSSA standard rates announced by the Financial Secretary in August 2019. The actual expenditure for 2020-21 includes the payment of 1 additional month of CSSA standard rates in the year. The actual expenditures for 2021-22 and 2022-23, and the revised estimate of expenditure for 2023-24 include the payment of an additional half-month of CSSA standard rates in the year.

Table 3 Number of CSSA recipients who were children born in Hong Kong with both parents being Mainland residents from 2019 to 2023

| Year (as at end-December each year) | Number of recipients |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2019 | 303 |
| 2020 | 321 |
| 2021 | 297 |
| 2022 | 278 |
| 2023 | 236 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)076

(Question Serial No. 2748)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Social Security Allowance Scheme administered by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), please inform this Committee of the following:

1. For each of the past 5 financial years, please provide the number of recipients, total number of recipients and the expenditure involved of the Old Age Allowance (OAA), Old Age Living Allowance (OALA), Guangdong (GD) Scheme and Fujian (FJ) Scheme.
2. In respect of the measures to support the retirement of the elderly in GD and FJ (including the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme, GD Scheme and FJ Scheme), please provide the expenditure involved of each Scheme (excluding administrative costs) for each of the past 5 financial years.

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

1. The number of recipients and expenditure involved of OAA, OALA, GD Scheme and FJ Scheme from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex respectively.
2. The expenditure for the PCSSA Scheme, GD Scheme and FJ Scheme from 2019-20 to 2023-24 is set out in Table 3 of Annex.

Table 1: Number of recipients of OAA, OALA, GD Scheme and FJ Scheme from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Type of allowance | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---|
| OAA | 270 080 | 291 228 | 312 218 | 326 456 | 341 421 |
| OALA ^[Note 1] | 572 029 | 605 574 | 637 016 | 687 331 | 719 873 |
| GD Scheme | 18 465 | 19 257 | 19 509 | 22 034 | 24 882 |
| FJ Scheme | 1 795 | 1 949 | 1 963 | 2 116 | 2 432 |
| Total | 862 369 | 918 008 | 970 706 | 1 037 937 | 1 088 608 |

Table 2: Expenditure for OAA, OALA, GD Scheme and FJ Scheme from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Type of allowance | Expenditure ^[Note 2] (\$ million) | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 2019-20 (Actual) | 2020-21 (Actual) | 2021-22 (Actual) | 2022-23 (Actual) | 2023-24 (Revised Estimate) |
| OAA | 4,972 | 5,198 | 5,530 | 6,021 | 6,585 |
| OALA ^[Note 1] | 26,893 | 27,741 | 28,857 | 31,999 | 36,352 |
| GD Scheme | 360 | 685 | 686 | 740 | 986 |
| FJ Scheme | 37 | 73 | 74 | 79 | 99 |

Table 3: Expenditure for PCSSA Scheme, GD Scheme and FJ Scheme from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Type of allowance | Expenditure ^[Note 2] (\$ million) | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 2019-20 (Actual) | 2020-21 (Actual) | 2021-22 (Actual) | 2022-23 (Actual) | 2023-24 (Revised Estimate) |
| PCSSA Scheme | 64 | 54 | 44 | 39 | 34 |
| GD Scheme | 360 | 685 | 686 | 740 | 986 |
| FJ Scheme | 37 | 73 | 74 | 79 | 99 |

^[Note 1] In September 2022, SWD merged the Normal and Higher OALAs. The merged OALA adopts the more lenient asset limits of the Normal OALA and the payment rate of the Higher OALA.

^[Note 2] The actual expenditure for 2019-20 includes the payment of 1 additional month of allowances in the year, and an extra 1 month of allowances announced by the Financial Secretary in August 2019. The actual expenditure for 2020-21 includes the payment of 1 additional month of allowances in the year. The actual expenditures for 2021-22 and 2022-23, as well as the revised estimate of expenditure for 2023-24 include the payment of an additional half-month of allowances in the year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)077

(Question Serial No. 2749)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In 2024-25, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will provide an allowance to eligible social security recipients, equal to one half of a month of the standard rate Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) payments, the Old Age Allowance (OAA), the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) or the Disability Allowance, while similar arrangements will apply to recipients of the Working Family Allowance. In this connection, please provide this Committee with the following information:

1. The total expenditure in each of the past 5 financial years for the provision of an additional one-off payment of CSSA, Old Age Allowance, and Old Age Living Allowance; and
2. The respective expenditures for the provision of an additional one-off payment of CSSA, OAA and OALA in each of the past 5 financial years, as well as the current financial year.

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

The total expenditure for the provision of an additional allowance for recipients of CSSA, OAA and OALA from 2019-20 to 2024-25, with a breakdown by type of allowance, is set out at Annex.

Expenditure for the provision of an additional payment for recipients of CSSA, OAA and OALA from 2019-20 to 2024-25

| Year | Expenditure on the extra payment ^[Note 1] (\$ million) | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| | CSSA Scheme | OAA ^[Note 2] | OALA ^[Note 2] | Total |
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 2,362 | 752 | 3,818 | 6,933 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 1,695 | 398 | 2,113 | 4,206 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 839 | 219 | 1,147 | 2,205 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 586 | 241 | 1,234 | 2,060 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 577 | 264 | 1,431 | 2,272 |
| 2024-25 (Estimate) | 598 | 301 | 1,765 | 2,664 |

^[Note 1] The actual additional expenditure for 2019-20 is for the payment of 1 additional month of CSSA standard rates or the allowances in the year, a one-off grant of \$2,500 to each needy students receiving CSSA, and 1 additional month of CSSA standard rates or allowance announced by the Financial Secretary in August 2019.

The actual additional expenditure for 2020-21 is for the payment of 1 additional month of CSSA standard rates or the allowances in the year.

The actual additional expenditures for 2021-22 and 2022-23, the revised estimated additional expenditure for 2023-24, and the estimated additional expenditure for 2024-25 are for the payment of an additional half-month of CSSA standard rates or the allowances in the year.

^[Note 2] Including the Guangdong (GD) Scheme and the Fujian (FJ) Scheme. OALA under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme was effective form 1 January 2020.

Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)078

(Question Serial No. 2750)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance (IEAPS), please inform this Committee of the following:

1. for each of the past 5 financial years, the number of participants, the number of participants who have successfully secured employment or have successfully returned to mainstream schooling, and the amount of expenditure involved; and
2. for each of the past 5 financial years, the number of approved CSSA applications involving persons with less than 7 years' residence in Hong Kong, the specific number of CSSA recipients among this group, the amount of CSSA payment involved, and the number of these CSSA recipients who have participated in the employment support measures under CSSA.

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. In January 2013, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched IEAPS, under which non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are commissioned to provide services to able-bodied CSSA recipients to encourage and assist them in increasing their employability and securing paid employment. In April 2020, SWD enhanced the services to improve the effectiveness of NGOs in providing the relevant services.

A total headcount of 15 292 persons received employment support services from April to the end of December 2023. Among them, 1 478 and 103 headcount of persons secured employment or returned to mainstream schooling respectively for at least 1 month, and 351 and 37 headcount of persons left the CSSA net owing to securing employment or returning to mainstream schooling respectively. SWD does not have a breakdown of the number of headcount of persons who received employment support services by year prior to April 2023.

The expenditure incurred by SWD on commissioning NGOs to provide IEAPS and employment support services from 2019-20 to 2023-24 is tabulated below:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 137 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 152 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 153 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 157 |
| 2023-24 (Revised Estimate) | 160 |

2. Following the judgment of the Court of Final Appeal handed down on a judicial review case regarding the residence requirement before application of the CSSA Scheme, SWD has restored the “one-year residence requirement” since 17 December 2013, which was previously in effect before 1 January 2004. Those who had already been granted CSSA at that time were not affected. As was the case in the past, persons aged below 18 continue to be exempted from the residence requirement before application of the CSSA Scheme.

From 2019-20 to 2023-24, the number of approved CSSA applications involving persons aged 18 or above who had resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years is as follows:

| Year | Number of approved CSSA applications |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 2019-20 | 1 171 |
| 2020-21 | 1 654 |
| 2021-22 | 895 |
| 2022-23 | 829 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 516 |

SWD does not have the information on the number of CSSA recipients aged 18 or above who had resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years.

From 2019-20 to 2023-24, the CSSA expenditure on CSSA recipients who had resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years is roughly estimated as follows ^[Note]:

| Year | CSSA Expenditure (\$ million) |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2019-20 | 881 |
| 2020-21 | 904 |
| 2021-22 | 858 |
| 2022-23 | 800 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 514 |

^[Note] As CSSA is payable on a household basis, the rough estimation of CSSA expenditure on recipients who had resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years is calculated based on the percentage of the amount of recognised needs of these recipients in approved CSSA applications out of the total amount of recognised needs of recipients in all CSSA cases, the percentage of these recipients out of the total number of CSSA recipients in their respective case categories, as well as the overall CSSA expenditure.

SWD does not have information on the number of recipients in approved CSSA applications, breakdown by year, who had resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years and received employment support services.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)079

(Question Serial No. 3079)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

To prevent social security assistance from being misused, please inform this Committee of the following regarding the assessment of applicants for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA):

1. What was the number of CSSA fraud and abuse cases (including suspected cases reported, established fraud cases and prosecuted cases) for each of the past 5 years?
2. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has appointed agents to help elderly persons who cannot return to Hong Kong to complete the application procedures for retirement in the Mainland due to health reasons. How many suspected fraud cases were discovered and established during the annual case review process conducted by the agents for each of the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. The number of fraud cases relating to CSSA 2019-20 to 2023-24 is tabulated below. With respect to suspected fraud cases substantiated upon investigation, SWD will recover overpayment from the relevant applicants/recipients. SWD will issue written warnings to those concerned or refer serious suspected fraud cases to the Police for investigation. Persons convicted of fraud by the court may be imprisoned, bound over, sentenced to community service order or fined.

| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end- December 2023) |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| Number of suspected cases reported by members of the public | 1 239 | 1 685 | 1 143 | 1 968 | 1 877 |
| Number of established fraud cases upon SWD's in-depth investigation | 329 | 370 | 323 | 367 | 419 |
| Number of prosecuted cases | 55 | 45 | 24 | 21 | 15 |

2. In 2019-20 and 2020-21, SWD appointed the International Social Service Hong Kong Branch as the implementation agent for the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme, the Guangdong (GD) Scheme and the Fujian (FJ) Scheme. Starting from 2021-22, SWD has appointed the New Home Association and the International Social Service Hong Kong Branch as the implementation agents for the above schemes in GD and FJ provinces respectively. Apart from helping elderly persons who cannot return to Hong Kong due to health reasons to complete the application procedures of the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme, the agents have to conduct annual case reviews by means of home visits and postal reviews for all cases under the PCSSA Scheme, the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme to ascertain recipients' continued eligibility for the allowance. The agents also have to provide enquiry services to recipients, handle their reports of changes in personal circumstances, identify suitable appointees for recipients in need and recommending them to SWD, assist SWD in recovering overpayments from recipients and investigating suspected fraud cases, etc. In the past 5 years, the agents have not discovered any suspected or established fraud cases.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)080

(Question Serial No. 2110)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is stated in Paragraph 197 of the Budget Speech that the number of community care service vouchers (CCSVs) will increase to 11 000 in 2024-25, involving an annual expenditure of about \$900 million. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

- 1) the number of recognised service providers (RSPs) (with a breakdown by operator), numbers of day care and home care service places, number of CCSV applicants, number of current CCSV users, cumulative number of CCSV recipients and the amount of subsidy in different phases of the CCSV Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme);
- 2) the cumulative number of elderly persons withdrawn from the CCSV Scheme and their reasons for withdrawal;
- 3) the manpower and actual expenditure involved in the implementation of different phases of the CCSV Scheme; and
- 4) the estimated manpower and expenditure for 2024-25.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

The Government launched the first, second and third phases of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV in September 2013, October 2016 and October 2020, respectively, and made it permanent in September 2023.

- 1) & 2) The information on various phases of the CCSV Scheme is set out at Annexes 1 and 2.
- 3) & 4) The staffing establishment and salary expenditure of the Community Care Service Voucher Office (CCSVO) from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are set out at Annex 3.

Table 1: Service statistics on the CCSV Scheme

| | No. of RSPs | No. of service places | | No. of applicants | Cumulative no. of persons issued with CCSVs | No. of CCSV users | CCSV subsidy ^{Note 2} (\$ million) |
|---|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| | | Day care service | Home care service | | | | |
| First phase of the Pilot Scheme | 62 | 998 | N.A. | 2 968 | 2 968 | 1 053 | 175.8 |
| Second phase of the Pilot Scheme | 179 | 3 250 | 7 123 | 12 217 | 12 154 ^{Note 3} | 4 379 | 695.6 |
| Third phase of the Pilot Scheme | 264 | 4 206 | 13 589 | 19 923 | 19 820 ^{Note 4} | 7 557 | 1,000.2 (Revised estimate) |
| Upon converting into a permanent measure ^{Note 1} (as at end-December 2023) | 258 | 4 102 | 13 885 | 13 703 | 13 529 ^{Note 5} | 8 395 | 307.4 (Revised estimate) |

N.A. - Not applicable.

Note 1 The Government has made the CCSV permanent since September 2023.

Note 2 The CCSV Scheme was implemented with funding support from the Lotteries Fund before being made permanent in September 2023.

Note 3 Including 1 054 CCSV holders migrated from the first phase to second phase.

Note 4 Including 6 159 CCSV holders migrated from the second phase to third phase.

Note 5 Including 11 228 CCSV holders migrated from the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV to the permanent CCSV Scheme.

Table 2: Number of RSPs under the CCSV Scheme (as at end-December 2023)

| | Organisations | No. of RSPs |
|-----|--|--------------------|
| 1. | Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service | 5 |
| 2. | Caritas - Hong Kong | 2 |
| 3. | Chi Lin Nunnery | 1 |
| 4. | Christian Family Service Centre | 4 |
| 5. | Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong | 4 |
| 6. | Haven of Hope Christian Service | 5 |
| 7. | Hong Kong Employment Development Service Limited | 2 |
| 8. | Hong Kong Family Welfare Society | 3 |
| 9. | Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod Limited | 4 |
| 10. | Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited | 4 |
| 11. | The Hong Kong Society for the Aged | 8 |
| 12. | Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association | 4 |
| 13. | PA Company Limited | 1 |
| 14. | Methodist Centre | 7 |
| 15. | Methodist Epworth Village Community Centre, Social Welfare | 1 |
| 16. | The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council | 2 |
| 17. | Po Leung Kuk | 21 |
| 18. | Pok Oi Hospital | 3 |
| 19. | Sik Sik Yuen | 3 |
| 20. | St. James' Settlement | 3 |
| 21. | The Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club | 1 |
| 22. | The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation | 1 |
| 23. | The Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon | 1 |
| 24. | The Salvation Army | 2 |
| 25. | The Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service | 1 |
| 26. | Tung Wah Group of Hospitals | 6 |
| 27. | Yan Chai Hospital Social Services Department | 8 |
| 28. | Yan Oi Tong Limited | 4 |
| 29. | Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service | 5 |
| 30. | Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre | 1 |
| 31. | Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong | 2 |
| 32. | Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association | 1 |
| 33. | Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association | 4 |
| 34. | Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong | 1 |
| 35. | Wai Ying Investment Limited | 4 |
| 36. | Wise Creation Holding Limited | 1 |
| 37. | Woopie Social Enterprises Limited | 13 |
| 38. | Sai Kung District Community Centre | 1 |
| 39. | South Kwai Chung Social Service | 1 |
| 40. | Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Social Service Limited | 1 |
| 41. | E.T. Investment Limited | 4 |

| | Organisations | No. of RSPs |
|-----|--|--------------------|
| 42. | Trustful Medical and Domestic Services Co. Limited | 2 |
| 43. | Charmind Limited | 1 |
| 44. | Care U Professional Nursing Service Limited | 1 |
| 45. | Wah Fung Nursing Centre Limited | 1 |
| 46. | Association for Engineering and Medical Volunteer Services | 1 |
| 47. | The Women's Welfare Club (Eastern District) Hong Kong | 1 |
| 48. | Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union Hong Kong Limited | 2 |
| 49. | N.T. Women & Juveniles Welfare Association Ltd | 1 |
| 50. | Senior Citizen Home Safety Association | 1 |
| 51. | Hong Kong Baptist Mr. & Mrs. Au Shue Hung Rehabilitation & Healthcare Home Ltd | 1 |
| 52. | Evercare Health Limited | 1 |
| 53. | Kato (Hong Kong) Holdings Limited | 5 |
| 54. | Spark Medical Limited | 1 |
| 55. | Spark Plus Company Limited | 1 |
| 56. | Sincerity Rehabilitation Service Group Limited | 2 |
| 57. | Eden Elder Care Specialists Limited | 1 |
| 58. | Active Global Specialised Caregivers (Hong Kong) Pte Ltd | 1 |
| 59. | Hope Worldwide | 1 |
| 60. | Cedar Seeds Foundation Limited | 1 |
| 61. | Walking Easy | 1 |
| 62. | I Passion Limited | 3 |
| 63. | On Fuk Nursing Home Limited | 2 |
| 64. | Bamboos Professional Nursing Services Limited | 1 |
| 65. | Lucky Stable Limited | 1 |
| 66. | Oi Kwan Care for the Aged Home Limited | 2 |
| 67. | Mie King Home for Aged Limited | 1 |
| 68. | Senior Care Limited | 1 |
| 69. | Senior Care Nursing Home Limited | 1 |
| 70. | Health & Young (Hong Kong) Limited | 2 |
| 71. | Health & Young Limited | 2 |
| 72. | Devco Technology Limited | 1 |
| 73. | Chak Oi Company Limited | 1 |
| 74. | Jackson Elderly Care Limited | 1 |
| 75. | Senior Care Elderly Limited | 1 |
| 76. | Fook Yen Home for the Aged Limited | 1 |
| 77. | Tin Tin Home for the Aged Limited | 1 |
| 78. | Mercy Medirehab Professional Group Limited | 1 |
| 79. | Delightful RCHE Limited | 1 |
| 80. | Grateful Life Experience Centre | 1 |
| 81. | V-Professional Nursing Centre | 1 |
| 82. | Doctor Now Limited | 1 |
| 83. | Mastery Speech and Swallowing Clinic Limited | 1 |

| | Organisations | No. of RSPs |
|------|--|--------------------|
| 84. | Professional Physiotherapy and Chinese Medicine Centre Limited | 1 |
| 85. | Hong Kong Outreach Therapy and Nursing Services Limited | 1 |
| 86. | Step Forward Para-Medical Services | 1 |
| 87. | OK Care Limited | 1 |
| 88. | New Town Medical Care Limited | 1 |
| 89. | St. Paul's Hospital | 1 |
| 90. | Sparkle Healthcare Company Limited | 1 |
| 91. | Empower Health & Rehabilitation Centre Limited | 1 |
| 92. | Home of the Elderly Consultancy Limited | 1 |
| 93. | LHK Social Service Limited | 1 |
| 94. | Siu Yat Nursing Care Limited | 2 |
| 95. | CHG Health Service Limited | 1 |
| 96. | Chi Wah Elderly Home Limited | 1 |
| 97. | Shun Yan Elderly Centre Limited | 1 |
| 98. | Rehabvibe Medical Service Company Limited | 1 |
| 99. | Caregivers Alliance (Home) Limited | 1 |
| 100. | Going Home Nursing Care Limited | 1 |
| 101. | Prestige Union Care Limited | 1 |
| 102. | Agatha Corporation Limited | 1 |
| 103. | Shining Social Services Limited | 4 |
| 104. | On Golden Pond Limited | 1 |
| 105. | Tsz Hong Professional Service Limited | 1 |
| 106. | Hong Kong Healthcare Market Research and Consulting Limited | 1 |
| 107. | Renascence Medical Limited | 1 |
| 108. | Hong Kong Old Age Nursing Association Limited | 1 |
| 109. | Quality HealthCare Nursing Agency Limited | 1 |
| 110. | From Heart Escort Co., Limited | 1 |
| 111. | Hygiene First Company Limited | 1 |
| 112. | Ka Mei Elderly Care Centre Limited | 1 |
| 113. | Treasure Tree Health & Nursing Limited | 1 |
| 114. | Tri Tech Corporation Ltd. | 1 |
| 115. | Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited | 1 |
| 116. | Hong Kong Dandelion Association Limited | 1 |
| 117. | Silvermorph Charity Limited | 1 |
| 118. | Florence Nightingale Home Health & Nursing Ltd | 1 |
| 119. | Hong Chi Culture & Media Limited | 1 |
| 120. | Psybridge Medical Services Limited | 1 |
| 121. | Supreme Care Limited | 1 |
| 122. | Renhe Professional Nursing Services Limited | 1 |
| 123. | Kerry Fung & Associates Limited | 1 |
| 124. | International Church of the Foursquare Gospel Hong Kong District Limited | 1 |
| 125. | GC System | 1 |
| 126. | Home & Hope Services Limited | 1 |

| | Organisations | No. of RSPs |
|------|---|--------------------|
| 127. | Healthy Link Corporation Limited | 1 |
| 128. | Ho Hok Fong Co. Limited | 1 |
| 129. | Kin Pak Nursing Home Limited | 1 |
| 130. | Nu Pro (Asia) Limited | 1 |
| 131. | HelloToby Technology (HK) Limited | 1 |
| 132. | New Page Speech Therapy & Rehab Consultancy Ltd | 1 |
| | Total | 258 |

Number of elderly persons who left the CCSV Scheme and their reasons for leaving

| | No. of persons | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| | First phase | Second phase | Third phase | Upon converting into a permanent measure (as at end-December 2023) |
| Will be/have been allocated with/receiving subsidised community care services or subsidised/private residential care services | 845 | 2 739 | 4 347 | 661 |
| Deceased | 298 | 1 808 | 3 412 | 470 |
| Being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers, etc. | 264 | 680 | 698 | 12 |
| Others (e.g. hospitalisation, out of town, etc.) | 106 | 473 | 135 | 5 |
| No suitable RSPs/service packages | 401 | 295 | - | - |
| Total | 1 914 | 5 995 | 8 592 | 1 148 |

Staffing establishment and salary expenditure of CCSVO from 2020-21 to 2024-25

| Year | No. of posts in the Social Welfare Officer Grade and the Clerical Grade | Salary expenditure^{Note} (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| 2020-21 | 22 | 12.88 |
| 2021-22 | 22 | 12.88 |
| 2022-23 | 22 | 13.88 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 26 | 15.48 |
| 2024-25 (Estimate) | 26 | 17.38 |

^{Note} The figures are based on the notional annual mid-point salary value of the posts involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)081

(Question Serial No. 2111)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Paragraph 197 of the Budget Speech mentions that the number of residential care service vouchers (RCSVs) will increase to 5 000 in the second quarter of this year, involving an annual expenditure of about \$1,440 million. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

- 1) the respective numbers of RCSV applicants and recipients, as well as the number of elderly persons not issued with RCSVs and the reasons for that, in the past 3 years (i.e. 2021-22 and 2023-24);
- 2) the cumulative number of elderly persons who left the RCSV Scheme and their reasons for leaving;
- 3) the manpower and actual expenditure involved in the implementation of the RCSV Scheme in the past 3 years (i.e. 2021-22 and 2023-24); and
- 4) the estimated staffing establishment for 2024-25.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

- 1) The numbers of persons who have applied for, been issued, or not been issued with RCSVs in each of the past 3 years, along with the reasons for application rejections, are set out at Annex 1.
- 2) As at the end of December 2023, a cumulative total of 2 823 elderly persons left the RCSV Scheme. Their reasons for leaving are set out at Annex 2.
- 3) & 4) The subsidy amounts for RCSV from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are set out below:

| Year | Subsidy amount (\$ million) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual expenditure) | 483.6 |
| 2022-23 (Actual expenditure) | 465.2 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 744.4 |

In the past 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24), staff from a total of 33 posts within the Social Welfare Department (SWD), including those from the Social Work, Social Security, Clerical and general supporting grades, were involved in the implementation of the RCSV Scheme. SWD has not separately calculated the payroll costs for staff implementing the RCSV Scheme as they also handle other duties.

SWD will expand the coverage of RCSVs from care-and-attention places to nursing home places, starting in the second quarter of 2024. An extra 1 000 RCSVs will also be provided, bringing the total to 5 000. In 2024-25, SWD's manpower for implementing the RCSV Scheme will remain unchanged.

Table 1: Number of persons who have applied for, been issued, or not been issued with RCSVs

| Year | No. of RCSV applicants | No. of RCSV recipients | No. of persons not issued with RCSV |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 2021-22 | 1 450 | 719 | 641 |
| 2022-23 | 2 296 | 1 309 | 981 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 2 495 | 1 435 | 952 |

Table 2: Reasons for RCSV applicants not being issued with RCSVs

| Reason for not being issued with RCSVs | No. of persons | | |
|---|-----------------------|----------------|--|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Deceased | 108 | 147 | 89 |
| Withdrawn application | 508 | 790 | 822 |
| Ineligible | 25 | 44 | 41 |
| Total | 641 | 981 | 952 |

**Cumulative number of elderly persons having left the RCSV Scheme
by reason for leaving (as at end-December 2023)**

| Reason for leaving the RCSV scheme | No. of persons |
|---|-----------------------|
| Deceased | 2 031 |
| Having no immediate need for residential care services (e.g. being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers) | 375 |
| The preferred RSP was full/no suitable RSPs | 171 |
| Chose to wait for subsidised residential care places | 120 |
| Refused to accept the co-payment arrangement | 56 |
| Others (e.g. long-term hospitalisation and out of town, etc.) | 70 |
| Total | 2 823 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)082

(Question Serial No. 2112)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

According to Paragraph 200 of the Budget Speech, the Government will set up 10 more aided standalone child care centres (CCCs) in phases starting this year. The target is to provide nearly 900 additional places for day child care services within 3 years. The Government will also extend the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children (ASCP(PC)) in phases to cover all districts in Hong Kong starting this year. The number of service places will increase to nearly 1 200 within 3 years. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) the number of places, service fee and average utilisation rate of each type of day child care services in the past 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24), broken down by District Council (DC) district;
- 2) the geographical distribution and additional places to be provided in respect of the 10 aided standalone CCCs to be set up by phases starting this year;
- 3) the number of places, service fee and average utilisation rate of ASCP(PC) in the past 3 years (i.e. 2021-22 to 2023-24), broken down by DC district; and
- 4) details on the phased extension of ASCP(PC), as well as the geographical distribution of the proposed additional places.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

- 1) The number of places and average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs and aided CCCs attached to kindergartens (KGs) in the past 3 financial years, broken down by DC district, are set out at Annex 1.

The monthly fees charged by aided standalone CCCs for children aged below 2 and the fees charged by aided CCCs (including aided standalone CCCs and aided CCCs attached to KGs) for children aged 2 to below 3 are tabulated as follows:

Table 1: Monthly fees charged by aided standalone CCCs for children aged below 2

| Year | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Highest monthly fee (\$) | 6,700 | 6,710 | 6,720 |
| Lowest monthly fee (\$) | 4,385 | 4,385 | 4,385 |

Table 2: Monthly fees charged by aided CCCs for children aged 2 to below 3

| Year | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Highest monthly fee (\$) | 6,509 | 6,521 | 6,802 |
| Lowest monthly fee (\$) | 540 | 1,831 | 1,831 |

- 2) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up 10 more aided standalone CCCs in phases in districts including North, Sham Shui Po, Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing and Kowloon City, etc., within 3 years starting from 2024, providing about 900 places in total.
- 3) The service fee, number of places and average utilisation rate of ASCP(PC) in the past 3 financial years, broken down by district, are set out at Annex 2.
- 4) By the end of 2023-24, there are 16 centres of ASCP(PC) in 8 districts including Central & Western, Southern, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sham Shui Po, Kwai Tsing, Yuen Long and North districts, providing a total of 672 service places. SWD will extend ASCP(PC) to cover the remaining 10 districts (namely Eastern, Wan Chai, Islands, Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong, Sai Kung, Sha Tin, Tai Po, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun districts) in phases within a period of 3 years starting from 2024. The number of centres participating in ASCP(PC) will increase from 16 to 28, while the number of places will increase from 672 to 1 176. SWD will invite non-governmental organisations to submit proposals, and plans to launch the first phase of service extension in the first quarter of 2025.

Table 1: Numbers of places and average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs and aided CCCs attached to KGs (2021-22)

| District | Aided standalone CCCs | | Aided CCCs attached to KGs ^[Note] | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100 | 566 | 24 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 324 | 55 |
| Islands | - | N.A. | 297 | 24 |
| Eastern | 64 | 100 | 413 | 50 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 100 | 221 | 59 |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. | 566 | 70 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. | 409 | 76 |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | 821 | 34 |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100 | 495 | 45 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 100 | 341 | 60 |
| Sham Shui Po | 62 | 100 | 384 | 60 |
| Sha Tin | 177 | 91 | 540 | 71 |
| Tai Po | - | N.A. | 341 | 42 |
| North | 51 | 100 | 416 | 47 |
| Yuen Long | 64 | 100 | 424 | 84 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 99 | 281 | 70 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100 | 510 | 63 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 100 | 524 | 62 |
| Total | 852 | 98 | 7 873 | 54 |

N.A. - Not applicable

^[Note] Figures provided by the Education Bureau (EDB) as at September 2021.

Table 2: Number of places and average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs and aided CCCs attached to KGs (2022-23)

| District | Aided standalone CCCs | | Aided CCCs attached to KGs [Note 1] | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100 | 499 | 23 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 287 | 57 |
| Islands | - | N.A. | 367 | 20 |
| Eastern | 64 | 100 | 375 | 53 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 100 | 246 | 50 |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. | 611 | 69 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. | 400 | 80 |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | 965 | 31 |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100 | 547 | 41 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 100 | 365 | 55 |
| Sham Shui Po | 62 | 100 | 463 | 51 |
| Sha Tin | 177 | 98 | 589 | 71 |
| Tai Po | 92 | 20 ^[Note 2] | 424 | 41 |
| North | 51 | 100 | 379 | 49 |
| Yuen Long | 152 | 91 ^[Note 3] | 385 | 83 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 98 | 273 | 66 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100 | 488 | 66 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 100 | 490 | 60 |
| Total | 1 032 | 97 | 8 153 | 52 |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note 1] Figures provided by EDB as at September 2022.

[Note 2] The first additional aided standalone CCC in the district commenced operation in January 2023.

[Note 3] The second additional aided standalone CCC in the district commenced operation in March 2023.

Table 3: Number of places and average utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs and aided CCCs attached to KGs (April to December 2023)

| District | Aided standalone CCCs | | Aided CCCs attached to KGs ^[Note] | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100 | 474 | 27 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 274 | 50 |
| Islands | - | N.A. | 349 | 22 |
| Eastern | 64 | 100 | 358 | 59 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 100 | 235 | 42 |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. | 579 | 69 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. | 381 | 88 |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | 919 | 31 |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100 | 520 | 43 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 100 | 347 | 57 |
| Sham Shui Po | 62 | 100 | 441 | 52 |
| Sha Tin | 177 | 99 | 560 | 74 |
| Tai Po | 92 | 83 | 403 | 47 |
| North | 51 | 100 | 360 | 54 |
| Yuen Long | 152 | 76 | 393 | 93 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 100 | 261 | 72 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100 | 464 | 70 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 96 | 466 | 73 |
| Total | 1 032 | 95 | 7 784 | 56 |

N.A. - Not applicable

^[Note] Figures provided by EDB as at September 2023.

**Service fee, number of places and average utilisation rate of
ASCP(PC) by district**

| District | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 (as at December 2023) | |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| | Service fee: \$250 to \$500 (per 2 weeks) \$30 to \$60 (per session) | | | | | |
| | Number of places <small>Note 1</small> | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places <small>Note 2</small> | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places <small>Note 3</small> | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | 42 | 9 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 42 | 23 | 42 | 37 |
| Islands | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Wan Chai | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Kwun Tong | 84 | 35 | 126 | 43 | 126 | 54 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 42 | 0 | 42 | 69 | 42 | 85 |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Yau Tsim Mong | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Sham Shui Po | 126 | 46 | 126 | 71 | 126 | 74 |
| Sha Tin | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Tai Po | 42 | 39 | 42 | 41 | 42 | 47 |
| North | 42 | 1 | 42 | 28 | 42 | 71 |
| Yuen Long | 42 | 0 | 42 | 42 | 126 | 48 |
| Tsuen Wan | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Kwai Tsing | 42 | 20 | 84 | 58 | 126 | 56 |
| Tuen Mun | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Total | 420 | 32 | 546 | 53 | 714 | 57 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 10 centres in Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Tai Po, Kwai Tsing, Wong Tai Sin, North and Yuen Long districts commenced service in August 2021 and February 2022.

Note 2 3 centres in Southern, Kwun Tong and Kwai Tsing districts commenced service in February 2023.

Note 3 4 centres in Central & Western, Yuen Long and Kwai Tsing districts commenced service in August 2023. As at December 2023, 17 centres provided a total of 714 places (42 places per centre), of which 2 centres will cease service after March 2024. In addition, 1 Mutual Help Child Care Centre completed re-engineering to commence service in the first quarter of 2024. Therefore, there will be a net increase of 3 centres of ASCP(PC) from 13 to 16 by the end of 2023-24 compared to 2022-23, while the number of places will increase from 546 to 672.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)083

(Question Serial No. 2610)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In 2022-23, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) recorded an actual expenditure of approximately \$101.4 billion. In 2023-24, the actual expenditure was about \$108.6 billion, and it is estimated to reach approximately \$120.1 billion in 2024-25. In this regard, please provide the following information:

- (1) Please provide a list of the top 20 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) receiving the highest amount of subventions. For each NGO, please state the amount of subventions received in 2023-24 and the estimated amount for 2024-25.
- (2) Please provide the operational expenses of each of these NGOs, as well as the number of citizens served by the activities they organise.
- (3) What supervisory mechanisms does the Government have in place for these NGOs? If such mechanisms exist, please provide the relevant details. For example, what kind of information is communicated to them, and how frequently are meetings held between government departments and NGO leadership?

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

- (1) The list of the top 20 NGOs receiving the highest amount of subventions in 2023-24, along with the amount of subventions they will receive in 2024-25, is set out at Annex.
- (2) SWD allocates, on an NGO basis, Lump Sum Grant (LSG) subventions annually, covering staff salaries, provision for provident fund (PF) and other charges, after deducting the recognised fee income (e.g., annual membership fees of service users). Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs) and the relevant statutory requirements (if applicable), NGOs may flexibly deploy resources to achieve the service output and outcomes required. SWD does not require NGOs to report the number of participants in activities organised under the subvented services.
- (3) SWD issues the Social Welfare Services Lump Sum Grant Subvention Manual (the Manual) to NGOs receiving subventions under the LSG Subvention System. The Manual sets out the principles, procedures, standards and requirements for operating

subvented welfare services, and provides administrative guidelines on management and internal control, with a view to ensuring proper use of public funds, and enhancing accountability, efficiency and cost-effectiveness. SWD will issue practice notes or hold meetings with the governing board and management of NGOs from time to time, reminding them to put in place an effective internal monitoring mechanism to properly monitor and manage their daily operations. This is to ensure compliance with the requirements of FSAs and make them accountable to the community for the use of public funds. SWD reviews the operation of various services and monitor the performance of service units in accordance with the existing mechanisms. It also conducts scheduled or surprise visits by random selection to assess the NGOs' compliance with the terms and requirements of FSAs.

**Top 20 NGOs receiving the highest amount of subventions in 2023-24
and the amount of subventions in 2024-25**

| S/N | Name of NGO | 2023-24 Subventions Note (Revised estimate) (\$ million) | 2024-25 Subventions Note (Provisional) (\$ million) |
|-----|--|---|---|
| 1. | Tung Wah Group of Hospitals | 2,083.0 | 2,051.4 |
| 2. | Caritas - Hong Kong | 1,553.3 | 1,535.5 |
| 3. | Po Leung Kuk | 1,407.4 | 1,375.8 |
| 4. | Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited | 1,262.3 | 1,202.5 |
| 5. | SAHK | 786.0 | 750.2 |
| 6. | Salvation Army (The) | 715.0 | 703.8 |
| 7. | Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (The) | 692.9 | 681.8 |
| 8. | Christian Family Service Centre | 663.9 | 663.9 |
| 9. | Hong Kong Christian Service | 648.5 | 620.6 |
| 10. | Hong Kong Family Welfare Society | 611.4 | 601.5 |
| 11. | Yan Chai Hospital | 602.8 | 593.3 |
| 12. | Heep Hong Society | 586.4 | 575.7 |
| 13. | Hong Chi Association | 576.4 | 583.0 |
| 14. | St. James' Settlement | 530.4 | 504.5 |
| 15. | Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, the Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod Limited | 505.8 | 499.8 |
| 16. | Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service | 483.8 | 461.8 |
| 17. | Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (The) | 481.9 | 459.4 |
| 18. | Hong Kong Society for the Aged (The) | 474.9 | 476.1 |
| 19. | Fu Hong Society | 469.8 | 468.6 |
| 20. | Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong | 446.1 | 424.8 |

Note Including LSG subventions (including subventions on PF) and other subventions (such as Rent and Rates, Central Items, etc.). The subventions for 2024-25 is provisional. Certain subvented items (such as the food cost for the Short-term Food Assistance Service and the operating expenditure, fee waivers/reductions and incentive payments for the Neighborhood Support Child Care Project) are not included as their subventions are adjusted quarterly/half-yearly based on service usage.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)084

(Question Serial No. 2611)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Since early this year, the Legislative Council has been discussing the legislation of dying in place and amendments to the related subsidiary legislation. The aim is to allow residents of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) to pass away in a familiar environment. To this end, RCHEs will need corresponding support and resources, including end-of-life (EOL) care training, establishment of hospice rooms and provision of appropriate care. Arrangements should also be made for a RCHE resident to be attended to by a registered medical practitioner within 14 days prior to his/her passing, and for a registered medical practitioner to conduct a final diagnosis at the RCHE after the resident's passing to confirm a natural cause of death.

Since 2015, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been providing additional subsidy to new contract RCHEs to support the provision of EOL care services to residents. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of RCHEs receiving the subsidy as at 2023-24;
2. the amount of subsidy for each RCHE per year;
3. whether there are any specific guidelines or requirements on how RCHEs should use the additional subsidy;
4. whether RCHEs are required to submit reports or information to demonstrate how the subsidy has been used;
5. whether SWD will consider expanding the scope of subsidy to cover RCHEs that are not new contract RCHEs, in order to support dying in place in all RCHEs; and
6. whether SWD will, at the same time, conduct a review to assess if the amount of subsidy is sufficient to support RCHEs in providing EOL care?

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. In 2023-24 (as at the end of December 2023), a total of 49 contract RCHEs have been subsidised to provide EOL care services.

2. In the revised estimates for 2023-24, the average monthly cost for each subsidised residential care place in contract RCHEs, including the cost of providing EOL care services, is \$23,564.
3. SWD provides contract RCHEs with resources to hire additional medical staff and related personnel to provide EOL care services. As stipulated in the service contract, contract RCHEs are required to provide professional and systematic EOL care services to residents suffering from terminal illnesses or in hospice care, including having in place a protocol for implementing EOL care services; establishing a multi-disciplinary team to assess and screen suitable cases for services (including medical and nursing care, psychological support, and bereavement counselling services); providing relevant information (such as social and family support, spiritual care and preparation for life's end, etc.) to residents and their carers/family members; taking care of and alleviating the pain and discomfort of residents; and setting up a room specifically for the use of residents and their family members, etc.
4. In addition to providing EOL care services in accordance with the provisions and requirements stipulated in the service contract, operators of contract RCHEs are also required to submit monthly statistics on the provision of EOL care services to SWD on a quarterly basis, and keep the records available for review and inspection by SWD from time to time. SWD evaluates the contract RCHEs' compliance with relevant contractual requirements through various means, including conducting regular on-site inspections, examining service records and policy documents, and conducting telephone or face-to-face interviews with management, staff and/or residents and their carers/family members.
5. & 6. The Government encourages RCHEs to implement EOL care services in different models, put in place a protocol, and provide relevant training/educational activities for residents, their carers/family members and staff on a regular basis. SWD will arrange relevant training for staff in the elderly service sector as needed, continue to monitor the care needs of elderly persons, service utilisation and the sector's progress in providing continuing care services, and, depending on the availability of financial resources, examine the way forward for expanding EOL care services in RCHEs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)085

(Question Serial No. 2612)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) currently provides home respite services through home-based support services, including Integrated Home Care Services (Ordinary Cases) [IHCS(OC)], Integrated Home Care Services (Frail Cases) [IHCS(FC)], Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS), Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities (HCS) and Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities (ISS). Please provide the following information on the above services in table form for the past 3 years:

1. number of service units;
2. number of beneficiaries for each service;
3. number of persons currently waitlisted for each service;
4. average waiting time for each service;
5. average fee for each service;
6. total expenditure incurred by each service; and
7. average monthly cost per case for each service.

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. In the past 3 years, 24 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were subvented by SWD to operate 61 IHCS Teams, which provided both IHCS(OC) and IHCS(FC). Besides, there were 14 NGOs operating 31 EHCCS Teams, and 6 NGOs operating 6 HCS Teams and 2 ISS Teams.
2. The number of service users of IHCS(FC), EHCCS and IHCS(OC), and the number of service users of HCS and ISS in the past 3 years are set out in Table 1 and Table 2 of Annex 1, respectively.

- 3 & 4. The average waiting time and the number of persons waitlisted for IHCS(FC) and EHCCS, and the number of persons waitlisted for IHCS(OC) in the past 3 years are set out in Annex 2. SWD does not have information on the waiting time for IHCS (OC). As service users of HCS and ISS do not have to waitlist for the services through the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services, SWD does not have information on the number of persons waitlisted/ the average waiting time for the 2 services. Applications made by service users with pressing needs will be processed with priority by service units.
5. The fees and charges for IHCS(FC), EHCCS and IHCS(OC), and the fees and charges for HCS and ISS in the past 3 years are set out in Table 1 and Table 2 of Annex 3, respectively.
- 6 & 7. The average monthly cost per case served and the total annual expenditure for IHCS and EHCCS in the past 3 years are set out in Table 1 and Table 2 of Annex 4, respectively. The total annual expenditure for HCS and ISS is set out in Table 3 of Annex 4. SWD does not have information on the average monthly cost per case for these 2 services.

**Table 1: Number of service users of IHCS(FC), EHCCS and IHCS(OC)
from 2021-22 to 2023-24**

| Year | No. of service users ^{Note} | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| | IHCS(FC) | EHCCS | IHCS(OC) |
| 2021-22 | 5 524 | 12 203 | 23 045 |
| 2022-23 | 5 654 | 12 766 | 22 214 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 5 136 | 11 744 | 19 680 |

^{Note} The figure represents the number of persons served as at the end of March of the year concerned except for 2023-24.

**Table 2: Number of service users of HCS and ISS
from 2021-22 to 2023-24**

| Year | No. of service users | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------|
| | HCS | ISS |
| 2021-22 | 4 643 | 1 150 |
| 2022-23 | 4 769 | 1 189 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 4 549 | 1 172 |

Table 1: Average waiting time and number of persons waitlisted for IHCS(FC) and EHCCS

| Year ^{Note 1} | Average waiting time (in months) (average of the past 3 months) | No. of waitlisted persons ^{Note 2} |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 2021-22 | 6 | 3 980 |
| 2022-23 | 6 | 4 341 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 7 | 5 839 |

Note 1 The figure represents the number of waitlisted persons as at the end of March of the year concerned except for 2023-24.

Note 2 Frail elderly persons having been assessed as suitable for community care services or residential care services under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services can be waitlisted for IHCS(FC) and/or EHCCS. The number of waitlisted persons exclude elderly persons classified as inactive cases because of their participation in the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly.

Note 3 In addition, the number of CCSVs will be increased by 1 000 in 2024-25, bringing the total to 11 000, and will be further increased to 12 000 in 2025-26. This allows more eligible elderly persons to have the flexibility to choose recognised service providers and service packages based on their needs without having to wait.

Table 2: Number of persons waitlisted for IHCS(OC)

| Year | No. of waitlisted persons ^{Note} |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2021-22 | 4 621 |
| 2022-23 | 4 024 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 4 158 |

Note The figure represents the number of waitlisted persons as at the end of March of the year concerned except for 2023-24.

**Table 1: Service fees and charges for IHCS(FC), EHCCS and IHCS(OC)
(from 2021-22 to 2023-24)**

| Service type | Service fees and charges (\$) (subject to income level) | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) level or below | Between CSSA to 1.5 CSSA level | Above 1.5 CSSA level |
| Meal service | 13 | 16 | 19 |
| Laundry service | Light | 0.7 | |
| | Medium | 0.9 | |
| | Heavy | 1.8 | |
| Personal care, home respite service and escort service (per hour) | 5.5 | 12 | 19 |

**Table 2: Service fees and charges for HCS and ISS
(from 2021-22 to 2023-24)**

| Category of services under HCS and ISS | Service fees and charges |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <i>Full service package</i> ^{Note 1} | \$1,002 (monthly ceiling) |
| <i>Individual service</i> | |
| Personal care service | \$33/hour |
| Escort service | \$33/hour |
| Home respite service | \$33/hour |
| Rehabilitation training | \$33/hour |
| Nursing care (provided by health worker) | \$33/session ^{Note 2} |
| Home visit by occupational therapist/physiotherapist/speech therapist | \$52/session ^{Note 2} |
| Home visit by nurse | \$43/session ^{Note 2} |
| <i>Other service</i> | |
| Transportation service | \$10/trip |

^{Note 1} The full service package includes personal care service, escort service, home respite service, rehabilitation training, nursing care (provided by health workers), home visits by occupational therapists/physiotherapists/speech therapists and home visits by nurses.

^{Note 2} Each session lasts at least 45 minutes.

Table 1: Average monthly cost per case served and total annual expenditure for IHCS (from 2021-22 to 2023-24)

| Year | Average monthly cost per case served (\$) ^{Note 1} | Total annual expenditure (\$ million) |
|--|--|--|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 3,133 | 1,083.1 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) ^{Note 2} | 2,931 | 1,101.1 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) ^{Note 2} | 3,319 | 1,417.8 |

Note 1 SWD does not keep separate records of the average monthly cost per case served and the total annual expenditure for IHCS(OC) and IHCS(FC).

Note 2 Starting from January 2023, the average monthly cost and total expenditure of IHCS include that for IHCS(FC), IHCS(OC) and Home Care and Support Services for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment, which has been converted into a regular measure since January 2023. The abovementioned services are all rendered by IHCS Teams.

Table 2: Average monthly cost per case served and total annual expenditure for EHCCS (from 2021-22 to 2023-24)

| Year | Average monthly cost per case served (\$) | Total annual expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 9,398 | 1,051.3 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 9,597 | 1,073.8 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 9,984 | 1,121.4 |

Table 3: Total annual expenditure for HCS and ISS (From 2021-22 to 2023-24)

| Year | HCS | ISS |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| | Total annual expenditure (\$ million) | Total annual expenditure (\$ million) |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 329.7 | 72.6 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 336.5 | 74.4 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 351.6 | 77.3 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)086

(Question Serial No. 2613)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding community care services (CCS) for the elderly, please provide the following information for the past 5 years:

1. the number of service places, average waiting time and number of persons waitlisted for various types of CCS for the elderly (including residential and day respite services), with a breakdown by gender, age groups (60 to 65, 65 to 70, 70 to 75, 76 to 80, and 81 or above) and 18 District Council (DC) districts; and
2. the per capita cost, fees, and total amount of subsidy for various types of CCS for the elderly (including residential and day respite services).

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

1. The numbers of service places for Day Care Centres/Units for the Elderly (DEs/DCUs), Integrated Home Care Services (Frail Cases) [IHCS(FC)] and Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) from 2019-20 to 2023-24 by DC district are set out at Annexes 1 to 3.

Since December 2023, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has required private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) to provide day respite services when there are vacant residential respite places. Subsidised DEs/DCUs will continue to provide day respite services for elderly persons. The number of designated day respite service places in DEs/DCUs, and the number of day respite service places in private RCHEs under EBPS with "Designated Places of Residential Respite Service for the Elderly" from 2019-20 to 2023-24 by district are set out at Annexes 4 to 5. SWD does not have information on the waiting time and the number of persons waitlisted for respite service by gender, age group and DC district.

The average waiting time and number of persons waitlisted for DEs/DCUs, IHCS(FC) and EHCCS in various districts from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are set out at Annexes 6 to 8. SWD does not have information on the waiting time and the number of persons waitlisted by gender and age group.

The number of places for designated residential respite service for the elderly from 2019-20 to 2023-24 by district is set out at Annex 9. SWD does not have information on the waiting time and the number of persons waitlisted by gender, age group and DC district.

2. The average monthly cost per place and the total annual expenditure for DEs/DCUs from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows:

| Year | Average monthly cost per place (\$) | Total annual expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 10,721 | 421.0 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 12,260 | 454.5 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 12,083 | 473.9 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 12,346 | 505.2 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 12,829 | 545.5 |

The average monthly cost per case served and the total annual expenditure for IHCS from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows:

| Year | Average monthly cost per case served (\$) ^{Note 1} | Total annual expenditure (\$ million) |
|--|---|--|
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 2,453 | 740.6 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 2,735 | 830.0 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 3,133 | 1,083.1 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) ^{Note 2} | 2,931 | 1,101.1 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) ^{Note 2} | 3,319 | 1,417.8 |

^{Note 1} SWD does not keep separate records of the average monthly cost per case served and the total annual expenditure for IHCS (Ordinary Cases) [IHCS(OC)] and IHCS(FC).

^{Note 2} Starting from January 2023, the average monthly cost and the total expenditure of IHCS include that for IHCS(FC), IHCS(OC) and Home Care and Support Services for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment, which was converted into a regular measure in January 2023. The above services are all rendered by IHCS teams.

The average monthly cost per case served and the total annual expenditure for EHCCS from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows:

| Year | Average monthly cost per case served (\$) | Total annual expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 6,646 | 638.1 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 8,337 | 926.2 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 9,398 | 1,051.3 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 9,597 | 1,073.8 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 9,984 | 1,121.4 |

SWD does not have information on the per capita cost and the total amount of subsidies for designated day respite service provided by DEs/DCUs and designated residential respite service for the elderly.

The fees and charges for DEs/DCUs, day respite service provided by private RCHEs under EBPS with “Designated Places of Residential Respite Service for the Elderly”, IHCS(FC), EHCCS and designated residential respite places for the elderly from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are set out in Tables 1 to 3 of Annex 10.

Number of service places in DEs/DCUs

| District | No. of service places | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 129 | 129 | 129 | 129 | 124 |
| Eastern | 256 | 256 | 258 | 258 | 258 |
| Wan Chai | 110 | 130 | 130 | 130 | 130 |
| Southern | 108 | 108 | 108 | 108 | 108 |
| Islands | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| Kwun Tong | 432 | 452 | 452 | 452 | 452 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 290 | 350 | 350 | 350 | 347 |
| Sai Kung | 205 | 225 | 225 | 225 | 225 |
| Kowloon City | 158 | 158 | 158 | 158 | 158 |
| Sham Shui Po | 280 | 280 | 280 | 284 | 324 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 |
| Sha Tin | 318 | 318 | 378 | 408 | 408 |
| Tai Po | 64 | 64 | 124 | 124 | 124 |
| North | 44 | 44 | 88 | 148 | 188 |
| Yuen Long | 198 | 218 | 218 | 218 | 218 |
| Tsuen Wan | 154 | 174 | 183 | 183 | 183 |
| Kwai Tsing | 262 | 302 | 295 | 295 | 295 |
| Tuen Mun | 208 | 268 | 268 | 328 | 328 |
| Total | 3 408 | 3 668 | 3 836 | 3 990 | 4 062 |

Number of IHCS(FC) places

| District | No. of service places | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 to 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 40 | 70 | 110 |
| Eastern | 80 | 220 | 360 |
| Wan Chai | 30 | 65 | 95 |
| Southern | 80 | 130 | 190 |
| Islands | 20 | 45 | 45 |
| Kwun Tong | 150 | 355 | 575 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 100 | 260 | 420 |
| Sai Kung | 30 | 105 | 175 |
| Kowloon City | 30 | 90 | 155 |
| Sham Shui Po | 90 | 150 | 210 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 40 | 80 | 110 |
| Sha Tin | 120 | 230 | 350 |
| Tai Po | 30 | 100 | 170 |
| North | 30 | 110 | 190 |
| Yuen Long | 90 | 135 | 175 |
| Tsuen Wan | 40 | 120 | 200 |
| Kwai Tsing | 90 | 240 | 385 |
| Tuen Mun | 30 | 115 | 205 |
| Total | 1 120 | 2 620 | 4 120 |

Number of EHCCS places

| District | No. of service places | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| | 1 April to 30 September 2019 | | 1 October 2019 to 31 August 2020 | | 1 September 2020 to 31 December 2023 |
| | By district team | By cluster team | By district team | By cluster team | By district team ^{Note} |
| Central & Western | 171 | 347 | 209 | 501 | 242 |
| Eastern | 206 | | 250 | | 677 |
| Wan Chai | 154 | | 185 | | 226 |
| Southern | 158 | | 200 | | 200 |
| Islands | 89 | - | 105 | - | 105 |
| Kwun Tong | 421 | 497 | 535 | 675 | 1 210 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 406 | 769 | 505 | 952 | 1 173 |
| Sai Kung | 228 | | 268 | | 552 |
| Kowloon City | 290 | 535 | 323 | 682 | 554 |
| Sham Shui Po | 255 | | 325 | | 647 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 188 | | 210 | | 339 |
| Sha Tin | 192 | 394 | 247 | 548 | 795 |
| Tai Po | 129 | | 175 | | 175 |
| North | 141 | | 190 | | 190 |
| Yuen Long | 178 | 766 | 225 | 1 005 | 326 |
| Tsuen Wan | 235 | | 280 | | 463 |
| Kwai Tsing | 336 | | 450 | | 970 |
| Tuen Mun | 160 | | 200 | | 401 |
| Total | 7 245 | | 9 245 | | 9 245 |

Note In the past, EHCCS was provided by cluster teams and district teams. To integrate resources and enhance the effectiveness of the service, all cluster teams of EHCCS have been reorganised into district teams since 1 September 2020 to serve the elderly by 18 districts.

Number of designated day respite service places in DEs/DCUs by district

| District | No. of service places | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|---|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end- December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 11 |
| Eastern | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Wan Chai | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Southern | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Islands | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Kwun Tong | 36 | 36 | 36 | 41 | 41 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 6 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 15 |
| Sai Kung | 13 | 13 | 13 | 16 | 16 |
| Kowloon City | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sham Shui Po | 26 | 26 | 26 | 29 | 34 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Sha Tin | 20 | 20 | 25 | 28 | 31 |
| Tai Po | 2 | 2 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| North | - | - | 5 | 10 | 16 |
| Yuen Long | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Tsuen Wan | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| Kwai Tsing | 12 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Tuen Mun | 15 | 23 | 23 | 28 | 28 |
| Total | 189 | 208 | 228 | 252 | 263 |

**Number of service places in private RCHEs
providing “Designated Places of Residential Respite Service for the Elderly”
and day respite service for the elderly by district ^{Note}**

| District | No. of service places in 2023-24 ^{Note} (as at end-December 2023) |
|-------------------|---|
| Central & Western | 22 |
| Eastern | 18 |
| Wan Chai | 6 |
| Southern | 14 |
| Islands | - |
| Kwun Tong | 14 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 8 |
| Sai Kung | - |
| Kowloon City | 40 |
| Sham Shui Po | 18 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 22 |
| Sha Tin | - |
| Tai Po | 10 |
| North | - |
| Yuen Long | 32 |
| Tsuen Wan | 18 |
| Kwai Tsing | 26 |
| Tuen Mun | 22 |
| Total | 270 |

^{Note} Private RCHEs under EBPS provide day respite services when vacant residential respite places are available. The number of places is the same as that of “Designated Places of Residential Respite Service for the Elderly”.

Table 1: Average waiting time for DEs/DCUs

| Year | Average waiting time (in months) ^{Note} (average of the past 3 months) |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2019-20 | 11 |
| 2020-21 | 13 |
| 2021-22 | 8 |
| 2022-23 | 4 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 4 |

^{Note} Except for 2023-24, the figures represent the average waiting time as at the end of March in the year concerned.

Table 2: Average waiting time for IHCS(FC) and EHCCS

| Year | Average waiting time (in months) ^{Note} (Average of the past 3 months) |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2019-20 | 12 |
| 2020-21 | 9 |
| 2021-22 | 6 |
| 2022-23 | 6 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 7 |

^{Note} Frail elderly persons who are assessed as suitable for CCS or residential care services (RCS) under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services (SCNAMES) can be waitlisted for IHCS(FC) and/or EHCCS. Except for 2023-24, the figures represent the average waiting time as at the end of March in the year concerned.

Number of persons waitlisted for DEs/DCUs by district

| District | No. of waitlisted persons ^{Note} | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 129 | 95 | 63 | 39 | 32 |
| Eastern | 609 | 539 | 301 | 247 | 225 |
| Wan Chai | 77 | 45 | 22 | 26 | 29 |
| Southern | 257 | 195 | 143 | 138 | 149 |
| Islands | 24 | 25 | 19 | 23 | 21 |
| Kwun Tong | 414 | 179 | 169 | 90 | 132 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 515 | 352 | 324 | 179 | 183 |
| Sai Kung | 242 | 226 | 127 | 119 | 116 |
| Kowloon City | 223 | 172 | 106 | 87 | 107 |
| Sham Shui Po | 136 | 115 | 83 | 43 | 51 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 115 | 150 | 82 | 39 | 44 |
| Sha Tin | 685 | 622 | 399 | 212 | 355 |
| Tai Po | 156 | 131 | 96 | 17 | 17 |
| North | 161 | 164 | 99 | 36 | 37 |
| Yuen Long | 179 | 44 | 54 | 101 | 130 |
| Tsuen Wan | 155 | 96 | 73 | 55 | 81 |
| Kwai Tsing | 237 | 69 | 77 | 35 | 63 |
| Tuen Mun | 205 | 191 | 134 | 95 | 125 |
| Total | 4 519 | 3 410 | 2 371 | 1 581 | 1 897 |

^{Note} The figures exclude the number of elderly persons classified as inactive cases because of their participation in the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme). Except for 2023-24, the figures represent the number of waitlisted persons as at the end of March in the year concerned.

Number of persons waitlisted for IHCS(FC) and EHCCS

| District | No. of waitlisted persons ^{Note} | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|---|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end- December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 140 | 143 | 141 | 161 | 233 |
| Eastern | 495 | 440 | 373 | 455 | 484 |
| Wan Chai | 148 | 95 | 101 | 114 | 126 |
| Southern | 235 | 192 | 181 | 232 | 361 |
| Islands | 55 | 21 | 68 | 97 | 115 |
| Kwun Tong | 788 | 514 | 431 | 503 | 686 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 529 | 343 | 280 | 274 | 330 |
| Sai Kung | 292 | 203 | 116 | 168 | 287 |
| Kowloon City | 241 | 189 | 118 | 134 | 237 |
| Sham Shui Po | 218 | 211 | 180 | 210 | 249 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 131 | 127 | 117 | 93 | 154 |
| Sha Tin | 416 | 320 | 489 | 487 | 682 |
| Tai Po | 247 | 173 | 188 | 238 | 334 |
| North | 303 | 243 | 129 | 98 | 168 |
| Yuen Long | 175 | 84 | 163 | 189 | 251 |
| Tsuen Wan | 286 | 147 | 152 | 233 | 301 |
| Kwai Tsing | 550 | 468 | 458 | 337 | 523 |
| Tuen Mun | 346 | 330 | 295 | 318 | 318 |
| Total | 5 595 | 4 243 | 3 980 | 4 341 | 5 839 |

^{Note} Frail elderly persons who are assessed as suitable for CCS or RCS under SCNAMES can be waitlisted for IHCS(FC) and/or EHCCS. The number of waitlisted persons exclude the number of elderly persons classified as inactive cases because of their participation in the CCSV Scheme. Except for 2023-24, the figures represent the number of waitlisted persons as at the end of March in the year concerned.

Number of designated residential respite places for the elderly ^{Note}
by district

| District | No. of service places | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|--|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end- December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 31 | 25 | 24 | 24 | 22 |
| Southern | 24 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| Islands | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Eastern | 27 | 23 | 22 | 22 | 19 |
| Wan Chai | 9 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Kwun Tong | 23 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 17 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 17 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 11 |
| Sai Kung | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Kowloon City | 68 | 42 | 42 | 41 | 41 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 34 | 25 | 25 | 23 | 22 |
| Sham Shui Po | 28 | 23 | 22 | 22 | 21 |
| Sha Tin | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Tai Po | 18 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| North | 14 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 2 |
| Yuen Long | 38 | 36 | 36 | 35 | 35 |
| Tsuen Wan | 36 | 22 | 22 | 21 | 21 |
| Kwai Tsing | 48 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 28 |
| Tuen Mun | 33 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| Total | 458 | 338 | 335 | 328 | 310 |

^{Note} Designated residential respite places provided by subvented RCHEs, contract homes and private RCHEs under EBPS.

**Table 1: Service fees and charges for subsidised DEs/DCUs
(from 2019-20 to 2023-24)**

| Service type | Fees and charges (\$) |
|---|-----------------------|
| Subvented DE/DCU | 1,002/month |
| DCU for the elderly attached to contract homes | 1,014/month |
| Designated day respite services and day respite services provided by private RCHEs under EBPS with “Designated Places of Residential Respite Service for the Elderly” | 41.5/day |

**Table 2: Fees and charges for IHCS(FC) and EHCCS
(from 2019-20 to 2023-24)**

| Service type | Service fees and charges (\$) (subject to income level) | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) level or below | Between CSSA to 1.5 CSSA level | Above 1.5 CSSA level |
| Meal Service | 13 | 16 | 19 |
| Laundry service | Light | 0.7 | |
| | Medium | 0.9 | |
| | Heavy | 1.8 | |
| Direct care, home respite service and escort service (per hour) | 5.5 | 12 | 19 |

Table 3: Service fees and charges for designated residential respite places for the elderly

| Type of residential care places | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|--|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Daily charge (\$) | | | | |
| Homes for the aged place | 52 | | | | |
| Care-and-attention (C&A) place ^{Note 1} | 62 | | | | |
| Nursing home (NH) place ^{Note 2} | 72 | | | | |

Note 1 Including places in subvented C&A homes providing continuum of care, C&A places in contract homes, and places in private RCHEs under EBPS.

Note 2 NH places in contract homes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2614)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security
(3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the escalating trend of population ageing in Hong Kong, which has now reached the stage of super-ageing, please provide the following information:

- (1) The total budget of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for 2024-25 is approximately HK\$120 billion, with only around 13% allocated to elderly services. Could SWD confirm whether this budget is sufficient to meet the actual needs for elderly services? What are the rationales and basis for setting this budget proportion?
- (2) Regarding the annual provision for Programme (2) Social Security in 2024-25, apart from the expenditure for administering the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme, how much of the provision will be used to support the elderly, and how many elderly persons are expected to benefit from it? If available, please provide detailed information.

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

- (1) Given the increasing demand for elderly services, SWD's expenditure on elderly services has risen significantly in recent years. The estimated total expenditure on elderly services in 2024-25 is about \$16.4 billion, representing an 8% increase compared to the revised estimate of about \$15.2 billion for 2023-24 and a 60% increase compared to the actual expenditure of \$10.3 billion in 2019-20. The Government is committed to providing appropriate services for frail elderly persons with long-term care needs, but no specific proportion of the SWD's overall expenditure has been designated for elderly services.
- (2) SWD estimates that the expenditure on elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases for 2024-25 is about \$12.4 billion ^{Note 1}, involving about 130 000 recipients ^{Note 2}. The estimated expenditure on the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme (which includes the Old Age Allowance, the Old Age Living Allowance, the Disability Allowance, the Guangdong Scheme and the Fujian Scheme) for elderly persons aged 65 or above is about \$53 billion ^{Note 1}, involving about 1.25 million recipients.

[Note 1] The estimated expenditure for 2024-25 includes the payment of an additional half-month of CSSA standard rates or the allowances in the year.

[Note 2] CSSA is payable on a household basis. Elderly cases may include non-elderly recipients.

Apart from the CSSA Scheme and the SSA Scheme, social security schemes also include (1) the Criminal and Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation Scheme, (2) the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Scheme and (3) Emergency Relief. While each scheme serves different purposes and target beneficiaries, elderly persons who meet the relevant eligibility criteria may also benefit from these schemes. SWD does not have information regarding the estimated expenditure or number of elderly beneficiaries for the above 3 schemes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)088

(Question Serial No. 2615)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that the Department will make an additional injection into the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund) and expand the I&T Fund's scope to allow eligible service units to procure gerontechnology products suitable for household use by elderly persons, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and their carers. In this connection, please provide the specific estimate for the additional injection into the I&T Fund.

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

It is announced in the 2023 Policy Address that the Government will inject an additional \$1 billion into the I&T Fund in 2024-25, and expand the scope of the I&T Fund to cover gerontechnology products suitable for household use. Eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units can procure suitable technology products for lending to elderly persons, PWDs and their carers for use at home. This will extend the application of technology products from residential care homes and community service units to households, thus improving the quality of life of the elderly and PWDs and relieving the pressure of the carers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)089

(Question Serial No. 2616)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

With the passage of the Residential Care Homes (RCHs) Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2022 (the Bill), there are several areas that require improvement. However, the estimates did not account for the relevant expenditure. In this connection, would the Government please provide this Committee with information regarding the resource allocation and estimated expenditure for implementing the Bill?

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

The RCH Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2023 (the Amendment Ordinance) gazetted on 16 June 2023 mainly covers 8 aspects, including (a) strengthening the accountability of operators of residential care homes for the elderly and persons with disabilities; (b) enhancing the minimum staffing requirements; (c) increasing the minimum area of floor space per resident; (d) introducing a registration system for home managers; (e) improving the registration system for health workers; (f) enhancing the regulation of medicine administration, use of restraints and protection of residents' dignity and privacy; (g) increasing the penalties for certain offences; and (h) abolishing the certificate of exemption regime for residential care homes for the elderly.

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is pressing ahead to bring the requirements of the Amendment Ordinance into effect, including revising relevant codes of practice, formulating guidelines for the new requirements, introducing the new requirements and their respective commencement dates to the sector, organising briefing sessions to explain the specific arrangements of the new requirements to the sector, and offering professional advice to address the specific needs of RCHs, etc., so as to assist RCHs in complying with the new statutory requirements.

In December 2023, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the proposal to make permanent 1 time-limited supernumerary Assistant Director of SWD post (Directorate Pay Scale Point 2), with effect from 23 April 2024, to continue to offer dedicated directorate support in the regulation and monitoring of RCHs (including the preparatory work and implementation of the new and enhanced measures under the Amendment Ordinance), child care centres and drug dependent persons treatment and rehabilitation centres. SWD takes forward the above work through internal redeployment of existing manpower and hence no additional resources are involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)090

(Question Serial No. 2617)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

At present, there are approximately 530 000 persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Hong Kong. Despite the Government's efforts over the years to promote inclusion, the support provided to PWDs is still far from adequate. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- (1) Currently, there are about 530 000 PWDs in Hong Kong. Based on the estimated total expenditure of around \$12 billion under Programme (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services for 2024-25, the average monthly subsidy for each PWD is less than \$2,000. Please confirm whether this estimated amount is sufficient to meet the living needs of PWDs. What are the reasons and basis for setting this budget ratio?
- (2) Regarding Programme (2) Social Security in the estimate for 2024-25, apart from the expenditure on implementing the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme, how much of the estimate will be allocated to PWDs, and how many PWDs are expected to benefit from it? If possible, please provide specific information.

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

- (1) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides PWDs with various rehabilitation services, medical social services in clinics and hospitals, as well as other related services. For instance, SWD subsidises non-governmental organisations to provide pre-school rehabilitation services, day training, vocational rehabilitation services, residential care and community support services, and launch a series of programmes, dedicated funds and the Special Needs Trust to provide services and support for persons with different types of disabilities and their families/carers. To meet the needs of PWDs, SWD has been committed to increasing the numbers of places for day rehabilitation, residential care and respite services. As at the end of December 2023, the total number of service places has been increased to about 36 400. In 2024-25, the estimated expenditure for the aforementioned rehabilitation and medical social services is about \$12.25 billion, representing an increase of over \$900 million (or 8%) compared to the revised estimate of expenditure for 2023-24.

- (2) The social security schemes implemented by SWD are non-contributory, aiming to provide financial assistance to those in need. Apart from the CSSA Scheme and the SSA Scheme, these social security schemes also include the Criminal and Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation Scheme, the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Scheme and Emergency Relief. While each scheme serves different purposes and target beneficiaries, PWDs who meet the relevant eligibility criteria may also benefit from these schemes. SWD does not have information regarding the estimated expenditure for supporting PWDs or the number of PWDs benefitting from the above 3 schemes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)091

(Question Serial No. 3269)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is stated in the Budget Speech that starting this year, the Government will set up 10 more aided standalone child care centres (CCCs) in phases. The target is to provide nearly 900 additional places for day child care services within 3 years. In addition, the Government pledged in last November to establish 2 additional residential child care centres (RCCCs) to tie in with the implementation of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Are the 2 additional RCCCs mentioned last November included in the 10 aided standalone CCCs? When and where are the 2 RCCCs expected to commence operations?
- (2) Please provide a detailed breakdown of the expenditure for the set up and operation of each new aided standalone CCC this year.

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

- (1) The 2 additional RCCCs are not included in the 10 aided standalone CCCs. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up an additional RCCC in Tuen Mun in 2024-25. Another new RCCC is under planning. These 2 RCCCs will be operational before the commencement of the proposed Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance, adding a total of 96 emergency care service places and catering for about 380 children each year.
- (2) SWD will provide the service operator of each new aided standalone CCC with a lump sum grant for fitting-out works and purchasing of furniture and equipment. SWD will also subsidise recognised operating costs, which include salaries, administrative support, minor repairs and maintenance at the CCCs, rent, building management fees, and ancillary services provided within the CCCs (such as Extended Hours Service and/or Occasional Child Care Service).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)092

(Question Serial No. 2237)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The divorce rate in Hong Kong has been consistently rising in recent years, more than doubling compared to 20 years ago. This surge in divorces has led to a significant increase in single-parent families, along with the growing difficulties they face, resulting in various social issues such as child abuse, family disputes, and juvenile delinquency. Since the discontinuation of government funding for 5 single parent centres (SPCs) operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in 2004, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been providing services to single-parent families through Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) and Specialised Co-parenting Support Centres (SCSCs). However, there are concerns that the current services offered by IFSCs and SCSCs do not adequately meet the needs of these families due to a lack of focus and continuity. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of single-parent families in Hong Kong and the number of children in these families in each of the past 3 years;
2. (i) the number of single-parent cases requesting assistance; (ii) the number of new cases requesting assistance handled each year; (iii) the number of existing cases requesting assistance handled each year; and (iv) the average time for handling such cases by IFSCs and SCSCs in each of the past 3 years;
3. (i) the staffing establishment; (ii) the average number of cases handled by each social worker; (iii) the average number of active cases handled by each social worker; and (iv) the average number of completed cases handled by each social worker in IFSCs and SCSCs in each of the past 3 years;
4. whether regular reviews will be conducted on the operation and staffing establishment of IFSCs and SCSCs, and whether consideration will be given to allocate additional resources in a timely manner to enhance their manpower; if so, the details; if not, the reasons;
5. whether consideration will be given to resume the provision of subvention to NGOs for opening SPCs; if so, the details; if not, the reasons; and
6. whether consideration will be given to strengthen support for carers of single-parent children, such as giving priority consideration to single-parent families for after-school care services and providing financial assistance or allowances to full-time carers of single-parent families at a level that can support their livelihoods; if so, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. According to the “2021 Population Census - Thematic Report: Single Parents” by the Census and Statistics Department, the numbers of single parents and dependent children of single parents in Hong Kong were 72 279 and 94 508 respectively in 2021.

2. In the past 3 years, the number of cases involving single-parent families handled by IFSCs operated by SWD or subvented NGOs is set out in Table 1 of Annex. SWD does not have information on the average case-handling time for cases involving single parents seeking assistance.

In addition, SWD has subvented NGOs to operate 5 SCSCs to provide one-stop specialised services for separated/divorcing/divorced parents and their children. SWD does not have a breakdown of the number of cases involving single parents seeking assistance. The number of cases handled by each SCSC in the past 3 years is set out in Table 2 of Annex.

3. IFSCs arrange their manpower according to the district’s service demand, caseload and complexity of the cases. The staffing establishment of IFSCs for calculating recurrent subvention is set out in Table 3 of Annex. The staffing establishment of each SCSC consists of 7 registered social workers (including 1 centre supervisor). Under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, NGOs may, subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements, flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service output and outcomes required. SWD does not have information on the number of cases handled by each social worker of IFSCs or SCSCs.

4 & 5. The Government has studied different modes of delivering family services. After reviewing and consolidating the views of various stakeholders, it is considered that the current IFSC mode, with the introduction of a community-based concept, can effectively utilise resources and provide more comprehensive and convenient support services for families in need. To meet the needs of single-parent families, IFSCs organise groups and programmes tailored to them, such as mutual help groups and talks. Social workers at IFSCs conduct comprehensive assessment on the needs of service users and provide suitable services, including effective parenting and strategies for active coping with life challenges. These services are delivered through early identification and intervention, service integration, and partnership with other service stakeholders. IFSCs also provide additional services for families in need, such as intensive counselling, clinical counselling arrangements and assistance catering for special needs (e.g. Compassionate Rehousing, Emergency Relief Fund, etc.).

Since the adoption of the integrated family service model, the Government has from time to time enhanced social worker manpower for IFSCs to address the growing complexity of cases. From 2004-05 to 2018-19, IFSCs were provided with the additional manpower of 154 social workers. To enhance preventive and supportive services for vulnerable children and youth, the Government has provided IFSCs with additional resources, including a total of 26 frontline social workers and 14 family aide workers from 2019-20 onwards. Furthermore, SCSCs also provide a variety of services for separated/divorcing/divorced parents and their children.

SWD will review from time to time the current family service model to ensure the services are kept up to date and that families in need continue to receive appropriate support services. SWD will also continue to closely monitor the service needs, operations and staffing establishment of IFSCs and SCSCs, and allocate more resources when necessary.

6. In formulating various social welfare policies and services, the Government has focused on preserving and strengthening of family functions. It has also provided various support services for those in need, such as carers of children. SWD subsidises NGOs to offer a variety of child care services, including child care centres, Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project, and After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children, etc. These services aim to assist families in caring for and nurturing their children, while providing families in need with fee-waiving or fee-reduction subsidies for child care services in order to alleviate the financial burdens of grass-roots families. In addition, the Government rolled out the School-based After School Care Service Scheme in the 2023/24 school year to allow primary students in need to stay after school to receive care and learning support. This initiative enables their parents to go to work and also benefits single-parent families.

Besides, the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme provides a safety net of last resort for those who cannot support themselves financially due to old age, ill health, disability, single parenthood, unemployment, low-earnings or other reasons to help them meet their basic needs in life. Single-parent families experiencing financial hardship may consider applying for the CSSA Scheme. Eligible single parents are provided with rates relatively higher than those received by other able-bodied adults. In addition, a single parent supplement is provided monthly to address the challenges faced by single parents in caring for their families single-handedly. At the same time, the Working Family Allowance Scheme supports working households that do not receive CSSA but have longer working hours and lower income. Single-parent households may benefit from more relaxed working hour requirements.

Table 1: Number of cases involving single-parent families handled by IFSCs

| Year | Total number of cases involving single parents | Number of new and re-activated cases involving single parents |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 2021-22 | 10 440 | 4 247 |
| 2022-23 | 10 082 | 4 173 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 8 521 | 2 882 |

Table 2: Number of cases handled by SCSCs ^[Note]

| Year | Total number of cases | Number of new and re-activated cases |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 2021-22 | 869 | 412 |
| 2022-23 | 1007 | 432 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 1040 | 388 |

[Note] SCSCs do not have a breakdown of the number of cases involving single parents seeking assistance.

Table 3: Staffing establishment of IFSCs

| Rank/post | Number of staff |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Social Work Officer ^[Note] | 1 |
| Assistant Social Work Officer | 8.23 |
| Senior Social Work Assistant | 3 |
| Social Work Assistant | 5 |
| Assistant Clerical Officer | 2 |
| Clerical Assistant | 2 |
| Workman II | 2 |

[Note] IFSCs established and operated by NGOs from 2012-13 onwards have been provided with manpower resources equivalent to 2 Social Work Officers by SWD.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)093

(Question Serial No. 2243)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

To address the acute shortage of manpower, the Government launched the Special Scheme to Import Care Workers for Residential Care Homes (RCHs) (the Special Scheme) last year. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the administrative expenses and manpower involved in the implementation of the Special Scheme; and
2. the number of applications received and approved, as well as the approval time, broken down by RCH type.
3. There are comments that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has to process a substantial number of applications simultaneously, including new and renewal cases. Will the Government consider streamlining the procedures to expedite the vetting process and prevent delays that may affect the operation of RCHs?
4. Considering the worsening aging population and ongoing shortage of social welfare facilities and manpower, does the Government have any plans to regularise the Special Scheme to meet the high demand? If yes, what are the details? If no, will the Government conduct relevant assessments as soon as possible?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. The Government launched the Special Scheme on 19 June 2023. 5 staff members of SWD are responsible for implementing the Special Scheme, including 1 Senior Social Work Officer, 1 Social Work Officer, 1 Executive Officer II, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Clerical Assistant. The manpower expenditure was about \$2.88 million over a 10-month period in 2023-24. In addition to the aforementioned designated staff, SWD has deployed existing resources to assist in the implementation of the Special Scheme. 6 staff members of the Immigration Department, including 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 1 Senior Immigration Officer and 4 Immigration Officers, are designated to handle imported care workers' visa/entry permit applications under the Special Scheme. The manpower expenditure was about \$4.39 million over a 10-month period in 2023-24.

2. As at December 2023, 2 rounds of applications for quotas to import care workers have been completed. The numbers of quotas applied and approved, broken down by RCH type, are as follows:

| | No. of quotas applied for (including those for contract renewal) | No. of quotas approved (including those for contract renewal) |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Private and self-financing RCHs | 3 491 | 2 139 |
| Subvented and contract RCHs | 1 347 | 757 |

It takes SWD around 2 months to complete the approval process for each round of quota applications.

- 3 & 4. The Special Scheme has simplified the application procedures for RCHs, and reduced the approval time from around 5 months under the Supplementary Labour Scheme to currently around 2 months under the Special Scheme. The Special Scheme is not a pilot programme. The Government will continue to implement the Special Scheme to address existing and future RCHs' demand for care workers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**LWB(W)094****(Question Serial No. 2253)**Head: (170) Social Welfare DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and WelfareQuestion:

The Financial Secretary announced that a Productivity Enhancement Programme would be implemented in 2024-2025, under which all government departments would need to cut recurrent government expenditure by another 1%. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the total amount of funding received by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) receiving subventions in the past 3 years and the estimated amount of funding for this year; and
2. the total number of employees, service hours and beneficiaries of these NGOs receiving subventions in the past 3 years.
3. As the Government further reduces allocations to the social welfare sector, how will it encourage private organisations to step up and fill the funding gap through charitable donations? Among these organisations, The Hong Kong Jockey Club is believed to be the largest charitable donor in Hong Kong. How will the Government ensure it has the capacity to continue supporting the Government and society with substantial donations?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. The total amount of subventions received by NGOs from 2021-22 to 2023-24 and the amount of provisional subventions for 2024-25 are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Amount of subventions (\$ billion) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 21.745 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 22.405 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 24.130 |
| 2024-25 (Provisional) | 23.445 ^{Note} |

^{Note} The Government is going to implement the Productivity Enhancement Programme. Through internal redeployment of resources, the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) and the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will fully cover the 1% reduction in allocation that all 177 NGOs receiving subventions under

Lump Sum Grant or the conventional subvention mode from SWD would have faced in 2024-25. The subventions for 2024-25 is provisional. Certain subvented items (such as the food cost for the Short-term Food Assistance Service and the operating expenditure, fee waivers/reductions and incentive payments for the Neighborhood Support Child Care Project) are not included as their subventions are adjusted quarterly/half- yearly based on service usage.

2. The Lump Sum Grant Subvention System (LSGSS) focuses on the effectiveness of service delivery and hence allows NGOs greater flexibility and efficiency in utilising public funds and providing quality services. It also helps simplify administrative work and enhance the quality of service substantively. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements and the relevant statutory staffing requirements, NGOs may determine their staffing establishment in accordance with their human resources policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service output and outcomes required. SWD does not have information on the NGOs' actual staffing establishments, service hours and number of beneficiaries. For staffing establishments of individual service areas, please refer to SWD's website (<https://www.swd.gov.hk/en/ngo/subventions/suballoc/subvention/>).
3. The Productivity Enhancement Programme (the Programme), which is a part of the Fiscal Consolidation Programme of the Government, aims to contain the growth of the Government's overall operating expenditure to ensure resilience and sustainability of our public finances. LWB and SWD have deployed internal resources and adjusted priorities and urgency as much as possible in order to introduce relief measures to support NGOs in implementing the Programme. In addition to the annual subventions from SWD, the Government has always encouraged social welfare organisations to make good use of various community resources and different charitable funds (including The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust) to promptly respond to the ever-changing welfare needs in society and complement their own development.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)095

(Question Serial No. 2257)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 of Programme (3) that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to provide additional subsidised day care and residential care service places for the elderly. At present, the waiting time for admission to subsidised residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) is long and often spans years, placing enormous pressure on elderly persons and their carers. Some elderly persons have even passed away while waiting for the service. Would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. (i) the estimated number of additional places for various types of residential care services (RCS) for the elderly, with a breakdown by year of service commencement; and (ii) the estimated number of additional places for various types of day and community care services for the elderly (including residential and day respite services), with a breakdown by year of service commencement for the coming 3 years by 18 District Council (DC) districts;
2. the number of elderly persons waitlisted for admission to subsidised RCHEs and their average waiting time;
3. the total number of elderly persons who passed away or withdrew their applications while waiting for places in subsidised care-and-attention (C&A) homes and subsidised nursing homes (NHs), and their percentages out of the number of waitlisted elderly persons, with a breakdown by age; and
4. the anticipated implementation schedule for expanding the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme) to include RCHEs operated by Mainland entities, the estimated number of elderly persons who are currently waiting for admission to RCHEs that may join the GDRCS Scheme, and the expected reduction in waiting time.

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

1. (i) The number of service places for subsidised RCS for the elderly that are expected to commence operation between 2024-25 and 2026-27, broken down by DC district, is set out at Annex 1. In addition, the number of residential care service vouchers (RCSVs) will be increased from 4 000 to 5 000 in 2024-25. As RCSV adopts the “money-following-the-user” principle, SWD does not have the relevant breakdown figures by DC district or year of service commencement.
 - (ii) The number of places for day care service for the elderly that are expected to commence operation between 2024-25 and 2026-27, broken down by DC district, is set out at Annex 2. In addition, the number of community care service vouchers (CCSVs) will be increased from 10 000 to 11 000 in 2024-25, and will be further increased to 12 000 in 2025-26. More eligible elderly persons will be able to flexibly choose their own recognised service providers and service packages based on their needs without having to wait.
2. As at the end of December 2023, the average waiting time and number of elderly persons waitlisted for subsidised RCS are provided as follows:

| Service type | Average waiting time (in months) ^{Note 1} | No. of persons waitlisted ^{Note 2} |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| C&A place ^{Note 3} | 9 | 14 332 |
| NH place | 11 | 2 473 |

^{Note 1} The figures represent the average waiting time (in months) for elderly persons who applied for subsidised residential care places and were admitted during the last 3 months.

^{Note 2} The figure excludes applicants who have been classified as “inactive cases” upon receipt of community care services or applicants who choose to have their status of application changed to “inactive cases”.

^{Note 3} Elderly persons using the RCSVs may be admitted to RCHEs participating in the RCSV Scheme with government subsidies, without having to wait for a vacancy.

3. The respective numbers and percentages of elderly persons who passed away or withdrew their applications while waiting for subsidised C&A places are set out as follows:

| | 2023 | |
|--|------------|-----------|
| | C&A places | NH places |
| No. of elderly applicants who passed away | 3 089 | 1 299 |
| Percentage of elderly applicants who passed away out of the no. of waitlisted applicants | 9.2% | 18.8% |
| No. of elderly applicants who withdrew their applications | 1 841 | 479 |
| Percentage of elderly applicants who withdrew their applications out of the no. of waitlisted applicants | 5.5% | 6.9% |

SWD has not conducted any statistical analysis on the age distribution of elderly persons who passed away or withdrew their applications while waiting for subsidised RCS for the elderly.

4. To identify suitable RCHEs to join the GDRCS Scheme, the Government is liaising with relevant departments in Mainland cities within the GBA, and conducting on-site inspections of eligible Mainland RCHEs. The Government will explore the expansion of the GDRCS Scheme to include RCHEs operated by Mainland entities in 2024. Eligible elderly persons may join the GDRCS Scheme at their discretion. At present, elderly persons do not have to wait for admission to RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme.

Number of service places for subsidised RCS for the elderly that are expected to commence operation between 2024-25 and 2026-27 by DC district

(as at end-December 2023)

| District | No. of service places for subsidised RCS | Expected year of service commencement |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Eastern | 30 | 2024-25 |
| | 135 | 2025-26 |
| | 60 | 2026-27 |
| Wan Chai | 8 | 2024-25 |
| Central and Western | 7 | 2025-26 |
| Southern | 5 | 2024-25 |
| Sham Shui Po | 17 | 2024-25 |
| Kwun Tong | 56 | 2024-25 |
| | 150 | 2026-27 |
| Sai Kung | 60 | 2024-25 |
| Kowloon City | 12 | 2025-26 |
| | 240 | 2026-27 |
| | 120 | 2026-27 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 14 | 2024-25 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 17 | 2025-26 |
| Sha Tin | 2 | 2024-25 |
| | 60 | 2025-26 |
| Tai Po | 71 | 2025-26 |
| | 60 | 2026-27 |
| North | 90 | 2026-27 |
| Yuen Long | 72 | 2024-25 |
| | 27 | 2025-26 |
| Tuen Mun | 11 | 2024-25 |
| | 64 | 2025-26 |
| | 60 | 2026-27 |
| Tsuen Wan | 19 | 2026-27 |
| Kwai Tsing | 90 | 2025-26 |

**Number of places for day care service for the elderly
that are expected to commence operation between 2024-25 and 2026-27 by DC district
(as at end-December 2023)**

| District | No. of places for day care service for the elderly | Expected year of service commencement |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Eastern | 60 | 2025-26 |
| Islands | 40 | 2025-26 |
| Kwun Tong | 4 | 2024-25 |
| | 60 | 2025-26 |
| Sai Kung | 78 | 2024-25 |
| Kowloon City | 120 | 2024-25 |
| | 60 | 2026-27 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 40 | 2025-26 |
| Tai Po | 30 | 2025-26 |
| | 60 | 2026-27 |
| North | 60 | 2024-25 |
| Kwai Tsing | 60 | 2024-25 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)096

(Question Serial No. 2258)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

According to estimates, there are currently over 200 000 people in Hong Kong who are in need of care. Many carers face physical and mental stress in their daily lives. Regarding efforts to enhance support for carers, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Has the Government conducted an extensive survey to determine the number of existing carers and categorised them accordingly? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. What are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved in operating the Information Gateway for Carers (the Information Gateway)? How many visits has it received? How is the effectiveness of the website measured?
3. What are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved in operating the Designated Hotline for Carer Support (the Carer Hotline)? How many carers have called the Carer Hotline? How is the effectiveness of the Carer Hotline measured?
4. Has the requests from callers to the Carer Hotline be comprehensively categorised and followed up? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not possess information on the number of carers in Hong Kong.
2. On 30 November 2023, SWD launched the Information Gateway to provide information on services for elderly persons, persons with disabilities and their carers, caring skills, as well as community activities and resources for carers, etc. The funding for running the Information Gateway comes from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for the first 3 years. SWD does not have information on the manpower or estimated expenditure involved. As at 29 February 2024, the Information Gateway has a hit rate of over 280 000. SWD will regularly review the usage of the Information Gateway,

and step up publicity and promotion efforts through various means to make it better known and more widely used.

3. SWD has commissioned the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) to operate the 24-hour Carer Hotline, with 30 phone lines answered by over 100 professional social workers on shift duties. The annual expenditure involved is about \$12 million. As at 29 February 2024, the Carer Hotline has received a total of 12 957 calls. TWGHs is required to provide the services specified in the relevant Funding and Service Agreement, which sets out the essential service requirements, as well as output and outcome standards, etc. SWD will evaluate TWGHs' performance and service effectiveness under the existing Service Performance Monitoring System, and will maintain liaison with TWGH to continuously improve the services.
4. The nature of calls received by the Carer Hotline and the services requested by callers as at 29 February 2024 are provided in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex, respectively.

**Table 1: Nature of calls received by the Carer Hotline in 2023-24
(as at 29 February 2024)**

| Nature of call | Number of calls |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Emotional problem | 4 332 |
| Enquiry on community support services | 3 093 |
| Care Issues | 1 976 |
| Financial problem | 1 027 |
| Health problem | 578 |
| Mental health problem | 543 |
| Enquiry on residential care services | 427 |
| Request for respite services | 412 |
| Family relationship problem | 242 |
| Housing/accommodation problem | 145 |
| Others | 182 |
| Total | 12 957 |

**Table 2: Services requested by callers in 2023-24
(as at 29 February 2024)**

| Service type | Count of service ^{Note 1} |
|--|---|
| Enquiry/consultation service | 7 673 |
| Emotional support | 7 626 |
| Counselling service | 2 626 |
| Respite service | 16 |
| Emergency support service/outreach visit | 14 |
| Total | 17 955 |

Note 1 A caller may request for more than 1 type of service

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)097

(Question Serial No. 2259)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under this Programme that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up an additional Residential Child Care Centre (RCCC) to increase the number of emergency places for residential child care services (RCCS). In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The number of RCCS places, the number of waitlisted children, their average waiting time and average length of stay over the past 3 years, as well as the projected numbers for the coming year.
2. The estimated number of places that the additional RCCC will be able to provide and the potential reduction in waiting time.
3. Due to the increased severity and complexity of family or behavioural problems among current residents using RCCS, professionals such as social workers or healthcare workers have to handle cases that are volatile and have special needs. The Government has previously published the Report of the Second Phase Review of Residential Child Care and Related Services, which outlines 39 improvement measures and recommendations. Please provide the estimated staffing establishment, expenditure and timetable for implementing these improvement measures and recommendations. Will the Government consider soliciting feedback from various stakeholders once the recommendations have been implemented, with the aim of conducting a comprehensive review and continuously enhancing the quality of RCCS? If yes, what are the details? if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

1. The number of places for various types of RCCS in the past 3 financial years and the estimated number of number of places to be provided in 2024-25 are tabulated below:

| Item | Year | Foster care service | Small group home (SGH) | Residential home for children (RHC) | Total |
|---|---------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Number of places | 2021-22 | 1 130 | 924 | 1 832 | 3 886 |
| | 2022-23 | 1 130 | 954 | 1 832 | 3 916 |
| | 2023-24 | 1 230 | 978 | 1 832 | 4 040 |
| Estimated number of places to be provided | 2024-25 | 1 230 | 978 | 1 880 | 4 088 |

The average number of waitlisted children, the average waiting time and the average length of stay for various types of RCCS in the past 3 financial years are tabulated below:

| Item | Year | Foster care service | SGH | RHC | Total |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Number of waitlisted children (average per month) | 2021-22 | 314 | 363 | 224 | 901 |
| | 2022-23 | 289 | 388 | 296 | 973 |
| | 2023-24 ^[Note 1] | 292 | 342 | 280 | 914 |
| Average waiting time (months) | 2021-22 | 1.66 | 4.60 | 2.18 | N.A. |
| | 2022-23 | 1.82 | 4.74 | 2.75 | |
| | 2023-24 ^[Note 1] | 2.07 | 5.84 | 3.23 | |
| Average length of stay (months) ^[Note 2] | 2021-22 | 31.16 | 33.67 | 22.01 | N.A. |
| | 2022-23 | 34.90 | 32.27 | 24.57 | |
| | 2023-24 ^[Note 1] | 42.50 | 36.18 | 21.69 | |

N.A. - Not applicable

^[Note 1] Statistics from April to December 2023.

^[Note 2] The figures include both ordinary service and emergency service.

- The newly established RCCC will provide 48 emergency residential care service places. As various types of emergency RCCS accept direct applications without a central referral system, SWD does not have information on the waiting time or the number of waitlisted children, nor can it estimate the potential reduction in waiting time.
- In response to the recommendations made in the Second Phase Review of RCCS, the Government will allocate an additional funding of approximately \$178 million to strengthen foster care support, as well as adding 30 SGH places and 4 emergency/short-term care places. These new measures are expected to be implemented in stages between 2024-25 and 2026-27. In addition, the Government

has already implemented recommendations that do not require additional resources, such as improving the service mode, strengthening the functions of caseworkers, and enhancing post-discharge support. For other recommendations that involve additional resources, such as strengthening manpower deployment and professional support, SWD will apply for resources through existing mechanisms. At the same time, non-governmental organisations are encouraged to flexibly utilise the subventions under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System to meet the needs of service development. Moreover, the Government will continue to review the operation and regulation of various types of RCCS and take the views of stakeholders into account in order to improve the overall quality of RCCS.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**LWB(W)098****(Question Serial No. 2260)**

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the support for foster care services, please provide the following information:

1. For the past 3 years, the number of places, utilisation rate, age distribution of service users, average length of stay, number of waitlisted children, and average waiting time for various foster care services.
2. The expenditure for various foster care services for the past 3 years, and the estimated expenditure for the coming year.
3. There are comments that many families currently lack the necessary resources to become foster families. As a result, fewer and fewer families are willing to take on the role, leading to a shortage of available places to meet the demand. Are there measures in place to address this situation, such as providing more incentives for the public to become foster parents? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

1. The number of places, utilisation rate, average length of stay, number of waitlisted children and average waiting time for foster care services in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 ^[Note 1] |
|--|---------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Number of places | 1 130 | 1 130 | 1 230 |
| Utilisation rate ^[Note 2] | 81% | 78% | 72% |
| Average length of stay (month) ^[Note 2] | 31.16 | 34.90 | 42.50 |
| Number of waitlisted children ^[Note 3] | 314 | 289 | 292 |
| Average waiting time (month) ^[Note 3] ^[Note 4] | 1.66 | 1.82 | 2.07 |

^[Note 1] Statistics as at 31 December 2023.

^[Note 2] The figures include both ordinary and emergency foster care services.

^[Note 3] The figures exclude foster care (emergency) service. Regarding emergency service, caseworkers may directly enquire with foster care agencies that provide emergency service, and arrange children for admission as soon as suitable foster

families with vacancies are available. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have the statistics on the number of waitlisted children and the average waiting time for foster care (emergency) service.

[Note 4] Figures only referred to cases that were successfully matched within a 3-month period but not difficult cases in matching.

The age distribution of children receiving foster care services in the past 3 years is tabulated below:

| Year (as at end-December) | Age | Number of foster children |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 2021 | Newborn to below 6 | 428 |
| | 6 to below 12 | 350 |
| | 12 to below 18 | 139 |
| | 18 or above [Note] | 2 |
| 2022 | Newborn to below 6 | 403 |
| | 6 to below 12 | 330 |
| | 12 to below 18 | 147 |
| | 18 or above [Note] | 0 |
| 2023 | Newborn to below 6 | 385 |
| | 6 to below 12 | 319 |
| | 12 to below 18 | 139 |
| | 18 or above [Note] | 1 |

[Note] Under exceptional circumstances, children receiving foster care services may extend their stay in the foster families after reaching 18 years old.

- The expenditure for foster care services for the past 3 financial years and the estimated expenditure for 2024-25 are tabulated below:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 233.7 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 237.1 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 252.6 |
| 2024-25 (Estimate) | 435.4 |

- To strengthen support for foster care services, the Government will roll out a series of enhancement and improvement measures, such as increasing the incentive payment for foster parents, providing additional support for foster families caring for children with special learning or care needs, arranging early assessments and appropriate professional therapy and training for foster children, and implementing flexible recruitment and caring arrangements. At the same time, SWD will also strengthen its publicity efforts and continue to collaborate with non-governmental organisations that provide foster care services to promote foster care through different and multi-faceted channels and media to recruit more foster families.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)099

(Question Serial No. 2261)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Due to the extended waiting time for subsidised residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), the Government has exempted eligible RCHE premises from payment of land premium, and increased the maximum total gross floor area (GFA) that can be exempted to 12 000 m² or 10% of the total GFA permissible under lease, with a view to encouraging developers to build and operate RCHEs within private development projects. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

1. of the implementation status of the Incentive Scheme to Encourage Provision of RCHE Premises in New Private Developments (the Scheme) over the past 3 years, including the numbers of applications received, approved and rejected, the progress made and the estimated expenditure involved;
2. whether performance indicators will be established to assess if the relevant measures have achieved the expected goals; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
3. whether additional incentives, apart from further GFA exemption, such as relaxing the current height restriction imposed on RCHEs (i.e. no more than 24 metres above the ground floor), will be provided to encourage more developers to participate in the Scheme.

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. A total of 15 applications have been received under the Scheme in the past 3 years, of which 2 have been approved, 12 are still being processed, and 1 was not approved due to title issues. As the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and the Lands Department implement the Scheme by re-deploying existing resources, no additional manpower or administrative expenses is involved.
2. As whether or not a private developer chooses to participate in the Scheme is a matter of business consideration and involves other factors, the Government has not established any performance indicators.

3. The Government enhanced the Scheme in June 2023. Apart from continuing to exempt eligible RCHE premises from payment of land premium, the number of RCHE premises eligible for premium payment exemption in each site will increase from 1 RCHE premises to an unrestricted number, as well as increasing the maximum total GFA from not exceeding 5 400 m² to 12 000 m² or 10% of the total GFA permissible under lease, whichever is greater. When calculating the total GFA of the entire project, the total GFA of the eligible RCHE premises in the private development project will be exempted and will not be counted towards the total permissible GFA of the entire project. The aforementioned enhancement measures will be reviewed after piloting for 3 years.

Regarding the height restrictions for RCHEs, SWD updated the Code of Practice for Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) (CoP) in August 2022 to specify that if an RCHE has in place facilities for fire safety, evacuation and rescue to the satisfaction of the Director of Social Welfare (DSW), DSW will approve its ancillary facilities to which elderly residents normally do not have access to be situated at a height of more than 24 metres above ground. SWD updated the CoP again in March 2023 to specify the additional building fire safety design and management requirements that RCHEs should comply with when placing parts of the RCHE used for dormitory purpose at a height of more than 24 metres above ground.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)100

(Question Serial No. 2262)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

To lift junior secondary school students out of intergenerational poverty and enhance their self-confidence, the Government has launched the Strive and Rise Programme (the Programme) to broaden their horizons and enrich their life experiences through mentorship. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The expenditure and staffing establishment of the Programme.
2. The numbers of participating mentees and mentors, the number of activities organised, the number of participants and attendance rate of these activities, the average number of mentor-mentee interactive sessions, and the number and percentage of mentees who have withdrawn from the Programme.
3. Some views suggest that certain activities of the Programme lack flexibility, and that some mentors are too busy to meet with their mentees, which makes it difficult to achieve the expected outcomes of the Programme. Would the Government consider pairing mentees and mentors based on their interests and expertise in the future to prevent the Programme from becoming mere ceremonial?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. In 2024-25, the estimated expenditure for implementing the Programme is \$117.8 million, including launching the enhanced Programme and organising activities under the Alumni Club established for graduates of the Programme. The manpower involved in the implementation of the Programme is deployed from the Social Welfare Department. As the manpower involved is also responsible for other youth services, the staffing establishment cannot be separately identified.
2. The first cohort of the Programme successfully recruited 2 800 mentees and an ample number of mentors. 545 sessions of group activities were organised for the participation of mentees, either individually or together with mentors/parents, with a total attendance of 21 891 (including mentees, mentors and parents). Each mentee had about 12 interactive sessions with his/her mentor during the course of the Programme.

21 mentees and 16 mentors withdrew from the first cohort of the Programme, resulting in a withdrawal rate of 0.75% for mentees and 0.57% for mentors.

3. Enhancement measures have been introduced for the second cohort of the Programme. Each mentee will first be matched with a suitable mentor based on his/her career aspiration or hobbies/interests as indicated in his/her application form. Subsequently, he/she will be placed in a mentoring group consisting of 2 to 3 pairs of mentors and mentees. The goal is to promote interaction, sharing and support during the course of mentorship.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)101

(Question Serial No. 3110)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Financial Secretary mentioned in the 2023-24 Budget that the Government would increase the number of vouchers issued under the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme) to 11 000 and increase the number of vouchers issued under the Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme) to 5 000. Would the Government please inform this Committee of the number of applications, the number of elderly persons issued with CCSVs and RCSVs and the amount of subsidy for the CCSV Scheme and RCSV Scheme in the past 3 years? In addition, please provide information on the number of elderly persons who have withdrawn from the two schemes and the reasons for their withdrawal.

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

The Government has made the CCSV permanent since September 2023. The number of CCSVs will be increased by 1 000 in 2024-25, bringing the total to 11 000, and will be further increased to 12 000 in 2025-26.

Starting in the second quarter of 2024, the coverage of RCSVs will be expanded from care-and-attention places to nursing home places. An extra 1 000 RCSVs will also be provided, bringing the total to 5 000.

The respective numbers of CCSV and RCSV applicants and recipients, the amount of subsidy disbursed, the number of persons who left the 2 schemes, along with their reasons for leaving, broken down by year, are set out at Annex.

Table 1: Numbers of CCSV applicants and recipients, and the amount of CCSV subsidy disbursed

| Year | No. of CCSV applicants | No. of CCSV recipients | CCSV subsidy (\$ million) |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 4 703 | 4 715 | 314.4 |
| 2022-23 | 4 375 | 4 396 | 361.7 |
| 2023-24 ^{Note 1} (as at end-December 2023) | 4 875 | 4 727 | 573.5 ^{Note 2} |

Note 1 The Government launched the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV in October 2020, and converted the CCSV Scheme into a recurrent measure in September 2023.

Note 2 Revised estimate for 2023-24.

Table 2: Number of elderly persons who left the CCSV Scheme and their reasons for leaving

| Reason for leaving | No. of persons who left | | |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|--|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Will be/have been allocated with/receiving subsidised community care services or subsidised/private residential care services (RCS) | 1 509 | 1 523 | 1 428 |
| Deceased | 905 | 1 435 | 1 064 |
| Being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers, etc. | 577 | 61 | 30 |
| Others (e.g. hospitalisation, out of town, etc.) | 44 | 48 | 8 |
| Total | 3 035 | 3 067 | 2 530 |

**Table 3: Numbers of RCSV applicants and recipients,
and the amount of RCSV subsidy disbursed**

| Year | No. of RCSV applicants | No. of RCSV recipients | RCSV subsidy (\$ million) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 1 450 | 719 | 483.6 |
| 2022-23 | 2 296 | 1 309 | 465.2 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 2 495 | 1 435 | 744.4 ^{Note} |

Note Revised estimate for 2023-24.

**Table 4: Number of elderly persons who left the RCSV Scheme and
their reasons for leaving**

| Reason for leaving | No. of persons who left | | |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|--|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Deceased | 491 | 471 | 443 |
| Having no immediate need for RCS (e.g. being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers, etc.) | 63 | 41 | 81 |
| The preferred RSP was full/no suitable RSPs | 19 | 23 | 28 |
| Chose to wait for subsidised residential care places | 19 | 23 | 30 |
| Refused to accept the co-payment arrangement | 13 | 5 | 10 |
| Other (e.g. long-term hospitalisation, out of town, etc.) | 10 | 16 | 11 |
| Total | 615 | 579 | 603 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)102

(Question Serial No. 0177)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned under this Programme that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will explore the expansion of the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GD) (GDRCS Scheme) to include residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) operated by Mainland entities. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

- a. the Mainland cities and the number of RCHEs expected to be included in the expansion, and the estimated expenditure involved;
- b. further to the question above, whether SWD will formulate a relevant timetable; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons for that; and
- c. the average government subsidy per place.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The Labour and Welfare Bureau signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) on Collaboration on expanding the GDRCS Scheme with the Department of Civil Affairs of GD Province on 17 November 2023, agreeing to explore cooperation in selecting RCHEs operated by Mainland entities in jointly designated cities within the Greater Bay Area (GBA) for participation in the GDRCS Scheme. The LOI stipulates that participating Mainland RCHEs should be rated 4 stars or above on the "List of Star-rated Senior Care Organizations" by the Department of Civil Affairs of Guangdong Province based on the standards of "Classification and Accreditation for Senior Care Organization of China", with a minimum of 2 years of operational records.

To identify suitable RCHEs to join the GDRCS Scheme, the Government is liaising with relevant departments in Mainland cities within the GBA, and conducting on-site inspections of eligible Mainland RCHEs. The Government will explore the expansion of the GDRCS Scheme to include RCHEs operated by Mainland entities in 2024. The estimated expenditure for the GDRCS Scheme in 2024-25 is about \$32.5 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)103

(Question Serial No. 0179)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned under this Programme that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will extend the scheme to provide full subsidies for home managers, health workers and care workers of residential care homes (RCHs) to enrol in training courses recognised under the Qualifications Framework (QF) for 3 years. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- a. The numbers of home managers, health workers and care workers of RCHs enrolled in these courses, the number of individuals who have successfully completed these courses, and the average expenditure per trainee, broken down by year, since the implementation of the training course scheme.
- b. Further to the question above, have there been any trainees who were unable to complete the course? If so, please provide details.
- c. Will SWD provide follow-up services for trainees who have completed the courses? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

To enhance the service quality of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) on a continuous basis, SWD has implemented a 5-year scheme in phases since March 2019 to provide full subsidies for home managers, health workers and care workers of all RCHEs and RCHDs in the territory to enrol in QF-recognised training courses. As at the end of December 2023, a total of 4 973 RCH staff have enrolled in the training courses under the Scheme. The number of trainees in the past 5 years is set out at Annex.

SWD has set the maximum course fee subsidy for each trainee of the relevant courses. A training allowance is also provided for the RCHEs and RCHDs concerned in order to maintain their operations through appropriate manpower deployment while their health workers and care workers are attending the courses, and to provide on-site training support and conduct on-the-job assessments for the trainees concerned. The amounts of course fee subsidy and training allowance (if applicable) for each trainee of the courses are as follows:

| Course | Maximum course fee subsidy for each trainee | Amount of training allowance per trainee | Total |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---------|
| Training for Home Managers (Course A) | \$4,000 | N.A. | \$4,000 |
| Training for Home Managers (Course B) | \$6,000 | | \$6,000 |
| Advanced Training for Health Workers | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | \$6,000 |
| Training for Care Workers | \$2,000 | \$2,200 | \$4,200 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Once the trainees have been issued graduate certificates by the training institutes upon completion of the relevant courses, the RCHs concerned may apply to SWD for full reimbursement of the course fees already paid. SWD does not have information on trainees who have enrolled but failed to complete the courses.

Number of home managers, health workers and care workers of RCHs enrolled in related training courses from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | Course and no. of enrolment | Home manager | | Advanced Training for Health Workers | Training for Care Workers | Total |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | | Training course (A) ^{Note 1} | Training course (B) ^{Note 2} | | | |
| 2019-20 | ^{Note 3} | 50 | 226 | 64 | 164 | 504 |
| 2020-21 | ^{Note 3} | 150 | 184 | 143 | 414 | 891 |
| 2021-22 | | 134 | 135 | 146 | 603 | 1 018 |
| 2022-23 | | 344 | 177 | 90 | 748 | 1 359 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | | 272 | 208 | 64 | 657 | 1 201 |
| Total: | | 950 | 930 | 507 | 2 586 | 4 973 |
| | | 1 880 | | | | |

Note 1 Trainees must be home managers currently employed by RCHEs or RCHDs or, other staff nominated by RCHEs or RCHDs, who are the related professionals registered under the Laws of Hong Kong, including social workers, nurses, medical practitioners, Chinese medicine practitioners, occupational therapists, physiotherapists or pharmacists.

Note 2 Trainees must be home managers currently employed by RCHEs or RCHDs, or other staff nominated by RCHEs or RCHDs.

Note 3 The number of trainees decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic as RCHE and RCHD staff had to focus on stepping up various anti-pandemic measures, and face-to-face classes were intermittently suspended by the training institutes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)104

(Question Serial No. 0183)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Programme mentioned the continued strengthening of support for carers, such as promoting the Information Gateway for Carers (Information Gateway) and the Designated Hotline for Carer Support (Carer Hotline) and implementing the Care the Carers Campaign. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

- a. of the estimated expenditure for publicising and promoting the Information Gateway and the Carer Hotline;
- b. of the hit rate of the Information Gateway since its launch;
- c. of the number of calls received by the Carer Hotline since its launch;
- d. of the number of staff members operating the Carer Hotline and the average handling time per case;
- e. whether the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has regularly reviewed the effectiveness of its publicity and promotion efforts; if so, of the details; if not, of the reasons; and
- f. of the estimated number of activities held, the number of people reached, and the estimated expenditure in respect of the implementation of the Care the Carers Campaign.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

- a, e & f. SWD has launched a 3-year territory-wide "Care the Carers Campaign" publicity campaign since 2023-24, with activities held under different themes every year. In the first year, under the theme of "Helping Carers Help Themselves", the publicity focused on encouraging carers to help themselves. In the second year, under the theme of "Walk with Carers", the publicity will emphasise standing by carers. In the third year, under the theme of "Fostering a Carer-Friendly Community", the publicity will focus on fostering a community environment that supports carers. The Government will organise different publicity activities in line with the annual themes and collaborate with non-governmental and local organisations to promote support for carers, encourage mutual assistance in the community and foster a carer-friendly environment.

SWD held a kick-off ceremony for the “Care the Carers Campaign” on 25 September 2023, attended by over 800 participants, including more than 500 stakeholders from different sectors of the community. In the same month, SWD launched the “Say Thank You to Carers” event, distributing a total of 10 000 Ocean Park admission tickets to carers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities (PWDs). In addition, 11 District Social Welfare Offices of SWD, in collaboration with non-governmental and local organisations providing elderly and rehabilitation services, organised over 340 different kinds of activities for supporting carers based on the characteristics of each district. These activities reached over 138 000 individuals.

SWD will continue to promote and publicise the “Care the Carers Campaign”, the Information Gateway and the Carer Hotline (182183) through various means. These include producing Television and Radio Announcements in the Public Interest, posters, service leaflets and publicity materials; placing advertisements in newspapers, online media and public transportation; as well as organising various publicity events at the district level. Organisers will collect participants’ feedback for individual events to review the effectiveness of the publicity activities. The expenditure for the 3 years of publicity campaign is approximately \$15 million.

- b. The Government launched the Information Gateway on 30 November 2023. It provides information on services provided for elderly persons and PWDs, caring skills, community activities and resources for carers, etc. As at 29 February 2024, the Information Gateway has a hit rate of over 280 000.
- c. The Government introduced the Carer Hotline on 26 September 2023. As at 29 February 2024, it has received a total of 12 957 calls.
- d. SWD has commissioned the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals to operate the 24-hour Carer Hotline, with 30 phone lines answered by over 100 professional social workers on shift duties. SWD does not maintain the average handling time for each case.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)105

(Question Serial No. 0208)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned under this Programme that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides support services for different families, including those in disadvantaged circumstances and lacking means to meet their needs. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- a. The estimated expenditure for foster care service in 2024-25 is nearly 70% higher than that of last year due to an increase in incentive payments for foster parents. Has SWD assessed the need to increase the expenditure on incentive payment? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- b. Please provide a detailed breakdown of the average monthly cost per place for foster care service, including expenses on accommodation, food, services, support services or any other expenses.
- c. Will SWD regularly review the quality of foster care service? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

- a. SWD set up the Committee on Review of Residential Child Care and Related Services (the Committee) in April 2022 to review in two phases the residential child care services, including foster care service. The review was completed in March 2023. The Committee put forward 12 recommendations regarding foster care service, which include increasing the amount of incentive payment for foster parents in order to strengthen support and attract more families to participate in providing foster care service.
- b. The cost per place for foster care service includes the incentive payment for foster parents, maintenance grant and setting-up grant for foster children, as well as personal emoluments of staff of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) providing foster care service and other expenses (such as provident fund and employees' compensation insurance policies). In 2023-24, the revised estimate of expenditure for foster care service is about \$253 million, providing 1 230 service places. As personal emoluments

and other expenses are covered by subventions under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, NGOs may flexibly deploy resources subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements. Therefore, SWD does not have a breakdown of the average cost for the various items requested.

- c. To become foster parents, applicants have to be thoroughly investigated and assessed by the Central Foster Care Unit of SWD and NGOs providing foster care service, including criminal record checks, health examinations, family background and circumstances, child caring experience and ability, safety of the home environment, etc., to determine their suitability for becoming foster parents. Upon passing the relevant assessments, applicants are also required to attend a pre-service training workshop on foster care before they can formally provide the service. While foster families are providing care to the children, social workers from foster care agencies will conduct regular home visits, interviews and telephone calls to assess the well-being of the children under their care, and offer support and professional advice to the foster parents. In addition, the Central Foster Care Unit of SWD maintains regular contact with foster parents through various liaison and sharing groups in districts to understand their needs and keep track of the service provision. To ensure the service quality of foster families, SWD and NGOs providing foster care service review their eligibility, family conditions and ability to care for children on a yearly basis.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)106

(Question Serial No. 2865)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

According to the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB), the aim of the programme is to provide an environment which enables people to reach their full potential, thereby achieving self-reliance and contributing to the well-being of the community, and to ensure that appropriate welfare support is available to assist those in need. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- a. the total service expenditure on Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities (HCS) and Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities (ISS), as well as the unit cost per capita and the service cost of each service sub-type under the 2 services;
- b. further to the question above, the total number of service places, the total number of service users, and the average waiting time for the 2 services in the past 5 years;
- c. the number of persons who requested household cleaning and meal delivery services and the actual number of times these services were provided under the 2 services in the past 5 years; and
- d. the expenditure incurred by the LWB on providing employment support services for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

- a. The expenditure on HCS and ISS in the past 5 years is set out at Annex 1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the unit cost per capita or service cost of each service sub-type under the 2 services.
- b. In the past 5 years, there were 3 550 and 900 service places under HCS and ISS, respectively. The number of service users of the 2 services during the same period is set out at Annex 2. As there is no central referral system for these services, SWD does not have information on the average waiting time for either service. Service units will prioritise service users with urgent needs, taking into account their individual circumstances.

- c. The information on household cleaning service/meal support service provided under HCS and ISS in the past 5 years are set out at Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 3, respectively.
- d. Under the Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise Project (3E Project), SWD provides seed money for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to set up small enterprises/businesses, with a view to creating employment opportunities for PWDs and improving their employment situation through a market-driven approach. At least half of the employees hired by the applicant businesses should be PWDs. In the past 5 years, the 3E Project funded the establishment of about 21 businesses, creating a combined total of over 170 posts (including 112 posts specifically for PWDs). SWD has also implemented the Support Programme for Employees with Disabilities (SPED), where participating employers can apply for a one-off subsidy for each employee with disabilities, up to a maximum of \$40,000, for the procurement of assistive devices and/or workplace modifications. This is to facilitate employees with disabilities in discharging their duties at the workplace and enhance their work efficiency. The amount of funding granted under the 2 aforementioned schemes in the past 5 years is set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 4.

In addition, for PWDs who are not yet able to take up open employment, SWD provides subvention to NGOs for providing vocational rehabilitation and training services, such as Sheltered Workshops (SWs), Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres (IVRSCs) and Integrated Vocational Training Centres (IVTCs), etc. With appropriate vocational rehabilitation services in specially designed training environments, PWDs with different levels of disabilities and needs can learn to adapt to general work requirements, including developing social skills and interpersonal relationships. The expenditure on vocational rehabilitation services in the past 5 years is set out at Annex 5.

Expenditure on HCS and ISS from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Service type/Year | Expenditure (\$ million) | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 2019-20 (Actual) | 2020-21 (Actual) | 2021-22 (Actual) | 2022-23 (Actual) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) |
| HCS | 305.3 | 330.5 | 329.7 | 336.5 | 351.6 |
| ISS | 68.8 | 72.5 | 72.6 | 74.4 | 77.3 |

Number of HCS and ISS users

| Service type | No. of service users | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end- December 2023) |
| HCS | 4 473 | 4 469 | 4 643 | 4 769 | 4 549 |
| ISS | 1 157 | 1 175 | 1 150 | 1 189 | 1 172 |

Table 1: Number of HCS users using meal support and household cleaning services

| Service/Year | No. of persons served | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Meal support service | 157 | 155 | 146 | 184 | 216 |
| Household cleaning service | 25 | 44 | 67 | 97 | 98 |

Table 2: Number of ISS users using meal support and household cleaning services

| Service/Year | No. of persons served | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Meal support service | 13 | 16 | 12 | 13 | 18 |
| Household cleaning service | 51 | 49 | 47 | 41 | 30 |

Table 1: Amount of grant approved under 3E Project from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | Grant (\$ million) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2019-20 | 16.1 |
| 2020-21 | 12.3 |
| 2021-22 | 9.6 |
| 2022-23 | 4.2 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 1.2 |

Table 2: Amount of subsidy approved under SPED from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | Subsidy (\$) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2019-20 | 410,000 |
| 2020-21 | 540,000 |
| 2021-22 | 440,000 |
| 2022-23 | 140,000 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 410,000 |

Expenditure on vocational rehabilitation services from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Service type/Year | Expenditure (\$ million) | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| | 2019-20 (Actual) | 2020-21 (Actual) | 2021-22 (Actual) | 2022-23 (Actual) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) |
| SW | 375.6 | 378.1 | 374.4 | 380.0 | 398.1 |
| IVRS | 312.7 | 347.4 | 370.1 | 361.8 | 406.7 |
| IVTC - day | 33.3 | 33.2 | 32.9 | 33.1 | 34.4 |
| SE | 100.4 | 100.0 | 98.9 | 100.1 | 106.3 |
| On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities | 21.9 | 21.8 | 21.8 | 22.1 | 22.7 |
| Sunnyway - On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities | 16.5 | 16.6 | 16.5 | 16.7 | 17.2 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)107

(Question Serial No. 3203)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Programme states that the Labour and Welfare Department aims to provide an environment that enables people to reach their full potential, thereby achieving self-reliance and contributing to the well-being of the community, and to ensure that appropriate welfare support is available to assist those in need. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following information:

- a. Since the launch of the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services (Navigation Scheme), what are the average annual expenditure, the number of enrolled trainees and the graduation rate each year?
- b. Further to the above question, what is the average amount of subsidy provided to each student?
- c. Will the Government provide assistance and follow up on the career development of graduates? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

- a & b. The respective numbers of applicants, admissions and graduates, as well as the actual expenditure by year since the launch of the enhanced Navigation Scheme in 2020-21 are set out at Annex.
- c. Operators will follow up on the career development of the trainees until they complete the Navigation Scheme or withdraw from it.

**Numbers of applicants, admissions and graduates, as well as the actual expenditure
of the enhanced Navigation Scheme by year**

| Admission year | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---|--|
| No. of applicants | 1 016 | 905 | 511 | 455 |
| No. of admissions | 418 | 368 | 222 | 225 |
| No. of graduates | 224 | 159 | In training and have not graduated yet | In training and have not graduated yet |
| Actual expenditure (\$ million) | 67.8 | 71.8 | 40.5 | 82.0 ^{Note} |

^{Note} Revised estimate for 2023-24.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)108

(Question Serial No. 3279)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is stated under the Programme that the Labour and Welfare Department aims to provide an environment that enables people to reach their full potential, thereby achieving self-reliance and contributing to the well-being of the community, and to ensure that appropriate welfare support is available to assist those in need. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following information:

- a. What is the estimated expenditure for the additional injection into the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund)?
- b. Further to the above, are there administrative and management expenses associated with the operation of the I&T Fund? If yes, what are the details?
- c. Since the launch of the I&T Fund, what are the average annual expenditure, the number of service units eligible for it, and the number of elderly beneficiaries each year?
- d. Will the Government assess the effect of gerontechnology products on the elderly in order to determine their effectiveness? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

- a. In 2024-25, the Government will inject an additional \$1 billion into the I&T Fund, and expand the scope of the I&T Fund to cover gerontechnology products suitable for household use.
- b. In 2018-19, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) set up a secretariat to co-ordinate the operation of the I&T Fund. The secretariat has 11 time-limited posts in the Social Work Officer and supporting general grades, with an annual expenditure of about \$6.4 million. In addition, starting from 2018, SWD has commissioned the Hong Kong Council of Social Service to promote the use of technology products among social welfare organisations and carers, involving an annual expenditure of about \$3.75 million.

- c. As at the end of February 2024, grants totalling around \$660 million have been approved under the I&T Fund to subsidise about 1 900 elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure or rent over 18 000 items of technology products. The number of units and amount approved every year are set out at Annex. SWD does not maintain statistics on the number of elderly persons who have benefitted from using technology products.
- d. SWD regularly reviews the use of the I&T Fund, and collects feedback on the I&T Fund and technology products from stakeholders through on-site visits, questionnaires and other means to evaluate the effectiveness of the I&T Fund. Respondents, including service users, service operators and staff, have all provided positive feedback on the technology products approved for use by service units. In particular, they were of the opinion that these products could enhance the functioning of service users in daily activities, reduce the risk of workplace accidents, and enhance the occupational safety and health of staff.

**Statistics pertaining to the approval of applications under the I&T Fund
(as at 29 February 2024)**

| Tranche no. (application period) | No. of units approved for the grant | Amount of grant approved (\$ million) |
|---|--|--|
| 1 (December 2018 to February 2019) | 216 | 37 |
| 2 (June to September 2019) | 649 | 102 |
| 3 (February to April 2020) | 451 | 63 |
| 4 (August to November 2020) | 618 | 91 |
| 5 (February to May 2021) | 618 | 86 |
| 6 (September to October 2021) | 466 | 56 |
| 7 (January to March 2022) | 314 | 34 |
| 8 ^{Note} (September to November 2022) | 1 018 | 174 |
| 9 (May to August 2023) | 258 | 19 |

^{Note} The eligibility for applying for procurement and rental of technology products has been extended to non-subsidised private or self-financing residential care homes for the elderly and residential care homes for persons with disabilities starting with the Eighth Tranche launched in September 2022.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)109

(Question Serial No. 0125)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) launched by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the number of participating EA1 homes and the total number of subsidised places they provided in each of the past 3 years;
- (2) the number of participating EA2 homes and the total number of subsidised places they provided in each of the past 3 years; and
- (3) in respect of SWD's invitation for all EA2 homes to upgrade to EA1 level in 2023, the final number of homes that participated in the upgrade, the number of subsidised places involved, and the additional annual provision involved in the future.

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

- (1) & (2) The number of private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) participating in EBPS and number of subsidised residential care places (RCPs) they provided from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are set out at Annex.
- (3) SWD invited EA2 homes to participate in the upgrade in March 2023. Applications submitted by 53 EA2 homes were all approved, involving the upgrade of 2 037 EA2 places to EA1 level. Meanwhile, SWD further purchased an additional 236 EA1 places from these RCHEs. SWD has issued "Approval-in-Principle" to these RCHEs, requiring them to meet the standards and requirements of EA1 homes within 24 months. If all of the above EA2 homes complete the upgrade, an additional annual provision of about \$74.1 million will be required. As at end-December 2023, 1 RCHE has completed the upgrade.

Number of private RCHEs participating in EBPS and number of RCPs they provided

| Year | Private RCHEs participating in EBPS | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| | EA1 home | | EA2 home | |
| | No. of homes | No. of subsidised RCPs | No. of homes | No. of subsidised RCPs |
| 2021-22 | 134 | 8 335 | 57 | 2 158 |
| 2022-23 | 147 | 9 112 | 57 | 2 149 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 145 | 9 174 | 52 | 1 966 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)110

(Question Serial No. 0134)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Since 2019, the Special Needs Trust (SNT) has been accepting applications to provide reliable and affordable trust services for parents with sufficient assets for meeting the long-term daily needs of their children after their passing. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the number of applications received by SNT and the number of cases handled after approval in each of the past 5 years;
- (2) the number of beneficiaries served by SNT in each of the past 5 years, broken down by type of disability and health condition;
- (3) the number of accounts activated by SNT after the passing of parents in each of the past 5 years; and
- (4) the staffing establishment, payroll cost and total expenditure related to SNT in the past 5 financial years.

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

- (1) The cumulative number of applications received by the Special Needs Trust Office (the SNT Office) and the number of active cases handled in each of the past 5 years are set out in Table 1 of Annex.
- (2) The number of active cases handled by the SNT Office, broken down by type of disability of beneficiaries, in each of the past 5 years is set out in Table 2 of Annex.
- (3) No SNT accounts were activated due to the passing of parents in the past 5 years.
- (4) The SNT Office are staffed by a total of 8 members of the social work, treasury accountant and clerical grades. The annual payroll cost and total expenditure of the SNT Office in the past 5 years are set out in Table 3 of Annex.

Table 1: Cumulative number of applications received by the SNT Office and number of active cases handled

| Year | Cumulative no. of applications | No. of active cases |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2019-20 | 14 | 12 |
| 2020-21 | 35 | 31 |
| 2021-22 | 47 | 38 |
| 2022-23 | 65 | 45 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 78 | 57 |

Table 2: Number of active cases handled by the SNT Office broken down by type of disability of beneficiaries

| Year | Type of disability of beneficiaries | | | | | Total no. of active cases |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------|--------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| | Intellectual disability (including Down's Syndrome) | Mental disorder | Autism | Having more than 1 type of disability | Others (apart from the stipulated types of disabilities) | |
| 2019-20 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | - | 12 |
| 2020-21 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 9 | - | 31 |
| 2021-22 | 13 | 4 | 6 | 13 | 2 | 38 |
| 2022-23 | 18 | 5 | 8 | 13 | 1 | 45 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 23 | 8 | 12 | 14 | - | 57 |

Table 3: Annual payroll cost and total expenditure of the SNT Office

| Year | Payroll cost (\$ million) | Total expenditure (\$ million) |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 4.9 | 5.9 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 5.2 | 6.0 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 5.6 | 6.4 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 6.1 | 7.3 |
| 2023-24 (Actual) (as at 31 December 2023) | 3.5 | 4.4 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)111

(Question Serial No. 0145)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

To strengthen the role of the family in caring for persons with disabilities (PWDs), the Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides subventions for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to operate parents/relatives resource centres (PRCs) across the territory. These PRCs aim to provide emotional support and professional advice to the parents/relatives and carers of PWDs. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the district currently served by each PRC, the NGO responsible for its operations, whether there is a specialised ethnic minorities (EM) unit, and the amount of subvention received in each of the past 3 financial years;
- (2) the total actual expenditure or revised estimated expenditure incurred by SWD on PRCs in the past 3 financial years;
- (3) the number of participants in groups/programmes organised by the PRC in Kowloon East designated for carers of persons in mental recovery in each of the past 3 years; and
- (4) whether records on the number of participants in groups/programmes organised by the other 18 PRCs are maintained; if so, the number for each of the past 3 years; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

- (1) & (2) SWD provides subventions for NGOs to operate 19 PRCs in various districts across the territory. A list of these NGOs is provided at Annex 1. The 5 PRCs located in Central and Western, Kwun Tong, Yau Tsim Mong, Kwai Tsing and Yuen Long Districts have set up specialised EM units to provide services to EM with disabilities and their family members or carers in the district as well as nearby districts. The actual expenditure and revised estimated expenditure incurred by SWD on PRCs in the past 3 years are set out at Annex 2. SWD does not have a breakdown of the amount of subvention received by each PRC in the past 3 years.
- (3) & (4) The number of participants in groups/programmes organised by the PRC designated for carers of persons in mental recovery and by the other 18 PRCs in each of the past 3 years are set out at Annex 3.

Service operators of Parents/Relatives Resource Centres by district

| District | Service operator |
|--|---|
| Central & Western | Caritas - Hong Kong |
| Southern | Heep Hong Society |
| Islands | The Neighbourhood Advice-action Council |
| Eastern | Heep Hong Society |
| Wan Chai | St. James' Settlement |
| Kwun Tong | Hong Kong Christian Service |
| Wong Tai Sin | The Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association |
| Sai Kung | Hong Kong Society for the Deaf |
| Kowloon City | Caritas - Hong Kong |
| Yau Tsim Mong | Heep Hong Society |
| Sham Shui Po | Hong Kong Christian Service |
| Sha Tin | The Salvation Army |
| Tai Po | Hong Kong PHAB Association |
| North | Heep Hong Society |
| Tsuen Wan | SAHK |
| Kwai Tsing | Caritas - Hong Kong |
| Tuen Mun | Yuk Chi Resource Centre Limited |
| Yuen Long | St. James' Settlement |
| PRC designated for carers of persons in mental recovery | |
| Territory-wide | Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service |

Expenditure on PRCs from 2021-22 to 2023-24

| Service | 2021-22 (Actual) (\$ million) | 2022-23 (Actual) (\$ million) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) (\$ million) |
|----------------|--|--|--|
| PRCs | 82.9 | 94.9 | 94.1 |

**Number of participants in groups/programmes organised by PRCs
from 2021-22 to 2023-24**

| No. of PRCs | Service target | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|--------------------|--|----------------|----------------|---|
| 18 | Parents/relatives/carers of PWDs | 129 131 | 145 386 | 123 466 |
| 1 | Parents/relatives/carers of persons in mental discovery | 6 055 | 5 788 | 7 770 |
| Total: | | 135 186 | 151 174 | 131 236 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)112

(Question Serial No. 1824)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the School-based After School Care Service Scheme (the Scheme), please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Please provide the following information regarding the Scheme since its implementation: (i) the number of service places, (ii) the number of service applications received, and (iii) the number of persons withdrawing from the Scheme in each participating school.
- (2) What is the total estimated expenditure for implementing the Scheme, as well as the monthly average cost per service place?
- (3) Has an evaluation been conducted on the effectiveness of the Scheme in encouraging parents to work? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (4) Some opinions suggest that the Scheme falls short in meeting the demand for after school child care services among grass-roots families, as it is currently running on a trial basis in 5 districts only. Will the Government consider expanding the Scheme to cover more districts? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

- (1) The Government implemented the Scheme in the 2023/24 school year. There are currently a total of 59 primary schools participating, offering a total of 2 915 service places. Breakdown figures of participating students and withdrawals are not yet available as some schools joined the Scheme some time after the start of the school year. The number of service places for each participating school is set out at Annex.
- (2) With an estimated total expenditure of \$99.02 million and an estimated total of 3 000 service places for students, the monthly average cost per service place under the Scheme is estimated to be about \$2,750.
- (3) & (4) The Government will evaluate the effectiveness of the Scheme in due course, and determine its way forward based on the evaluation results and views from stakeholders.

Number of service places for each participating school under the Scheme

| Participating school in the 2023/24 school year ^{Note 1} | Number of service places |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Kowloon City | |
| S.K.H. Holy Cross Primary School | 60 |
| Oblate Primary School | 60 |
| S.K.H. Good Shepherd Primary School | 55 |
| St. Eugene de Mazenod Oblate Primary School | 45 |
| ELCHK Hung Hom Lutheran Primary School | 60 |
| Ma Tau Chung Government Primary School (Hung Hom Bay) | 35 |
| Farm Road Government Primary School | 20 |
| Kowloon Tong Government Primary School | 30 |
| Ma Tau Chung Government Primary School | 8 |
| Sub-total: | 373 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | |
| T.K.D.S Fong Shu Chuen School | 45 |
| Fresh Fish Traders' School | 75 |
| Jordan Road Government Primary School | 60 |
| CCC Wanchai Church Kei To Primary School | 55 |
| Canton Road Government Primary School | 10 |
| TWGHs Lo Yu Chik Primary School | 40 |
| Sub-total: | 285 |
| Sham Shui Po | |
| S.K.H. Kei Oi Primary School | 60 |
| S.K.H. St. Andrew's Primary School | 75 |
| Good Counsel Catholic Primary School | 60 |
| S.K.H. St. Clement's Primary School | 65 |
| Shamshuipo Kaifong Welfare Association Primary School | 30 |
| Li Cheng Uk Government Primary School | 40 |
| Fuk Wing Street Government Primary School | 40 |
| Sham Shui Po Government Primary School | 45 |
| S.K.H. St. Thomas' Primary School | 50 |
| S.K.H. Kei Fook Primary School | 60 |
| Sub-total: | 525 |
| Kwun Tong | |
| The Mission Covenant Church Holm Glad Primary School | 60 |
| HKTAYYI Chan Lui Chung Tak Memorial School | 65 |
| Sau Mau Ping Catholic Primary School | 60 |
| L.S.T. Yeung Chung Ming Primary School | 82 |
| Kwun Tong Government Primary School | 35 |
| Kwun Tong Government Primary School (Sau Ming Road) | 65 |
| Sub-total: | 367 |

| Participating school in the 2023/24 school year ^{Note 1} | Number of service places |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Kwai Tsing | |
| S.K.H. Chu Oi Primary School | 20 |
| Salesian Yip Hon Primary School | 60 |
| CNEC Ta Tung School | 25 |
| Buddhist Lam Bing Yim Memorial School (Sponsored by HKBA) | 40 |
| Yan Chai Hospital Chiu Tsang Hok Wan Primary School | 55 |
| Cho Yiu Catholic Primary School | 25 |
| Tsuen Wan Trade Association Primary School | 40 |
| TWGHs Wong See Sum Primary School | 30 |
| Asbury Methodist Primary School | 50 |
| Salesian Yip Hon Millennium Primary School | 30 |
| TWGHs Chow Yin Sum Primary School | 45 |
| TWGHs Ko Ho Ning Memorial Primary School | 60 |
| Sub-total: | 480 |
| Tsuen Wan | |
| Tsuen Wan Public Ho Chuen Yiu Memorial Primary School | 60 |
| Holy Cross Lutheran School | 70 |
| Tsuen Wan Chiu Chow Public School | 70 |
| Ho Shun Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen) | 60 |
| C.C.C. Kei Wai Primary School | 45 |
| Hoi Pa Street Government Primary School | 60 |
| HKTA The Yuen Yuen Institute Shek Wai Kok Primary School | 60 |
| Sub-total: | 425 |
| Yuen Long | |
| Lions Clubs International Ho Tak Sum Primary School | 60 |
| Yuen Long Public Middle School Alumni Association Tang Ying Yip Primary School | 60 |
| Cumberland Presbyterian Church Yao Dao Primary School | 60 |
| TWGHs Leo Tung-hai Lee Primary School | 60 |
| S.K.H. Tin Shui Wai Ling Oi Primary School | 60 |
| Ho Ming Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen) | 30 |
| TWGHs Yiu Dak Chi Memorial Primary School (Yuen Long) | 30 |
| Chiu Yang Por Yen Primary School | 60 |
| Chinese Y.M.C.A Primary School | 40 |
| Sub-total: | 460 |
| Total: | 2 915 |

Note 1 The participating schools in each district are listed based on their assigned serial numbers under the Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)113

(Question Serial No. 1825)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has launched the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services (the Navigation Scheme) to provide training and employment opportunities for young people interested in working in elderly and rehabilitation care services. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the number of young people successfully recruited under the Navigation Scheme in each of the past 5 years, broken down by operator;
- (2) the number of trainees who dropped out of the Navigation Scheme in each of the past 5 years, along with the reasons for their withdrawal; and
- (3) the number of trainees who have continued to be employed in social welfare service units upon graduation since the implementation of the Navigation Scheme, and their proportion out of the total number of graduates.
- (4) It is understood that SWD enhanced the Navigator Scheme in 2020-21 with a plan to provide a total of 1 200 training places within 5 years. Please provide an update on the current utilisation of these training places. Will SWD consider increasing the number of training places from time to time? If so, please provide details. If not, what are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

- (1) & (2) SWD launched the Navigation Scheme in 2015-16, and enhanced it in 2021-21 to provide a total of 1 200 training places through 5 service operators over the next 5 years. Operators will formulate their own admission plans and set their own target admission numbers based on the available quotas and resources each year, including any surplus resources resulting from trainee dropouts. The progress of each operator may vary from year to year. However, they are required to provide all the training quotas within the 5-year period. SWD will not disclose the number of young people admitted by each operator each year as it will involve revealing information about individual operators' resource deployment and planning. The number of trainees recruited by each operator as at the end of December 2023 ranged from 223 to 272.

The numbers of persons admitted and dropped out from the Navigation Scheme each year from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are tabulated as follows:

| Admission year | Navigation Scheme | Enhanced Navigation Scheme | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | |
| No. of persons admitted | 140 | 418 | 368 | 222 | 225 | |
| No. of dropouts | 64 | 194 | 200 | 113 | 76 | |

The reasons for trainees to drop out of the Navigation Scheme include pursuing further studies and transitioning to other jobs, etc.

- (3) The Navigation Scheme has produced a total of 989 graduates so far since its launch. According to the information provided by some trainees at the time of graduation, 573 of them will continue to be employed in social welfare service units.
- (4) Operators may utilise the surplus resources from previous years resulting from trainee dropouts to recruit more trainees than the current year's training quota. As at the end of December 2023, the Enhanced Navigation Scheme has recruited a total of 1 233 trainees.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)114

(Question Serial No. 1844)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the first cohort of the Strive and Rise Programme (the Programme), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) The number of successfully recruited mentees, the number of mentees withdrawn from the Programme, the number of mentees who have participated but not yet completed the Programme, and the number of mentees who have participated and completed the Programme, broken down by their grade level (i.e. Secondary One, Two and Three); and specify the main reasons for withdrawal and non-completion for the respective groups;
- (2) The number of participating mentees who have been paired with mentors engaging in the mentees' ideal occupation or sharing similar interests, and the average number of mentor-mentee interactive sessions during the course of the Programme;
- (3) It is understood that participating mentees can enrol in electives for basic training (i.e. English and Chinese language skills enhancement, sports and music, social etiquette, strategy on programme choices, and guidance and support on physical and mental health) based on their needs. Please provide (i) the number of places, (ii) the number of applicants and (iii) the number of participants for each elective;
- (4) It is learnt that the performance indicator set for the Programme is that no less than 70% of mentees who completed the Programme are to achieve improvement in terms of personal development and positive thinking. What is the current status of achieving this performance indicator?
- (5) It is understood that mentees who have completed the Programme automatically become members of the "Alumni Club", which allows them to continue participating in a variety of activities organised by the Club. What are the number and types of activities organised, and the estimated and actual number of participants? What are the number and types of activities under planning, along with the estimated number of participants and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

- (1) The first cohort of the Programme successfully recruited 2 800 mentees. Among them, 2 630 mentees completed the Programme, 21 withdrew and 149 failed to complete the Programme. Their numbers broken down by grade level (i.e. Secondary One, Two and Three) are tabulated as follows:

| Grade level | Number of mentees recruited | Number of mentees withdrawn | Number of mentees who failed to complete the Programme | Number of mentees who completed the Programme |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Secondary One | 831 | 5 | 38 | 788 |
| Secondary Two | 906 | 7 | 59 | 840 |
| Secondary Three | 1 063 | 9 | 52 | 1 002 |
| Total | 2 800 (100%) | 21 (0.75%) | 149 (5.32%) | 2 630 (93.93%) |

The main reasons for mentees to withdraw from or be unable to complete the Programme include busy schoolwork, scheduling conflicts with school or extra-curricular activities, and the need to attend tutoring classes on weekends.

- (2) When matching mentees with mentors, the career aspiration and hobbies/interests of the mentees will be taken into consideration. Suitable mentors are also matched based on the mentees' gender, language and special needs (such as visual impairment). On average, each mentee had 12 interactive sessions with his/her mentor during the course of the Programme.
- (3) Mentees can enrol in electives for basic training based on their interests and needs. The total numbers of places, as well as the numbers of applicants and participants in these electives are tabulated as follows:

| Activity type ^{Note 1} | Total number of places | Number of applicants ^{Note 2} | Number of participants ^{Note 3} |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| Development of interests | 2 950 | 144 | 121 |
| Information technology | 8 400 | - | - |
| Language skills | 518 | 68 | 53 |
| Others | 96 | 96 | 75 |

Note 1 Activities include both physical and online courses. Online courses are available to all mentees of the Programme at specific periods based on their interests/needs.

Note 2 Only includes the number of applicants for physical courses as there is no relevant information available for online courses.

Note 3 Only includes the number of participants in physical courses as there is no relevant information available for online courses.

- (4) The evaluation of the first cohort of the Programme is undertaken by a research team from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and was completed in March 2024.

- (5) The Alumni Club (the Club) was established in November 2023. Mentees who have completed the Programme will automatically become members of the Club. They can participate in a variety of activities organised by the Club for the following 2 years. The activities planned for the first 2 years of the Club include 600 sessions of a Whole Person Development Programme (with an expected attendance of 8 400), 4 study and exchange tours (the number of participants depending on individual tours), and 2 large-scale events (with an expected attendance of 4 000). As at end-February 2024, the Club has organised 108 sessions of activities, including orientation, whole person development and special group activities, with a total attendance of 2 345 alumni. In addition, the internship organiser of the Club will arrange career talks/orientation activities and an internship programme that offers work experience and internship opportunities for alumni aged 16 or older, with a view to broadening their horizons, and helping them develop job-related skills and establish life goals.

In 2024-25, the Government has set aside approximately \$23.50 million for organising activities of the Club.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)115

(Question Serial No. 1845)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the second cohort of the Strive and Rise Programme (the Programme), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The manpower and expenditure involved in implementing the Programme.
2. The number of participating mentees, broken down by gender and grade level (i.e. Secondary One, Two, Three and Four).
3. The number of participating mentors, broken down by gender, age and occupation.
4. How many mentees are paired with mentors who are engaged in the mentees' ideal occupation or share similar interests? What is the average number of mentor-mentee interactive sessions since the launch of the Programme? Have there been any cases where mentees or their parents have raised concerns or complaints regarding difficulties in communication or having a distant relationship with their mentors? If yes, please provide details.
5. Group mentoring has been introduced on top of one-to-one mentor-mentee pairing for enhancing the learning experience of mentees and offering better peer support among mentors. Please provide the implementation details and effectiveness of group mentoring.
6. Under the Programme, participating mentees can enrol in electives for basic training (i.e. language skills enhancement, development of interests (sports, music, arts), social skills and etiquette, guidance for further studies, and guidance and support on physical and mental health) based on their needs. Please provide (i) the number of places, (ii) the number of applications and (iii) the number of participants for each elective since the implementation of the Programme.
7. Have any mentees or mentors voluntarily withdrawn from the Programme thus far? If so, please provide the number of individuals who withdrew and their reasons for doing so.

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

- (1) The manpower involved in the implementation of the Programme is deployed from the Social Welfare Department. As the manpower involved is also responsible for other youth services, the staffing establishment cannot be separately identified.

In 2024-25, the estimated expenditure for implementing the Programme is \$117.8 million, including launching the enhanced Programme and organising activities under the Alumni Club established for graduates of the Programme.

- (2) The number of mentees participating in the second cohort of the Programme as at end-February 2024, broken down by gender and grade level, is tabulated as follows:

| Grade level | Male | Female | Total |
|-----------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Secondary One | 624 | 518 | 1 142 |
| Secondary Two | 444 | 463 | 907 |
| Secondary Three | 445 | 491 | 936 |
| Secondary Four | 404 | 466 | 870 |
| Total | 1 917 | 1 938 | 3 855 |

- (3) The number of mentors for the second cohort as at end-February 2024 is about 3 100 (some mentors are paired with 2 mentees). Their numbers broken down by gender, age and occupation are set out at Annex.
- (4) Enhancement measures have been introduced for the second cohort of the Programme. Each mentee will first be matched with a suitable mentor based on his/her career aspiration or hobbies/interests as indicated in his/her application form. The number of mentor-mentee interactive sessions held during the course of the Programme can only be compiled and provided after the completion of the Programme. As at end-February 2024, the Social Welfare Department has not received any feedback or complaints from mentees or their parents regarding difficulties in communication or having a distant relationship with their mentors.
- (5) After mentees and mentors are matched on a one-to-one basis, they will form a mentoring group with 2 to 3 pairs of mentors and mentees. Together, they will participate in activities and exchanges, thereby enhancing interaction, sharing and support during the course of mentorship. We will closely monitor its implementation and gather feedback from mentees and mentors to evaluate the effectiveness of group mentoring.
- (6) Regarding the electives for basic training, preparations are currently underway and no relevant statistics are available at this stage.
- (7) A total of 30 mentees and 16 mentors have withdrawn from second cohort of the Programme as at end-February 2024. The main reasons for mentees to withdraw include busy schoolwork, scheduling conflicts with school or extra-curricular activities, the need to attend tutoring classes on weekends, and poor health. For mentors who withdrew from the Programme, it is mainly due to busy work schedules.

**Number of mentors participating in the second cohort of the Programme
broken down by gender, age and occupation as at end-February 2024**

| Gender | Number |
|---------------|---------------|
| Male | 1 637 |
| Female | 1 437 |

| Age | Number |
|------------|---------------|
| 21-25 | 213 |
| 26-40 | 1 576 |
| 41-55 | 1 113 |
| 56+ | 172 |

| Occupation/Sector | Number |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Finance and insurance | 1 187 |
| 2. Communications/Information technology | 204 |
| 3. Engineering and construction | 159 |
| 4. Education | 152 |
| 5. Government/Public administration | 101 |
| 6. Transportation and logistics | 89 |
| 7. Social services | 64 |
| 8. Medical | 48 |
| 9. Legal | 47 |
| 10. Hotel/Tourism | 28 |
| 11. Catering | 26 |
| 12. Entrepreneur | 24 |
| 13. Science/Research | 22 |
| 14. Environmental protection/Green industry | 22 |
| 15. Disciplined services | 21 |
| 16. Performing arts/Art | 14 |
| 17. Sports | 12 |
| 18. Creative industry | 12 |
| 19. Fashion and beauty | 6 |
| 20. Others | 836 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**LWB(W)116****(Question Serial No. 0483)**Head: (170) Social Welfare DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Services for The ElderlyControlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and WelfareQuestion:

In 2020, the Government regularised the Pilot Scheme of Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong, and renamed it the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme). It provides an additional option of subsidised services for elderly persons who are waitlisted for subsidised care-and-attention (C&A) places and plans to retire in the Mainland. Since 28 July 2023, the scope of beneficiaries and eligibility criteria for service providers of GDRCS Scheme has also been expanded. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. the number of elderly persons participating in the GDRCS Scheme and their proportion among those waitlisted for subsidised C&A places in the past 2 years;
2. the number of applications submitted by eligible service providers and the number of recognised service providers (RSPs) in the past 2 years;
3. the relevant expenditure incurred in the past 2 years; and
4. the estimated number of elderly beneficiaries and the expenditure involved in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)Reply:

1. The number of elderly persons newly participated in the GDRCS Scheme and their proportion among those waitlisted for subsidised C&A places from 2022-23 to 2023-24 are as follows:

| | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|---|---------|--------------------------------------|
| No. of participating elderly persons | 6 | 63 |
| No. of participating elderly persons as a percentage of the no. of elderly persons waitlisted for subsidised C&A places | 0.04% | 0.44% |

2. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has relaxed the eligibility criteria for service operators under the GDRCS Scheme on 28 July 2023 to allow Hong Kong organisations, including non-governmental and private ones, with experience and a good track record in providing subsidised residential care services for the elderly to join the GDRCS Scheme as RCPs and apply for their RCHEs located in Mainland cities within the Greater Bay Area to be included in the GDRCS Scheme. SWD has so far received 3 applications and the vetting of the applications is currently underway.
3. & 4. The number of places purchased by SWD each year depends on the number of elderly persons participating in the GDRCS Scheme. The annual expenditure from 2022-23 to 2024-25 is set out below:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 13.1 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 33.7 |
| 2024-25 (Estimate) | 32.5 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)117

(Question Serial No. 0488)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In 2024-25, the Government will allocate funding of about \$130 million from the Community Care Fund (CCF) to implement a 3-year pilot scheme starting from the third quarter of this year to provide an additional subsidy of \$500 per month for employed disabled recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) as an incentive for employment. Please provide the following information:

1. the current number of persons with disabilities (PWDs) who are eligible for CSSA, as well as the percentage of employed PWDs among them;
2. the percentage of employed PWDs by type of employment and the average income for each type; and
3. the eligibility criteria and details of the scheme.
4. Considering the potential instability in employment for PWDs, will the Department revoke the employment subsidy if successful applicants suddenly become unemployed?
5. To encourage corporations to increase the proportion of PWD employees and ensure employment stability for PWDs, will the Department collaborate with relevant corporations or organisations or subsidise them to provide barrier-free facilities, etc.?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. As at the end of December 2023, there were 182 657 disabled CSSA recipients, with 6 042 of them engaged in paid employment. Due to limitations in statistical compilation, the above figures also include able-bodied persons aged 65 or above since both able-bodied and 50% disabled CSSA recipients aged 65 or above receive the same standard rate.
2. The number of disabled CSSA recipients engaging in paid employment with a breakdown by occupation as at the end of December 2023 is set out at Annex. Due to limitations in statistical compilation, the figures also include able-bodied persons aged 65 or above since both able-bodied and 50% disabled CSSA recipients aged 65 or above receive the same standard rate. The Social Welfare

Department (SWD) does not have information on the average income of disabled CSSA recipients by type of occupation.

- 3 & 4. As announced in the 2024-25 Budget Speech, the Government will seek funding of about \$130 million from CCF to implement a 3-year pilot scheme starting from the third quarter of 2024 to provide an additional subsidy of \$500 per month for employed disabled recipients of CSSA as an incentive for employment. The scheme is expected to benefit some 6 800 persons. SWD is carrying out the relevant preparatory work and will release the details of the pilot scheme before its implementation.
5. To support the employment of PWDs, SWD provides employers of PWDs with a subsidy for procuring assistive devices and/or carrying out workplace modifications through the Support Programme for Employees with Disabilities, with the aim to assist employees with disabilities in discharging their duties in the workplace and enhance their work efficiency. Employers may apply for a subsidy of up to \$40,000 for each employee with disabilities. Moreover, SWD has launched the Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise Project to provide funding support for non-governmental organisations to set up small enterprises/businesses that hire PWDs. At least half of the employees hired by the applicant businesses should be PWDs, with a view to creating more employment and on-the-job training opportunities for them. A non-recurrent grant will be provided to the grantee for paying the necessary set-up costs in respect of equipment, fitting-out works, etc. and/or covering any losses incurred during the initial operating period, which can be up to 3 years. The maximum amount of grant for each business is \$3 million.

**Number of disabled CSSA recipients engaging in paid employment ^{Note}
with a breakdown by occupation**

| Occupation | No. of disabled CSSA recipients engaging in paid employment ^{Note} (as at end-December 2023) |
|---|--|
| Cleaner | 442 |
| General worker/labourer (other than those engaging in construction works) | 340 |
| Waiter/waitress | 167 |
| Salesperson | 139 |
| Driver | 104 |
| Delivery worker | 103 |
| Watchman/guard | 95 |
| Clerk | 71 |
| Domestic helper/babysitter | 24 |
| Construction worker/labourer/fitting-out worker | 23 |
| Others | 4 534 |
| Total | 6 042 |

^{Note} Due to limitations in statistical compilation, the number of disabled CSSA recipients engaging in paid employment also includes able-bodied persons aged 65 or above since both able-bodied and 50% disabled CSSA recipients aged 65 or above receive the same standard rate.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)118

(Question Serial No. 0489)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government has indicated that it would make an additional injection into the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund) and expand the scope of the I&T Fund to allow eligible service units to procure gerontechnology products suitable for household use by elderly persons, persons with disabilities and their carers in 2024-25. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

1. the respective numbers of applications received and approved by the I&T Fund, as well as the number and percentage of applications for each type of service unit for each of the past 3 years;
2. the approved funding amount and percentage for each type of service unit to date; and
3. the estimated number of families expected to benefit from the expanded coverage of the I&T Fund, and the amount of funding involved.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. The Government allocated \$1 billion to launch the I&T Fund in December 2018 to subsidise eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent or trial technology products, with a view to improving the quality of life of service users and reducing the pressure on care staff and carers. From 2021-22 to 2023-24 (as at the end of February 2024), grants totalling around \$370 million have been approved under the I&T Fund. The numbers of products applied for and approved are set out at Annex 1.
2. As at the end February 2024, grants totalling around \$660 million have been approved under the I&T Fund for about 1 900 elderly and rehabilitation service units. The approved amount and percentage for each type of service unit are set out at Annex 2.
3. It is announced in the 2023 Policy Address that the Government will inject an additional \$1 billion into the I&T Fund in 2024-25, and expand the scope of the I&T Fund to cover gerontechnology products suitable for household use. This new initiative will be implemented in 2024-25. The Social Welfare Department has not estimated the number of families expected to benefit or the amount of grants involved.

**Numbers of products applied for and approved under the I&T Fund
from 2021-22 to 2023-24**

(as at 29 February 2024)

| Tranche no. (application period) | Type of service unit | No. of technology products applied | No. of technology products approved |
|--|--|---|--|
| 5 (February to May 2021) | Subsidised elderly service unit | 2 046 | 1 792 |
| | Subsidised rehabilitation service unit | 1 007 | 855 |
| | Total | 3 053 | 2 647 |
| 6 (September to October 2021) | Subsidised elderly service unit | 1 254 | 1 129 |
| | Subsidised rehabilitation service unit | 377 | 334 |
| | Total | 1 631 | 1 463 |
| 7 (January to March 2022) | Subsidised elderly service unit | 726 | 620 |
| | Subsidised rehabilitation service unit | 428 | 367 |
| | Total | 1 154 | 987 |
| 8 ^{Note} (September to November 2022) | Subsidised elderly service unit | 2 268 | 2 115 |
| | Subsidised rehabilitation service unit | 1 200 | 1 023 |
| | Non-subsidised private and self-financing residential care home for the elderly (RCHE) | 3 570 | 2 302 |
| | Non-subsidised private and self-financing residential care home for persons with disabilities (RCHD) | 108 | 104 |
| | Total | 7 146 | 5 544 |
| 9 (May to August 2023) | Subsidised elderly service unit | 1 465 | 274 |
| | Subsidised rehabilitation service unit | 646 | 176 |
| | Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHE | 1 346 | 90 |
| | Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHD | 84 | 7 |
| | Total | 3 541 | 547 |

^{Note} The eligibility for applying for procurement and rental of technology products has been extended to non-subsidised private or self-financing RCHEs and RCHDs starting with the Eighth Tranche launched in September 2022.

**Approved funding amount and percentage for various types of service units
under the I&T Fund**

(as at 29 February 2024)

| Type of service unit | Approved amount (\$ million) | % |
|---|---|-------------|
| Subsidised elderly service unit | 372 | 55.8% |
| Subsidised rehabilitation service unit | 210 | 31.5% |
| Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHE | 81 | 12.1% |
| Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHD | 4 | 0.6% |
| Total | 667 | 100% |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)119

(Question Serial No. 3030)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government will set up 10 more aided standalone child care centres (CCCs) in phases starting this year. The target is to provide nearly 900 additional places for day child care services within 3 years. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the locations and the criteria used for selecting the locations for the 10 additional aided standalone CCCs;
2. the plan for establishing the additional CCCs, including specific details for each phase; and
3. the estimated additional manpower required for setting up each of these CCCs, along with the expenditure for various related items.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

- 1 & 2. According to the population-based planning ratio incorporated into the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (i.e. 100 aided CCC places for children aged below 3 for every 25 000 persons), the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been reserving suitable premises for operating CCCs in different new development areas. For developed areas, apart from referring to the above planning ratio, SWD will take into account the child care services provision in the districts and the characteristics of individual districts, including service utilisation, ratio of subsidised to private child care services, available CCC places, land supply situation, and the service demand as a result of demographic changes, etc. when conducting service planning.

SWD will set up 10 more aided standalone CCCs in phases within 3 years starting from 2024, providing about 900 additional places. Among them, 100 places in Queens Hill Estate and 56 places Wah Ming Estate in Fanling have commenced service in January and March 2024 respectively. The 88 places in Shun Lee Estate in Kwun Tong and 100 places at the Treasury Building in Sham Shui Po are scheduled for commencing operation in 2024-25, whereas the 100 places at Cheung Shun Street in Sham Shui Po and 60 places in Kwai Fong Estate in Kwai

Chung will be put into service in 2025-26. The remaining 4 aided standalone CCCs, proposed to be set up in districts such as Kowloon City and Kwun Tong, will collectively provide about 400 additional places, and are scheduled to commence service in 2026-27.

3. In accordance with the Child Care Services Ordinance (Cap. 243) and Child Care Services Regulations (Cap. 243A), the manning ratio for qualified child care worker taking care of children aged 0 to below 2 in day CCCs is 1:8, while the manning ratio for taking care of children aged 2 to below 3 is 1:14. To improve service quality, the Government has allocated additional resources to enhance the above manning ratios to 1:6 and 1:11 respectively since the 2019/20 school year. SWD will provide service operators with a lump sum grant for fitting-out works and purchasing of furniture and equipment. SWD will also subsidise recognised operating costs, which include salaries, administrative support, minor repairs and maintenance at the CCCs, rent, building management fees, and ancillary services provided within the CCCs (such as Extended Hours Service and/or Occasional Child Care Service). The estimated annual expenditure for the 10 additional aided standalone CCCs is about \$66.4 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)120

(Question Serial No. 0579)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government will continue to oversee the implementation of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses (Special Sites Scheme). In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

- 1) the respective numbers of applications received and approved since the implementation of the Special Sites Scheme;
- 2) the average processing time for each application;
- 3) the current status of the Special Sites Scheme, including listing the names, service targets, available service places, commencement and completion dates of the projects etc; and
- 4) the measures to be taken to expedite the progress of outstanding projects.

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

The Government launched Phase One and Phase Two of the Special Sites Scheme in September 2013 and April 2019 respectively to encourage non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide or increase welfare facilities that are in acute demand through expansion, redevelopment or new development. Out of the 88 project proposals received under Phase One and Phase Two of the Special Sites Scheme, 23 proposals, which could not proceed further due to various reasons (including site constraints), had been withdrawn by the applicant NGOs or removed from the Special Sites Scheme. As at the end of February 2024, 6 projects have been completed and put into service, 2 projects have entered the construction stage, 10 projects are at the stage of detailed design, and 22 projects are at the stage of technical feasibility studies (TFS). Details of these 40 Special Sites Scheme projects are provided at Annex. The remaining 25 projects are currently at project formulation and preliminary planning stage. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will support the relevant NGOs in proceeding with TFS, taking into account the actual progress of individual projects.

The progress of NGOs in implementing projects under the Special Sites Scheme may be affected by various factors, including restrictions of the surrounding environment of the sites,

provision of communal and transport facilities, requirements prescribed in the land lease, restrictions stipulated in the outline zoning plans (OZP), the outcome of local consultations, etc. The development progress also depends on whether the applicant NGOs will revise the project proposals during the development process or require more time to prepare relevant documents and the requisite information for submission. As NGOs generally lack professional teams or experience in project development, they may need more time to complete the relevant procedures during the planning process. The time needed to take forward individual projects also varies due to planning and development restrictions of the sites, technical problems, NGOs' own reasons, etc.

To facilitate and coordinate the implementation of projects under the Special Sites Scheme, SWD has been providing one-stop assistance to the applicant NGOs throughout the planning and development process, and has devised various guidelines and templates on the preparation of funding applications and tender documents for NGOs' reference. SWD has been maintaining close contact with relevant government departments, including the Architectural Services Department, Lands Department, Planning Department and Buildings Department to provide assistance and co-ordination to NGOs regarding issues involved in individual projects, including amendment to OZP, obtaining planning permission and lease modification. To further assist the applicant NGOs in pressing ahead with their projects, SWD proactively invited each of the NGOs participating in the Special Sites Scheme for a meeting between December 2022 and May 2023 to review and discuss the progress of their projects. In addition, the Director of Social Welfare convened an inter-departmental meeting in September 2023 with representatives from various departments specialising in planning, land administration, traffic and environment matters, etc. to strengthen the co-ordination among government departments and NGOs and to facilitate the applicant NGOs in tackling technical problems of their individual projects in the planning stage. SWD will continue to take the initiative to arrange for NGOs to meet with the government departments concerned having regard to the circumstances of individual projects so as to expedite their implementation.

**Completed projects and projects at construction, detailed design or TFS stages
under the Special Sites Scheme**

| Project | Additional welfare service places |
|---|--|
| 6 completed projects (Commenced service in 2016-2021) | |
| 1. Hong Chi Association Redevelopment of Hong Chi Pinehill Integrated Vocational Training Centre - Minor Staff Quarter and Services Building, Pinehill Village, Tai Po | Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons (HMMH) (100 places) |
| 2. Caritas - Hong Kong Redevelopment of Caritas Social Centre - Tsuen Wan at 9 Shing Mun Road, Tsuen Wan | Care and Attention Home providing Continuum of Care (CoC Home) (120 places); Day Care Centre for the Elderly (DE) (40 places); Well-being Centre for the Family and the Community; Trauma Treatment Centre |
| 3. Heep Hong Society Redevelopment of Heep Hong Society Catherine Lo Centre at 19 Sandy Bay Road, Hong Kong | Special Child Care Centre (SCCC) (54 places); Early Education and Training Centre (EETC) (180 places) |
| 4. Hong Chi Association New development on a vacant area originally used for environmental enhancement and farming in Hong Chi Pinehill Village, Tai Po | SCCC (60 places); EETC (50 places); Residential Special Child Care Centre (12 places); Small Group Home (SGH) for Mildly Mentally Handicapped Children (32 places) |
| 5. Hong Chi Association Redevelopment of Hong Chi Pinehill Integrated Vocational Training Centre - Main Building, Pinehill Village, Tai Po | Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons (HSMH) (200 places); Day Activity Centre (DAC) (200 places); Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre (IVRSC) (180 places) |
| 6. Haven of Hope Christian Service Expansion of Haven of Hope Woo Ping Care and Attention Home at 8 Pui Shing Lane, Tseung Kwan O | CoC Home (103 places) |
| 2 projects at construction stage (estimated to be completed in 2025-2027) | |
| 7. Caritas - Hong Kong Expansion works at Caritas Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home in Tuen Mun | Day Care Unit for the Elderly (DCU) (30 places) |
| 8. Pok Oi Hospital Development on a site at Fuk Hang Tsuen Road, Lam Tei, Tuen Mun | CoC Home (1 018 places); Nursing Home (NH) (416 places); Work-based Child Care Centre (CCC) (60 places) |
| 10 projects at detailed design stage (estimated to be completed by phases in 2027-2031) | |
| 9. Stewards Redevelopment of Stewards Peace Clinic Building at 145 Hong Ning Road, Kwun Tong | SCCC (90 places); DAC (50 places); HSMH (50 places); Parents/Relatives Resource Centre |

| Project | Additional welfare service places |
|---|--|
| 10. Hong Kong Society for the Blind Redevelopment of Factory for the Blind at 19 Mok Cheong Street, To Kwa Wan | HSMH (150 places); HMMH (50 places); IVRSC (100 places); DAC (150 places); Care and Attention Home for the Aged Blind (48 places); Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre for Persons with Disabilities |
| 11. The Hong Kong Student Aid Society Proposed development on a site at Lei Yue Mun Path, Yau Tong | DAC (100 places); HSMH (50 places); SGH (60 places); Transitional Home for Vulnerable Youngsters (20 places); Career Development Service |
| 12. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited Expansion of a Nursing Home at Chun Yan Street, Wong Tai Sin | NH (120 places); DE (60 places) |
| 13. The Evangelical Gospel Lutheran Church Limited Development on a site at Ma Tin Road, Yuen Long | CoC Home (180 places) |
| 14. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited Development on a site at the junction of Castle Peak Road - Yuen Long and Yau Tin East Road | CoC Home (117 places); DE (60 places); SCCC (60 places) |
| 15. Po Leung Kuk Redevelopment of Wong Chuk Hang Service for the Elderly at 1 Wong Chuk Hang Path, Aberdeen | CoC Home (117 places); NH (300 places); DE (36 places) |
| 16. Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong Development on a site in Tai Chung Hau, Sai Kung | CoC Home (250 places); DE (60 places) |
| 17. Helping Hand Development on a vacant area of Cheung Muk Tau Holiday Centre for the Elderly | CoC Home (200 places) |
| 18. The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation Redevelopment of the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation Lam Tin Complex at 7 Rehab Path, Lam Tin | CoC Home (400 places); DE (120 places); HSMH (100 places); HMMH (100 places); IVRSC (120 places); DAC (100 places); SCCC (60 places); Work-based CCC (35 places); Community Rehabilitation Network; Self-help Resource Hub; House of Aphasia; Training Institute on Holistic Rehabilitation and Wellness |
| 22 projects at TFS stage (Completion date to be confirmed) | |
| 19. Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Limited Redevelopment of the service building at 180B Aberdeen Main Road | CoC Home (174 places); DE (80 places); Outdoor Adventure Climbing Wall for the Youth |

| Project | Additional welfare service places |
|---|---|
| 20. Asbury Methodist Social Service Partial redevelopment of a site at 1 Sheung Kok Street, Kwai Chung | DE (40 places); CCC (100 places); SGH (30 places); Dementia Centre for the Elderly |
| 21. Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service Development on a vacant area of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong at 88 Ping Che Road, Fanling | DE (60 places); CoC Home (240 places); IVRSC (120 places); HMMH (120 places) |
| 22. Caritas – Hong Kong Development on a vacant site at Sha Tau Kok Road - Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling | CoC Home (250 places) |
| 23. Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong Development on a vacant area of the youth camp at 47 Mau Wu Tsai Village, Po Lam Road South, Tseung Kwan O | CoC Home (300 places); DE (80 places) |
| 24. Ching Chung Taoist Association of Hong Kong Redevelopment of Ching Chung Home for the Aged at 8 Tsing Chung Path, Tuen Mun | CoC Home (276 places); DE (40 places) |
| 25. Chuk Lam Ming Tong Limited Extension of Chuk Lam Ming Tong Care and Attention Home for the Aged at 5 Sha Wan Drive, Pokfulum | CoC Home (83 places) |
| 26. Haven of Hope Christian Service Development on a vacant area at Lot No. 142RP in Survey District No. 5, Tseung Kwan O | NH (200 places); Care and Attention Home for Severely Disabled Persons (C&A/SD) (120 places) |
| 27. Haven of Hope Christian Service Development within the site of Haven of Hope Sunnyside School at 301 Anderson Road, Tseung Kwan O | HSMH (120 places); DAC (162 places) |
| 28. Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association Redevelopment of Buddhist Po Ching Care and Attention Home for the Aged Women at 10 Chi Fuk Circuit, Fanling | CoC Home (122 places); DCU (20 places) |
| 29. The Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club Redevelopment of The Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club Madam Wong Chan Sook Ying Memorial Care and Attention Home for the Aged at 6 Pik Wan Road, Yau Tong | CoC Home (259 places); DE (40 places); Elderly Learning Centre |
| 30. Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service Partial redevelopment of Martha Boss Lutheran Community Centre at 89 Chung Hau Street, Homantin | CoC Home (96 places); DE (60 places); HSMH (30 places); DAC (30 places); SCCC (90 places); CCC (100 places); Office Base of On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services (OPRS) |

| Project | Additional welfare service places |
|---|---|
| 31. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited Redevelopment of St. Thomas' Church at 43 Berwick Street, Sham Shui Po | DE (80 places); CCC (60 places); SCCC (30 places); Integrated Elderly Rehabilitation Services Centre |
| 32. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited Development on a vacant site in Tai Po (Taxlord Lot No. T77RP in Demarcation District No. 34) | CoC Home (289 places); SCCC (100 places); CCC (65 places); SGH (30 places); Foster Care Services and Agency-based Enhancement of Professional Staff Support Services |
| 33. Pok Oi Hospital Redevelopment of Pok Oi Hospital Yeung Chun Pui Care and Attention Home at 58 Sha Chau Lei Tsuen, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long | CoC Home (49 places); DE (80 places); HSMH (50 places); HMMH (40 places); DAC (50 places); IVRSC (80 places); CCC (59 places) |
| 34. Pok Oi Hospital Development of a Day Care Centre for the Elderly at Fuk Hang Tsuen Road, Lam Tei, Tuen Mun | DE (160 places) |
| 35. Po Leung Kuk Partial redevelopment of Po Leung Kuk Headquarters at 66 Leighton Road, Causeway Bay | SCCC (90 places); Residential Child Care Centre (55 places); CCC (66 places); Office Base of OPRS; Children Section (20 places); Kindergarten-cum-Nursery (76 places) |
| 36. The Salvation Army Redevelopment of Shaukeiwan Day Activity Centre at 456 Shau Kei Wan Road | HSMH (60 places); DAC (65 places); Family and Child Development Centre for Children with Special Needs |
| 37. The Salvation Army Redevelopment of The Salvation Army Lai King Home at 200-210 Lai King Hill Road, Kwai Chung | HSMH (78 places) with Residential Respite Service (2 designated places); HMMH (80 places); IVRSC (120 places); DAC (78 places); C&A/SD (70 places) |
| 38. Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Redevelopment of Jockey Club Care and Attention Home for the Elderly at 9 Sandy Bay Road | CoC Home (176 places); DE (40 places); C&A/SD (150 places); HSMH (88 places); HMMH (88 places); IVRSC (120 places); DAC (88 places); SCCC (60 places) |
| 39. Yan Oi Tong Partial redevelopment of Yan Oi Tong Jockey Club Community and Sports Centre at 18 Kai Man Path, Tuen Mun | NH (100 places); DE (60 places); SCCC (50 places) |
| 40. The Yuen Yuen Institute Redevelopment of Yuen Yuen Home for the Aged at 31 & 33 Lo Wai Road, Sam Dip Tam, Tsuen Wan | CoC Home (387 places); DCU (30 places); SCCC (40 places) |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)121

(Question Serial No. 3073)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

To enhance welfare support services for ethnic minorities (EMs), the Government has continued to implement the EM District Ambassador pilot scheme (the pilot scheme). In this connection, please provide this Committee with the following information:

- 1) The number of applications received in each of the past 3 years, and the number of EM District Ambassadors hired.
- 2) Has there been an evaluation of the pilot scheme's effectiveness thus far? What measures will be taken to enhance and expand EM services?

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

- 1) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the pilot scheme in October 2020 in 9 districts with a higher EM population (i.e. Central and Western, Islands, Wan Chai, Eastern, Yau Tsim Mong, Kowloon City, Kwai Tsing, Yuen Long and Sham Shui Po). The pilot scheme aims to enhance welfare support services for EM communities by employing an additional 46 EMs or designated persons as EM District Ambassadors in some service units of SWD and subvented non-governmental organisations. As at December 2023, a cumulative total of 112 persons have been employed as ambassadors. SWD does not have information on the number of applications for these posts.
- 2) The pilot scheme has received positive feedback and support from various stakeholders since its implementation. The Government has extended the pilot scheme for 3 years to 2026 so as to continue strengthening welfare support for EM communities. SWD will keep reviewing the implementation of the pilot scheme and timely examine the way forward for the services.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)122

(Question Serial No. 3074)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Government's plan to strengthen the home-based child care service (HCCS) under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP) and increase the level of incentive payment for home-based child carers and the number of places, please inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) the number of places, number of service users, average utilisation rate and fee charged for the service under NSCCP in the past 3 years;
- 2) a breakdown of the actual expenditure incurred by NSCCP in each of the past 3 years; and
- 3) the approving procedures and criteria adopted by the Government when examining funding applications, and the measures implemented to ensure the quality and standards of service operators.

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

- 1 & 2) The information on NSCCP for the past 3 financial years is provided at Annex. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the average utilisation rate of the services offered under NSCCP.

SWD allocates funding to service operators based on their expenditure in operating NSCCP, which includes staff salaries, costs for recruiting and training home-based child carers, incentive payments, service promotion costs and subsidies for service fee waivers/reductions, etc. At the same time, service operators are required to provide a minimum number of places and employ staff in accordance with the staffing establishment stipulated in the Service Agreement (SA) for operating NSCCP. They must also meet the output and outcome standards specified in the SA. Subject to their compliance with these requirements, service operators may flexibly deploy the funding to operate NSCCP. Therefore, SWD does not have a breakdown of the annual actual expenditure for NSCCP as requested in the question.

- 3) SWD adopts a “quality-based” approach in selecting non-governmental organisations to operate NSCCP. To ensure service quality, SWD has consistently required service operators of NSCCP to establish mechanisms for recruiting, assessing, selecting and training home-based child carers, and for service matching. Social workers from service operators are required to conduct monthly home visits to home-based child carers currently providing services, while child care workers will provide them with individual training/supervision. In addition, service operators are also required to continuously evaluate and follow up on the performance of home-based child carers. Statistics related to the amount of training/supervision provided are included in the service quality indicators, and service operators are required to submit relevant statistical information to SWD on a quarterly basis. SWD will also conduct regular and surprise visits to assess whether service operators are in compliance with the requirements specified in the SA.

Table 1: Number of places, number of children served, service fee and expenditure for NSCCP**2021-22**

| District | Number of places ^[Note 1] | Number of children served | Basic service fee per hour ^[Note 2] | | Actual expenditure for 2021-22 ^[Note 3] (\$ million) |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| | | | HCCS | Centre-based care group (CCG) | |
| Central & Western | 53 | 355 | 24 | 24 | 51.2 |
| Wan Chai | 53 | 287 | 22 | 22 | |
| Eastern | 53 | 428 | 22 | 22 | |
| Southern | 53 | 283 | 20 | 12 | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 724 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sham Shui Po | 53 | 1 011 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kowloon City | 53 | 588 | 20 | 13 | |
| Wong Tai Sin | 53 | 621 | 18 | 10 | |
| Kwun Tong | 53 | 362 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kwai Tsing | 53 | 619 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tsuen Wan | 53 | 514 | 20 | 13 | |
| Tuen Mun | 53 | 767 | 20 | 13 | |
| Yuen Long | 53 | 1 309 | 18 | 13 | |
| North | 53 | 482 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tai Po | 53 | 552 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sha Tin | 53 | 916 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sai Kung | 53 | 513 | 20 | 13 | |
| Islands | 53 | 498 | 22 | 13 | |
| Total | 954 | 10 829 | - | - | |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

[Note 2] Operators may determine the amount of fees according to the circumstances of the district. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can apply for fee waivers/reductions.

[Note 3] The expenditure for each year includes the operator's administrative expenses and subsidies granted to service users from low-income families.

**Table 2: Number of places, number of children served, service fee and expenditure for NSCCP
2022-23**

| District | Number of places ^[Note 1] | Number of children served | Basic service fee per hour ^[Note 2] | | Actual expenditure for 2022-23 ^[Note 3] (\$ million) |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|-----|--|
| | | | HCCS | CCG | |
| Central & Western | 53 | 413 | 24 | 24 | 28.3 |
| Wan Chai | 53 | 189 | 22 | 22 | |
| Eastern | 53 | 326 | 22 | 22 | |
| Southern | 53 | 171 | 20 | 12 | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 793 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sham Shui Po | 53 | 842 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kowloon City | 53 | 455 | 20 | 13 | |
| Wong Tai Sin | 53 | 595 | 18 | 10 | |
| Kwun Tong | 53 | 395 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kwai Tsing | 53 | 679 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tsuen Wan | 53 | 645 | 20 | 13 | |
| Tuen Mun | 53 | 732 | 20 | 13 | |
| Yuen Long | 53 | 1 151 | 18 | 13 | |
| North | 53 | 446 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tai Po | 53 | 580 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sha Tin | 53 | 848 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sai Kung | 53 | 591 | 20 | 13 | |
| Islands | 53 | 468 | 22 | 13 | |
| Total | 954 | 10 319 | - | - | |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

[Note 2] Operators may determine the amount of fees according to the circumstances of the district. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can apply for fee waivers/reductions.

[Note 3] The expenditure for each year includes the operator's administrative expenses and subsidies granted to service users from low-income families. The decrease in expenditure for the year was due to the fact that part of the funding for 2022-23 was disbursed in 2023-24.

Table 3: Number of places, number of children served, service fee and expenditure for NSCCP

2023-24 (April to December 2023)

| District | Number of places ^[Note 1] | Number of children served | Basic service fee per hour ^[Note 2] | | Revised estimate for 2023-24 ^[Note 3] (\$ million) |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|-----|--|
| | | | HCCS | CCG | |
| Central & Western | 53 | 387 | 24 | 24 | 107.7 |
| Wan Chai | 53 | 201 | 22 | 22 | |
| Eastern | 53 | 329 | 22 | 22 | |
| Southern | 53 | 422 | 20 | 12 | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 640 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sham Shui Po | 53 | 706 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kowloon City | 53 | 280 | 20 | 13 | |
| Wong Tai Sin | 53 | 525 | 18 | 10 | |
| Kwun Tong | 53 | 404 | 20 | 13 | |
| Kwai Tsing | 53 | 495 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tsuen Wan | 53 | 380 | 20 | 13 | |
| Tuen Mun | 53 | 644 | 20 | 13 | |
| Yuen Long | 53 | 879 | 18 | 13 | |
| North | 53 | 400 | 18 | 13 | |
| Tai Po | 53 | 380 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sha Tin | 53 | 546 | 20 | 13 | |
| Sai Kung | 53 | 469 | 20 | 13 | |
| Islands | 53 | 397 | 22 | 13 | |
| Total | 954 | 8 484 | - | - | |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

[Note 2] Operators may determine the amount of fees according to the circumstances of the district. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can apply for fee waivers/reductions.

[Note 3] The expenditure for each year includes the operators' administrative expenses and subsidies granted to service users from low-income families. The increase in expenditure for the year was due to the fact that part of the funding for 2022-23 was disbursed in 2023-24.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)123

(Question Serial No. 3158)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Government's plan to extend the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children (ASCP(PC)) in phases to cover all 18 districts in Hong Kong, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide an overview of the implementation of ASCP(PC) in each district for the past 3 years, including the number of places, the number of service users, and the average utilisation rate.
2. Please provide the timetable for extending ASCP(PC) to cover all 18 districts in Hong Kong, as well as the number of places available in each district after the expansion.
3. Will the Government consider providing services on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays to help the families in need?

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

1. The number of places and the average utilisation rate of ASCP(PC) in each district for the past 3 financial years are set out at Annex 1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the number of service users.
2. SWD will extend ASCP(PC) to cover all districts in Hong Kong in phases within a period of 3 years starting from 2024. The number of centres participating in ASCP(PC) will increase from 16 to 28, while the number of places will increase from 672 to 1 176. SWD will invite non-governmental organisations to submit proposals, and plans to launch the first phase of service extension in the first quarter of 2025. The estimated number of places in various districts upon the full extension of ASCP(PC) is set out at Annex 2.
3. Centres of ASCP(PC) provide services in 3 sessions (i.e. the morning session, afternoon session and late afternoon session) from Monday to Friday. Some centres may offer additional sessions on Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays to meet the service demand in their respective districts.

**Number of places and average utilisation rate of ASCP(PC)
(2021-22, 2022-23 & April to December 2023)**

| District | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | April to December 2023 | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Number of places ^[Note 1] | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places ^[Note 2] | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places ^[Note 3] | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | 42 | 9 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 42 | 23 | 42 | 37 |
| Islands | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Eastern | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Wan Chai | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Kwun Tong | 84 | 35 | 126 | 43 | 126 | 54 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 42 | 0 | 42 | 69 | 42 | 85 |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Yau Tsim Mong | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Sham Shui Po | 126 | 46 | 126 | 71 | 126 | 74 |
| Sha Tin | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Tai Po | 42 | 39 | 42 | 41 | 42 | 47 |
| North | 42 | 1 | 42 | 28 | 42 | 71 |
| Yuen Long | 42 | 0 | 42 | 42 | 126 | 48 |
| Tsuen Wan | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Kwai Tsing | 42 | 20 | 84 | 58 | 126 | 56 |
| Tuen Mun | - | N.A. | - | N.A. | - | N.A. |
| Total | 420 | 32 | 546 | 53 | 714 | 57 |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note 1] 10 centres in Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Tai Po, Kwai Tsing, Wong Tai Sin, North and Yuen Long districts commenced service in August 2021 and February 2022.

[Note 2] 3 centres in Southern, Kwun Tong and Kwai Tsing districts commenced service in February 2023.

[Note 3] 4 centres in Central & Western, Yuen Long and Kwai Tsing districts commenced service in August 2023. As at 31 December 2023, 17 centres provided a total 714 places (42 places per centre), of which 2 will cease service after March 2024. In addition, 1 MHCCC completed re-engineering to commence service in the first quarter of 2024. Therefore, there will be a net increase of 3 centres of ASCP(PC) from 13 to 16 by the end of 2023-24 compared to 2022-23, while the number of places will increase from 546 to 672.

Number of places available in various districts upon the full extension of ASCP(PC)

| District | Number of places | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| | By the end of 2023-24 | Number of additional places | Total |
| Central & Western | 42 | - | 42 |
| Southern | 84 | - | 84 |
| Islands | - | 42 | 42 |
| Eastern | - | 42 | 42 |
| Wan Chai | - | 42 | 42 |
| Kwun Tong | 84 | - | 84 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 42 | - | 42 |
| Sai Kung | - | 42 | 42 |
| Kowloon City | - | 42 | 42 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | - | 42 | 42 |
| Sham Shui Po | 126 | - | 126 |
| Sha Tin | - | 42 | 42 |
| Tai Po | - | 42 | 42 |
| North | 42 | - | 42 |
| Yuen Long | 126 | - | 126 |
| Tsuen Wan | - | 42 | 42 |
| Kwai Tsing | 126 | - | 126 |
| Tuen Mun | - | 42 | 42 |
| 2 other centres will be located in districts with greater service demand | | 84 | 84 |
| Total | 672 | 504 | 1 176 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)124

(Question Serial No. 0837)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the legislative work on the mandatory reporting regime for suspected child abuse cases, there are concerns among the public about the adequacy of support for suspected child abuse victims. Specifically, there are concerns related to the availability of shelters and social workers, and the training provided to relevant personnel. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Does the Department intend to build more shelters for suspected child abuse victims? If so, what is the estimated expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?
2. For professionals who are affected and concerned about the impact of inadequate training on their ability to identify cases of child abuse in a timely manner, what publicity and training plans does the Department have in place? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LAM San-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up an additional Residential Child Care Centre (RCCC) in Tuen Mun in 2024-25. Another new RCCC is under planning. These 2 RCCCs will be operational before the commencement of the proposed Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance, adding a total of 96 emergency care service places and catering for about 380 children each year. The estimated annual operating expenditure is about \$57.12 million.
2. The Government has set up an e-learning platform to provide training, reference materials and information for relevant professionals. The Child Protection Online Training comprises online self-learning training and webinars. Module 1 of the online self-learning training has been launched in February 2024 to provide training on the basic knowledge on child protection. Module 2 will be rolled out in phases after the enactment of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill and will cover the basic knowledge on the relevant legal and reporting issues related to the new legislation. In addition, the Government will also organise webinars to provide the professionals with enrichment programmes to discuss different topics related to child protection and to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration among professionals. Q&A sessions will also be

included according to training needs to encourage interactive learning. The expenditure involved in training and promotion is about \$2.8 million.

Apart from the Child Protection Online Training, relevant bureaux/departments/organisations have been providing, and will continue to provide, professionals with training (including talks, seminars, workshops and online training, etc.) relating to child protection and their specific professions to enhance their knowledge and skills in handling suspected child abuse. SWD will also continue to collaborate with different government departments and organisations to enhance training for social workers and relevant professionals, in order to strengthen their capability for early identification and handling of suspected child abuse cases.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)125

(Question Serial No. 1762)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Budget Speech mentioned that the Government has implemented the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme) and the Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme) since last year. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following information:

- (1) What are the utilisation rates of CCSVs and RCSVs (with a breakdown by different service areas)? What are the results of the effectiveness evaluation?
- (2) Please provide details on the current distribution of expenditure on CCSVs and RCSVs.

Asked by: Hon LAM Shun-chiu, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

As at the end of December 2023, the numbers of current users of CCSVs and RCSVs are 8 395 and 3 433, respectively.

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) commissioned the Sau Po Centre on Ageing of the University of Hong Kong (Sau Po Centre) to evaluate the effectiveness of the first and second phases of the CCSV Scheme in 2013 and 2017, respectively. The results showed that the CCSV Scheme had effectively enhanced the quality of life of frail elderly persons and alleviated carers' stress. Based on the recommendations for each phase and feedback from stakeholders, SWD implemented various enhancement measures, including adding more service options, expanding the coverage to 18 districts across the territory and adjusting the voucher value of CCSV, etc. To evaluate the effectiveness of the third phase of the CCSV Scheme and various enhancement measures, SWD conducted an online questionnaire survey from July to August 2022 to collect feedback from stakeholders, including recognised service providers, service users and carers. In addition, it has visited the management and frontline staff of service operators to understand the daily operations of CCSV services. The Government has made the CCSV permanent since September 2023. The number of CCSVs will also be increased by 1 000 in 2024-25, bringing the total to 11 000, and will be further increased to 12 000 in 2025-26. The annual expenditure on CCSV is about \$900 million.

SWD commissioned The Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care of the Chinese University of Hong Kong to review the effectiveness of the RCSV Scheme in 2017 and 2020 respectively. The results showed that the RCSV Scheme was generally well-received by the elderly persons using RCSVs and the participating residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs). The RCSV Scheme provides an additional choice for elderly persons waitlisting for subsidised care-and-attention (C&A) places, and allows them to reside in RCHEs under the RCSV Scheme without having to wait. Since the implementation of the RCSV Scheme, the number of participating elderly persons and RCHEs has steadily increased. The Government has made the RCSV permanent in April 2023, and will expand the coverage of RCSVs from C&A places to nursing home places, starting in the second quarter of 2024. An extra 1 000 RCSVs will also be provided, bringing the total to 5 000. The annual expenditure on RCSV will be about \$1.44 billion.

SWD will review the operation and effectiveness of the CCSV Scheme and RCSV Scheme from time to time.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)126

(Question Serial No. 0582)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding street sleeper services, please provide the following information:

1. For each of the past 3 years, set out (i) the number of individuals benefitting from street sleeper services, (ii) their average age, and (iii) their characteristics.
2. For the past 3 years, provide (i) the number of organisations providing street sleeper services, (ii) the districts they serve, (iii) the services they offer (including the duration of accommodation services in years, if applicable), as well as (iv) the manpower and (v) the expenditure involved.
3. For the coming year, will there be an increase in the estimated expenditure on street sleeper services? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

1. The numbers of street sleeper cases receiving support from the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in the past 3 financial years were 573, 556 and 639, respectively. SWD does not have the other information sought.
2. In the past 3 financial years, SWD has been subventing non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to operate 3 Integrated Services Teams for Street Sleepers (ISTs). These ISTs conduct day and late-night outreach visits to proactively reach out to street sleepers in Hong Kong and understand their reasons for street sleeping. ISTs render integrated services according to the actual welfare needs of street sleepers and their willingness to receive services. These services include counselling, service referrals, short-term accommodation (with 3 service points located in Wan Chai District, Mong Kok District and Sham Shui Po District) and application for financial assistance, etc. In addition, SWD provides subvention to NGOs to operate 3 short-term hostels, with a view to providing short-term transitional accommodation for street sleepers to tide them over to stable living arrangements through counselling and consultation. These 3 hostels are located in Chai Wan District, Wong Tai Sin District and Hung Hom District, serving street sleepers in Hong Kong. The duration of stay at these hostels is normally up to

6 months, but may be extended by social workers subject to the welfare needs of individual cases to facilitate smooth implementation of suitable accommodation plans.

SWD subsidises NGOs to provide integrated services for street sleepers under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements, NGOs may determine their staffing establishment in accordance with their human resources policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service output and outcomes required. SWD does not have information on the actual number of NGO staff involved in providing services for street sleepers. The expenditure of integrated services for street sleepers subvented by SWD is tabulated as follows:

Expenditure of subvented integrated services for street sleepers

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 29.9 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 32.6 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 36.2 |

3. Since 2020-21, SWD has enhanced the welfare support services for street sleepers, including strengthening professional and supervisory support for the 3 ISTs, and providing additional outreach vehicles. In addition, 6 additional short-term hostel places for male street sleepers have been provided, increasing the number of subvented places from 222 to 228. SWD will continue to closely monitor the situation and service need of street sleepers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)127

(Question Serial No. 0583)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the additional injection into the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund) and the expansion of the scope of the I&T Fund to allow eligible service units to procure gerontechnology products suitable for household use by elderly persons and their carers, please provide this Committee with the following information:

1. the types of products currently available for choosing by eligible service units;
2. the number and types of gerontechnology products suitable for household use by elderly persons ageing in place and their carers that have been procured, rented and trialled by eligible service units in the past 3 years;
3. the number of elderly persons ageing in place and their carers who have procured, rented and trialled gerontechnology products provided by eligible service units for each of the past 3 years;
4. the amount of the additional injection into the I&T Fund and details on the expansion of the I&T Fund's scope in the coming year; and
5. whether the expansion will be extended to cover other service units for them to procure, rent and trial gerontechnology products; if so, the details.

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. An Expert Group has been established under the I&T Fund to help develop a Reference List of Recognised Technology Application Products (Reference List) for eligible service units to refer to when applying for the procurement or rental of technology products. The list is updated from time to time, and the latest version will be uploaded to the website of the Social Welfare Department (SWD). Furthermore, an Assessment Panel (AP) has been formed to vet and advise on applications for the I&T Fund. If the technology products under application are not included in the Reference List, the AP will decide whether to approve the application based on established assessment criteria, including whether the products have obtained relevant certifications, their capacity to benefit service users and their cost-effectiveness, etc.

2 to 5. It was announced in the 2023 Policy Address that the Government would inject an additional \$1 billion into the I&T Fund in 2024-25, and expand the scope of the I&T Fund to cover gerontechnology products suitable for household use. Eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units can procure suitable technology products for lending to elderly persons, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and their carers for use at home. This will extend the use of technology products from residential care homes and community service units to households, thus improving the quality of life of elderly persons and PWDs and relieving the pressure of the carers. SWD is currently formulating the relevant implementation details, including which service units will be included. These details will be announced in due course.

As the aforementioned new measure will only be implemented in 2024-25, SWD does not have information on elderly persons or their carers who have procured or trialled gerontechnology products provided by eligible service units in the past 3 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)128

(Question Serial No. 0590)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the continued implementation of the initiative to purchase premises for the provision of welfare facilities, please provide the following information:

1. (i) The number of premises purchased by the Government, (ii) their locations, (iii) the expenditure for each premises, and (iv) the services provided since the implementation of the initiative.
2. (i) The number of premises expected to be purchased by the Government, (ii) their locations, (iii) the expenditure for each premises, and (iv) the services to be provided for the upcoming year.
3. Will there be a review on the progress made? If the targets are not met, will the necessity of the initiative be reassessed?

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

With the assistance of the Government Property Agency (GPA), the Social Welfare Department (SWD) is striving to identify suitable premises for purchase through different channels. As at 29 February 2024, SWD has incurred about \$240 million in actual expenditure on the “purchase of welfare premises” under the Capital Works Reserve Fund, covering the payment for 5 premises. 2 of these premises are located in Sham Shui Po District, while the remaining 3 are located in Central and Western District, Eastern District and Kwun Tong District respectively. These premises are for operating a Parents/Relatives Resource Centre, a Support Centre for Persons with Autism and a neighbourhood elderly centre, as well as for providing on-site pre-school rehabilitation services.

The progress of purchasing premises, as well as the number, location, expenditure and purpose of such premises, depend on the availability of suitable properties in the market and various external factors, including whether the properties for sale have fire safety and barrier-free access facilities, whether the size and location meet operational requirements, whether the surrounding land uses are compatible with welfare uses, and whether the selling prices fall within the acceptable price range determined by GPA with reference to market value. Currently, SWD and GPA are continuing their efforts to identify and purchase suitable premises, and have earmarked about \$499 million for related work in 2024-25. If market conditions permit, the goal of SWD and GPA is to purchase as many premises as possible in order to provide more welfare facilities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)129

(Question Serial No. 0508)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government will set up 4 additional parents/relatives resource centres (PRCs) to support persons in mental recovery and their carers by the third quarter of 2025. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the staffing establishment and outcome indicators of the additional PRCs.

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department establishes staffing establishments (SE) for different types of subvented welfare services for calculating the amount of subvention. The SE for PRCs is provided at Annex. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements (FSA), service operators may flexibly deploy their manpower in accordance with their operational needs and human resources. The amount of subvention for the additional PRCs will also be calculated using the same SE. Moreover, the FSAs will stipulate the essential service requirements, output standards (OSs) and outcome standards for PRCs. The OSs include the numbers of members, group meetings, counselling cases and support and community education activities.

| SE for PRCs | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Rank/Post | Number of staff |
| Social Work Officer | 0.125 |
| Assistant Social Work Officer | 2 |
| Social Work Assistant | 1 |
| Welfare Worker | 2 |
| Clerical Assistant | 1 |
| Workman II | 0.667 |
| Total | 6.792 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)130

(Question Serial No. 0509)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

A survey conducted by an organisation found that the services provided by parents/relatives resource centres (PRCs) are the same as, or seemingly redundant with, those of integrated children and youth services centres (ICYSCs) or integrated family service centres (IFSCs). In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the reason(s) for allocating such a considerable amount of resources to PRCs only to provide similar services?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department provides subventions for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to operate PRCs across different districts. PRCs provide emotional support and professional advice to parents/relatives and carers of persons with disabilities (PWDs) to help them understand how to take care of PWDs, exchange experiences and seek mutual support in order to cope with stress and difficulties, while strengthening the functioning of families to better cater to the needs of PWDs.

ICYSCs provide children and young people aged 6 to 24 with guidance and counselling, support programmes, developmental and social activities, and community engagement programmes, in order to address their diverse welfare and developmental needs.

As for IFSCs/Integrated Services Centres, they provide needy individuals and families in specific localities with a range of preventive, supportive and remedial welfare services to support and strengthen individuals and families.

While each of the abovementioned service has specific service targets and characteristics, they complement each other with defined division of labour and referral mechanisms.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)131

(Question Serial No. 0510)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In recent years, there have been frequent family tragedies involving carers. Many of these incidents involved single parents and divorced families. Would the Department please inform this Committee whether it will consider establishing resource centers specifically for single parents and divorced families? In addition, how are the existing parents/relatives resource centres (PRCs) working to prevent or intervene in cases involving high-risk carers?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

At present, there are a total of 19 PRCs subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) across the territory, providing community support services to the parents/relatives and carers of persons with disabilities, including casework counselling and support groups/programmes, to help them learn how to take care of their family members with disabilities, exchange experience and seek mutual support. To provide support services for individuals or families in need, including divorced families, social workers at PRCs will collaborate with welfare service units within the district to meet the needs of service users and refer them to appropriate service units, such as Integrated Family Service Centres, based on their individual circumstances. To strengthen support for carers of persons in mental recovery, SWD will set up 4 additional PRCs for carers of persons in mental recovery.

Apart from PRCs, SWD has implemented a series of services to enhance support for carers in 2023, including setting up the 24-hour Designated Hotline for Carer Support 182 183 (the Carer Hotline) in September 2023. The Carer Hotline is answered by professional social workers, who provide community support information, instant consultation and counselling, outreach services, emergency support, respite service matching and referral services, etc. SWD has also rolled out the one-stop Information Gateway for Carers in November 2023 for carers to access the latest information on relevant services at any time.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)132

(Question Serial No. 0537)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

A recent survey pointed to a significant turnover of manpower in the social welfare sector, underscoring the need for talent retention. A survey indicated that employees in the social welfare sector have rated the “transparency” and their “satisfaction” with the remuneration systems of social welfare organisations relatively low. Would the Department please inform this Committee whether it will consider implementing a monitoring mechanism to address these concerns?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

Under the Lump Sum Grant (LSG) Subvention System, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating subvented welfare services may determine the establishment and remuneration of their staff in accordance with their human resources policies as well as flexibly deploy resources and employ staff, subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements and the relevant statutory staffing requirements. This arrangement enables NGOs to respond to service needs swiftly and provide welfare services efficiently.

According to the existing LSG Manual, with regard to human resource management and staff involvement, NGOs should have clear human resource management policies and programmes in respect of pay, training and development, manpower planning, recruitment and staff communication. In addition, the NGO Board/Management Committee is advised to consult staff on changes that may affect them, such as revising the existing establishment structure, changing the remuneration package or working conditions, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)133

(Question Serial No. 0539)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Currently, there are 19 parent/relative resource centres (PRCs) across the territory, and out of these, 16 provide services to parents of children with special learning needs. However, carers of persons with other types of disabilities do not have access to similar support. Would the Department please inform this Committee whether PRCs will consider expanding the scope of their services to include other types of disabilities, in addition to providing support for carers of persons in mental recovery? If not, please provide the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

Currently, there are a total of 19 PRCs across the territory. With the exception of 1 designated for parents/relatives and carers of persons in mental recovery, the remaining 18 serve parents, relatives or carers of persons with different types of disabilities (not only limited to children with special learning needs).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)134

(Question Serial No. 2577)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, please inform this Committee of:

1. (i) the number of CSSA applications received by the Department, (ii) the number of applications approved, (iii) the number of CSSA fraud cases, (iv) the number of persons convicted of CSSA fraud cases, and (v) the amount of overpayment involved in CSSA fraud cases for each of the past 3 years;
2. the number of households on CSSA for the past 3 years and the estimated number for the coming year, broken down by the number of household members; and
3. the staffing establishment and expenditure involved in both the investigation of suspected CSSA fraud cases, which were either reported by members of the public or referred by frontline Social Welfare Department (SWD) staff, and the recovery of overpayment, along with the amount of overpayment successfully recovered, over the past 3 years by SWD.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1. The numbers of CSSA applications received and approved from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are as follows:

| CSSA | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end- December 2023) |
|---|---------|---------|--|
| Number of applications received ^{Note 1} | 34 793 | 35 396 | 26 416 |
| Number of applications approved ^{Note 2} | 18 407 | 18 983 | 13 674 |

Note 1 Number of applications received refers to the number of applications received in the year.

Note 2 Number of applications approved refers to the number of applications approved in the year.

The number of established fraud cases upon SWD’s in-depth investigation, the number of prosecuted cases and the amount of overpayment involved from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are provided in the table below. With respect to suspected fraud cases substantiated upon investigation, SWD will recover overpayment from the relevant applicants/recipients. SWD will issue written warnings to those concerned or refer serious suspected fraud cases to the Police for investigation. Persons convicted of fraud by the court may be imprisoned, bound over, sentenced to community service order or fined.

| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|--|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Number of established fraud cases upon SWD’s in-depth investigation | 323 | 367 | 419 |
| Number of prosecuted cases | 24 | 21 | 15 |
| Amount of overpayment involved in established fraud cases upon SWD’s in-depth investigation (\$ million) | 34.3 | 38.1 | 34.2 |

2. The number CSSA cases from 2021-22 to 2023-24, broken down by number of eligible household members, is as follows:

| Number of eligible household members | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 138 092 | 133 784 | 132 724 |
| 2 | 39 276 | 36 582 | 34 630 |
| 3 | 15 071 | 13 714 | 12 613 |
| 4 | 6 027 | 5 486 | 5 008 |
| 5 | 2 036 | 1 834 | 1 698 |
| 6 or above | 960 | 908 | 823 |
| Total | 201 462 | 192 308 | 187 496 |

For the purpose of estimating expenditures, SWD anticipates handling 237 000 CSSA cases in 2024-25. However, SWD does not have an estimation of the number of CSSA cases broken down by number of eligible household members.

3. SWD has established 6 special investigation teams, including 1 Data Matching Team (DMT), 3 Fraud Investigation Teams (FITs), 1 Fraud Assessment Team (FAT) and 1 Target Investigation Team (TIT), to investigate cases of suspected fraud relating to CSSA and Social Security Allowance (SSA) and recover overpayment. The staffing establishment for these teams has remained unchanged in the past 3 years. A breakdown of the number of staff by their rank and pay level is tabulated below:

| Rank | Pay level (master pay scale) | DMT | 3 FITs | FAT | TIT | Total number of staff members |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|--------|-----|-----|-------------------------------|
| Social Security Officer I | Point 28-33 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 |

| Rank | Pay level (master pay scale) | DMT | 3 FITs | FAT | TIT | Total number of staff members |
|--|------------------------------------|-----|--------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|
| Social Security Officer II | Point 10-27 | 4 | 38 | 10 | 6 | 58 |
| Senior Social Security Assistant | Point 18-23 | 20 | - | 5 | 9 | 34 |
| Social Security Assistant | Point 7-17 | - | - | - | 22 | 22 |
| Total number of staff members | | 25 | 41 | 16 | 38 | 120 |

SWD does not have information on the amount of overpayment successfully recovered from CSSA fraud cases.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)135

(Question Serial No. 1627)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Owing to the high cost of living in Hong Kong, it has become necessary for both spouses in a marriage to work in order to sustain their livelihood. In recent year, the Government has enhanced child care support services to encourage child-bearing. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. What measures has the Department taken in the past year to enhance child care services for children aged 0 to 2? How effective are these measures?
2. What is the current availability of day child care service places for children aged 0 to 2 (including the number of child care service places, the child population, and the ratio of service places to child population), broken down by district?
3. Apart from child care centres (CCCs), the Department has also implemented the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP) to provide flexible day child care service for children aged 0 to 9 at the neighbourhood level. What is the current availability of service places under NSCCP, broken down by district?
4. What measures has the Department taken to ensure the service quality under NSCCP?

Asked by: Hon LEE Hoey Simon (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has set up 2 additional aided standalone CCCs in Tai Po and Yuen Long districts respectively in 2023, providing a total of 136 places for children aged below 2. These CCCs also provide ancillary services including Occasional Child Care Service and Extended Hours Service.
2. The current number of CCC places for children aged under 2, broken down by District Council (DC) district, is set out at Annex. SWD does not have information on the child population or the ratio of places to child population.
3. Service operators of NSCCP are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of home-based child care service places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

4. To ensure service quality, SWD has consistently required service operators under NSCCP to establish mechanisms for recruiting, assessing, selecting and training home-based child carers, as well as for service matching. Social workers from service operators are required to conduct monthly home visits to home-based child carers currently providing services, while child care workers will provide them with individual training/supervision. In addition, service operators are also required to continuously evaluate and follow up on the performance of home-based child carers. Statistics related to the amount of training/supervision provided are included in the service quality standards, and service operators are required to submit relevant statistical information to SWD on a quarterly basis. SWD will also conduct regular and surprise visits to assess whether service operators are in compliance with the requirements specified in the Service Agreement.

**Current number of CCC places for children aged below 2 by DC district
(April to December 2023)**

| District | Number of places |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Central & Western | 128 |
| Southern | 88 |
| Islands | 104 |
| Eastern | 378 |
| Wan Chai | 64 |
| Kwun Tong | 73 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 30 |
| Sai Kung | 156 |
| Kowloon City | 255 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 147 |
| Sham Shui Po | 64 |
| Sha Tin | 160 |
| Tai Po | 84 |
| North | 51 |
| Yuen Long | 178 |
| Tsuen Wan | 100 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 |
| Total | 2 156 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)136

(Question Serial No. 2153)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is stated in the Budget that the Government will extend the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children (ASCP(PC)) in phases to cover all districts in Hong Kong. The number of places will increase to nearly 1 200 within 3 years. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the regional distribution of the additional service places under ASCP(PC);
2. the current utilisation and waiting situation of ASCP(PC); and
3. the staffing establishment and expenditure involved in the provision of the additional places.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1. The estimated number of service places available in various districts upon the full extension of ASCP(PC) is set out at Annex.
2. The average utilisation rate of ASCP(PC) from April to December 2023 was 57%. As parents can directly apply for ASCP(PC) from the service operators according to their needs, without the need to waitlist the service under a central system and the applications are handled by respective service operators, SWD does not have statistical information on the waiting time for ASCP(PC).
3. The staffing establishment of each centre of ASCP(PC) includes 1 Assistant Social Work Officer and 2 supporting staff. The annual estimated expenditure for the service extension is about \$14.2 million.

Number of places available in various districts upon the full extension of ASCP(PC)

| District | Number of places | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | By the end of 2023-24 | Additional places | Total |
| Central and Western | 42 | - | 42 |
| Southern | 84 | - | 84 |
| Islands | - | 42 | 42 |
| Eastern | - | 42 | 42 |
| Wan Chai | - | 42 | 42 |
| Kwun Tong | 84 | - | 84 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 42 | - | 42 |
| Sai Kung | - | 42 | 42 |
| Kowloon City | - | 42 | 42 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | - | 42 | 42 |
| Sham Shui Po | 126 | - | 126 |
| Sha Tin | - | 42 | 42 |
| Tai Po | - | 42 | 42 |
| North | 42 | - | 42 |
| Yuen Long | 126 | - | 126 |
| Tsuen Wan | - | 42 | 42 |
| Kwai Tsing | 126 | - | 126 |
| Tuen Mun | - | 42 | 42 |
| 2 other centres will be located in districts with greater service demand | | 84 | 84 |
| Total | 672 | 504 | 1 176 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)137

(Question Serial No. 2156)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is stated in the Budget that starting this year, the Government will set up 10 more aided standalone child care centres (CCCs) in phases, providing nearly 900 additional places for day child care services within 3 years. Regarding community child care services, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the regional distribution of the additional CCCs and child care service places; and
- (2) the staffing establishment and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- (1) Within 3 years starting from 2024, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up 10 more aided standalone CCCs in phases, providing about 900 additional service places. Among them, there are 156 places in Queens Hill Estate and Wah Ming Estate in Fanling, 200 at the Treasury Building and Cheung Shun Street in Sham Shui Po, 88 in Shun Lee Estate in Kwun Tong, and 60 in Kwai Fong Estate in Kwai Chung. The remaining 4 aided standalone CCCs, proposed to be set up in districts such as Kowloon City and Kwun Tong, will collectively provide about 400 additional places.
- (2) In accordance with the Child Care Services Regulations (CCSR) (Cap. 243A), child care staff serving in a CCC have to be registered as child care workers upon successfully completing a training course approved by the Director of Social Welfare. In accordance with the Child Care Services Ordinance (Cap. 243) and CCSR, the manning ratio for qualified child care worker taking care of children aged 0 to below 2 in day CCCs is 1:8, while the manning ratio for taking care of children aged 2 to below 3 is 1:14. To improve service quality, the Government has allocated additional resources to enhance the above manning ratios to 1:6 and 1:11, respectively since the 2019/20 school year. The estimated annual expenditure for the 10 aided standalone CCCs is about \$66.40 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**LWB(W)138****(Question Serial No. 2157)**Head: (170) Social Welfare DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Social SecurityControlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and WelfareQuestion:

The provision of Old Age Allowance (OAA) and Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) to elderly persons who have relocated to the Guangdong (GD) and Fujian (FJ) provinces has been beneficial in improving their living standards. These additional allowances can help them address various difficulties and challenges in life, such as paying for medical, housing and food expenses. It also helps strengthen social connections and collaboration between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Regarding the provision of allowances to elderly persons residing in the two provinces, please provide this Committee with the following information:

1. the number of recipients of OAA and OALA under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme and administrative expenses involved in the past year;
2. the number of elderly persons who, during the past year, received allowances under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme but were ineligible due to insufficient days of residence in GD or FJ; and
3. the number of elderly persons withdrawn from the FJ Scheme and returned to Hong Kong for permanent residence in the past year.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)Reply:

1. The numbers of OAA and OALA recipients under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme in 2023-24 are as follows:

| Year | GD Scheme | | FJ Scheme | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------|-----------|-------|
| | OAA | OALA | OAA | OALA |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 8 403 | 16 479 | 683 | 1 749 |

With effect from 1 April 2021, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has appointed 2 agents to implement the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme in GD and FJ provinces, respectively. The fees paid by SWD to the agents in 2023-24 are as follows:

| Year | Fees (\$ million) | |
|--|---|---|
| | To assist in implementing the schemes in GD | To assist in implementing the schemes in FJ |
| 2023-24 (up to end- December 2023) | 2.96 | 2.63 |

2. In 2023-24 (up to the end of December 2023), no elderly persons who received allowances under the GD Scheme or the FJ Scheme had subsequently left the schemes due to not meeting the residence requirements.
3. In 2023-24 (up to the end of December 2023), the number of cases where the elderly persons returned to Hong Kong due to personal reason and left the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme were 1 354 and 94, respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)139

(Question Serial No. 2160)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the expansion of Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly and Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) Scheme for the Elderly, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the respective numbers of users and utilisation rates of CCSVs and RCSVs in the past 2 years, as well as the estimated increase in the number of users; and
- (2) whether the existing service places offered by recognised service providers (RSPs) in various districts is sufficient to meet the service demand brought by the additional CCSVs and RCSVs.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

- (1) Since the implementation of the CCSV Scheme and RCSV Scheme, the number of elderly persons using RCSVs and CCSVs has steadily increased. The number of CCSVs will be increased by 1 000 in 2024-25, bringing the total to 11 000, and will be further increased to 12 000 in 2025-26. In addition, the coverage of RCSVs will be expanded from care-and-attention places to nursing home places, starting in the second quarter of 2024. An extra 1 000 RCSVs will also be provided, bringing the total to 5 000. The numbers of service users and utilisation rates of CCSVs and RCSVs by year are set out at Annex.

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) introduces and promotes CCSV and RCSV to eligible elderly persons and members of the public through different channels, including holding briefing sessions, broadcasting promotional videos on online platforms, and conducting radio and television interviews, in order to encourage more eligible elderly persons to use CCSVs and RCSVs.

- (2) The number of RSPs and places for CCSV and RCSV services have been growing. The number of RSPs under the CCSV Scheme has increased from 62 in 2013 to 258 by the end of December 2023. Many of these RSPs provide cross-district services to satisfy the demand for community care services (CCS) from elderly persons in different districts. Similarly, the number of RSPs under the RCSV Scheme has also increased from 21 in 2017 to 202 by the end of December 2023. The supply of CCSV and RCSV services is mainly driven by market demand. SWD will review the service supply from time to time and encourage more eligible organisations to join as RSPs.

Table 1: Number of users and utilisation rate of CCSVs

| Year | No. of CCSV users (a) | No. of CCSV holders^{Note} (b) | Utilisation rate (a)/(b)x100% |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 2022-23 | 6 933 | 10 184 | 68.1% |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 8 395 | 12 381 | 67.8% |

^{Note} Starting from October 2020, SWD accepts applications for CCSVs from all eligible elderly persons who are on the Central Waiting List for Subsidised Long Term Care Services but have not received any subsidised CCS and/or residential care services. As RSPs are reimbursed for their actual costs under the CCSV Scheme, CCSV holders who have yet to use any services do not consume the resources of the Government or service providers, and will not hinder the distribution of CCSVs to other needy elderly persons by SWD. In addition, SWD distributes more CCSVs than the quota allows, thus enabling more eligible elderly persons to receive services without having to wait. The number of CCSVs was 8 000 in 2022-23 and 10 000 in 2023-24.

Table 2: Number of users and utilisation rate of RCSVs

| Year | No. of RCSV users (a) | No. of RCSV holders (b) | Utilisation rate (a)/(b)x100% |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 2022-23 | 2 621 | 2 883 | 90.9% |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 3 433 | 3 715 | 92.4% |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)140

(Question Serial No. 2948)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding day child care services for children aged below 3, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide a breakdown by district of the (i) type, (ii) number of places, (iii) utilisation rate, and (iv) number of waitlisted children for various subsidised child care services;
2. Please provide an update on the progress of the initiative to establish 10 more aided standalone child care centres (CCCs) in phases, along with the locations of these CCCs and their projected dates of service commencement.
3. Has the Government made any adjustments to the number of available places in each of the 18 districts based on changes in the number of children, ensuring that parents do not need to seek services outside their own district?
4. Is there a plan to review the manning ratio of CCCs, specifically the manning ratio for taking care of children aged below 3? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

1. The existing number of places and average utilisation rate for aided standalone CCCs and aided CCCs attached to kindergartens (KGs) are set out at Annex. As parents can directly apply for the aforementioned child care services from the service operators according to their needs, without the need to be waitlisted under a central system and the applications are handled by the respective service operators, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the number of children waitlisted for these services.
2. SWD will set up 10 more aided standalone CCCs in phases within 3 years starting from 2024, providing about 900 additional places. Among them, 100 places in Queens Hill Estate and 56 places in Wah Ming Estate in Fanling have commenced service in January and March 2024 respectively. The 88 places in Shun Lee Estate in Kwun Tong and 100 places at the Treasury Building in Sham Shui Po are scheduled for commencing

operation in 2024-25, whereas the 100 places at Cheung Shun Street in Sham Shui Po and 60 places in Kwai Fong Estate in Kwai Chung will be put into service in 2025-26. The remaining 4 aided standalone CCCs, proposed to be set up in districts such as Kowloon City and Kwun Tong, will collectively provide about 400 additional places, and are scheduled to commence service in 2026-27.

3. According to the population-based planning ratio incorporated into the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (i.e. 100 aided CCC places for children aged below 3 for every 25 000 persons), SWD has been reserving suitable premises for operating CCCs in different new development areas. For developed areas, SWD will take into account the characteristics of individual districts, including the available CCC places, service utilisation, ratio of subsidised to private child care services, land supply situation, and service demand as a result of demographic changes, etc. when conducting service planning, in order to better meet the service demand in the community.
4. In accordance with the Child Care Services Regulations (CSSR) (Cap. 243A), the child care staff serving in a CCC have to be registered as child care workers upon successful completing a training course approved by the Director of Social Welfare. In accordance with the Child Care Services Ordinance (Cap. 243) and CSSR, the manning ratio for qualified child care worker taking care of children aged 0 to below 2 in day CCCs is 1:8, while the manning ratio for taking care of children aged 2 to below 3 is 1:14. To improve service quality, the Government has allocated additional resources to enhance the above manning ratios to 1:6 and 1:11 respectively since the 2019/20 school year.

**Number of places and average utilisation rate for aided standalone CCCs
and aided CCCs attached to KGs**

(April to December 2023)

| District | Aided standalone CCCs | | Aided CCCs attached to KGs [Note] | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100 | 474 | 27 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 274 | 50 |
| Islands | - | N.A. | 349 | 22 |
| Eastern | 64 | 100 | 358 | 59 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 100 | 235 | 42 |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. | 579 | 69 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. | 381 | 88 |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | 919 | 31 |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100 | 520 | 43 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 100 | 347 | 57 |
| Sham Shui Po | 62 | 100 | 441 | 52 |
| Sha Tin | 177 | 99 | 560 | 74 |
| Tai Po | 92 | 83 | 403 | 47 |
| North | 51 | 100 | 360 | 54 |
| Yuen Long | 152 | 76 | 393 | 93 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 100 | 261 | 72 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100 | 464 | 70 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 96 | 466 | 73 |
| Total | 1 032 | 95 | 7 784 | 56 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note Figures provided by the Education Bureau as at September 2023.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)141

(Question Serial No. 2949)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP), please provide the following information:

- Over the past 3 years, how many infants and young children aged 0 to 3, children aged 3 to 9, and children with special learning needs have benefited from NSCCP each year?
- Please provide the number of home-based child carers in the past 3 years.
- Starting from the fourth quarter of this year, the number of places under NSCCP will increase to 2 000. Has the Government collaborated with organisations providing training courses for home-based child carers to expand the availability of courses and offer training for individuals interested in becoming home-based child carers?
- Is there a plan to conduct a thorough evaluation and enhance the quality of home-based child carers, such as formulating uniform standards for training courses and enhancing the inspections of home-based child carers and their residences?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

- 1 & 2. The numbers of home-based child carers providing home-based child care service (HCCS) and children served under NSCCP in the past 3 financial years are tabulated below. NSCCP aims to provide flexible child care services to parents in need at the neighbourhood level. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have the statistics on children with special learning needs under NSCCP.

| Year | Number of home-based child carers | Number of children served | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------|
| | | Aged below 3 | Aged 3 to below 6 | Aged 6 to 9 | Total |
| 2021-22 | 1 815 | 3 085 | 4 441 | 3 303 | 10 829 |
| 2022-23 | 1 759 | 2 577 | 4 060 | 3 682 | 10 319 |
| 2023-24 (April to December 2023) | 1 770 | 2 194 | 3 444 | 2 846 | 8 484 |

3 & 4. To enhance NSCCP, SWD plans to strengthen the training for home-based child carers starting from the fourth quarter of 2024. These training courses will be provided by service operators. Trainees are required to undergo 14 hours of basic training, the content of which is standardised and formulated by SWD. This training covers topics such as infants and young children's physical and psychological development, special developmental milestones and growth needs, care and communication skills, home safety and hygiene, and handling of accidents/special accidents. Trainees must pass the assessment before being assigned to provide services. Home-based child carers who are arranged to take care of children with special learning needs must receive an additional 4 hours of advanced training to learn the knowledge and skills in caring for these children. Service operators are required to evaluate the child care skills and knowledge of home-based child carers after they have completed the training, assess their confidence in providing care services, and determine whether their home environment is suitable for providing care services before assigning them to provide services. The incentive payment for home-based child carers also varies based on the age of the child in their care and whether the child has special needs.

To ensure service quality, SWD has consistently required service operators to establish mechanisms for recruiting, assessing, selecting and training home-based child carers, and for service matching. Social workers from service operators are required to conduct monthly home visits to home-based child carers currently providing services, while child care workers will provide them with individual training/supervision. In addition, service operators are also required to continuously evaluate and follow up on the performance of home-based child carers. Statistics related to the amount of training/supervision provided are included in the service quality indicators, and service operators are required to submit relevant statistical information to SWD on a quarterly basis. SWD will also conduct regular and surprise visits to assess whether service operators are in compliance with the requirements specified in the Service Agreement.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)142

(Question Serial No. 2950)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the enhancement of care and support for persons with disabilities (PWDs), please provide the following information:

1. It is mentioned under the Programme that additional places for pre-school, day training, vocational rehabilitation and residential services for PWDs will be provided. What are the number of service places and utilisation rates for these services in the past 3 years?
2. It is also mentioned under the Programme that the number of nursing staff in residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) will be increased to enhance care for ageing residents. Please provide a breakdown of the current number of RCHD residents and the number of waitlisted PWDs by age group. Are there any plans to expedite the use of gerontechnology in these facilities to address the needs of elderly PWDs?
3. What is the estimated expenditure for strengthening the workforce for the above initiatives? What are the number of additional manpower and their positions?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

1. The number of places for various pre-school rehabilitation services and day and residential rehabilitation services for PWDs from 2021-22 to 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) are set out at Annex 1. The utilisation rate for various pre-school rehabilitation services and day rehabilitation services, along with the average enrolment rate for RRS, are set out in Tables 1 to 3 of Annex 2. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not keep separate records of the enrolment rate for each type of residential rehabilitation services, or the utilisation rates for On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities (OJT), Sunnyway - On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities (Sunnyway), Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres (IVRSC) and Integrated Vocational Training Centres (Day) (IVTC (Day)). As Integrated Vocational Training Centre (Residential Service) (IVTC (Res)) may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have information on the number of service users or applicants.

2. The number of service users and persons waitlisted for various types of residential rehabilitation services for PWDs by age are set out at Annexes 3 and 4. The Government allocated \$1 billion to launch the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund) in December 2018 to subsidise eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent or trial technology products, with a view to improving the quality of life of service users and reducing the burden and pressure on care staff and carers. Since September 2022, the eligibility criteria under the I&T Fund have been expanded from subsidised service units to include all private and self-financing residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and RCHDs. As announced by the Chief Executive in the 2023 Policy Address, an additional \$1 billion will be injected into the I&T Fund in 2024-25, and the scope of the I&T Fund will be expanded to cover gerontechnology products suitable for household use.
3. In view of the ageing of residents in RCHDs, the Government will allocate additional resources to about 200 RCHDs in 2024 to increase the number of nursing staff by about 220, in order to enhance the care for ageing residents. The annual expenditure involved is about \$121 million.

Number of service places for various pre-school rehabilitation services and day and residential rehabilitation services from 2021-22 to 2023-24

| Service type | No. of service places | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------|---|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Pre-school rehabilitation services | | | |
| On-site pre-school rehabilitation services (OPRS) | 9 074 | 10 074 | 10 124 |
| Early education and training centre (EETC) | 4 174 | 4 393 | 4 393 |
| Integrated programme in kindergarten-cum-child care centres (IP) | 1 980 | 1 980 | 1 980 |
| Special child care centre (SCCC) | 2 274 | 2 364 | 2 456 |
| Occasional child care service for disabled children (OCCS for disabled children) | 111 | 117 | 120 |
| Day rehabilitation services | | | |
| Day activity centre (DAC) | 5 808 | 5 865 | 5 876 |
| Sheltered workshop (SW) | 5 399 | 5 399 | 5 399 |
| IVRSC | 5 523 | 5 648 | 5 808 |
| Integrated vocational training centre (IVTC) | 453 | 453 | 453 |
| Supported employment (SE) | 1 633 | 1 633 | 1 633 |
| OJT | 432 | 432 | 432 |
| Sunnyway | 311 | 311 | 311 |
| Residential rehabilitation services | | | |
| Halfway house (HWH) | 1 594 | 1 594 | 1 594 |
| Long stay care home (LSCH) | 1 587 | 1 587 | 1 987 |
| IVTC (Res) | 170 | 170 | 170 |
| Hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons (HSMH) | 4 060 | 4 112 | 4 123 |
| Hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons (HMMH) | 2 800 | 2 851 | 2 926 |
| Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons (HSPH) | 715 | 715 | 790 |
| Care-and-attention home for severely disabled persons (C&A/SD) | 1 132 | 1 132 | 1 132 |
| Care-and-attention home for the aged blind (C&A/AB) | 828 | 828 | 828 |
| Small group homes for mildly mentally handicapped children (SGH(MMHC)) | 128 | 128 | 128 |
| Note | | | |
| Supported hostel (SHOS) | 804 | 866 | 866 |
| Private RCHD under Bought Place Scheme (BPS) | 1 264 | 1 379 | 1 320 |

Note SGHs(MMHC) include integrated small group homes (ISGHs).

**Table 1 : Utilisation rate for various pre-school rehabilitation services
from 2021-22 to 2023-24**

| Service type | Utilisation rate (%) | | |
|--|----------------------|---------|--|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Pre-school rehabilitation services | | | |
| OPRS | 98 | 99 | 98 |
| EETC | 95 | 95 | 93 |
| IP | 98 | 97 | 95 |
| SCCC | 95 | 93 | 96 |
| OCCS for disabled children ^{Note} | - | - | - |

^{Note} As this service may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have statistics on the number of service users.

Table 2 : Utilisation rate for day rehabilitation services from 2021-22 to 2023-24

| Service type | Utilisation rate (%) | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 (Actual) | 2022-23 (Actual) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) |
| Day rehabilitation service | | | |
| DAC | 97 | 97 | 97 |
| SW | 98 | 98 | 98 |

**Table 3 : Average enrolment rate for various residential rehabilitation services from
2021-22 to 2023-24**

| Average enrolment rate (%) | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 2022-23 (Actual) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) |
| 96 | 97 | 97 |

**Number of service users for various residential rehabilitation services
(by age group)
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| Service type | No. of service users | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 6 to 8 | Aged 9 to 11 | Aged 12 to 14 | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| HMMH | N.A. | | | 9 | 136 | 480 | 751 | 744 | 554 | 135 | 1 |
| HSMH | N.A. | | | 7 | 282 | 890 | 1 109 | 943 | 665 | 197 | 11 |
| HSPH | N.A. | | | 0 | 57 | 101 | 214 | 182 | 131 | 22 | 1 |
| C&A/SD | N.A. | | | 9 | 215 | 248 | 171 | 207 | 169 | 84 | 17 |
| IVTC (Res) Note 1 | N.A. | | | | | | | | | | |
| C&A/AB | N.A. | | | | | | | | 71 | 146 | 523 |
| SGH(MMHC) Note 2 | 9 | 21 | 51 | 42 | N.A. | | | | | | |
| SHOS | N.A. | | | 7 | 52 | 199 | 226 | 232 | 108 | 10 | 0 |
| HWH | N.A. | | | 12 | 204 | 415 | 404 | 365 | 123 | 1 | 0 |
| LSCH | N.A. | | | 0 | 2 | 24 | 107 | 348 | 647 | 373 | 72 |
| Private RCHD under BPS | N.A. | | | 2 | 29 | 93 | 302 | 430 | 351 | 66 | 4 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 As this service may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have the relevant statistics.

Note 2 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs. The service targets are mildly mentally handicapped children aged 6 to 18.

**Number of persons waitlisted for various residential rehabilitation services
(by age group)
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| Service type | Number of service users | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 6 to 8 | Aged 9 to 11 | Aged 12 to 14 | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| HMMH | N.A. | | | 519 | 947 | 657 | 305 | 217 | 102 | 10 | 0 |
| HSMH | N.A. | | | 424 | 850 | 459 | 203 | 186 | 138 | 33 | 1 |
| HSPH | N.A. | | | 23 | 41 | 28 | 51 | 96 | 29 | 2 | 0 |
| C&A/SD | N.A. | | | 87 | 37 | 28 | 39 | 113 | 45 | 13 | 1 |
| IVTC (Res) Note 1 | N.A. | | | | | | | | | | |
| C&A/AB | N.A. | | | | | | | | 10 | 12 | 14 |
| SGH(MMHC) Note 2 | 21 | 29 | 48 | 13 | N.A. | | | | | | |
| SHOS | N.A. | | | 214 | 562 | 617 | 477 | 326 | 122 | 8 | 0 |
| HWH | N.A. | | | 19 | 102 | 149 | 158 | 121 | 49 | 0 | 0 |
| LSCH | N.A. | | | 1 | 35 | 128 | 377 | 835 | 694 | 127 | 9 |
| Private RCHD under BPS Note 3 | N.A. | | | | | | | | | | |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 As this service may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have the relevant statistics.

Note 2 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs. The service targets are mildly mentally handicapped children aged 6 to 18.

Note 3 There is no central waitlist system or statistical information on the number of applicants under BPS. For applicants on the waiting list for LSCHs, HMMHs, HWHs, SHOSs under the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services, BPS places are allocated by SWD according to the preference of the applicants who have indicated acceptance of BPS.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)143

(Question Serial No. 2951)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Strive and Rise Programme (the Programme), please provide the following information:

1. What is the estimated expenditure for the Alumni Club in 2024-25? What are the plans for providing job tasting/internship programmes for mentees aged 16 or above in the next 2 years?
2. For the second cohort of the Programme, group mentoring will be introduced on the basis of the original one-to-one matching system. How do these mentoring groups work, and how do the mentors in the groups communicate and coordinate with one another?
3. The application for the second cohort of the Programme has closed on 16 November 2023. Please provide the numbers of applicants and students admitted, with a breakdown by grade level.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

1. The Alumni Club (the Club) of the Programme was established in November 2023. Mentees who have completed the Programme will automatically become members of the Club. They can participate in a variety of activities organised by the Club for the following 2 years. The activities planned for the first 2 years of the Club include 600 sessions of a Whole Person Development Programme (with an expected attendance of 8 400), 4 study and exchange tours (the number of participants depending on individual tours), and 2 large-scale events (with an expected attendance of 4 000). As at end-February 2024, the Club has organised 108 sessions of activities, including orientation, whole person development and special group activities, with a total attendance of 2 345 alumni. In addition, the internship organiser of the Club will arrange career talks/orientation activities and an internship programme that offers work experience and internship opportunities for alumni aged 16 or older, with a view to broadening their horizons, and helping them develop job-related skills and establish life goals. In 2024-25, the Government has set aside approximately \$23.50 million for organising activities of the Club.

2. Enhancement measures have been introduced for the second cohort of the Programme. Each mentee will first be matched with a suitable mentor based on his/her career aspiration or hobbies/interests as indicated in his/her application form. Subsequently, he/she will be placed in a mentoring group consisting of 2 to 3 pairs of mentors and mentees. The goal is to promote interaction, sharing and support during the course of mentorship.
3. The numbers of applicants and applicants admitted upon verification for the second cohort of the Programme, broken down by grade level, are tabulated as follows:

| Grade level | Number of applicants | Number of applicants admitted |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Secondary One | 1 317 | 1 157 |
| Secondary Two | 1 074 | 914 |
| Secondary Three | 1 104 | 937 |
| Secondary Four | 1 049 | 877 |
| Total | 4 544 | 3 885 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)144

(Question Serial No. 2952)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding support for youth at risk, please provide the following information:

1. There are currently 16 district youth outreaching social work teams and 3 youth outreaching teams in Hong Kong. How many young people did they reach out to in the past 3 years, respectively? Among them, what were the numbers of underage and adult cases, respectively?
2. Among the young people that the teams reached out to in the past 3 years, what categories of problems were they facing, and what was the number for each category of problem?
3. Currently, only 3 youth outreaching teams in Tseung Kwan O, Ma On Shan and Tung Chung provide services from 10 a.m. to 6 a.m. the next day. Will additional resources be allocated to enable other outreaching teams in different areas to strengthen their services during the evening and early morning hours?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

1. The number of cases handled by the 16 district youth outreaching social work teams and 3 youth outreaching teams in each of the past 3 years is as follows:

| 2021-22 (Actual) | 2022-23 (Actual) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 14 754 | 13 948 | 14 000 |

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the respective numbers of underage and adult cases.

2. The number of cases handled by the 16 district youth outreaching social work teams and 3 youth outreaching teams, broken down by category of problem, in each of the past 3 years is as follows:

| Category of problem | 2021-22 ^{Note} | 2022-23 ^{Note} | 2023-24 ^{Note} (As at 31 December 2023) |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Family | 524 | 474 | 440 |
| School and education | 603 | 582 | 575 |
| Vocation | 927 | 859 | 747 |
| Peers | 1 249 | 1 209 | 1 249 |
| Self-functioning | 1 654 | 1 681 | 1 684 |
| Social norms | 1 227 | 1 207 | 1 160 |
| Drug abuse | 243 | 252 | 220 |

^{Note} The number of cases for different categories of problems only includes cases that were being handled as at 31 March of each financial year (31 December for 2023-24), while excluding cases that were closed in the same financial year and potential cases of some district youth outreaching social work teams, as the category of problem for these cases has yet to be determined.

- SWD subsidises non-governmental organisations to operate 16 district youth outreaching social work teams, 3 youth outreaching teams and 18 teams of overnight outreaching service for young night drifters across Hong Kong. These teams reach out during the day and night, and through online means, to identify and engage youth at risk, and provide crisis intervention and counselling services. SWD has strengthened the supervisory manpower for the 19 youth outreaching social work teams since October 2021 to assist frontline workers in handling the increasingly complicated and diverse youth problems. SWD will keep reviewing the service hours and manpower requirements of the outreaching teams.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)145

(Question Serial No. 2953)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned under the Programme that the Department will prepare for the setting up of 4 additional parents/relatives resource centres (PRCs) to support persons in mental recovery and their families/carers. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. Currently, there are a total of 19 PRCs subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in Hong Kong. What is the service capacity for each PRC?
2. What were the number of service users and the number of activities held by these PRCs in each of the past 3 years? How many of these PRCs primarily support children with various developmental and learning needs and their families?
3. Please provide an update on the progress and locations of the 4 PRCs under planning.
4. In the future, will SWD provide any additional support services for parents and carers of persons with disabilities (PWDs)? For instance, will they provide respite services at PRCs to enable parents to participate in PRC-organised activities or attend to other matters? If so, how many service places will be provided, and what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. The 19 PRCs subvented by SWD and operated by non-governmental organisations in various districts across the territory do not have any service quota.
2. The numbers of service users and activities held by the PRCs in each of the past 3 years are set out at Annex. With the exception of 1 designated for parents/ relatives and carers of persons in mental recovery, the remaining 18 PRCs serve parents, relatives or carers of persons with different types of disabilities (including children with special needs).
3. SWD plans to set up 4 additional PRCs for carers of persons in mental recovery in the third quarter of 2025 to support persons in mental recovery and their carers. By then, in addition to the existing PRC in Kowloon East, PRCs for carers of persons in mental recovery will be set up in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West, New Territories East and New Territories West to facilitate carers in obtaining the support they need.

4. Apart from PRCs, SWD has implemented a series of measures to enhance support for carers in 2023, including setting up the 24-hour Designated Hotline for Carer Support 182 183 (the Carer Hotline) in September 2023. The Carer Hotline is answered by professional social workers, who provide community support information, instant consultation and counselling, outreach services, emergency support, respite service matching and referral services, etc. SWD has also rolled out the one-stop Information Gateway for Carers in November 2023 for carers to access the latest information on relevant services at any time. In addition, SWD has expanded the respite service network. Since October 2023, 21 residential care homes for PWDs (RCHDs) participating in the Bought Place Scheme for Private RCHDs have been providing day respite services to PWDs in the community when there are vacancies in residential respite service places for PWDs. Since 31 December 2023, the number of RCHDs providing day respite services for PWDs has increased substantially from 48 to 69, with the number of service places increasing from 172 to 235 in various districts across the territory. As PRCs provide services of a different nature, SWD does not plan to provide respite service places at PRCs.

Numbers of service users and activities held by PRCs

| Year | No. of service users ^{Note} | No. of activities held |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 11 352 | 8 052 |
| 2022-23 | 12 121 | 9 712 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 13 157 | 6 856 |

Note Including PWDs and their parents/relatives or carers

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)146

(Question Serial No. 3189)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare
(7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Programme mentions overseeing the extension of the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children (ASCP) and the enhancement of the ASCP. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. The number of service places, utilisation rates and number of children waitlisted for both ASCP and Enhanced ASCP in the past 3 years, broken down by District Council (DC) district.
2. The number of children who joined the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the ASCP and the expenditure involved in the past 3 years.
3. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has started the re-engineering of 19 Mutual Help Child Care Centres (MHCCCs) in phases from 2021/22 onwards to provide after-school care services for pre-primary children. The re-engineering process is expected to be completed by 2023/24. Please provide an update on the current progress.
4. Last year, the Government launched the School-based After School Care Service Pilot Scheme (the Scheme) to allow primary school students in need to stay at school outside school hours for care and learning support in a safe and familiar environment. Since its implementation, what are the number of participating students, the current implementation status, the effectiveness of the Scheme, the total expenditure involved, and the expenditure per service place? Will the Government extend the Scheme to more communities to benefit more students in different district and complement the existing ASCP?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

1. The numbers of service places and utilisation rates of ASCP and Enhanced ASCP in the past 3 years, broken down by DC district, are set out at Annex 1. SWD does not have information on the number of children on the waiting list.

2. The number of children who joined the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the ASCP and the expenditure involved in the past 3 years are set out at Annex 2.
3. SWD has been re-engineering MHCCCs in phases from 2021-22 onwards to provide after-school care services for pre-primary children. The re-engineering has been completed by February 2024.
4. The Government implemented the Scheme in the 2023/24 school year. There are currently a total of 59 primary schools participating, offering a total of 2 915 service places. With an estimated total expenditure of \$99.02 million and an estimated total of 3 000 service places for students, the monthly average cost per service place under the Scheme is estimated to be about \$2,750. The Government will evaluate the effectiveness of the Scheme in due course, and determine its way forward based on the evaluation results and views from stakeholders.

**Numbers of service places and utilisation rates of ASCP
and Enhanced ASCP by district (2021-22)**

| District | ASCP | | Enhanced ASCP | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Number of service places | Utilisation rate ^{Note 1} | Number of service places | Utilisation rate ^{Note 2} |
| Central & Western | 88 | 32% | - | N.A. |
| Southern | 321 | 73% | 16 | - |
| Islands | 276 | 53% | 52 | 100% |
| Eastern | 338 | 65% | 52 | 100% |
| Wan Chai | 156 | 47% | 8 | 71% |
| Kowloon City | 210 | 69% | 8 | 32% |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 137 | 32% | 39 | 89% |
| Sham Shui Po | 293 | 84% | 43 | 100% |
| Kwun Tong | 572 | 71% | 14 | 73% |
| Wong Tai Sin | 348 | 67% | 12 | 100% |
| Sai Kung | 126 | 45% | - | N.A. |
| Sha Tin | 807 | 69% | 54 | 100% |
| Tai Po | 237 | 59% | 6 | 3% |
| North | 244 | 78% | 24 | 51% |
| Yuen Long | 504 | 59% | 118 | 97% |
| Tsuen Wan | 201 | 55% | 8 | - |
| Kwai Tsing | 562 | 57% | 86 | 100% |
| Tuen Mun | 497 | 65% | 40 | 100% |
| Total | 5 917 | 64% | 580 | 94% |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 The utilisation rate is based on the number of users.

Note 2 The utilisation rate is based on actual utilisation of service sessions.

**Numbers of service places and utilisation rates of ASCP
and Enhanced ASCP by district (2022-23)**

| District | ASCP | | Enhanced ASCP | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Number of service places | Utilisation rate ^{Note 1} | Number of service places | Utilisation rate ^{Note 2} |
| Central & Western | 84 | 93% | - | N.A. |
| Southern | 311 | 82% | 16 | 73% |
| Islands | 194 | 81% | 52 | 100% |
| Eastern | 360 | 94% | 52 | 82% |
| Wan Chai | 189 | 94% | 8 | 43% |
| Kowloon City | 209 | 78% | 8 | 100% |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 134 | 99% | 45 | 75% |
| Sham Shui Po | 283 | 89% | 43 | 73% |
| Kwun Tong | 563 | 89% | 14 | 84% |
| Wong Tai Sin | 321 | 96% | 24 | 86% |
| Sai Kung | 154 | 92% | - | N.A. |
| Sha Tin | 652 | 92% | 66 | 86% |
| Tai Po | 552 | 40% | 6 | 6% |
| North | 240 | 92% | 22 | 72% |
| Yuen Long | 524 | 85% | 147 | 87% |
| Tsuen Wan | 197 | 89% | 8 | 45% |
| Kwai Tsing | 533 | 90% | 97 | 92% |
| Tuen Mun | 543 | 79% | 43 | 100% |
| Total | 6 043 | 84% | 651 | 86% |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 The utilisation rate is based on the number of users.

Note 2 The utilisation rate is based on actual utilisation of service sessions.

**Numbers of service places and utilisation rates of ASCP
and Enhanced ASCP by district (April to December 2023)**

| District | ASCP | | Enhanced ASCP | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Number of service places | Utilisation rate ^{Note 1} | Number of service places | Utilisation rate ^{Note 2} |
| Central & Western | 84 | 86% | - | N.A. |
| Southern | 281 | 84% | 16 | 63% |
| Islands | 178 | 81% | 52 | 100% |
| Eastern | 354 | 87% | 52 | 88% |
| Wan Chai | 182 | 87% | 8 | 31% |
| Kowloon City | 193 | 81% | 8 | 100% |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 163 | 98% | 45 | 80% |
| Sham Shui Po | 252 | 85% | 46 | 73% |
| Kwun Tong | 595 | 88% | 22 | 72% |
| Wong Tai Sin | 295 | 92% | 24 | 83% |
| Sai Kung | 170 | 92% | - | N.A. |
| Sha Tin | 699 | 90% | 69 | 68% |
| Tai Po | 207 | 93% | 6 | 0% |
| North | 249 | 96% | 22 | 72% |
| Yuen Long | 491 | 87% | 149 | 88% |
| Tsuen Wan | 185 | 86% | 8 | 41% |
| Kwai Tsing | 542 | 91% | 99 | 76% |
| Tuen Mun | 533 | 76% | 43 | 100% |
| Total | 5 653 | 87% | 669 | 82% |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 The utilisation rate is based on the number of users.

Note 2 The utilisation rate is based on actual utilisation of service sessions.

**Number of children who joined the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the ASCP
and the expenditure involved**

| Year | Number of children | | Expenditure (\$ million) | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | ASCP | Enhanced ASCP | ASCP | Enhanced ASCP |
| 2021-22 | 3 007 | 695 | 52 | 31 |
| 2022-23 | 3 142 | 751 | 57 | 34 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 3 192 | 769 | 54 (Revised estimate) | 37 (Revised estimate) |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)147

(Question Serial No. 2620)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the measures to assist and encourage Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients in seeking employment, please advise on the following:

1. the number of CSSA applicants participating in the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance (IEAPS) in each of the past 5 years, with a breakdown by age and health condition;
2. the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has launched enhanced employment support services since April 2020, please provide:
 - 2a. details on the enhanced employment support services and the participation of various services;
 - 2b. SWD's expenditure involved in commissioning non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to operate IEAPS and employment support services in each of the past years, presented in tabular form;
 - 2c. the average cost for each participating CSSA recipient;
 - 2d. the number of participants who successfully secured employment or returned to mainstream schooling, with a breakdown by service programme;
 - 2e. the number of persons who left the CSSA net because of an increase in income or other reasons in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by reason and year. If relevant data are not available, will the Government consider gathering such information?
3. the number of approved CSSA applications involving persons who had resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years in the past 5 years; the amount of CSSA payment involved; and the number of cases involving underage persons among these applications, with a breakdown by year.
4. It is stated in the Budget Speech that an additional subsidy of \$500 per month will be provided to employed disabled CSSA recipients and it is expected to benefit some 6 800 persons. Please provide:

- 4a. the employment rate of disabled CSSA recipients in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year;
- 4b. the types of employment and their average income.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1. In January 2013, SWD launched IEAPS, under which NGOs are commissioned to provide services to able-bodied CSSA recipients to encourage and assist them in increasing their employability and securing paid employment. In April 2020, SWD enhanced the services to improve the effectiveness of NGOs in providing the relevant services.

A total headcount of 15 292 persons received employment support services from April to the end of December 2023. SWD does not have a breakdown of the number of headcount of persons who received employment support services by year or age prior to April 2023.

- 2a. The enhanced employment support services include (a) providing employment counselling and training services; (b) assisting recipients in obtaining up-to-date information on labour market, job vacancies and retraining courses; (c) assessing the needs of recipients and providing them with tailor-made and focused employment support services; and (d) arranging job matching for them. Furthermore, NGOs will provide post-employment support services for at least 3 months to those who have secured employment. SWD has also enhanced collaborations with the Labour Department, the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) and NGOs. For example, arrange ERB's Training Consultancy Service for NGOs and relax the arrangement for Temporary Financial Aid to cover more job seeking-related activities, such as transport and taking meals away from home. As relevant recipients receive different employment support services according to their individual circumstances, SWD does not have information on the number of persons receiving different services.
- 2b. The expenditure incurred by SWD on commissioning NGOs to provide IEAPS and enhanced employment support services from 2019-20 to 2023-24 is set out in the table below:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 137 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 152 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 153 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 157 |
| 2023-24 (Revised Estimate) | 160 |

- 2c. Each recipient receives different employment support services according to their individual needs and circumstances. The number and duration of services also vary from person to person. As a result, SWD does not have information on the average cost per recipient for receiving the relevant services.
- 2d. From April to the end of December 2023, among those who received employment support services, there were 1 478 and 103 headcount of persons who secured employment or returned to mainstream schooling respectively for at least 1 month.

- 2e. From April to the end of December 2023, among those who received employment support services, there were 351 and 37 headcount of persons who left the CSSA net owing to securing employment or returning to mainstream schooling respectively. SWD does not have a breakdown by year prior to April 2023.
3. Following the judgment of the Court of Final Appeal handed down on a judicial review case regarding the residence requirement before application of the CSSA Scheme, SWD has restored the “one-year residence requirement” since 17 December 2013, which was previously in effect before 1 January 2004. Those who had already been granted CSSA at that time were not affected. As was the case in the past, persons aged below 18 continue to be exempted from the residence requirement before application of the CSSA Scheme.

From 2019-20 to 2023-24, the number of approved CSSA applications involving persons aged 18 or above who had resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years is as follows:

| Year | Number of approved CSSA applications |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2019-20 | 1 171 |
| 2020-21 | 1 654 |
| 2021-22 | 895 |
| 2022-23 | 829 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 516 |

From 2019-20 to 2023-24, the CSSA expenditure on recipients who had resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years is roughly estimated as follows^[Note]:

| Year | CSSA expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2019-20 | 881 |
| 2020-21 | 904 |
| 2021-22 | 858 |
| 2022-23 | 800 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 514 |

^[Note] As CSSA is payable on a household basis, the rough estimation of CSSA expenditure on recipients who had resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years is calculated based on the percentage of the amount of recognised needs of these recipients in approved CSSA applications out of the total amount of recognised needs of recipients in all CSSA cases, the percentage of these recipients out of the total number of CSSA recipients in their respective case categories, as well as the overall CSSA expenditure.

Persons aged below 18 are exempted from the residence requirement before application of the CSSA Scheme. SWD does not have information on the number of approved applications involving underage persons who have resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years.

- 4a. A breakdown of the numbers of disabled CSSA recipients (including those receiving the standard rate for 50% disabled or 100% disabled, or requiring constant attendance) with employment earnings from 2021-22 to 2023-24 is provided in Table 1 of Annex.

- 4b. A breakdown of the numbers of disabled CSSA recipients with employment earnings by occupation from 2021-22 to 2023-24 is provided in Table 2 of Annex. SWD does not have information on the average income of disabled CSSA recipients.

Table 1: Number of disabled CSSA recipients ^[Note] with employment earnings from 2021-22 to 2023-24

| Year | Number of disabled CSSA recipients ^[Note] with employment earnings |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2021-22 | 5 917 |
| 2022-23 | 5 905 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 6 042 |

^[Note] Able-bodied and 50% disabled persons aged 65 or above receive the same standard rate. The figure includes able-bodied recipients aged 65 or above due to limitations in statistical compilation.

Table 2: Number of disabled CSSA recipients ^[Note] with employment earnings by occupation from 2021-22 to 2023-24

| Occupation | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cleaner | 465 | 463 | 442 |
| General worker/labourer (other than those engaging in construction works) | 348 | 333 | 340 |
| Waiter/waitress | 145 | 164 | 167 |
| Salesperson | 115 | 123 | 139 |
| Driver | 105 | 90 | 104 |
| Delivery worker | 92 | 105 | 103 |
| Watchman/guard | 103 | 102 | 95 |
| Clerk | 78 | 78 | 71 |
| Domestic helper/babysitter | 19 | 26 | 24 |
| Construction worker/ labourer/fitting-out worker | 18 | 23 | 23 |
| Others | 4 429 | 4 398 | 4 534 |
| Total | 5 917 | 5 905 | 6 042 |

^[Note] Able-bodied and 50% disabled persons aged 65 or above receive the same standard rates. The figure includes able-bodied recipients aged 65 or above due to limitations in statistical compilation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)148

(Question Serial No. 2621)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. Regarding elderly persons receiving cash allowances under various social security schemes, please provide the number of recipients of various allowances and the expenditure involved in the past 3 years as well as this year's estimation, broken down by age group (i.e. 60 to 64, 65 to 69, 70 to 74, 75 to 79, 80 to 84 and 85 or above):
 - (1) Elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA);
 - (2) Old Age Allowance (OAA);
 - (3) Higher Old Age Living Allowance (OALA);
 - (4) Normal OALA;
 - (5) Guangdong (GD) Scheme;
 - (6) Fujian (FJ) Scheme;
 - (7) Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme;
 - (8) Higher Disability Allowance (HDA); and
 - (9) Normal Disability Allowance (NDA).
2. Regarding measures for elderly persons to age in the Mainland, please provide the expenditure involved (excluding administrative expenses) in the past 3 years, broken down by scheme.
3. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has appointed agents to help elderly persons who cannot return to Hong Kong due to health reasons to complete the application procedures. Please provide the names of agents, the annual agent fees paid by the Government, and the number of cases served by these agents over the past 5 years, broken down by scheme.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

1. From 2021-22 to 2023-24, the number of CSSA recipients aged 60 or above (including those under the PCSSA Scheme), broken down by age group, is set out in Table 1 of Annex. CSSA application has to be made on a household basis, and each case may involve household members under various age groups and categories. SWD disburses applicable standard rates, supplements and special grants to cases according to their

respective numbers of household members as well as the needs of individual members. The number of elderly CSSA recipients and the related expenditure from 2021-22 to 2024-25 are set out in Tables 2 and 3 of Annex respectively.

The number of recipients under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme, broken down by type of allowance and age group, from 2021-22 to 2023-24 is set out in Table 4 of Annex. It is estimated that there are about 1.28 million of SSA recipients aged 60 or above in 2024-25. The total expenditure on SSA recipients aged 60 or above, broken down by type of allowance, from 2021-22 to 2024-25 is set out in Table 5 of Annex.

SWD has neither a breakdown of the expenditure on CSSA and SSA recipients aged 60 or above by age group from 2021-22 to 2023-24, nor an estimate of the number of CSSA and SSA recipients aged 60 or above and the related expenditure for 2024-25, broken down by age group.

2. The expenditure on the PCSSA Scheme, the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme from 2021-22 to 2024-25 is set out in Table 6 of Annex.
3. From 2019-20 to 2020-21, SWD appointed the International Social Service Hong Kong Branch as the agent for the PCSSA Scheme, the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme. With effect from 2021-22, SWD has appointed the New Home Association and the International Social Service Hong Kong Branch as the agents for the above schemes in GD and FJ provinces respectively. Apart from helping elderly persons who cannot return to Hong Kong due to health reasons to complete the application procedures of the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme, the agents have to conduct annual case reviews for all cases by means of home visits and postal reviews for all cases under the PCSSA Scheme, the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme to ascertain recipients' continued eligibility for the allowance. The agents also have to provide enquiry services to recipients, handle their reports of changes in personal circumstances, identify suitable appointees for recipients in need and recommending them to SWD, assist SWD in recovering overpayments from recipients and investigating suspected fraud cases, etc. The fees paid to the agents and the number of cases served by them from 2019-20 to 2023-24 by type of assistance and allowance are set out in Tables 7 and 8 of Annex.

Table 1 Number of CSSA recipients aged 60 or above (including those under the PCSSA Scheme) by age group from 2021-22 to 2023-24

| Year | Number of recipients | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 60 to 64 | Aged 65 to 69 | Aged 70 to 74 | Aged 75 to 79 | Aged 80 to 84 | Aged 85 or above |
| 2021-22 | 23 863 | 26 130 | 27 606 | 20 864 | 19 512 | 33 670 |
| 2022-23 | 23 085 | 25 609 | 27 001 | 21 313 | 17 749 | 31 211 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 22 152 | 25 136 | 26 454 | 21 822 | 17 072 | 31 367 |

Table 2 Number of elderly CSSA recipients from 2021-22 to 2024-25

| Year | Number of recipients ^{Note} |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 142 440 |
| 2022-23 | 132 747 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 128 133 |
| 2024-25 (estimate) | 129 000 |

[Note] As CSSA is payable on a household basis, elderly cases may include non-elderly recipients.

Table 3 Expenditure on elderly CSSA cases from 2021-22 to 2024-25

| Year | Expenditure ^{Note} (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|---|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 12,476 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 12,452 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 11,631 |
| 2024-25 (Estimate) | 12,375 |

[Note] The actual expenditures for 2021-22 and 2022-23, the revised estimate of expenditure for 2023-24 and the estimate of expenditure for 2024-25 include the payment of an additional half-month of the CSSA standard rates in the year.

Table 4 Number of SSA recipients aged 60 or above by type of allowance and age group from 2021-22 to 2023-24

| Type of allowance ^[Note 1] | Age group | Number of recipients | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| | | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| OAA | Aged 60 to 64 | N.A. | | |
| | Aged 65 to 69 | N.A. | | |
| | Aged 70 to 74 | 146 907 | 153 313 | 157 857 |
| | Aged 75 to 79 | 71 757 | 82 125 | 91 083 |
| | Aged 80 to 84 | 45 764 | 43 415 | 43 418 |
| | Aged 85 or above | 47 790 | 47 603 | 49 063 |
| Higher OALA ^[Note 2] | Aged 60 to 64 | N.A. | | |
| | Aged 65 to 69 | 161 378 | N.A. | |
| | Aged 70 to 74 | 162 435 | | |
| | Aged 75 to 79 | 98 389 | | |
| | Aged 80 to 84 | 71 799 | | |
| | Aged 85 or above | 91 751 | | |
| Normal OALA ^[Note 2] | Aged 60 to 64 | N.A. | | |
| | Aged 65 to 69 | 18 961 | N.A. | |
| | Aged 70 to 74 | 14 074 | | |
| | Aged 75 to 79 | 7 185 | | |
| | Aged 80 to 84 | 5 072 | | |
| | Aged 85 or above | 5 972 | | |

| Type of allowance ^[Note 1] | Age group | Number of recipients | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| | | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| OALA ^[Note 2] | Aged 60 to 64 | N.A. | | |
| | Aged 65 to 69 | N.A. | 201 047 | 210 027 |
| | Aged 70 to 74 | | 190 232 | 199 050 |
| | Aged 75 to 79 | | 120 572 | 131 796 |
| | Aged 80 to 84 | | 75 785 | 76 448 |
| | Aged 85 or above | | 99 695 | 102 552 |
| GD Scheme | Aged 60 to 64 | N.A. | | |
| | Aged 65 to 69 | 2 507 | 3 503 | 4 390 |
| | Aged 70 to 74 | 6 009 | 6 851 | 7 824 |
| | Aged 75 to 79 | 4 205 | 4 846 | 5 482 |
| | Aged 80 to 84 | 3 303 | 3 271 | 3 358 |
| | Aged 85 or above | 3 485 | 3 563 | 3 828 |
| FJ Scheme | Aged 60 to 64 | N.A. | | |
| | Aged 65 to 69 | 218 | 277 | 340 |
| | Aged 70 to 74 | 480 | 500 | 597 |
| | Aged 75 to 79 | 415 | 488 | 563 |
| | Aged 80 to 84 | 370 | 341 | 377 |
| | Aged 85 or above | 480 | 510 | 555 |
| HDA | Aged 60 to 64 | 2 281 | 2 257 | 2 360 |
| | Aged 65 to 69 | 1 824 | 1 799 | 1 893 |
| | Aged 70 to 74 | 1 645 | 1 589 | 1 646 |
| | Aged 75 to 79 | 1 230 | 1 329 | 1 438 |
| | Aged 80 to 84 | 1 631 | 1 449 | 1 415 |
| | Aged 85 or above | 3 858 | 3 561 | 3 681 |
| NDA | Aged 60 to 64 | 24 820 | 25 195 | 25 260 |
| | Aged 65 to 69 | 10 100 | 10 263 | 11 064 |
| | Aged 70 to 74 | 5 335 | 5 458 | 5 790 |
| | Aged 75 to 79 | 2 719 | 3 063 | 3 485 |
| | Aged 80 to 84 | 2 391 | 2 218 | 2 208 |
| | Aged 85 or above | 4 402 | 4 391 | 4 589 |

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note 1] OAA applicants must be aged 70 or above. OALA applicants must be aged 65 or above. There is no age restriction for DA applicants.

[Note 2] In September 2022, SWD merged the Normal and Higher OALAs. The merged OALA adopts the more lenient asset limits of the Normal OALA and the payment rate of the Higher OALA.

Table 5 Total expenditure on SSA recipients aged 60 or above by type of allowance from 2021-22 to 2024-25

| Type of allowance ^[Note 1] | Expenditure ^[Note 3] (\$ million) | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | 2021-22 (Actual) | 2022-23 (Actual) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 2024-25 (Estimate) |
| OAA | 5,530 | 6,021 | 6,585 | 7,270 |
| OALA ^[Note 2] | 28,857 | 31,999 | 36,352 | 42,806 |
| GD Scheme | 686 | 740 | 986 | 1,367 |
| FJ Scheme | 74 | 79 | 99 | 130 |
| HDA | 575 | 586 | 667 | 835 |
| NDA | 1,219 | 1,290 | 1,383 | 1,519 |

[Note 1] OAA applicants must be aged 70 or above. OALA applicants must be aged 65 or above. There is no age restriction for DA applicants.

[Note 2] In September 2022, SWD merged the Normal and Higher OALAs. The merged OALA adopts the more lenient asset limits of the Normal OALA and the payment rate of the Higher OALA.

[Note 3] The actual expenditures for 2021-22 and 2022-23, the revised estimate of expenditure for 2023-24 and the estimate of expenditure for 2024-25 include the payment of an additional half-month of the allowances in the year.

Table 6 Expenditure on the PSCCA Scheme, GD Scheme and FJ Scheme from 2021-22 to 2024-25

| Year | Expenditure ^[Note] (\$ million) | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|
| | PCSSA Scheme | GD Scheme | FJ Scheme |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 44 | 686 | 74 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 39 | 740 | 79 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 34 | 986 | 99 |
| 2024-25 (Estimate) | 38 | 1,367 | 130 |

^[Note] The actual expenditures for 2021-22 and 2022-23, the revised estimate of expenditure for 2023-24 and the estimate of expenditure for 2024-25 include the payment of an additional half-month of the allowances in the year.

Table 7 Fees paid to the agents by type of assistance and allowance from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | Fees (\$ million) | | | | |
|--|---|-----------|---|-----------|--------------------------|
| | PCSSA Scheme | GD Scheme | | FJ Scheme | |
| | | OAA | OALA ^[Note 2] | OAA | OALA ^[Note 2] |
| 2019-20 | 1.94 | 5.46 | 1.15 | 2.30 | 0.61 |
| 2020-21 | 2.05 | 4.71 | 4.79 | 1.78 | 2.04 |
| | Assisting in the implementation of the portable social security schemes in GD Province | | Assisting in the implementation of the portable social security schemes in FJ Province | | |
| 2021-22 ^[Note 1] | 3.71 | | 3.19 | | |
| 2022-23 ^[Note 1] | 3.60 | | 3.31 | | |
| 2023-24 ^[Note 1] (as at end-December 2023) | 2.96 | | 2.63 | | |

^[Note 1] With effect from 1 April 2021, SWD has appointed 2 agents to implement the PCSSA Scheme, GD Scheme and FJ Scheme in GD and FJ Provinces respectively.

^[Note 2] OALA under the GD Scheme and FJ Scheme was effective from 1 January 2020.

Table 8 Number of cases served by the agents by type of assistance and allowance

| Year | PCSSA Scheme | GD Scheme | | FJ Scheme | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| | | OAA | OALA ^[Note] | OAA | OALA ^[Note] |
| 2019-20 | 1 139 | 9 089 | 8 051 | 694 | 922 |
| 2020-21 | 1 004 | 7 325 | 11 191 | 587 | 1 282 |
| 2021-22 | 859 | 7 405 | 11 565 | 577 | 1 328 |
| 2022-23 | 789 | 7 405 | 12 658 | 591 | 1 388 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 690 | 8 111 | 15 860 | 661 | 1 679 |

^[Note] OALA under the GD Scheme and FJ Scheme was effective from 1 January 2020.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)149

(Question Serial No. 2622)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding various subsidised residential care services (RCS) for the elderly, please inform this Committee of:

1. the number of subsidised RCS places provided by various types of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), and the number of service places in day care centres for the elderly (DEs) currently available, broken down by the 18 districts;
2. (1) the total expenditure, (2) the average monthly cost per place and (3) the amount self-financed/supplemented by elderly persons for various types of RCS for the elderly in the past 3 years;
3. the utilisation of RCS by holders of residential care service vouchers (RCSVs) in the past 3 years (with a breakdown by co-payment level and the actual amount paid); and
4. the number of service places to be provided by subsidised RCHEs that will be constructed and/or commence operation with government funding in the next 10 years, along with the amount of funding involved (with a breakdown by the expected year of service commencement).

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

1. The number of subsidised RCS places provided by various types of RCHEs as at the end of December 2023, broken down by District Council (DC) district, is set out at Annex 1. The number of service places in DEs/day care units for the elderly (DCUs), broken down by DC district, is set out at Annex 2.
2. The total expenditure, average monthly cost per place and monthly service charges for various types of subsidised RCS for the elderly from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are set out at Annexes 3 to 5.
3. The cumulative number of RCSV holders, broken down by co-payment level, and the amount paid by RCSV users according to their co-payment levels in the past 3 years is set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 6.

4. The number of subsidised RCS places expected to be put into service between 2024-25 and 2028-29 is set out below:

| Year | No. of places to be put into service |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 2024-25 | 275 |
| 2025-26 | 483 |
| 2026-27 | 799 |
| 2027-28 | 1 362 |
| 2028-29 | 480 |

In addition, an extra 1 000 RCSVs will be provided in 2024-25, bringing the total to 5 000. As the RCSV Scheme adopts the “money-following-the-user” principle, the Government does not have the relevant information by year of service commencement.

Statistics for most of the subsidised RCS places expected to be put into service in 2029 and beyond are currently unavailable because the relevant RCHE projects are still in the planning stage and do not have exact completion dates. Based on the progress of individual projects, the Government will apply for funding in a timely manner under the established mechanism to ensure that the projects are implemented as soon as possible.

**Number of subsidised service places provided by various types of RCHEs
(as at end-December 2023)**

| District | Subvented home operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and self-financing home Note 1 | Private RCHE under EBPS Note 2 | Contract RCHE Note 3 | RCSV Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme) | Total | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------|---------------|
| Central & Western | 236 | 669 | 221 | N.A. | 1 126 | |
| Eastern | 448 | 539 | 180 | | 1 167 | |
| Wan Chai | 462 | 261 | 60 | | 783 | |
| Southern | 1 466 | 611 | - | | 2 077 | |
| Islands | 302 | - | 145 | | 447 | |
| Kwun Tong | 1 383 | 824 | 284 | | 2 491 | |
| Wong Tai Sin | 1 345 | 429 | 208 | | 1 982 | |
| Sai Kung | 1 277 | - | - | | 1 277 | |
| Kowloon City | 648 | 1 822 | 110 | | 2 580 | |
| Sham Shui Po | 825 | 456 | 513 | | 1 794 | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 98 | 895 | 272 | | 1 265 | |
| Sha Tin | 1 354 | 264 | 281 | | 1 899 | |
| Tai Po | 1 236 | 338 | 80 | | 1 654 | |
| North | 1 224 | 48 | 1 172 | | 2 444 | |
| Yuen Long | 943 | 994 | 149 | | 2 086 | |
| Tsuen Wan | 922 | 911 | 175 | | 2 008 | |
| Kwai Tsing | 1 741 | 1 234 | 375 | | 3 350 | |
| Tuen Mun | 1 204 | 845 | 60 | | 2 109 | |
| Total | 17 114 | 11 140 | 4 285 | | 4 000 | 36 539 |

N.A. – Not applicable

Note 1 Including places at homes for the aged (H/As), care-and-attention (C&A) places, C&A places providing continuum of care (CoC), nursing home (NH) places and NH places purchased under the Nursing Home Place Purchase Scheme (NHPPS).

Note 2 Excluding subsidised designated residential respite places.

Note 3 Including C&A places providing CoC and NH places.

**Number of service places in DEs/DCUs
(as at end-December 2023)**

| District | No. of places |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Central & Western | 124 |
| Eastern | 258 |
| Wan Chai | 130 |
| Southern | 108 |
| Islands | 40 |
| Kwun Tong | 452 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 347 |
| Sai Kung | 225 |
| Kowloon City | 158 |
| Sham Shui Po | 324 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 152 |
| Sha Tin | 408 |
| Tai Po | 124 |
| North | 188 |
| Yuen Long | 218 |
| Tsuen Wan | 183 |
| Kwai Tsing | 295 |
| Tuen Mun | 328 |
| Total | 4 062 |

Expenditure on subsidised RCS for the elderly

| Year | Expenditure (\$ billion) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 7.2653 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 7.4035 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 8.6918 |

Average monthly cost per place for various types of subsidised RCS for the elderly

| | 2021-22 (\$) | 2022-23 (\$) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) (\$) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| NH operated by NGOs ^{Note 1} | 25,675 | 26,025 | 27,063 |
| Contract home ^{Note 2} | 20,795 | 23,529 | 23,564 |
| C&A home operated by NGOs | 18,126 | 18,335 | 18,946 |
| Private C&A home under EBPS | 16,171 | 17,471 | 16,855 |
| RCSV Scheme | N.A. ^{Note 3} | | |

N.A. – Not applicable

Note 1 Including subvented NHs and subsidised NH places of NHPPS.

Note 2 Contract homes provide C&A and NH places. The average monthly costs shown above reflect the average monthly cost of these 2 types of places.

Note 3 The Social Welfare Department pays the rest of the service fee to the residential care homes based on the co-payment level of individual RCSV users.

Monthly service charges for various types of subsidised RCS for the elderly

| | 2021-22 (\$) | 2022-23 (\$) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) (\$) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| NH operated by NGOs | | | |
| - Subvented NH | 2,054 | 2,054 | 2,054 |
| - NHPPS | 2,060 | 2,060 | 2,060 |
| Contract home | 2,060 | 2,060 | 2,060 |
| C&A home operated by NGOs | 2,060 | 2,060 | 2,060 |
| Private C&A home under EBPS | | | |
| - EA1 place | 1,763 | 1,763 | 1,763 |
| - EA2 place | 1,656 | 1,656 | 1,656 |

Table 1: Cumulative number of RCSV holders and their co-payment levels by year

| Co-payment level ^{Note} | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Cumulative no. of RCSV holders |
|--|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|--------------------------------------|
| Co-payment percentage | 0% | 10% | 20% | 30% | 40% | 50% | 62.5% | 75% | |
| Distribution of number of RCSV holders by year: | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021-22 | 3 261 | 393 | 10 | 10 | 4 | 1 | - | 115 | 3 794 |
| 2022-23 | 4 342 | 533 | 17 | 15 | 6 | 4 | - | 186 | 5 103 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 5 546 | 661 | 22 | 16 | 6 | 5 | - | 282 | 6 538 |

^{Note} RCSV has 8 co-payment levels, ranging from the lowest Level 0 to the highest Level 7. While RCSV users at Level 0 are fully subsidised by the Government, RCSV users at Levels 1 to 7 are required to pay for a portion of the voucher value based on their respective co-payment percentages.

Table 2: The co-payment amount of RCSV users by co-payment level

| Co-payment level ^{Note} | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| Co-payment percentage | 0.0% | 10.0% | 20.0% | 30.0% | 40.0% | 50.0% | 62.5% | 75.0% | |
| Co-payment amount (\$) | 2021-22 | - | 1,591 | 3,182 | 4,773 | 6,364 | 7,955 | 9,943 | 11,932 |
| | 2022-23 | - | 1,604 | 3,207 | 4,811 | 6,414 | 8,018 | 10,023 | 12,027 |
| | 2023-24 | - | 1,616 | 3,232 | 4,848 | 6,464 | 8,081 | 10,101 | 12,121 |

^{Note} RCSV has 8 co-payment levels, ranging from the lowest Level 0 to the highest Level 7. While RCSV users at Level 0 are fully subsidised by the Government, RCSV users at Levels 1 to 7 are required to pay for a portion of the voucher value based on their respective co-payment percentages.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)150

(Question Serial No. 2623)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. Please provide the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients residing in various types of residential care homes (RCHs) in the past 5 years (and the estimation for the current financial year), with a breakdown by age group and mode of subvention.
2. Please provide the average monthly CSSA payments received by elderly singletons residing in subsidised and non-subsidised residential care places (RCPs), with a breakdown by level of disability.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. The number of CSSA recipients residing in RCHs from 2019-20 to 2023-24, broken down by age group and type of RCPs, is set out in Table 1 of Annex. The Social Welfare Department does not have an estimation of the number of recipients for 2024-25.
2. The monthly average CSSA payments received by singletons aged 60 or above residing in RCHs from 2020 to 2024, broken down by type of RCPs and level of disability, are set out in Table 2 of Annex.

Table 1: Number of CSSA recipients residing in RCHs by age group and type of RCPs (from 2019-20 to 2023-24)

| Year | Number of recipients | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | Subsidised RCP | | Non-subsidised RCP | |
| | Aged below 60 | Aged 60 or above | Aged below 60 | Aged 60 or above |
| 2019-20 | 9 176 | 16 595 | 3 901 | 23 130 |
| 2020-21 | 9 239 | 16 793 | 3 730 | 21 978 |
| 2021-22 | 9 265 | 16 927 | 3 518 | 20 563 |
| 2022-23 | 9 235 | 17 085 | 3 393 | 18 995 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 9 231 | 17 736 | 3 317 | 19 421 |

Table 2: Monthly average CSSA payments received by singletons aged 60 or above residing in RCHs by type of RCPs and level of disability (from 2020 to 2024)

| Type of RCPs | Level of disability | 1 February 2020 (\$) ^{Note 2} | 1 February 2021 (\$) ^{Note 2} | 1 February 2022 (\$) ^{Note 2} | 1 February 2023 (\$) ^{Note 2} | 1 February 2024 (\$) ^{Note 2} |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Subsidised RCP | Able-bodied/ 50% disabled ^{Note 1} | 4,921 | 5,113 | 5,258 | 5,615 | 5,813 |
| | 100% disabled | 6,526 | 6,761 | 7,034 | 7,519 | 7,790 |
| | Requiring constant attendance | 9,895 | 10,621 | 10,879 | 11,581 | 11,704 |
| Non-subsidised RCP | Able-bodied/ 50% disabled ^{Note 1} | 7,793 | 8,203 | 8,466 | 9,087 | 9,346 |
| | 100% disabled | 9,376 | 9,837 | 10,215 | 10,844 | 11,221 |
| | Requiring constant attendance | 12,147 | 12,669 | 13,156 | 13,923 | 14,434 |

^{Note 1} Persons aged 65 or above and those aged between 60 and 64 who have received elderly CSSA before 1 February 2019 receive the same CSSA standard rate irrespective of whether they are able-bodied or 50% disabled. Due to limitations in statistical compilation, the number includes able-bodied persons aged 65 or above, as well as able-bodied persons aged between 60 and 64 who have received elderly CSSA before 1 February 2019.

^{Note 2} CSSA payments are adjusted annually on 1 February in accordance with relevant mechanisms. The listed figures refer to the average payment amounts received by CSSA households when they do not have any other sources of income.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)151

(Question Serial No. 2624)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme) and the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) for the Elderly (Pilot Scheme on RCSV), please inform this Committee of the following:

1. For each year since the launch of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV, please set out in a table (1) the number of service providers; (2) the number of service places, broken down by day care service and home care service; (3) the number of elderly persons participating in the Pilot Scheme on CCSV, broken down by age groups of 65 to 74, 75 to 84 and 85 or above; (4) the number of elderly persons having left the Pilot Scheme on CCSV; and (5) the annual amount of government subsidy.
2. For each year since the launch of the Pilot Scheme on RCSV, please set out in a table (1) the number of recognised service providers (RSPs) participating in the Pilot Scheme on RCSV; (2) the number of service units; (3) the number of elderly persons participating in the Pilot Scheme on RCSV, broken down by age groups of 65 to 74, 75 to 84 and 85 or above; (4) the number of elderly persons having left the Pilot Scheme on RCSV; and (5) the annual amount of government subsidy.
3. Given that the service charges paid by each elderly person participating in the above 2 pilot schemes and the amount of government subsidy vary according to the asset and income of individual elderly persons, please provide a breakdown of the sums paid by participants by co-payment level.
4. Last year's Budget indicated that the CCSV Scheme would be regularised. The number of beneficiaries was expected to increase to 12 000, involving an annual recurrent expenditure of \$900 million. How many organisations or units have joined the regularised scheme thus far? What is the estimated number of additional service places per district?
5. Regarding the RSPs under the CCSV Scheme, please provide the following information:
 - 5a. How many RSPs are operated by private and non-governmental organisations (NGOs)? What are their respective proportions?
 - 5b. What are the average charges for the services provided by these RSPs?
 - 5c. What are the utilisation of CCSVs by elderly persons at these RSPs?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

1., 2. & 3. The relevant information is provided at Annexes 1 to 3. As is the case with other subsidised community care services, elderly persons aged 60 or above who have been assessed and recommended for community care services or residential care services under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services (SCNAMES) are eligible to apply for the CCSV Scheme. Elderly persons aged 65 or above who have been assessed and recommended for residential care services under the SCNAMES and are waitlisted for care-and-attention places on the central waiting list for subsidised long term care services are eligible to apply for the Residential Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme). Individuals aged between 60 and 64 who have been assessed as in need of subsidised residential care services can also apply for the RCSV Scheme. The respective numbers of CCSV and RCSV holders, broken down by age groups of 60 to 74, 75 to 84 and 85 or above, are set out in Table 5 of Annex 1 and Table 2 of Annex 2 respectively.

4. & 5. The Government has made the CCSV permanent since September 2023. As at the end of December 2023, there was a total of 258 RSPs operated by 132 organisations under the CCSV Scheme. Among these RSPs, 126 (48.8%) are operated by 38 NGOs subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), 40 (15.5%) are operated by 19 non-profit-making organisations or social enterprises, and 92 (35.7%) are operated by 75 private organisations. As the supply of CCSV services is mainly driven by market demand, the Government does not have an estimate of the number of additional RSPs and service places in each district in the future. SWD will from time to time review the supply of CCSV services in each district based on elderly population, service place availability and utilisation of CCSVs, and encourage more organisations to join as RSPs.

RSPs participating in the CCSV Scheme shall set the prices for individual CCSV items within the permitted ceiling prices recognised by SWD for its approval. The ceiling prices of respective CCSV items are set out at Annex 4. RSPs are required to list the prices of all CCSV items for CCSV holders' reference and selection.

The number of CCSVs was 10 000 in 2023-24. As RSPs are reimbursed for their actual costs under the CCSV Scheme, CCSV holders who have yet to use any services do not consume the resources of the Government or service providers. In addition, SWD can distribute more CCSVs than the quota allows, thus enabling more eligible elderly persons to receive services without having to wait. As at the end of December 2023, a total of 12 381 elderly persons were holding CCSVs, and 8 395 of them were receiving CCSV services. It is undesirable for SWD to release the full-year number of service users broken down by service unit, as this would involve disclosing information about RSPs' operation.

Table 1: Statistics on the first phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV

| Year | No. of RSPs in the year | No. of service places in the year ^{Note} | | Cumulative no. of CCSV holders | Cumulative no. of dropouts | CCSV Subsidy (\$ million) |
|---------|-------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Day care services | Home care services | | | |
| 2013-14 | 62 | 881 | N.A. | 1 251 | 108 | 3.1 |
| 2014-15 | 62 | 923 | N.A. | 2 092 | 888 | 41.6 |
| 2015-16 | 62 | 993 | N.A. | 2 919 | 1 555 | 66.9 |
| 2016-17 | 62 | 998 | N.A. | 2 968 | 1 893 | 55.1 |
| 2017-18 | 62 | 998 | N.A. | 2 968 | 1 914 | 9.1 |

N.A. – Not Applicable

^{Note} The first phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV delivered services in (i) a single mode, which consisted of day care services (part-time) only; or (ii) a mixed mode, which consisted of day care (part-time) and home care services. The figures set out in the above table represent the maximum number of services places for day care services that RSPs can provide and service places for home care services are not provided separately. RSPs may provide CCSV holders in need of day care services with home care services.

Table 2: Statistics on the second phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV

| Year | No. of RSPs in the year | No. of service places in the year | | Cumulative no. of CCSV holders | Cumulative no. of dropouts | CCSV Subsidy (\$ million) |
|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Day care services | Home care services | | | |
| 2016-17 | 124 | 2 081 | 2 944 | 3 373 | 317 | 119.9 ^{Note} |
| 2017-18 | 125 | 2 254 | 3 040 | 6 520 | 2 132 | |
| 2018-19 | 153 | 2 815 | 4 861 | 8 813 | 3 670 | 201.9 |
| 2019-20 | 173 | 3 210 | 6 806 | 11 222 | 5 198 | 226.0 |
| 2020-21 | 179 | 3 250 | 7 123 | 12 154 | 5 995 | 147.8 |

^{Note} The second phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV commenced in October 2016. The expenditure on the subsidies for CCSV holders from October 2016 to March 2017 was reflected in the 2017-18 Actual Expenditure.

Table 3: Statistics on the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV

| Year | No. of RSPs in the year | No. of service places in the year | | Cumulative no. of CCSV holders | Cumulative no. of dropouts | CCSV Subsidy (\$ million) |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Day care services | Home care services | | | |
| 2020-21 | 230 | 3 869 | 10 580 | 8 283 | 1 108 | 58.0 |
| 2021-22 | 238 | 3 950 | 11 424 | 12 998 | 4 143 | 314.4 |
| 2022-23 | 253 | 4 191 | 12 904 | 17 394 | 7 210 | 361.7 |
| 2023-24 ^{Note 1} | 264 | 4 206 | 13 589 | 19 820 | 8 592 | 266.1 ^{Note 2} |

^{Note 1} The Government has made the CCSV permanent since September 2023.

^{Note 2} Revised estimate of the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV for 2023-24.

Table 4: Statistics on the CCSV Scheme after it is made permanent ^{Note 1}

| Year | No. of RSPs in the year | No. of service places in the year | | Cumulative no. of CCSV holders | Cumulative no. of dropouts | CCSV Subsidy (\$ million) |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Day care services | Home care services | | | |
| 2023-24 ^{Note 1} (as at end-December 2023) | 258 | 4 102 | 13 885 | 13 529 | 1 148 | 307.4 ^{Note 2} |

Note 1 The Government has made the CCSV permanent since September 2023.

Note 2 Revised estimate for 2023-24 after making the CCSV permanent.

Table 5: Age distribution of CCSV holders

| Year | Cumulative no. of CCSV holders | | | Total |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|-------------|---------------|
| | 60 to 74 | 75 to 84 | 85 or above | |
| 2013-14 | 189 | 547 | 515 | 1 251 |
| 2014-15 | 313 | 856 | 923 | 2 092 |
| 2015-16 | 442 | 1 159 | 1 318 | 2 919 |
| 2016-17 | 854 | 2 083 | 2 424 | 5 361 |
| 2017-18 | 1 366 | 3 164 | 3 904 | 8 434 |
| 2018-19 | 1 700 | 3 907 | 5 120 | 10 727 |
| 2019-20 | 2 088 | 4 607 | 6 441 | 13 136 |
| 2020-21 | 2 712 | 5 692 | 7 788 | 16 192 |
| 2021-22 | 3 275 | 6 151 | 11 481 | 20 907 |
| 2022-23 | 4 368 | 8 671 | 12 264 | 25 303 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 5 329 | 10 331 | 14 370 | 30 030 |

Table 1: Statistics on the RCSV Scheme

| Year | No. of RSPs in the year | No. of service units in the year | Cumulative no. of RCSV holders | Cumulative no. of dropouts | RCSV Subsidy (\$ million) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2017-18 | 86 | 56 | 353 | 30 | 15.3 |
| 2018-19 | 104 | 87 | 1 163 | 199 | 92.6 |
| 2019-20 | 121 | 108 | 2 156 | 579 | 244.1 |
| 2020-21 | 152 | 136 | 3 075 | 1 026 | 373.3 |
| 2021-22 | 164 | 153 | 3 794 | 1 641 | 483.6 |
| 2022-23 | 186 | 177 | 5 103 | 2 220 | 465.2 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 202 | 196 | 6 538 | 2 823 | 744.4 ^{Note} |

Note Revised estimate for 2023-24.

Table 2: Age distribution of RCSV holders

| Year | Cumulative no. of RCSV holders | | | Total |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | 60 to 74 | 75 to 84 | 85 or above | |
| 2017-18 | 19 | 90 | 244 | 353 |
| 2018-19 | 102 | 310 | 751 | 1 163 |
| 2019-20 | 197 | 533 | 1 426 | 2 156 |
| 2020-21 | 290 | 710 | 2 075 | 3 075 |
| 2021-22 | 407 | 946 | 2 441 | 3 794 |
| 2022-23 | 596 | 1 271 | 3 236 | 5 103 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 792 | 1 666 | 4 080 | 6 538 |

Table 1: Distribution of CCSV holders in the first phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV by co-payment level

| Co-payment level ^{Note} | No. of CCSV holders |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| I | 2 031 |
| II | 312 |
| III | 299 |
| IV | 53 |
| V | 273 |
| Total | 2 968 |

Note The amounts of co-payment payable by CCSV holders in the first phase of the CCSV Scheme were set according to affordability at 5 levels, namely (I) to (V) (i.e. \$500 (I), \$750 (II), \$1,000 (III), \$1,500 (IV) and \$2,500 (V)).

Table 2: Distribution of CCSV holders in the second phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV by co-payment level

| Co-payment level ^{Note} | No. of CCSV holders |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| I | 2 081 |
| II | 5 745 |
| III | 1 156 |
| IV | 1 173 |
| V | 208 |
| VI | 1 791 |
| Total | 12 154 |

Note The amounts of co-payment payable by CCSV holders in the second phase of the CCSV Scheme were set according to affordability at 6 levels, namely (I) to (VI) (i.e. 5% (I), 8% (II), 12% (III), 16% (IV), 25% (V) and 40% (VI) of the CCSV value). CCSV holders shall settle their service fees each month in accordance with the voucher value of the CCSVs they used and their corresponding co-payment percentages. The 5 types of CCSV values in 2020-21 were set at \$4,130, \$5,970, \$7,460, \$8,380 and \$9,870 per month.

Table 3: Distribution of CCSV holders in the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV by co-payment level

| Co-payment level ^{Note} | No. of CCSV holders |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| I | 2 854 |
| II | 10 047 |
| III | 1 715 |
| IV | 1 998 |
| V | 371 |
| VI | 2 835 |
| Total | 19 820 |

Note The amounts of co-payment payable by CCSV holders in the third phase of the CCSV Scheme were set according to affordability at 6 levels, namely (I) to (VI) (i.e. 5% (I), 8% (II), 12% (III), 16% (IV), 25% (V) and 40% (VI) of the CCSV value). CCSV holders shall settle their service fees each month in accordance with the voucher value of the CCSVs they used and their corresponding co-payment percentages. The CCSV values in 2023-24 range from \$4,290 to \$10,260 per month.

Table 4: Distribution of CCSV holders after making the CCSV permanent by co-payment level (as at end-December 2023)

| Co-payment level ^{Note} | No. of CCSV holders |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| I | 1 841 |
| II | 7 132 |
| III | 1 146 |
| IV | 1 337 |
| V | 236 |
| VI | 1 837 |
| Total | 13 529 |

^{Note} The amounts of co-payment payable by CCSV holders of the CCSV Scheme are set according to affordability at 6 levels, namely (I) to (VI) (i.e. 5% (I), 8% (II), 12% (III), 16% (IV), 25% (V) and 40% (VI) of the CCSV value). CCSV holders shall settle their service fees each month in accordance with the voucher value of the CCSVs they used and their corresponding co-payment percentages. The CCSV values in 2023-24 range from \$4,290 to \$10,260 per month.

Table 5: Distribution of RCSV holders by co-payment level (as at end-December 2023)

| Co-payment level ^{Note} | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| Co-payment percentage | 0.0% | 10.0% | 20.0% | 30.0% | 40.0% | 50.0% | 62.5% | 75.0% |
| Co-payment amount (\$) | - | 1,616 | 3,232 | 4,848 | 6,464 | 8,081 | 10,101 | 12,121 |
| No. of RCSV holders | 5 546 | 661 | 22 | 16 | 6 | 5 | - | 282 |

^{Note} As at the end of December 2023, there was a cumulative total of 6 538 elderly persons holding RCSVs. The RCSV value is set at \$16,161 per month from 1 April 2023. The RCSV Scheme has 8 co-payment levels, ranging from the lowest Level 0 to the highest Level 7. While RCSV holders at Level 0 are fully subsidised by the Government, RCSV holders at Levels 1 to 7 are required to pay for a portion of the voucher value based on their respective co-payment percentages.

Ceiling prices of CCSV items

| Community Care Service Items | 2023-24 Ceiling price (HK\$) |
|---|---|
| <u>Centre-based Services</u> | |
| ● Full-time day care service (12 sessions per week) | 10,260 (per month) |
| ● Day care session (4 hours) | 238 (per session) |
| ● Day care service outside normal operating hours | 95 (per hour) |
| ● Transportation service (vehicle to/from centre) | 12 (per trip) |
| ● Escort for day care service (home to vehicle / vehicle to home) | 36 (per trip) |
| <u>Home-based Services</u> | |
| <u>Home Care Services</u> | |
| ● Rehabilitation exercise | |
| - delivered by physiotherapist / occupational therapist | 945 (per hour) |
| - delivered by supporting staff ^{Note 2} | 238 (per hour) |
| ● Nursing care | |
| - delivered by enrolled / registered nurse | 909 (per hour) |
| - delivered by supporting staff ^{Note 2} | 238 (per hour) |
| ● Personal care ^{Note 3} delivered by supporting staff ^{Note 2} | 238 (per hour) |
| <u>Home Support Services</u> | |
| ● Home making | 144 (per hour) |
| ● Escort | 144 (per hour) |
| ● Meals delivery | 60 (per meal) |
| ● Daytime elder sitting | |
| - delivered by professional staff ^{Note 1} | 909 (per hour) |
| - delivered by supporting staff ^{Note 2} | 238 (per hour) |
| ● On-site carer training | |
| - delivered by professional staff ^{Note 1} | 909 (per hour) |
| - delivered by supporting staff ^{Note 2} | 238 (per hour) |
| ● Environmental risk assessment/home modification recommendation | 945 (per hour) |
| - delivered by physiotherapist / occupational therapist ^{Note 1} | |
| ● Home-based services (except meals delivery and soft meals)/speech therapy service delivered outside pledged service hours | Additional 20% of the normal service hour |
| <u>Others</u> | |
| ● Residential respite service | 548 (per day) |
| ● Speech therapy service (50 minutes per session) | 785 (per session) |
| ● Soft meals (additional item for day care service/meals delivery) | 6 (per meal) |
| ● Rental service of assistive technology products ^{Note 4} | as approved by SWD (per item) |

Note 1 Professional staff means enrolled/registered nurse, physiotherapist, occupational therapist or registered social worker.

Note 2 Supporting staff means physiotherapy artisan, occupational therapy assistant, health worker, personal care worker, home-helper, etc., who are trained and capable of providing services in their respective professions.

Note 3 Personal care services include food-feeding, transfer, showering/bathing, toileting/diaper changing, changing of clothes, etc., but exclude meals delivery, home making and escort.

Note 4 Assistive technology products are grouped under 3 categories, namely (a) aids for daily living, e.g. nursing bed; (b) walking or transfer aids, e.g. special function wheelchair, walking aid; and (c) bath or commode aids, e.g. hair washing machine.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)152

(Question Serial No. 2625)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low-income Families (Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons) and the Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) (Scheme for Carers of PWDs), please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Since the launch of the Pilot Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons (regularised last year), (1) how many carers have been invited to join the Scheme, (2) how many have been granted the allowance and (3) how many of them have been reimbursed for their training fees each year? (4) What is the annual funding amount, excluding administrative expenses? (5) What is the amount of administrative expenses each year? (Please set out the figures in a table.)
2. Since the launch of Pilot Scheme for Carers of PWDs (regularised last year), (1) how many carers have been invited to join the Scheme, (2) how many have been granted the allowance and (3) how many of them have been reimbursed for their training fees each year? (4) What is the annual funding amount, excluding administrative expenses? (5) What is the amount of administrative expenses each year? (Please set out the figures in a table.)
3. It is understood that applicants for these 2 allowances should have a monthly household income not exceeding certain limits. Please provide information on the successful applicants for these 2 allowances in the past 3 years, broken down by household size and monthly income limit.
4. Please provide the (1) average age, and (2) average assets and income of applicants since the 2 Schemes began accepting applications.
5. Please provide the main reasons for applications being rejected under the 2 schemes, as well as the number of applicants withdrawn from the 2 Schemes and their reasons for withdrawal since the 2 Schemes began accepting applications.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

- 1 & 2. The Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons and the Scheme for Carers of PWDs have been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes in October 2023. The number of carers invited to join the 2 schemes, the number of carers granted allowances and reimbursed for their training fees after being assessed as eligible, as well as the amount of annual funding involved are set out at Annex 1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has deployed existing resources to implement these 2 regularised schemes, and no additional administrative expenses have been incurred.
- 3 & 4. Eligible applicants for the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons and the Scheme for Carers of PWDs must meet the income criterion. The monthly household income limit for the carer and the household members residing with him/her based on household size is set out at Annex 2. Assets are excluded from the calculation. SWD does not have information on the average salary of applicants for the 2 schemes. The average ages of eligible applicants are 58 years old for the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons, and 48 years old for the Scheme for Carers of PWDs.
5. The main reasons for applications being rejected under the 2 regularised schemes include applicants currently receiving the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA)/Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), self-withdrawal of applications, inability to fulfill caring responsibilities, or exceeding the household income limits, etc. The numbers of carers withdrawn from the 2 schemes and their reasons for their withdrawal are set out at Annex 3.

**Numbers of carers invited to join the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons and the Scheme for Carers of PWDs, numbers of carers granted allowances and reimbursed for their training fees after being assessed as eligible, and the amount of annual funding involved
(as at end-December 2023)**

| | Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons | Scheme for Carers of PWDs |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| No. of carers invited to join the scheme | 37 634 | 15 254 |
| No. of carers assessed as eligible and granted allowance ^{Note 1} | 3 489 | 2 896 |
| No. of carers assessed as eligible and reimbursed for their training fees ^{Note 1} | 1 | 40 |
| Amount of annual funding involved ^{Note 2} (\$ million) | 215.8 | 215.8 |

Note 1 Carers may receive the allowances at the end of December or beyond, depending on the circumstances.

Note 2 Including service fees for approved service providers

**Monthly household income limit under the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons and
the Scheme for Carers of PWDs**

| Household size | Monthly household income limit (\$) |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | 15,800 |
| 2 | 22,500 |
| 3 | 27,900 |
| 4 | 34,800 |
| 5 | 42,900 ^{Note} |
| 6 or above | 48,675 ^{Note} |

(The income limit is set with reference to 75% of the median monthly domestic household income of economically active households in 2022 as published by the Census and Statistics Department.)

^{Note} The monthly household income limit for household size of 5 or above is set with reference to the median monthly domestic household income by household size in the fourth quarter of 2022.

**Number of carers withdrawn from the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons and
the Scheme for Carers of PWDs and their reasons for withdrawal
(as at end-December 2023)**

| Reason for withdrawal | Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons (No. of persons) | Scheme for Carers of PWDs (No. of persons) |
|---|--|---|
| The person under care has been admitted to residential care services | 37 | 13 |
| The person under care passed away | 8 | 1 |
| The carer has been granted OALA/CSSA | 13 | 10 |
| Changes in circumstances of the carer/person under care (e.g. emigrated to other places; the carer exceeded the household income limits, or the carer was granted the Disability Allowance, etc.) | 46 | 16 |
| Other reasons (e.g. consolidation of cases, or reason not provided, etc.) | 80 | 43 |
| Total | 184 | 83 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)153

(Question Serial No. 2626)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding support services for carers, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. for the Designated Hotline for Carer Support (the Carer Hotline) launched in September 2023:
 - (a) the name of the service operator, the staffing establishment of the Carer Hotline during daytime and late night hours, and the annual expenditure involved;
 - (b) the average number of requests for assistance received daily since its launch, with a breakdown by the type of assistance sought;
 - (c) the distribution of the carers requesting assistance by (i) district; (ii) age; and (iii) employment status;
 - (d) the average time it takes for the calls to be connected and the average call duration regarding the above requests for assistance; and
 - (e) the number of cases that required referrals and follow-up services among the above requests for assistance;
2. for the Information Gateway for Carers (the Information Gateway) launched in November 2023:
 - (a) the name of the service operator, and the number of staff and annual expenditure involved in running the Information Gateway;
 - (b) the average daily hit rate since its launch; and
 - (c) the update frequency of the available information, which, as understood, includes activities in various districts, knowledge, and other resources.
3. the Social Welfare Department (SWD) currently provides day respite places and residential respite places for elderly persons and persons with disabilities (PWDs), respectively. Please advise on: (1) the distribution of service places; (2) the longest/average waiting time for such places; (3) the number of waitlisted persons;

(4) fees; and (5) service costs in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by 18 districts, in tabular form;

4. SWD announced in December last year that the respite service network would be expanded for carers to take short breaks or attend to personal matters. About 140 private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) will, on top of residential respite services for the elderly persons, provide day respite services for elderly persons in need in the community when vacant residential care places (RCPs) are available. Please provide:
 - 4a. the details of the respite services for the elderly persons provided by around 140 RCHEs through EBPS to the carers thus far, with a breakdown by district and type of RCHE; and
 - 4b. the channels through which these carers are informed of the above services: (i) referrals by the Carer Hotline; (ii) direct application to the service units by the carers; or (iii) referrals by service units such as integrated family service centres; and
5. the SE and the annual expenditure of Caritas Jockey Club Resource and Support Centre for Carers in Tseung Kwan O, the only carer-centric support centre among the 18 districts at present, and whether the Government will, with reference to the operation experience of this centre, set up a support centre in each of the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

1. Information on the Carer Hotline is as follows:
 - (a) SWD has commissioned the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals to operate the 24-hour Carer Hotline, with a total of 30 phone lines answered by over 100 professional social workers on shift duties. The annual expenditure is about \$12 million. SWD does not have information on the staffing establishment of the Carer Hotline during daytime or late night hours.
 - (b) As at 29 February 2024, the Carer Hotline received an average of about 83 calls daily. Relevant information regarding the nature of calls is provided in Table 1 of Annex 1.
 - (c) & (d) The district distribution of callers is set out in Table 2 of Annex 1. SWD does not have information on the age distribution or employment status of callers, the average time it takes for the calls to be connected or the average call duration.
 - (e) As at 29 February 2024, the Carer Hotline provided a total of 388 cases with referral and follow-up services.
2. SWD, in collaboration with The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT) commissioned the Hong Kong Shue Yan University (HKSYU) to develop the one-stop Information Gateway. It covers information about services provided for elderly persons, PWDs and their carers, caring skills, community activities and resources for carers, etc. The Information Gateway was launched on 30 November 2023 and its content is updated from time to time to better cater to the needs of carers. As at 29 February 2024, the Information Gateway has a hit rate of over 280 000. SWD and HKSYU will regularly review the usage of the Information Gateway and step up

publicity and promotion through various channels to make it better known and more widely used. The Information Gate is funded by HKJCCT for the first 3 years. SWD does not have information on the manpower and estimated expenditure involved, or the average daily hit rate or information update frequency.

3. The numbers of places for respite services for the elderly and PWDs by district, and the charges for the 2 services in the recent 3 years are set out in Tables 1 to 7 of Annex 2.

As service users do not have to be on the Central Waiting List to be waitlisted for respite services, SWD does not have information on the waiting time or number of elderly persons or PWDs waitlisted for day or residential respite services. In addition, SWD does not have information on the average monthly cost or total annual expenditure of various respite services.

4. Starting from December 2023, SWD has required private RCHEs participating in EBPS to provide day respite services when there are vacancies in their designated residential respite places. The number of service places provided under this measure, broken down by District Council (DC) district, is set out at Annex 3. SWD does not have information on the channels through which service users are informed of the service.
5. The Caritas Jockey Club Resource and Support Centre for Carers is not subsidised by SWD. Therefore, SWD does not have information on the staffing establishment and annual expenditure of the centre.

Currently, SWD provides elderly persons/PWDs and their carers in various districts of Hong Kong with diversified community support services based on their different needs through 214 district elderly community centres/neighbourhood elderly centres, 99 day care centres/units for the elderly (DEs/DCUs), 24 integrated community centres for mental wellness, 21 district support centres for PWDs and 19 parents/relatives resource centres, etc. These services include counselling, outreach services, referral for respite services, care skills training, stress-relief groups and recreational activities, etc. The staff of the aforementioned service units maintain close communication with the family members/carers of service users to jointly formulate individual care plans for the elderly persons or PWDs. Family members/carers may also take the opportunity to learn caring skills and seek assistance.

**Table 1: Nature of calls received by the Carer Hotline in 2023-24
(as at 29 February 2024)**

| Nature of call | No. of calls |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Emotional problem | 4 332 |
| Enquiry on community support services | 3 093 |
| Care issue | 1 976 |
| Financial problem | 1 027 |
| Health problem | 578 |
| Mental health problem | 543 |
| Enquiry on residential care services | 427 |
| Request for respite services | 412 |
| Family relationship problem | 242 |
| Housing/accommodation problem | 145 |
| Others | 182 |
| Total | 12 957 |

**Table 2: District distribution of callers in 2023-24
(as at 29 February 2024)**

| District | No. of callers |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Central & Western | 59 |
| Eastern | 148 |
| Wan Chai | 20 |
| Southern | 77 |
| Islands | 34 |
| Kwun Tong | 255 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 152 |
| Sai Kung | 83 |
| Kowloon City | 100 |
| Sham Shui Po | 145 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 81 |
| Sha Tin | 217 |
| Tai Po | 95 |
| North | 138 |
| Yuen Long | 146 |
| Tsuen Wan | 110 |
| Kwai Tsing | 142 |
| Tuen Mun | 195 |
| Not provided by callers | 10 760 |
| Total | 12 957 |

**Table 1: Number of designated respite places for the elderly ^{Note} by DC district
(from 2021-22 to 2023-24)**

| District | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Central & Western | 24 | 24 | 22 |
| Southern | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| Islands | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Eastern | 22 | 22 | 19 |
| Wan Chai | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Kwun Tong | 18 | 17 | 17 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 13 | 11 | 11 |
| Sai Kung | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Kowloon City | 42 | 41 | 41 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 25 | 23 | 22 |
| Sham Shui Po | 22 | 22 | 21 |
| Sha Tin | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Tai Po | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| North | 12 | 12 | 2 |
| Yuen Long | 36 | 35 | 35 |
| Tsuen Wan | 22 | 21 | 21 |
| Kwai Tsing | 29 | 29 | 28 |
| Tuen Mun | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| Total | 335 | 328 | 310 |

^{Note} Designated residential respite places at subvented RCHEs, contract RCHEs and private RCHEs participating in EBPS.

Table 2: Number of designated day respite service places in DEs/DCUs by district from 2021-22 to 2023-24

| District | No. of service places | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 13 | 13 | 11 |
| Southern | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Islands | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Eastern | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Wan Chai | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Kwun Tong | 36 | 41 | 41 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 14 | 14 | 15 |
| Sai Kung | 13 | 16 | 16 |
| Kowloon City | - | - | - |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 26 | 29 | 34 |
| Sham Shui Po | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Sha Tin | 25 | 28 | 31 |
| Tai Po | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| North | 5 | 10 | 16 |
| Yuen Long | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Tsuen Wan | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| Kwai Tsing | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Tuen Mun | 23 | 28 | 28 |
| Total | 228 | 252 | 263 |

**Table 3: Charges for day respite service for the elderly
(from 2021-22 to 2023-24)**

| |
|------------------------------|
| Daily charge (\$) 41.5 |
|------------------------------|

**Table 4: Charges for designated residential respite places for the elderly
(from 2021-22 to 2023-24)**

| Type of RCPs | Daily charge (\$) |
|---|----------------------|
| Home for the aged place | 52 |
| Care-and-attention (C&A) home place ^{Note 1} | 62 |
| Nursing home (NH) place ^{Note 2} | 72 |

Note 1 Including places at subvented C&A homes providing continuum-of-care, C&A places at contract homes and places of private RCHes participating in EBPS.

Note 2 NH places at contract homes.

**Table 5: Number of residential respite places for PWDs by DC district ^{Note}
(from 2021-22 to 2023-24)**

| District | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|-------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Central & Western | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Southern | 38 | 38 | 38 |
| Islands | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Eastern | 12 | 12 | 14 |
| Wan Chai | - | - | - |
| Kwun Tong | 44 | 44 | 44 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Sai Kung | 26 | 26 | 26 |
| Kowloon City | 15 | 15 | 17 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 10 | 10 | 13 |
| Sham Shui Po | 27 | 35 | 39 |
| Sha Tin | 36 | 38 | 38 |
| Tai Po | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| North | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Yuen Long | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Tsuen Wan | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Kwai Tsing | 41 | 44 | 48 |
| Tuen Mun | 40 | 40 | 44 |
| Total | 390 | 403 | 422 |

Note Including designated day/residential respite service places under the Bought Place Scheme (BPS) for Private Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities (RCHDs).

**Table 6: Number of day respite service places for PWDs by district
from 2021-22 to 2023-24** ^{Note 1}

| District | No. of service places | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Southern | 6 | 6 | 10 |
| Islands | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Eastern | 4 | 8 | 8 |
| Wan Chai | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Kwun Tong | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Sai Kung | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Kowloon City | 4 | 4 | 10 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 12 | 12 | 22 |
| Sham Shui Po | 2 | 4 | 15 |
| Sha Tin | 24 | 26 | 26 |
| Tai Po | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| North | 24 | 24 | 32 |
| Yuen Long | 6 | 6 | 8 |
| Tsuen Wan | 8 | 8 | 11 |
| Kwai Tsing | 24 | 24 | 36 ^{Note 2} |
| Tuen Mun | 11 | 11 | 18 |
| Total | 164 | 172 | 235 |

Note 1 Including designated day/residential respite service places under BPS for RCHDs.

Note 2 Excluding the reduction of 2 day/residential respite service places provided by a private RCHD under BPS due to the termination of contract in September 2023.

**Table 7: Charges for day and residential respite services for PWDs
from 2021-22 to 2023-24**

| Day respite service | Hourly charge (\$) | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| | Service user receiving Disability Allowance (DA) | Service user not receiving DA |
| Day activity centre | 5.1 | |
| District support centre for PWDs | 5.1 | |
| C&A home for severely disabled persons | 5.1 | |
| Private RCHD under BPS (medium level of care) | 5.1 ^{Note 1} | 5.1 ^{Note 2} |
| Private RCHD under BPS (high level of care) | 5.1 ^{Note 3} | 5.1 ^{Note 4} |
| Type of RCPs | Daily charge ^{Note 5} (\$) | |
| | Service user receiving DA | Service user not receiving DA |
| Hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons | 52 | 49 |
| Private RCHD under BPS (medium level of care) | | |
| Hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons | | |
| Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons | | |
| Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons with mental handicap | 62 | 55 |
| C&A home for severely disabled persons | | |
| Private RCHD under BPS (high level of care) | | |
| Supported hostel | 33 | 30 |

Note 1 The daily charge is capped at \$52.

Note 2 The daily charge is capped at \$49.

Note 3 The daily charge is capped at \$62.

Note 4 The daily charge is capped at \$55.

Note 5 With the prior approval from SWD, individual service units may charge higher rates under individual circumstances.

**Number of service places in private RCHEs
providing “Designated Places of Residential Respite Service for the Elderly”
and day respite service for the elderly by district^{Note}**

| District | No. of service places ^{Note} |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 22 |
| Southern | 18 |
| Islands | 6 |
| Eastern | 14 |
| Wan Chai | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 14 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 8 |
| Sai Kung | 0 |
| Kowloon City | 40 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 18 |
| Sham Shui Po | 22 |
| Sha Tin | 0 |
| Tai Po | 10 |
| North | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 32 |
| Tsuen Wan | 18 |
| Kwai Tsing | 26 |
| Tuen Mun | 22 |
| Total | 270 |

^{Note} Private RCHEs participating in EBPS provide day respite service when vacant designated residential respite places are available. The number of places is the same as that of “Designated Places of Residential Respite Service for the Elderly”.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)154

(Question Serial No. 2627)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

To enable carers to take short breaks or attend to personal affairs when needed, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) currently provides home respite services through various home-based support services, including Integrated Home Care Services (Frail Cases) [IHCS(FC)], Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS), Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities (HCS) and Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities (ISS).

1. Please tabulate the following information for the above services over the past 3 years:
 - (1) number of service units;
 - (2) number of team members in each service unit;
 - (3) number of available service places and the actual number of beneficiaries for each service;
 - (4) number of persons currently waitlisted for each service and their average waiting time;
 - (5) average fee for each service; and
 - (6) expenditure/cost associated with each service.
2. It is understood that SWD does not keep records of the number of persons on the waiting list and their average waiting time for HCS and ISS, etc. since service users do not need to wait for these services through the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services. How does SWD monitor the demand and effectiveness of these services? What criteria will be used to assess the service quality of service operators?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

1. From 2021-22 to 2023-24, SWD provided subvention to 24 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to operate 61 integrated home care service (IHCS) teams, providing a total of 4 120 IHCS(FC) service places. Another 14 NGOs operated

31 EHCCS teams, providing a total of 9 245 service places. Both services provide care and support to frail elderly persons living in the community. The number of persons served, number of persons waitlisted, average waiting time, service fees and charges, average monthly cost per case served, and total annual expenditure for these 2 services from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are set out at Annexes 1 to 5.

In addition, SWD provided subvention to 6 NGOs to operate 6 HCS teams and 2 ISS teams, providing a total of 3 550 and 900 service places, respectively. The number of persons served, total annual expenditure and service fees and charges for these 2 services from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are set out at Annexes 6 to 8. SWD does not have the average monthly cost per case for these 2 services. As service users do not have to waitlist for these services through the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services, SWD does not have information on the number of persons waitlisted or the average waiting time for these 2 services. Applications made by persons with pressing needs will be proceeded with priority.

Under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, service operators have the flexibility to deploy resources and arrange suitable staffing to meet the requirements set out in the Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs). SWD does not have information on the number of team members in each service unit providing the above 4 services.

2. SWD will evaluate the performance of subvented service units in accordance with the relevant FSAs and service performance standards under the Service Performance Monitoring System. Subvented welfare service operators have to comply with the requirements and standards stipulated by FSAs, including Essential Service Requirements, Output and Outcome Standards and Service Quality Standards. SWD adopts a risk-based approach, and conducts service performance reviews of subvented service units based on needs and through random sampling.

**Numbers of persons served under IHCS(FC) and EHCCS
from 2021-22 to 2023-24**

| Year ^{Note} | No. of persons served | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| | IHCS(FC) | EHCCS |
| 2021-22 | 5 524 | 12 203 |
| 2022-23 | 5 654 | 12 766 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 5 136 | 11 744 |

^{Note} The figure represents the number of persons served as at the end of March of the year concerned except for 2023-24.

**Number of persons waitlisted and average waiting time for
IHCS(FC) and EHCCS from 2021-22 to 2023-24**

| Year | Number of waitlisted persons ^{Note} | Average waiting time (in months) (average of the past 3 months) |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 2021-22 | 3 980 | 6 |
| 2022-23 | 4 341 | 6 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 5 839 | 7 |

^{Note} Frail elderly persons having been assessed and recommended for community care services or residential care services under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services can be waitlisted for IHCS(FC) and/or EHCCS. The number of waitlisted persons exclude elderly persons classified as inactive cases because of their participation in the Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly. The figure represents the number of waitlisted persons as at the end of March of the year concerned except for 2023-24.

**Service fees and charges for IHCS(FC) and EHCCS
from 2021-22 to 2023-24**

| Service type | | Service fees and charges (\$) (subject to income level) | | |
|---|--------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) level or below | Between CSSA to 1.5 CSSA level | Above 1.5 CSSA level |
| Meal service | | 13 | 16 | 19 |
| Laundry service | Light | 0.7 | | |
| | Medium | 0.9 | | |
| | Heavy | 1.8 | | |
| Direct care, home respite service and escort service (per hour) | | 5.5 | 12 | 19 |

**Average monthly cost per case served for
IHCS and EHCCS from 2021-22 to 2023-24**

| Year | Average monthly cost per case served (\$) | |
|--|--|-------|
| | IHCS ^{Note 1} | EHCCS |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 3,133 | 9,398 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) ^{Note 2} | 2,931 | 9,597 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) ^{Note 2} | 3,319 | 9,984 |

Note 1 SWD does not keep separate records of the average monthly cost per case served for IHCS (Ordinary Case) [IHCS(OC)] and IHCS(FC).

Note 2 Starting from January 2023, the average monthly cost of IHCS includes the costs for IHCS(FC), IHCS(OC) and Home Care and Support Services for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment (HSMI), which has been regularised since January 2023. The abovementioned services are all rendered by IHCS teams.

**Total annual expenditure on IHCS and EHCCS
from 2021-22 to 2023-24**

| Year | Total annual expenditure (\$ billion) | |
|--|--|--------|
| | IHCS ^{Note 1} | EHCCS |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 1.0831 | 1.0513 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) ^{Note 2} | 1.1011 | 1.0738 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) ^{Note 2} | 1.4178 | 1.1214 |

Note 1 SWD does not keep separate records of the total annual expenditure on IHCS(OC) and IHCS(FC).

Note 2 Starting from January 2023, the total expenditure on IHCS includes the expenditure on IHCS(FC), IHCS(OC) and HSMI, which has been regularised in January 2023. The abovementioned services are all rendered by IHCS teams.

Numbers of persons served under HCS and ISS from 2021-22 to 2023-24

| Year | No. of persons served | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| | HCS | ISS |
| 2021-22 | 4 643 | 1 150 |
| 2022-23 | 4 769 | 1 189 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 4 549 | 1 172 |

**Total annual expenditure on HCS and ISS
from 2021-22 to 2023-24**

| Year | Total annual expenditure (\$ million) | |
|----------------------------|--|------------|
| | HCS | ISS |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 329.7 | 72.6 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 336.5 | 74.4 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 351.6 | 77.3 |

**Service fees and charges for HCS and ISS
from 2021-22 to 2023-24**

| Category of services under HCS and ISS | Service fees and charges |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <i>Full service package</i> ^{Note 1} | \$1,002 (monthly ceiling) |
| <i>Individual service</i> | |
| Personal care service | \$33/hour |
| Escort service | \$33/hour |
| Home respite service | \$33/hour |
| Rehabilitation training | \$33/hour |
| Nursing care (provided by health worker) | \$33/session ^{Note 2} |
| Home visit by occupational therapist/physiotherapist/speech therapist | \$52/session ^{Note 2} |
| Home visit by nurse | \$43/session ^{Note 2} |
| <i>Other service</i> | |
| Transportation service | \$10/trip |

Note 1 The full service package includes personal care service, escort service, home respite service, rehabilitation training, nursing care (provided by health workers), home visits by occupational therapists/physiotherapists/speech therapists and home visits by nurses.

Note 2 Each session lasts at least 45 minutes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)155

(Question Serial No. 2629)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide information on residential child care services (RCCS) for the past 3 years using the table below.

| Type of service unit subsidised/ subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) | Number of places in 2023-24 | Number of places to be added in the coming 3 years | Number of waitlisted children (to date) | Average waiting time (month) (to date) | Average amount of subvention received by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) each year (\$) | Average number of NGOs' frontline staff | Average length of service of NGOs' frontline staff |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| I RCCS for able-bodied children | | | | | | | |
| Foster care service (for children aged 0 to below 18) | | | | | | | |
| Foster care (emergency) service (for children aged 0 to below 18) | | | | | | | |
| Residential child care centre (RCCC) (residential crèche) (for children aged 0 to below 3) | | | | | | | |
| RCCC (residential nursery) (for children aged 3 to below 6) | | | | | | | |
| Small group home (SGH) (for children aged 4 to below 18) | | | | | | | |
| Emergency/ short-term care in SGH (for children aged 4 to below 18) | | | | | | | |
| Children's home (for children aged 6 to below 21) | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Children's reception centre (for children aged 0 to below 18) | | | | | | | |
| Boys' home (with school for social development (SSD)) (for children aged 7 to below 18) | | | | | | | |
| Girls' home (with SSD) (for children aged 9 to below 18) | | | | | | | |
| Boys' home (without school on-site) (for those aged 11 to below 21) | | | | | | | |
| Girls' home (without school on-site) (for those aged 12 to below 21) | | | | | | | |
| Girls' hostel (for those aged 14 to below 21) | | | | | | | |
| Boys' hostel (for those aged 15 to below 21) | | | | | | | |
| II RCCS for disabled children | | | | | | | |
| Residential special child care centre (RSCCC) (for children aged 2 to below 6) | | | | | | | |
| SGH for mildly mentally handicapped children (for children aged 6 to below 18) | | | | | | | |

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

The service information on RCCS in the past 3 years is set out at Annex.

Numbers of places and additional places, number of waitlisted children and their average waiting time, amount of subvention provided to NGOs, and average number and length of service of NGOs' frontline staff in various types of RCCS

| Item | Year | RCCS for able-bodied children | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | RCCS for disabled children | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------|---|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------|--|
| | | Foster care service | Foster care (emergency) service | SGH | Emergency/short-term care in SGH | Residential crèche | Residential crèche (emergency placement) | Residential nursery | Residential nursery (emergency placement) | Children's home | Children's home (emergency placement) | Children's reception centre | Boys' home (with SSD) | Girls' home (with SSD) | Boys' home (without school on-site) | Girls' home (without school on-site) | Girls' hostel | Boys' hostel | RSCCC | SGH for mildly mentally handicapped children |
| Number of places | 2021-22 | 1 015 | 115 | 924 | 42 | 139 | 20 | 53 | - | 413 | 5 | 95 | 502 | 270 | 201 | 39 | 77 | 18 | 122 | 128 |
| | 2022-23 | 1 015 | 115 | 954 | 46 | 139 | 20 | 53 | - | 413 | 5 | 95 | 502 | 270 | 201 | 39 | 77 | 18 | 122 | 128 |
| | 2023-24 Note 1 | 1 100 Note 2 | 130 Note 2 | 978 | 49 | 139 | 20 | 53 | - | 413 | 5 | 95 | 502 | 270 | 201 | 39 | 77 | 18 | 122 | 128 |
| Number of additional places | 2024-25 | | | - | - | - | 32 | - | 16 | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2025-26 | 55 | 25 | - | - | - | - | - | 48 | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2026-27 | | | 30 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Number of waitlisted children (monthly average) | 2021-22 | 314 | | 363 | | 34 | | 14 | | 52 | | | 4 | 7 | 45 | 31 | 31 | 7 | 30 | 100 |
| | 2022-23 | 289 | Note 3 | 388 | Note 3 | 33 | Note 3 | 17 | Note 3 | 90 | Note 3 | Note 3 | 4 | 9 | 52 | 47 | 37 | 7 | 44 | 110 |
| | 2023-24 Note 4 | 292 | | 342 | | 39 | | 23 | | 78 | | | 7 | 9 | 46 | 35 | 33 | 10 | 39 | 111 |
| Average waiting time (month) | 2021-22 | 1.7 | | 4.6 | | 6.3 | | 13.8 | | 3.7 | | | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.8 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 3.5 | 2.9 | 15.1 |
| | 2022-23 | 1.8 | Note 3 | 4.7 | Note 3 | 6.5 | Note 3 | 17.3 | Note 3 | 5.0 | Note 3 | Note 3 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 3.1 | 4.6 | 3.2 | 5.7 | 3.6 | 17.5 |
| | 2023-24 Note 4 | 2.1 | | 5.8 | | 7.2 | | 14.6 | | 6.1 | | | 0.3 | 0.5 | 3.3 | 8.5 | 4.5 | 7.9 | Note 5 | Note 5 |
| Amount of subvention provided to NGOs (\$ million) | 2021-22 (Actual) | 214.1 | | 292.8 | | 401.3 | | | | | | | | | | 56.7 | 34.0 | | | |
| | 2022-23 (Actual) | 217.6 | | 296.1 | | 409.0 | | | | | | | | | | 57.6 | 33.9 | | | |
| | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 233.3 | | 325.5 | | 447.4 | | | | | | | | | | 70.9 | 35.3 | | | |
| Average number of NGOs' frontline staff | 2021-22 | Note 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2022-23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2023-24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average length of service of NGOs' frontline staff | 2021-22 | Note 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2022-23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2023-24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Note 1 Statistics as at 31 December 2023.

Note 2 In 2023-24, the number of places for foster care services increased by 100, including 85 foster care places and 15 foster care (emergency) places.

- Note 3 Regarding emergency residential services, caseworkers may directly enquire with service units that provide emergency residential service, and arrange for children to be placed as soon as vacancies are available. SWD does not have the statistics on the number of waitlisted children and their average waiting time for emergency residential service.
- Note 4 Statistics from April to December 2023.
- Note 5 As the average waiting time of residential care services for disabled children is compiled on a financial-year basis, the figure for 2023-24 is not yet available.
- Note 6 Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements and the relevant statutory staffing requirements, NGOs operating subvented services may determine their staffing establishment in accordance with their human resources policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service output and outcomes required. SWD does not have information on the number and average length of service of NGOs' staff.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)156

(Question Serial No. 2630)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government was granted a funding of \$20 billion by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council on 30 June 2020 to purchase premises for the provision of welfare facilities. Please provide an update on the progress of the purchase programme thus far. In addition, please tabulate the details of each premises to be purchased, including location, area, designated use and acquisition price.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

With the assistance of the Government Property Agency (GPA), the Social Welfare Department (SWD) is striving to identify suitable premises for purchase through different channels. As at 29 February 2024, SWD has incurred about \$240 million in actual expenditure on “purchase of welfare premises” under the Capital Works Reserve Fund, covering the payment for 5 premises. 2 of these premises are located in Sham Shui Po District, while the remaining 3 are located in Central and Western District, Eastern District and Kwun Tong District respectively. These premises are for operating a Parents/Relatives Resource Centre, a Support Centre for Persons with Autism and a neighbourhood elderly centre, as well as for providing on-site pre-school rehabilitation services.

The progress of purchasing premises, as well as the location, size, expenditure and purpose of such premises, depend on the availability of suitable properties in the market and various external factors, including whether the properties for sale have fire safety and barrier-free access facilities, whether the size and location meet operational requirements, whether the surrounding land uses are compatible with welfare uses, and whether the selling prices fall within the acceptable price range determined by GPA with reference to market value. Currently, SWD and GPA are continuing their efforts to identify and purchase suitable premises, and have earmarked about \$499 million for related work in 2024-25. If market conditions permit, the goal of SWD and GPA is to purchase as many premises as possible in order to provide more welfare facilities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)157

(Question Serial No. 2631)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Lump Sum Grant (LSG) Subvention System, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide a list of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in tabular form, along with the amount of LSG subventions they received in 2023-24 and the estimated amount for this year.
2. Please provide a table specifying the NGOs that were required to refund the Government due to their cumulative LSG reserve having exceeded 25% of operating expenditure for the year, along with the corresponding amounts involved in 2023-24.
3. Please provide a table presenting the total amount of provident fund (PF) reserves for non-Snapshot Staff of NGOs under LSG subvention in 2023-24, as well as the estimated amount for this year.
4. Please provide a table presenting the funding amount allocated by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) under "Civil Service Pay Adjustment" for NGOs receiving subventions to adjust the pay of their staff in 2023-24, as well as the estimated amount for this year.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. The list of NGOs operating subvented welfare services under the LSG Subvention System, along with the amount of subventions received by them, in 2023-24 and 2024-25 is set out at Annex 1.
2. Information is not available for 2023-24 as the Annual Financial Reports (AFRs) for 2023-24 are not yet due for submission. The names of NGOs that were required to refund the Government due to their cumulative LSG reserve having exceeded 25% of operating expenditure for 2022-23, along with the corresponding amounts involved, are set out at Annex 2.
3. Information is not available for 2023-24 as the AFRs for 2023-24 are not yet due for submission. The total amount of the PF reserves for non-Snapshot Staff of NGOs under LSG subventions was \$2.05 billion in 2022-23. SWD does not have the relevant estimate for 2024-25.

4. In 2023-24, a funding of \$860 million was allocated by SWD for NGOs receiving subventions to adjust the pay of their staff in response to an upward adjustment in civil service pay. The funding amount for 2024-25 will be determined after the announcement of civil service pay adjustment.

**SWD's subventions (revised estimate) to NGOs
under LSG Subvention System in 2023-24**

2023-24

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>Subventions</u> ^{Note 1} <u>(revised estimate)</u> <u>(\$)</u> |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Tung Wah Group of Hospitals | 2,083,018,665 |
| 2 | Caritas - Hong Kong | 1,553,336,404 |
| 3 | Po Leung Kuk | 1,407,445,547 |
| 4 | Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited | 1,262,272,540 |
| 5 | SAHK | 785,958,679 |
| 6 | Salvation Army (The) | 714,995,633 |
| 7 | Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (The) | 692,923,422 |
| 8 | Christian Family Service Centre | 663,891,976 |
| 9 | Hong Kong Christian Service | 648,513,508 |
| 10 | Hong Kong Family Welfare Society | 611,397,361 |
| 11 | Yan Chai Hospital | 602,831,719 |
| 12 | Heep Hong Society | 586,449,219 |
| 13 | Hong Chi Association | 576,433,612 |
| 14 | St. James' Settlement | 530,404,159 |
| 15 | Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, the Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod Limited | 505,845,928 |
| 16 | Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service | 483,805,209 |
| 17 | Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (The) | 481,949,040 |
| 18 | Hong Kong Society for the Aged (The) | 474,922,703 |
| 19 | Fu Hong Society | 469,799,625 |
| 20 | Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong | 446,092,380 |
| 21 | Haven of Hope Christian Service | 445,085,332 |
| 22 | Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association | 443,609,288 |
| 23 | New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 429,419,556 |
| 24 | Pok Oi Hospital | 318,788,166 |
| 25 | Mental Health Association of Hong Kong (The) | 312,361,887 |
| 26 | Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (The) | 299,356,765 |
| 27 | Hong Kong Children and Youth Services | 297,126,664 |
| 28 | Wai Ji Christian Service | 259,946,100 |
| 29 | Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association | 255,586,734 |
| 30 | Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong | 250,543,426 |
| 31 | Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service | 239,249,065 |
| 32 | Yan Oi Tong | 239,182,337 |
| 33 | Sik Sik Yuen | 236,833,291 |
| 34 | Hong Kong Society for the Blind (The) | 183,006,035 |
| 35 | Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children | 163,790,265 |
| 36 | Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong (The) | 156,323,664 |
| 37 | International Social Service Hong Kong Branch | 135,708,587 |
| 38 | Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre | 134,235,054 |
| 39 | Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service (The) | 124,055,130 |
| 40 | Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon (The) | 123,313,810 |
| 41 | Hong Kong Playground Association | 117,158,842 |
| 42 | Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service | 114,300,156 |
| 43 | Helping Hand | 114,165,190 |
| 44 | Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (The) | 113,203,885 |
| 45 | Stewards | 111,798,210 |
| 46 | Methodist Centre | 99,086,619 |
| 47 | Hong Kong Society for the Deaf (The) | 87,404,746 |
| 48 | Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong | 83,398,773 |
| 49 | Hong Kong Student Aid Society Limited (The) | 83,154,547 |
| 50 | Sheng Kung Hui St. Christopher's Home Limited | 82,885,365 |
| 51 | Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Charity Foundation | 80,672,657 |

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>Subventions</u> ^{Note 1} <u>(revised estimate)</u> <u>(\$)</u> |
|------------|--|--|
| 52 | Methodist Epworth Village Community Centre, Social Welfare | 79,706,922 |
| 53 | Hong Kong PHAB Association | 79,221,870 |
| 54 | Society of Boys' Centres | 76,277,154 |
| 55 | Chi Lin Nunnery | 74,917,895 |
| 56 | Hong Kong Buddhist Association (The) | 70,571,776 |
| 57 | Asia Women's League Limited | 66,270,764 |
| 58 | Yuen Yuen Institute (The) | 57,151,373 |
| 59 | Scout Association of Hong Kong | 54,436,151 |
| 60 | Women's Welfare Club (Eastern District) Hong Kong (The) | 53,546,456 |
| 61 | Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club | 52,591,141 |
| 62 | Chung Sing Benevolent Society | 51,979,821 |
| 63 | Mongkok Kai-Fong Association Limited (The) | 51,135,888 |
| 64 | Chung Shak Hei (Cheung Chau) Home for the Aged Limited | 50,292,094 |
| 65 | Hong Kong Council of Social Service (The) | 48,113,862 |
| 66 | Ching Chung Taoist Association of Hong Kong Limited | 47,786,946 |
| 67 | Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong | 47,077,928 |
| 68 | Kiangsu Chekiang and Shanghai Residents (Hong Kong) Association | 45,973,472 |
| 69 | Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (The) | 42,417,871 |
| 70 | Chuk Lam Ming Tong Limited | 40,005,003 |
| 71 | Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart Diseases Association (The) | 39,135,753 |
| 72 | Hong Kong ABWE Social Services | 38,436,643 |
| 73 | Yuen Long Town Hall Management Committee Limited | 38,211,629 |
| 74 | Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union Hong Kong Limited | 36,780,316 |
| 75 | Church of United Brethren in Christ Hong Kong Limited (The) | 36,342,059 |
| 76 | Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council (The) | 34,853,348 |
| 77 | Fung Kai Public School | 33,822,074 |
| 78 | The Mother Superior of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd of Angers at Hong Kong | 29,375,873 |
| 79 | Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited | 29,205,009 |
| 80 | Asbury Methodist Social Service | 28,445,551 |
| 81 | Hong Kong Bodhi Siksa Society Limited (The) | 28,285,768 |
| 82 | Association for Engineering and Medical Volunteer Services | 27,523,984 |
| 83 | Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited | 26,621,093 |
| 84 | Evangelical Free Church of China Social Service Limited | 25,655,907 |
| 85 | Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired | 25,119,459 |
| 86 | Hong Kong Juvenile Care Centre | 24,906,482 |
| 87 | Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church Social Service Limited | 24,147,299 |
| 88 | Watchdog Limited | 23,642,023 |
| 89 | Free Methodist Church of Hong Kong (The) | 23,330,709 |
| 90 | United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service | 22,932,368 |
| 91 | Mother's Choice Limited | 22,612,879 |
| 92 | Kowloon Women's Welfare Club (The) | 21,310,644 |
| 93 | Hong Kong-Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists | 20,813,179 |
| 94 | Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association (The) | 20,013,864 |
| 95 | Superioress of the Sisters of the Precious Blood (The) | 19,130,746 |
| 96 | Women's Welfare Club, Western District, Hong Kong | 16,291,014 |
| 97 | Hong Kong Mutual Encouragement Association Limited | 16,223,998 |
| 98 | Evangelical Free Church of China - Evangel Children's Home | 16,039,251 |
| 99 | New Territories Women and Juveniles Welfare Association Limited (The) | 15,974,983 |
| 100 | Hong Kong and Kowloon Kaifong Women's Association | 15,510,434 |
| 101 | Youth Outreach | 15,455,010 |
| 102 | Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong (The) | 15,107,339 |
| 103 | Tung Lum Nien Fah Tong Limited | 14,939,090 |

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>Subventions</u> ^{Note 1} <u>(revised estimate)</u> <u>(\$)</u> |
|------------|---|--|
| 104 | ABM Hong Kong Swatow Baptist Church Community Service Association (The) | 14,531,004 |
| 105 | Christian New Being Fellowship Limited (The) | 14,408,248 |
| 106 | Chinese Evangelical Zion Church Limited | 13,793,072 |
| 107 | Project Care | 13,791,924 |
| 108 | Hong Kong Christian Mutual Improvement Society | 13,708,119 |
| 109 | New Life Church of Christ Hong Kong Limited | 12,865,935 |
| 110 | Tung Sin Tan Home for the Aged | 12,836,956 |
| 111 | International Church of the Foursquare Gospel Hong Kong District Limited | 12,581,625 |
| 112 | Fung Ying Seen Koon | 12,147,778 |
| 113 | Harmony House Limited | 11,916,694 |
| 114 | Zion Social Service Limited | 10,632,682 |
| 115 | Child Development Centre (The) | 10,327,027 |
| 116 | Operation Dawn Limited | 10,313,062 |
| 117 | Baptist Mid-Missions | 10,288,502 |
| 118 | Lutheran Philip House Limited | 9,803,597 |
| 119 | Sai Kung District Community Centre | 9,192,004 |
| 120 | Lam Tin Estate Kai Fong Welfare Association Limited (The) | 9,001,373 |
| 121 | Barnabas Charitable Service Association Limited (The) | 8,623,606 |
| 122 | Hong Kong Red Cross | 8,234,978 |
| 123 | Mission Covenant Church Limited (The) | 8,028,445 |
| 124 | Asian Outreach Hong Kong Limited | 7,815,892 |
| 125 | Agency for Volunteer Service | 7,532,188 |
| 126 | Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth | 7,265,091 |
| 127 | Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong (The) | 6,878,317 |
| 128 | Hong Kong Blind Union | 6,870,253 |
| 129 | Kowloon City Baptist Church Social Services | 6,688,272 |
| 130 | Hong Kong Women Foundation Limited | 6,557,535 |
| 131 | International Women's League Limited | 6,438,023 |
| 132 | Jordan Valley Kaifong Welfare Association | 6,404,317 |
| 133 | Light and Love Home Limited | 6,369,341 |
| 134 | Christian Nationals' Evangelism Commission Grace Light Neighbourhood Elderly Centre | 6,301,187 |
| 135 | Fo Guang Shan International Buddhist Progress Society (Hong Kong) Limited | 6,297,060 |
| 136 | China Peniel Missionary Society Incorporation | 6,296,834 |
| 137 | Hong Kong West Point Baptist Church | 6,256,972 |
| 138 | Endeavourers Hong Kong (The) | 6,253,448 |
| 139 | Tsim Sha Tsui District Kaifong Welfare Association | 6,253,072 |
| 140 | Hop Yat Church, The Church of Christ in China, Social Service Department | 6,150,134 |
| 141 | Hong Kong and Macau Regional Centre of the World Fellowship of Buddhists Limited | 6,044,903 |
| 142 | Shamshuipo Kai Fong Welfare Advancement Association | 5,757,755 |
| 143 | Hong Kong Rehabilitation Power | 5,749,462 |
| 144 | Suen Mei Speech and Hearing Centre | 5,403,119 |
| 145 | Society for Community Organization | 5,119,641 |
| 146 | Hans Andersen Club | 4,909,598 |
| 147 | Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui St. Simon's Social Services | 4,763,053 |
| 148 | Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary | 4,715,665 |
| 149 | Kwun Tong Resident Association | 4,615,137 |
| 150 | Yuk Chi Resource Centre Limited | 4,432,442 |
| 151 | Lok Chi Association Limited | 4,311,998 |
| 152 | Hong Kong Federation of the Blind | 4,184,891 |
| 153 | Nesbitt Centre Limited (The) | 4,122,481 |
| 154 | Hong Kong, China Sports Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability | 4,057,597 |

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>Subventions</u> ^{Note 1} <u>(revised estimate)</u> <u>(\$)</u> |
|------------|---|--|
| 155 | Tin Shui Wai Women Association Limited | 3,930,895 |
| 156 | Women Service Association Limited | 3,878,891 |
| 157 | Alice Lan and Vera Shen Education Fund Limited | 3,689,208 |
| 158 | Cheung Chau Rural Committee Integrated Youth Centre | 3,640,614 |
| 159 | Tai Hang Residents' Welfare Association | 3,632,758 |
| 160 | Hong Kong Southern District Women's Association Limited | 3,605,359 |
| 161 | Hong Kong Sports Association for the Physically Disabled | 3,111,755 |
| 162 | Five Districts Business Welfare Association | 2,849,352 |
| 163 | Kowloon Women's Organisations Federation Limited | 2,848,842 |
| 164 | Against Child Abuse Ltd | 2,739,768 |
| 165 | Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited | 2,453,916 |
| 166 | SKH St. Matthias' Church Nursery School Limited | 2,354,224 |
| 167 | Society of St. Vincent de Paul Central Council of Hong Kong | 2,212,050 |
| 168 | Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims Limited | 1,965,053 |
| 169 | Emmanuel Church | 1,943,634 |
| 170 | Cheung Sha Wan Kai Fong Welfare Association Lam Tam Yin Wah Day Nursery | 1,938,233 |
| 171 | People Service Centre Limited | 1,424,421 |
| 172 | Yuen Long District Women's Association Limited | 1,424,421 |
| | Total ^{Note 2} | 24,090,193,343 |

Note 1 Subventions includes LSG subventions (including subventions on PF) and other subventions (such as Rent and Rates, Central Items, etc.).

Note 2 Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

**SWD's subventions (provisional) to NGOs
Under LSG Subvention System in 2024-25**

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>2024-25</u> <u>Subventions</u> ^{Note 1} <u>(provisional)</u> <u>(\$)</u> |
|------------|---|---|
| 1 | Tung Wah Group of Hospitals | 2,051,430,901 |
| 2 | Caritas - Hong Kong | 1,535,519,864 |
| 3 | Po Leung Kuk | 1,375,795,576 |
| 4 | Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited | 1,202,472,334 |
| 5 | SAHK | 750,172,839 |
| 6 | Salvation Army (The) | 703,768,454 |
| 7 | Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (The) | 681,768,212 |
| 8 | Christian Family Service Centre | 663,909,859 |
| 9 | Hong Kong Christian Service | 620,590,963 |
| 10 | Hong Kong Family Welfare Society | 601,490,646 |
| 11 | Yan Chai Hospital | 593,321,336 |
| 12 | Hong Chi Association | 583,030,759 |
| 13 | Heep Hong Society | 575,704,181 |
| 14 | St. James' Settlement | 504,514,574 |
| 15 | Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, the Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod Limited | 499,786,206 |
| 16 | Hong Kong Society for the Aged (The) | 476,080,967 |
| 17 | Fu Hong Society | 468,582,432 |
| 18 | Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service | 461,793,872 |
| 19 | Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (The) | 459,392,375 |
| 20 | Haven of Hope Christian Service | 438,530,969 |
| 21 | New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | 434,434,626 |
| 22 | Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong | 424,763,912 |
| 23 | Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association | 419,330,642 |
| 24 | Mental Health Association of Hong Kong (The) | 314,450,223 |
| 25 | Pok Oi Hospital | 303,369,219 |
| 26 | Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (The) | 292,230,879 |
| 27 | Hong Kong Children and Youth Services | 284,890,360 |
| 28 | Wai Ji Christian Service | 259,959,936 |
| 29 | Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association | 255,578,756 |
| 30 | Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong | 241,256,435 |
| 31 | Sik Sik Yuen | 239,909,615 |
| 32 | Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service | 238,450,374 |
| 33 | Yan Oi Tong | 197,836,258 |
| 34 | Hong Kong Society for the Blind (The) | 175,351,463 |
| 35 | Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong (The) | 156,210,095 |
| 36 | International Social Service Hong Kong Branch | 135,545,045 |
| 37 | Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre | 134,074,999 |
| 38 | Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children | 129,013,004 |
| 39 | Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon (The) | 124,949,003 |
| 40 | Hong Kong Playground Association | 117,085,563 |
| 41 | Stewards | 113,246,589 |
| 42 | Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service (The) | 105,205,890 |
| 43 | Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (The) | 104,425,757 |
| 44 | Helping Hand | 103,182,851 |
| 45 | Methodist Centre | 95,825,871 |
| 46 | Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong | 85,084,095 |
| 47 | Hong Kong Society for the Deaf (The) | 84,902,953 |
| 48 | Hong Kong Student Aid Society Limited (The) | 81,945,783 |
| 49 | Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Charity Foundation | 80,622,106 |
| 50 | Hong Kong PHAB Association | 80,208,798 |
| 51 | Methodist Epworth Village Community Centre, Social Welfare | 79,410,106 |

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>2024-25</u> <u>Subventions</u> ^{Note 1} <u>(provisional)</u> <u>(\$)</u> |
|------------|--|---|
| 52 | Sheng Kung Hui St. Christopher's Home Limited | 77,920,151 |
| 53 | Society of Boys' Centres | 76,465,318 |
| 54 | Chi Lin Nunnery | 73,536,655 |
| 55 | Hong Kong Buddhist Association (The) | 69,569,563 |
| 56 | Asia Women's League Limited | 67,446,911 |
| 57 | Women's Welfare Club (Eastern District) Hong Kong (The) | 54,646,436 |
| 58 | Scout Association of Hong Kong | 54,175,087 |
| 59 | Chung Sing Benevolent Society | 53,298,953 |
| 60 | Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club | 52,738,977 |
| 61 | Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service | 51,485,006 |
| 62 | Yuen Yuen Institute (The) | 51,226,815 |
| 63 | Chung Shak Hei (Cheung Chau) Home for the Aged Limited | 51,003,908 |
| 64 | Mongkok Kai-Fong Association Limited (The) | 50,923,313 |
| 65 | Hong Kong Council of Social Service (The) | 48,472,614 |
| 66 | Ching Chung Taoist Association of Hong Kong Limited | 47,127,354 |
| 67 | Kiangsu Chekiang and Shanghai Residents (Hong Kong) Association | 45,412,699 |
| 68 | Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong | 45,329,210 |
| 69 | Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (The) | 41,867,159 |
| 70 | Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart Diseases Association (The) | 40,128,503 |
| 71 | Chuk Lam Ming Tong Limited | 40,079,867 |
| 72 | Yuen Long Town Hall Management Committee Limited | 38,714,448 |
| 73 | Hong Kong ABWE Social Services | 34,870,024 |
| 74 | Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council (The) | 34,388,065 |
| 75 | Fung Kai Public School | 33,952,048 |
| 76 | Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union Hong Kong Limited | 32,360,158 |
| 77 | Church of United Brethren in Christ Hong Kong Limited (The) | 29,414,612 |
| 78 | The Mother Superior of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd of Angers at Hong Kong | 29,324,662 |
| 79 | Hong Kong Bodhi Siksa Society Limited (The) | 29,299,872 |
| 80 | Asbury Methodist Social Service | 28,540,460 |
| 81 | Association for Engineering and Medical Volunteer Services | 27,714,246 |
| 82 | Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited | 27,547,420 |
| 83 | Watchdog Limited | 25,116,268 |
| 84 | Hong Kong Juvenile Care Centre | 24,738,166 |
| 85 | Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church Social Service Limited | 24,355,892 |
| 86 | Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired | 24,197,584 |
| 87 | Mother's Choice Limited | 23,823,017 |
| 88 | United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service | 23,001,268 |
| 89 | Evangelical Free Church of China Social Service Limited | 22,980,734 |
| 90 | Free Methodist Church of Hong Kong (The) | 22,809,509 |
| 91 | Hong Kong-Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists | 21,056,190 |
| 92 | Kowloon Women's Welfare Club (The) | 21,053,490 |
| 93 | Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association (The) | 20,121,036 |
| 94 | Superioress of the Sisters of the Precious Blood (The) | 19,093,598 |
| 95 | Hong Kong Mutual Encouragement Association Limited | 16,649,392 |
| 96 | Evangelical Free Church of China - Evangel Children's Home | 16,102,184 |
| 97 | International Church of the Foursquare Gospel Hong Kong District Limited | 15,606,663 |
| 98 | Youth Outreach | 15,533,343 |
| 99 | Women's Welfare Club, Western District, Hong Kong | 15,532,691 |
| 100 | Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong (The) | 15,120,968 |
| 101 | Tung Lum Nien Fah Tong Limited | 15,072,608 |
| 102 | ABM Hong Kong Swatow Baptist Church Community Service Association (The) | 14,527,965 |

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>2024-25</u> <u>Subventions</u> ^{Note 1} <u>(provisional)</u> <u>(\$)</u> |
|------------|---|---|
| 103 | Christian New Being Fellowship Limited (The) | 14,463,418 |
| 104 | Hong Kong Christian Mutual Improvement Society | 14,167,360 |
| 105 | Project Care | 13,761,316 |
| 106 | New Territories Women and Juveniles Welfare Association Limited (The) | 13,401,632 |
| 107 | New Life Church of Christ Hong Kong Limited | 13,334,447 |
| 108 | Hong Kong and Kowloon Kaifong Women's Association | 13,134,443 |
| 109 | Fung Ying Seen Koon | 12,684,637 |
| 110 | Tung Sin Tan Home for the Aged | 12,313,008 |
| 111 | Harmony House Limited | 11,935,178 |
| 112 | Chinese Evangelical Zion Church Limited | 10,784,141 |
| 113 | Zion Social Service Limited | 10,406,262 |
| 114 | Operation Dawn Limited | 10,354,642 |
| 115 | Child Development Centre (The) | 10,092,121 |
| 116 | Lam Tin Estate Kai Fong Welfare Association Limited (The) | 9,014,514 |
| 117 | Baptist Mid-Missions | 8,942,029 |
| 118 | Sai Kung District Community Centre | 8,889,351 |
| 119 | Barnabas Charitable Service Association Limited (The) | 8,685,373 |
| 120 | Hong Kong Red Cross | 8,256,510 |
| 121 | Asian Outreach Hong Kong Limited | 8,065,495 |
| 122 | Lutheran Philip House Limited | 7,971,277 |
| 123 | Agency for Volunteer Service | 7,761,680 |
| 124 | Mission Covenant Church Limited (The) | 7,742,171 |
| 125 | Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth | 7,232,179 |
| 126 | Jordan Valley Kaifong Welfare Association | 7,196,786 |
| 127 | Kowloon City Baptist Church Social Services | 6,918,316 |
| 128 | Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong (The) | 6,888,756 |
| 129 | Hong Kong Blind Union | 6,833,842 |
| 130 | Hong Kong Women Foundation Limited | 6,820,520 |
| 131 | International Women's League Limited | 6,696,607 |
| 132 | Light and Love Home Limited | 6,615,515 |
| 133 | Christian Nationals' Evangelism Commission Grace Light Neighbourhood Elderly Centre | 6,550,550 |
| 134 | Fo Guang Shan International Buddhist Progress Society (Hong Kong) Limited | 6,546,654 |
| 135 | China Peniel Missionary Society Incorporation | 6,526,440 |
| 136 | Hong Kong West Point Baptist Church | 6,505,493 |
| 137 | Hans Andersen Club | 6,501,821 |
| 138 | Endeavourers Hong Kong (The) | 6,501,567 |
| 139 | Tsim Sha Tsui District Kaifong Welfare Association | 6,484,070 |
| 140 | Hop Yat Church, the Church of Christ in China, Social Service Department | 6,135,258 |
| 141 | Shamshuipo Kai Fong Welfare Advancement Association | 6,007,341 |
| 142 | Hong Kong Rehabilitation Power | 5,770,097 |
| 143 | Suen Mei Speech and Hearing Centre | 5,405,758 |
| 144 | Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited | 5,333,028 |
| 145 | Society for Community Organization | 5,130,975 |
| 146 | Yuk Chi Resource Centre Limited | 4,436,112 |
| 147 | Lok Chi Association Limited | 4,223,632 |
| 148 | Hong Kong Federation of the Blind | 4,149,606 |
| 149 | Nesbitt Centre Limited (The) | 4,143,095 |
| 150 | Hong Kong and Macau Regional Centre of the World Fellowship of Buddhists Limited | 4,082,853 |
| 151 | Hong Kong, China Sports Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability | 4,020,270 |
| 152 | Cheung Chau Rural Committee Integrated Youth Centre | 3,644,406 |
| 153 | Tai Hang Residents' Welfare Association | 3,640,320 |

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>2024-25</u> <u>Subventions</u> ^{Note 1} <u>(provisional)</u> <u>(\$)</u> |
|------------|---|---|
| 154 | Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary | 3,543,409 |
| 155 | Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui St. Simon's Social Services | 3,541,720 |
| 156 | Hong Kong Sports Association for the Physically Disabled | 3,071,288 |
| 157 | Against Child Abuse Ltd | 2,740,703 |
| 158 | Alice Lan and Vera Shen Education Fund Limited | 2,533,089 |
| 159 | Kowloon Women's Organisations Federation Limited | 2,388,602 |
| 160 | Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited | 2,372,266 |
| 161 | Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims Limited | 1,978,401 |
| 162 | SKH St. Matthias' Church Nursery School Limited | 1,931,633 |
| 163 | Five Districts Business Welfare Association | 1,891,064 |
| 164 | Society of St. Vincent de Paul Central Council of Hong Kong | 1,614,866 |
| 165 | Cheung Sha Wan Kai Fong Welfare Association Lam Tam Yin Wah Day Nursery | 1,417,910 |
| 166 | Hong Kong Southern District Women's Association Limited | 1,290,147 |
| 167 | Women Service Association Limited | 1,275,891 |
| 168 | Tin Shui Wai Women Association Limited | 1,240,847 |
| 169 | People Service Centre Limited | 1,194,302 |
| 170 | Kwun Tong Resident Association | 1,194,302 |
| 171 | Yuen Long District Women's Association Limited | 1,194,302 |
| 172 | Emmanuel Church | 850,071 |
| | Total ^{Note 2} | 23,416,249,290 |

Note 1 Including LSG subventions (including subventions on PF) and other subventions (such as Rent and Rates, Central Items, etc.). The subventions for 2024-25 is provisional. Certain subvented items (such as the food cost for the Short-term Food Assistance Service and the operating expenditure, fee waivers/reductions and incentive payments for the Neighborhood Support Child Care Project) are not included as their subventions are adjusted quarterly/half-yearly based on service usage.

Note 2 Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

Annex 2

NGOs required to refund to the Government due to their cumulative LSG reserve having exceeded 25% of operating expenditure for the year and the amount involved in 2022-23

| <u>S/N</u> | <u>Name of NGO</u> | <u>Amount of Refund from LSG Reserve in 2022-23</u> <small>Note 1</small> <u>(\$)</u> |
|------------|---|---|
| 1 | Haven of Hope Christian Service | 20,382,279 |
| 2 | Po Leung Kuk | 19,113,415 |
| 3 | Shamshuipo Kai Fong Welfare Advancement Association | 3,563,582 |
| 4 | Society of Boys' Centres | 3,062,899 |
| 5 | Watchdog Limited | 2,398,299 |
| 6 | Hong Kong Juvenile Care Centre | 1,998,813 |
| 7 | New Life Church of Christ Hong Kong Limited | 1,971,443 |
| 8 | Fo Guang Shan International Buddhist Progress Society (Hong Kong) Limited | 1,476,364 |
| 9 | Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (The) | 1,405,984 |
| 10 | Hong Kong Buddhist Association (The) | 1,283,957 |
| 11 | Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary | 1,191,245 |
| 12 | Christian Nationals' Evangelism Commission Grace Light Neighbourhood Elderly Centre | 1,143,122 |
| 13 | Zion Social Service Limited | 789,792 |
| 14 | Hong Kong-Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists | 649,884 |
| 15 | Cheung Sha Wan Kai Fong Welfare Association Lam Tam Yin Wah Day Nursery | 602,330 |
| 16 | Alice Lan and Vera Shen Education Fund Limited | 584,501 |
| 17 | Society of St. Vincent de Paul Central Council of Hong Kong | 536,643 |
| 18 | Tai Hang Residents' Welfare Association | 510,471 |
| 19 | Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims Limited | 291,010 |
| 20 | Asbury Methodist Social Service | 204,313 |
| 21 | Suen Mei Speech and Hearing Centre | 74,443 |
| 22 | Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong (The) | 51,560 |
| 23 | Hop Yat Church, The Church of Christ in China, Social Service Department | 29,778 |
| 24 | Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association (The) | 23,289 |
| | Total <small>Note 2</small> | 63,339,414 |

Note 1 The amount of refund from LSG reserve payable to the Government is calculated on the basis of SWD's examination of the AFRs submitted by individual NGOs. The figures are subject to revision upon subsequent submission of supplementary information.

Note 2 Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)158

(Question Serial No. 2632)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the existing provision of residential services for people with rehabilitation needs, i.e. (1) halfway houses (HWHs) for persons in mental recovery, (2) long stay care homes (LSCHs) for persons in mental recovery, (3) integrated vocational training centres for the mentally handicapped, (4) hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons (HMMHs), (5) hostels for severely physically handicapped persons (HSPHs), (6) care and attention homes for the aged blind (C&A/ABs), (7) small group homes for mildly mentally handicapped children [SGH(MMHC)s] and (8) supported hostels (SHOSs):

1. Please tabulate the following information for various residential rehabilitation services in the past 3 years: (a) number of places, (b) enrolment rate, (c) average waiting time, (d) number of waitlisted persons who passed away, (e) average age of residents, (f) annual expenditure, and (g) staffing establishment.
2. What is the Government's plan to expand residential rehabilitation services in the future? Please provide details of the plan and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

1. The number of service places, average enrolment rate, average waiting time, number of waitlisted applicants who passed away and the annual expenditure for various residential rehabilitation services in the past 3 years are set out in Tables 1 to 5 of Annex 1. For staffing establishment of various residential rehabilitation services, please refer to the following webpage of the Social Welfare Department (SWD): (https://www.swd.gov.hk/en/ngo/subventions/suballoc/subvention/nses/nses_rehs/index.html). SWD does not have information on the average age of residents or staffing establishment of individual residential rehabilitation services. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreement and the relevant statutory staffing requirements, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating subsidised services may determine their staffing establishment in accordance with their own human resources policies and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service outputs and outcomes required. SWD does not have information on the staffing establishment of NGOs providing residential rehabilitation services.

2. The number of places for various residential rehabilitation services will increase by a total of 1 000 in the next 2 years, involving a total annual funding allocation of about \$240 million. Information on these service places is set out at Annex 2.

Table 1: Number of service places for various residential rehabilitation services

| Service type | No. of service places | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------|--|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| HWH | 1 594 | 1 594 | 1 594 |
| LSCH | 1 587 | 1 587 | 1 987 |
| Integrated vocational training centre (residential) [IVTC(Res)] | 170 | 170 | 170 |
| HMMH | 2 800 | 2 851 | 2 926 |
| HSPH | 715 | 715 | 790 |
| C&A/AB | 828 | 828 | 828 |
| SGH(MMHC) ^{Note} | 128 | 128 | 128 |
| SHOS | 804 | 866 | 866 |

Note SGH(MMHC)s include integrated small group homes (ISGHs).

Table 2: Average enrolment rate of residential rehabilitation services

| Average enrolment rate (%) | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 2022-23 (Actual) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) |
| 96 | 97 | 97 |

Table 3: Average waiting time for various residential rehabilitation services

| Service type | Average waiting time (in months) ^{Note 2} | | |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
| HWH | 4.2 | 4.2 | Not available yet ^{Note 4} |
| LSCH | 57.8 | 72.3 | |
| IVTC(Res) | N.A. ^{Note 3} | N.A. ^{Note 3} | |
| HMMH | 144.8 | 154.1 | |
| HSPH | 80.9 | 73.0 | |
| C&A/AB | 10.7 | 5.1 | |
| SGH(MMHC) ^{Note 1} | 15.1 | 17.5 | |
| SHOS | 63.5 | 78.8 | |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 SGH(MMHC)s include ISGHs.

Note 2 The waiting time is affected by multiple factors, such as whether the applicant has any preference on the location of the service units, whether he/she has selected any particular service units, the turnover rate of individual service units, etc. The average waiting time is calculated based on financial year, i.e. 1 April to 31 March of the following year.

Note 3 The service may admit service users directly or through referral and hence SWD does not have statistics on waiting time.

Note 4 As the average waiting time is compiled on a financial-year basis covering the 1st day of April of a year to the 31st day of March of the following year, the figure for 2022-23 is not yet available.

Table 4: Number of applicants who passed away while waiting for various residential rehabilitation services

| Service type | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| HWH | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| LSCH | 18 | 22 | 33 |
| IVTC(Res) | N.A. ^{Note 1} | N.A. ^{Note 1} | N.A. ^{Note 1} |
| HMMH | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| HSPH | 8 | 13 | 16 |
| C&A/AB | 6 | 15 | 6 |
| SGH(MMHC) ^{Note 2} | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SHOS | 6 | 13 | 9 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 The service may admit service users directly or through referral and hence SWD does not have statistics on the waiting time.

Note 2 SGH(MMHC)s include ISGHs.

Table 5: Expenditure on various residential rehabilitation services in the past 3 years

| Service type | Annual total expenditure (\$ million) | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 (Actual) | 2022-23 (Actual) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) |
| HWH | 229.6 | 232.7 | 240.3 |
| LSCH | 307.7 | 319.5 | 375.9 |
| IVTC(Res) | 11.7 | 11.9 | 12.4 |
| HMMH | 387.6 | 388.7 | 443.6 |
| HSPH | 204.7 | 193.8 | 212.9 |
| C&A/AB | 179.2 | 182.7 | 188.7 |
| SGH(MMHC) ^{Note 1} | 34.4 | 34.3 | 35.7 |
| SHOS | 112.2 | 120.2 | 131.6 |

Note 1 SGH(MMHC)s include ISGHs.

**Estimated number of additional service places for
various residential rehabilitation services**

| Service type | Estimated no. of additional service places for the next 2 years |
|--|--|
| HMMH | 50 |
| Hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons | 500 |
| C&A home for severely disabled persons | 240 |
| SHOS | 210 |
| Total | 1 000 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)159

(Question Serial No. 2633)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government has stated that it will provide direct financial assistance through the Hong Kong Paralympians Fund (the Fund) to athletes with disabilities (AWDs) in their pursuit of sporting excellence. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. How many AWDs have received financial assistance in the past 3 years? What was the amount of assistance disbursed to each of them?
2. How does the Government support AWDs apart from providing support through the Fund? Please provide details.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

1. The number of elite AWDs provided with subsistence grant by the Fund and the amount of funding in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

| Year | No. of elite AWDs receiving subsistence grant | Amount of funding (\$ million) |
|---------|---|--------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 102 | 2.3 |
| 2022-23 | 111 | 2.4 |
| 2023-24 | 115 | 2.5 |

2. In addition to the support provided under the Fund, the Government has implemented various measures to help AWDs unleash their potential and enhance performance, including the full-time athlete system and the Elite Vote Support Scheme for Para Sports (EVSS), launched by the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB) in collaboration with the Hong Kong Sport Institute (HKSI) since December 2017. Under the EVSS, HKSI provides direct financial subsidy and other support services, including support in sports science and sports medicine, accommodation and meals, for elite AWDs. HKSI also provides grants to AWDs for pursuing educational and other academic training courses as well as a one-off cash grant, under the Elite Athletes Performance Recognition Scheme, to athletes who had represented Hong Kong and achieved outstanding results in major multi-sport events and international competitions with a

view to supporting their post-retirement transformation. Currently, HKSI has 122 AWDs including 54 full-time athletes.

Besides, CSTB has been providing funding under the Arts and Sport Development Fund (Sports Portion) to support athletes' preparation and participation in major international and national games, as well as "national sports organisations" in hosting local international competitions. To further strengthen the support for AWDs, CSTB launched, in collaboration with the China Hong Kong Paralympic Committee, a 5-year pilot programme on career and education for AWDs in June 2023, to equip AWDs with knowledge, skill sets and career planning skills so as to facilitate their integration into society and post-athletic transformation for their second-career development. The programme aims to provide career and education support and life skills training for at least 100 AWDs every year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)160

(Question Serial No. 2634)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the protection of abused children:

1. Please provide the number of child abuse cases handled over the past year and up until the present, with a breakdown by physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse and other forms of abuse.
2. Please provide a breakdown of these cases by the relationship between the child victim and the perpetrator.
3. The Department states that it will continue to formulate the implementation details of the mandatory reporting regime (MRR) for suspected child abuse cases. Please provide an update on the current progress of this initiative. Moreover, what progress has been made in developing ancillary facilities and making staffing arrangements (e.g. increasing the number of residential child care centres) to facilitate the implementation of MRR?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

- 1 & 2. The number of newly registered child protection cases of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in the past year, broken down by type of abuse and the perpetrator's relationship with the victim/maltreated child, is set out at Annex. Statistics on child protection cases between January and March 2024 are not yet available as they are currently being compiled.
3. The Government has kicked start a participative process for the formulation of the Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide) and has invited professional bodies, professionals and key service providers of the social welfare sector, education sector and healthcare sector, who will be the mandatory reporters, to envisage different potential scenarios of handling suspected child abuse/neglect cases under the reporting threshold set out in the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill (the Bill), reflect questions and provide advice. Currently, professional consultative panels of respective sectors formed at the invitation of the Government are discussing the case scenarios, questions and views collected, and a skeleton

document of the Guide will be knocked out based on these discussions. To tie in with the work of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in scrutinising the Bill, the Government will provide the Bills Committee with the skeleton document of the Guide in a timely manner. After enactment of the Bill by LegCo, there will be an 18-month transitional period, during which the professional panels will continue to conduct focus group discussions with professional bodies/service providers in their respective sectors, with a view to completing the Guide before the end of the transitional period, so that briefings on the Guide for professional bodies/service providers in their respective sectors can take place well ahead of the commencement of the Ordinance.

The Government has set up an e-learning platform to provide training, reference materials and information for relevant professionals. The Child Protection Online Training comprises online self-learning training and webinars. Module 1 of the online self-learning training has been launched in February 2024 to provide training on the basic knowledge on child protection. Module 2 will be rolled out in phases after the enactment of the Bill and will cover the basic knowledge on the relevant legal and reporting issues related to the new legislation. In addition, the Government will also organise webinars to provide the professionals with enrichment programmes to discuss different topics related to child protection and to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration among professionals. Q&A sessions will also be included according to training needs to encourage interactive learning.

Apart from the Child Protection Online Training, relevant bureaux/departments/organisations have been providing, and will continue to provide, professionals with training (including talks, seminars, workshops and online training, etc.) relating to child protection and their specific professions to enhance their knowledge and skills in handling suspected child abuse. SWD will also continue to collaborate with different government departments and organisations to enhance training for social workers and relevant professionals, in order to strengthen their capability for early identification and handling of suspected child abuse cases.

SWD will set up an additional Residential Child Care Centre (RCCC) in Tuen Mun in 2024-25. Another new RCCC is under planning. These 2 RCCCs will be operational before the commencement of the proposed Ordinance, adding a total of 96 emergency care service places and catering for about 380 children each year.

Table (1): Distribution of newly registered child protection cases by type in 2023

| Type | 2023 |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Physical harm/abuse | 602 |
| Neglect | 310 |
| Sexual abuse | 509 |
| Psychological harm/abuse | 7 |
| Multiple abuse | 29 |
| Total | 1 457 |

Table (2): Relationship between the perpetrator and the maltreated child in 2023

| Relationship with the maltreated child | Number of perpetrators |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Parents/siblings/step-parent/grandparent/relative | 986 |
| Family friend/parent of peer/schoolmate/friend/peer | 201 |
| Carer/school teacher/school personnel/staff of boarding section of school/tutor/coach/religious personnel | 134 |
| Co-tenant/neighbour/inmate of residential service | 14 |
| Unrelated person | 142 |
| Unidentified person/others | 62 |
| Total | 1 539 ^[Note] |

[Note] The number of perpetrators and the number of maltreated children do not tally because a perpetrator may harm/maltreat more than 1 child and a child may be harmed/maltreated by more than 1 perpetrator.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)161

(Question Serial No. 2635)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding child care services, please inform this Committee of:

1. (a) the number of long full-day child care service places, (b) average utilisation rate of the service, (c) number of Extended Hours Service (EHS) places and (d) utilisation rate of EHS places for children aged below 3 in various districts in Hong Kong in the past 3 years.
2. Regarding the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP):
 - a. please set out in table form details of the services provided under NSCCP in various districts in Hong Kong over the past 3 years, including (1) the number of places, (2) average utilisation rate and (3) average fee for home-based child care service (HCCS) and centre-based care group (CCG).
 - b. In the past 3 years, (1) what was the annual expenditure on NSCCP? (2) How many service operators were involved in NSCCP, and what was the amount of subvention they received each year? (Please provide the figures for the past 2 years.)

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

1. The number of places and average utilisation rate of aided child care centres (CCCs) providing long full-day child care service for children aged below 3 (including aided standalone CCCs and aided CCCs attached to kindergartens (KGs)) and EHS in Hong Kong in the past 3 financial years, broken down by district, are set out at Annex 1.
2. Regarding NSCCP:
 - a. The number of places, number of service users and service fees for NSCCP in the past 3 financial years, broken down by 18 districts, are set out at Annex 2. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the average utilisation rate of services under NSCCP.
 - b. The actual expenditures on NSCCP in 2021-22 and 2022-23 were \$51.2 million and \$28.3 million respectively, while the revised estimate for 2023-24 was

\$107.7 million. At present, there is 1 service operator in each of the 18 districts in Hong Kong providing services under NSCCP. The amounts of subventions received by service operators in 2022-23 and 2023-24 were about \$41.47 million and \$43.45 million respectively.

Table 1: Number of places and average utilisation rate of aided CCCs providing long full-day child care service for children aged below 3 and EHS in Hong Kong by district (2021-22)

| District | Aided standalone CCC | | Aided CCC attached to KG ^[Note] | | EHS | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100 | 566 | 24 | 99 | 24 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 324 | 55 | 73 | 49 |
| Islands | - | N.A. | 297 | 24 | 27 | N.A. |
| Eastern | 64 | 100 | 413 | 50 | 189 | 25 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 100 | 221 | 59 | 94 | 31 |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. | 566 | 70 | 226 | 20 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. | 409 | 76 | 210 | 21 |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | 821 | 34 | 94 | 13 |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100 | 495 | 45 | 151 | 16 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 100 | 341 | 60 | 139 | 27 |
| Sham Shui Po | 62 | 100 | 384 | 60 | 165 | 27 |
| Sha Tin | 177 | 91 | 540 | 71 | 135 | 26 |
| Tai Po | - | N.A. | 341 | 42 | 94 | 8 |
| North | 51 | 100 | 416 | 47 | 82 | 42 |
| Yuen Long | 64 | 100 | 424 | 84 | 122 | 22 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 99 | 281 | 70 | 98 | 32 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100 | 510 | 63 | 138 | 13 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 100 | 524 | 62 | 173 | 26 |
| Total | 852 | 98 | 7 873 | 54 | 2 309 | 24 |

N.A. - Not applicable

^[Note] Figures provided by the Education Bureau (EDB) as at September 2021.

Table 2: Number of places and average utilisation rate of aided CCCs providing long full-day child care service for children aged below 3 and EHS in Hong Kong by district (2022-23)

| District | Aided standalone CCC | | Aided CCC attached to KG ^[Note 3] | | EHS | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100 | 499 | 23 | 99 | 30 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 287 | 57 | 73 | 47 |
| Islands | - | N.A. | 367 | 20 | 27 | 4 |
| Eastern | 64 | 100 | 375 | 53 | 175 | 33 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 100 | 246 | 50 | 94 | 35 |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. | 611 | 69 | 226 | 26 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. | 400 | 80 | 210 | 27 |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | 965 | 31 | 94 | 16 |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100 | 547 | 41 | 151 | 20 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 100 | 365 | 55 | 139 | 34 |
| Sham Shui Po | 62 | 100 | 463 | 51 | 165 | 28 |
| Sha Tin | 177 | 98 | 589 | 71 | 135 | 27 |
| Tai Po | 92 | 20 ^[Note 1] | 424 | 41 | 111 | 13 |
| North | 51 | 100 | 379 | 49 | 82 | 41 |
| Yuen Long | 152 | 91 ^[Note 2] | 385 | 83 | 139 | 32 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 98 | 273 | 66 | 98 | 31 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100 | 488 | 66 | 138 | 18 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 100 | 490 | 60 | 173 | 29 |
| Total | 1 032 | 97 | 8 153 | 52 | 2 329 | 27 |

N.A. - Not applicable

^[Note 1] The first additional aided standalone CCC in the district commenced operation in January 2023.

^[Note 2] The second additional aided standalone CCC in the district commenced operation in March 2023.

^[Note 3] Figures provided by EDB as at September 2022.

Table 3: Number of places and average utilisation rate of aided CCCs providing long full-day child care service for children aged below 3 and EHS in Hong Kong by district (April to December 2023)

| District | Aided standalone CCC | | Aided CCC attached to KG ^[Note 2] | | EHS | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) | Number of places | Average utilisation rate (%) |
| Central & Western | 48 | 100 | 474 | 27 | 99 | 35 |
| Southern | - | N.A. | 274 | 50 | 73 | 63 |
| Islands | - | N.A. | 349 | 22 | 27 | 6 |
| Eastern | 64 | 100 | 358 | 59 | 175 | 38 |
| Wan Chai | 48 | 100 | 235 | 42 | 94 | 50 |
| Kwun Tong | - | N.A. | 579 | 69 | 226 | 48 |
| Wong Tai Sin | - | N.A. | 381 | 88 | 210 | 41 |
| Sai Kung | - | N.A. | 919 | 31 | 94 | 26 |
| Kowloon City | 67 | 100 | 520 | 43 | 151 | 30 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 100 | 347 | 57 | 139 | 41 |
| Sham Shui Po | 62 | 100 | 441 | 52 | 162 | 42 |
| Sha Tin | 177 | 99 | 560 | 74 | 138 | 40 |
| Tai Po | 92 | 83 | 403 | 47 | 111 | 31 |
| North | 51 | 100 | 360 | 54 | 82 | 55 |
| Yuen Long | 152 | 76 ^[Note 1] | 393 | 93 | 139 | 44 |
| Tsuen Wan | 76 | 100 | 261 | 72 | 98 | 40 |
| Kwai Tsing | 32 | 100 | 464 | 70 | 138 | 22 |
| Tuen Mun | 64 | 96 | 466 | 73 | 173 | 35 |
| Total | 1 032 | 95 | 7 784 | 56 | 2 329 | 39 |

N.A. - Not applicable

^[Note 1] The second additional aided standalone CCC in the district commenced operation in March 2023.

^[Note 2] Figures provided by EDB as at September 2023.

Table 1: Number of places, number of children served and service fee for NSCCP (2021-22)

| District | Number of places [Note 1] | Number of children served | | Basic service fee per hour [Note 2] (\\$) | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---|-----|
| | | HCCS | CCG | HCCS | CCG |
| Central & Western | 53 | 104 | 266 | 24 | 24 |
| Eastern | 53 | 282 | 150 | 22 | 22 |
| Islands | 53 | 388 | 180 | 22 | 13 |
| Kowloon City | 53 | 376 | 214 | 20 | 13 |
| Kwun Tong | 53 | 224 | 164 | 20 | 13 |
| Kwai Tsing | 53 | 522 | 98 | 18 | 13 |
| North | 53 | 316 | 258 | 18 | 13 |
| Southern | 53 | 147 | 165 | 20 | 12 |
| Sai Kung | 53 | 485 | 47 | 20 | 13 |
| Sham Shui Po | 53 | 720 | 327 | 20 | 13 |
| Sha Tin | 53 | 587 | 398 | 20 | 13 |
| Tuen Mun | 53 | 705 | 146 | 20 | 13 |
| Tai Po | 53 | 393 | 218 | 20 | 13 |
| Tsuen Wan | 53 | 397 | 122 | 20 | 13 |
| Wan Chai | 53 | 157 | 147 | 22 | 22 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 53 | 257 | 365 | 18 | 10 |
| Yuen Long | 53 | 1 035 | 336 | 18 | 13 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 513 | 218 | 20 | 13 |
| Total | 954 | 7 608 | 3 819 | | |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

[Note 2] Operators may determine the amount of fees according to the circumstances of the district. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can apply for fee waivers/reductions.

Table 2: Number of places, number of children served and service fee for NSCCP (2022-23)

| District | Number of places [Note 1] | Number of children served | | Basic service fee per hour [Note 2] (\$) | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--|-----|
| | | HCCS | CCG | HCCS | CCG |
| Central & Western | 53 | 136 | 310 | 24 | 24 |
| Eastern | 53 | 247 | 88 | 22 | 22 |
| Islands | 53 | 376 | 157 | 22 | 13 |
| Kowloon City | 53 | 290 | 173 | 20 | 13 |
| Kwun Tong | 53 | 220 | 189 | 20 | 13 |
| Kwai Tsing | 53 | 524 | 163 | 18 | 13 |
| North | 53 | 256 | 250 | 18 | 13 |
| Southern | 53 | 76 | 106 | 20 | 12 |
| Sai Kung | 53 | 510 | 142 | 20 | 13 |
| Sham Shui Po | 53 | 572 | 284 | 20 | 13 |
| Sha Tin | 53 | 537 | 404 | 20 | 13 |
| Tuen Mun | 53 | 693 | 131 | 20 | 13 |
| Tai Po | 53 | 386 | 255 | 20 | 13 |
| Tsuen Wan | 53 | 516 | 143 | 20 | 13 |
| Wan Chai | 53 | 134 | 78 | 22 | 22 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 53 | 203 | 393 | 18 | 10 |
| Yuen Long | 53 | 909 | 291 | 18 | 13 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 455 | 351 | 20 | 13 |
| Total | 954 | 7 040 | 3 908 | | |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

[Note 2] Operators may determine the amount of fees according to the circumstances of the district. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can apply for fee waivers/reductions.

**Table 3: Number of places, number of children served and service fee for NSCCP
(April to December 2023)**

| District | Number of places [Note 1] | Number of children served | | Basic service fee per hour [Note 2] (\$) | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--|-----|
| | | HCCS | CCG | HCCS | CCG |
| Central & Western | 53 | 125 | 276 | 24 | 24 |
| Eastern | 53 | 240 | 102 | 22 | 22 |
| Islands | 53 | 311 | 165 | 22 | 13 |
| Kowloon City | 53 | 201 | 79 | 20 | 13 |
| Kwun Tong | 53 | 242 | 176 | 20 | 13 |
| Kwai Tsing | 53 | 361 | 136 | 18 | 13 |
| North | 53 | 210 | 224 | 18 | 13 |
| Southern | 53 | 77 | 354 | 20 | 12 |
| Sai Kung | 53 | 319 | 165 | 20 | 13 |
| Sham Shui Po | 53 | 492 | 233 | 20 | 13 |
| Sha Tin | 53 | 338 | 270 | 20 | 13 |
| Tuen Mun | 53 | 593 | 125 | 20 | 13 |
| Tai Po | 53 | 275 | 138 | 20 | 13 |
| Tsuen Wan | 53 | 262 | 127 | 20 | 13 |
| Wan Chai | 53 | 110 | 116 | 22 | 22 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 53 | 170 | 360 | 18 | 10 |
| Yuen Long | 53 | 702 | 201 | 18 | 13 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 311 | 338 | 20 | 13 |
| Total | 954 | 5 339 | 3 585 | | |

[Note 1] Service operators are required to provide a minimum of 53 service places in each district (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 954). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement so as to meet the actual service demand.

[Note 2] Operators may determine the amount of fees according to the circumstances of the district. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can apply for fee waivers/reductions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)162

(Question Serial No. 2636)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding different types of pre-school services:

1. Please tabulate the respective numbers of service places for on-site pre-school rehabilitation services (OPRS), early education and training centres (EETCs), special child care centres (SCCCs), occasional child care service (OCCS) and the integrated programme in kindergarten-cum-child care centres (IP) in various districts in the past 3 years, along with the average waiting time for these services.
2. The Government regularised the Tier 1 Support Services last year and extended them to cover nearly 900 pre-primary institutions. Please provide separate lists for (a) the number of agencies providing the services, (b) the staffing establishment (SE) of each agency and (c) the annual expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. The respective numbers of service places for EETCs, SCCC, IP and OCCS for disabled children in the past 3 years, broken down by administrative district of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), are set out in Tables 1a to 1d of Annex 1. As places of OPRS are available in all districts in the territory and allocated on an agency basis, SWD does not have information on the number of OPRS places broken down by district. The total number of service places for OPRS in the past 3 years is set out in Table 1e of Annex 1. The average waiting time for OPRS, EETCs, SCCC and IP is set out in Table 2 of Annex 1. As OCCS for disabled children may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have statistics on the waiting time for the service.
2. SWD regularised the Tier 1 Support Services in September 2023, integrating them with OPRS and extending them to cover nearly 900 pre-primary institutions. At present, 21 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operate OPRS through inter-disciplinary service teams under a school-based and integrated approach, which offer support to pre-school children who are awaiting assessment by Child Assessment Centres (CACs) or have been assessed by CACs to have borderline developmental problems (i.e. Tier 1 children), as well as providing professional consultation and training to their parents and teachers. The inter-disciplinary service teams comprise clinical/educational

psychologists, speech therapists, occupational therapists/physiotherapists and special child care workers, etc. The SE of each service team following the integration of the Tier 1 Support Services and OPRS is set out at Annex 2. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of relevant Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs), NGOs may flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service output and outcomes required. Therefore, SWD does not have information on the SE of each NGO. In 2024-25, the estimated expenditure for the Tier 1 Support Services is about \$171 million.

Table 1a: Number of service places for EETCs

| District | No. of service places for EETCs | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/ Southern & Islands | 473 | 473 | 473 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 401 | 401 | 401 |
| Kwun Tong | 390 | 390 | 390 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 604 | 604 | 604 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 231 | 231 | 231 |
| Sham Shui Po | 400 | 523 | 523 |
| Sha Tin | 381 | 381 | 381 |
| Tai Po/North | 487 | 487 | 487 |
| Yuen Long | 172 | 172 | 172 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 406 | 406 | 406 |
| Tuen Mun | 229 | 325 | 325 |
| Total | 4 174 | 4 393 | 4 393 |

Table 1b: Number of service places for SCCCs

| District | No. of service places for SCCCs | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/ Southern & Islands | 313 | 313 | 313 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 216 | 216 | 246 |
| Kwun Tong | 186 | 186 | 186 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 425 | 425 | 425 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Sham Shui Po | 235 | 295 | 357 |
| Sha Tin | 138 | 168 | 168 |
| Tai Po/North | 299 | 299 | 299 |
| Yuen Long | 108 | 108 | 108 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 180 | 180 | 180 |
| Tuen Mun | 144 | 144 | 144 |
| Total | 2 274 | 2 364 | 2 456 |

Table 1c: Number of service places for IP

| District | No. of service places for IP | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/ Southern & Islands | 132 | 138 | 138 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 186 | 168 | 168 |
| Kwun Tong | 228 | 228 | 228 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 240 | 240 | 240 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 210 | 216 | 216 |
| Sham Shui Po | 108 | 114 | 114 |
| Sha Tin | 168 | 168 | 168 |
| Tai Po/North | 168 | 168 | 168 |
| Yuen Long | 186 | 186 | 186 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 198 | 198 | 198 |
| Tuen Mun | 156 | 156 | 156 |
| Total | 1 980 | 1 980 | 1 980 |

Table 1d: Number of service places for OCCS for disabled children

| District | No. of service places for OCCS for disabled children | | |
|--|--|------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/ Southern & Islands | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Kwun Tong | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 19 | 19 | 19 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Sham Shui Po | 13 | 16 | 19 |
| Sha Tin | 10 | 13 | 13 |
| Tai Po/North | 17 | 17 | 17 |
| Yuen Long | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Tuen Mun | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Total | 111 | 117 | 120 |

Table 1e: Number of service places for OPRS

| Year | No. of service places |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2021-22 | 9 074 |
| 2022-23 | 10 074 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 10 124 |

Table 2: Average waiting time for pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | Average waiting time (in months) ^{Note 1} | | |
|--|--|---------|---------|
| | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
| OPRS | 5.2 | 4.3 | 4.2 |
| EETC | 8.0 | 5.4 | 5.0 |
| SCCC | 19.9 | 20.2 | 19.3 |
| IP | 8.0 | 6.3 | 5.3 |
| OCCS for disabled children ^{Note 2} | - | - | - |

Note 1 As the average waiting time is compiled on a financial-year basis covering the 1st day of April of a year to the 31st day of March of the next year, the figure for 2023-24 is not yet available.

Note 2 As this service may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have statistics on the waiting time.

SE of OPRS

| Every 100 OPRS children served and provision of Tier 1 Support Services in the networked kindergartens/kindergarten-cum-child care centres by each service team | |
|--|---------------------|
| Rank/Post ^{Note 1} | No. of staff |
| Social Work Officer | 0.25 |
| Assistant Social Work Officer | 1.5 |
| Social Work Assistant | 1.0 |
| Clinical/Educational Psychologist | 0.5 |
| Senior Special Child Care Worker | 1.0 |
| Special Child Care Worker | 6.75 |
| Speech Therapist | 2.5 |
| Physiotherapist I and Occupational Therapist I | 1.75 |
| Occupational Therapy Assistant | 1.0 |
| Clerical Assistant | 1.0 |
| Welfare Worker | 1.0 |
| Motor Driver ^{Note 2} | 1.0 |
| Total | 19.25 |

Note 1 The above SE is used solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of recurrent subvention. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of FSAs and the relevant statutory staffing requirements, NGOs operating subsidised services may determine their SE in accordance with their own human resources policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service output and outcomes required.

Note 2 Only applicable to service teams operating mobile training centres.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)163

(Question Serial No. 2639)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Chris Sun, announced in December last year that the Government was exploring the expansion of the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme) to include residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) operated by Mainland entities, thus providing more options for the elderly to retire in cities in the Guangdong (GD)-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). Regarding this initiative, please provide the following information:

1. Please provide a breakdown of the number of elderly persons participating in the GDRCS Scheme in each of the past 3 years, specifying the figures for each of the 2 existing service operators.
2. What is the annual funding provision for the 2 service operators?
3. Please provide an update on the progress of the Government's plan to expand the GDRCS Scheme. What is the implementation timetable, and what is the estimated expenditure involved?
4. In addition to expanding the GDRCS Scheme, how is the Government promoting cross-boundary elderly care policies? Will it consider extending the scheme to other places beyond the GD Province?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. The number of participants of the GDRCS Scheme from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are as follows:

| Year | No. of participants of the GDRCS Scheme | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| | The Hong Kong Jockey Club Shenzhen Society for Rehabilitation Yee Hong Heights | The Hong Kong Jockey Club Helping Hand Zhaoqing Home for the Elderly |
| 2021-22 | 132 | 12 |
| 2022-23 | 106 | 11 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 144 | 21 |

2. The actual number of places purchased and the expenditure incurred by the Social Welfare Department each year depend on the number of participants. The annual expenditure from 2021-22 to 2023-24 is set out below:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 15.1 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 13.1 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 33.7 |

3. The Labour and Welfare Bureau signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) on Collaboration on expanding the GDRCS Scheme with the Department of Civil Affairs of GD Province on 17 November 2023, agreeing to explore cooperation in selecting RCHEs operated by Mainland entities in jointly designated cities within the GBA for participation in the GDRCS Scheme. The LOI stipulates that participating Mainland RCHEs should be rated 4 stars or above on the “List of Star-rated Senior Care Organizations” by the Department of Civil Affairs of Guangdong Province based on the standards of “Classification and Accreditation for Senior Care Organization of China”, with a minimum of 2 years of operational records.

To identify suitable RCHEs to join the GDRCS Scheme, the Government is liaising with relevant departments in Mainland cities within the GBA, and conducting on-site inspections of eligible Mainland RCHEs. In 2024, the Government will explore the expansion of the GDRCS Scheme to include RCHEs operated by Mainland entities. The estimated expenditure for the GDRCS Scheme in 2024-25 is about \$32.5 million.

4. Based on the experience gained, the Government will explore ways to further assist elderly recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance in residing in RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme. The Government currently does not have any plan to extend the scheme to other places beyond the GD Province.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)164

(Question Serial No. 2641)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the problem of manpower shortage in residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), please provide the following information:

1. the number of elderly residents in various subsidised and private RCHEs in the past 3 years up to the present, broken down by age group (60 to 65 years old, 65 to 75 years old, 75 to 85 years old, and 85 years old or above);
2. the ratio of elderly residents in subsidised and private RCHEs to the total elderly population in Hong Kong in the past 3 years; and
3. the respective numbers of health workers/care workers/nurses/other (if any) currently employed in subsidised and private RCHEs.
4. In the past 5 years, how did the Government increase the supply of manpower in RCHEs through various training or funding programmes/policies? Please refer to the table below.

| Programme name/initiative | Number of trainees/Number of trainees who joined the industry | Related expenditure |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

5. How does the Government plan to further increase the manpower for RCHEs in the future? Please provide details.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

1. The number of elderly residents in various types of RCHEs in the past 3 years is set out in Table 1 of Annex. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have any statistical information on the number of elderly residents in RCHEs by age group.
2. Elderly residents in RCHEs account for about 4% of persons aged 65 or above in Hong Kong in the past 3 years.
3. The number of staff employed in various types of RCHEs as at the end of December 2023 is set out in Table 2 of Annex.

4. & 5. Since 2012, SWD has implemented a training sponsorship scheme to provide funding support to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating subsidised elderly services or rehabilitation services, to fully sponsor the tuition fees of students admitted to and completed designated programmes in occupational therapy (OT) and physiotherapy (PT), thereby encouraging them to join the social welfare sector. The Government will continue to implement the scheme to sponsor an additional 750 students to enrol in the above 2 designated OT and PT programmes in the next 5 years starting from 2023-24, involving an expenditure of about \$447 million. Sponsored students are required to work in NGOs operating subsidised welfare services for at least 2 to 3 years after graduation. As at the end of December 2023, a total of 371 graduates who participated in the scheme have joined the social welfare sector, with 192 in OT and 179 in PT.

SWD launched the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services (the Navigation Scheme) in 2015-16, and enhanced it in 2021-21 to provide a total of 1 200 training places within the next 5 years, involving an expenditure of about \$266 million. A total of 989 graduates have completed the Navigation Scheme since its implementation. Based on the information provided by some trainees upon graduation, 573 graduates will continue to be employed in social welfare service units.

To address the shortage of nurses in the social welfare sector and meet the demand for nurses in residential care homes (RCHs), SWD has implemented the Enrolled Nurse (General) Training Programme for the Welfare Sector since the 2017/18 academic year. SWD will continue to implement the programme for 5 consecutive academic years from 2023/24 to 2027/28, and subsidise over 1 700 additional students to enrol in the training programme. The number of additional subsidised places is 427 per cohort, involving an expenditure of about \$587 million. Students are required to work as Enrolled Nurses (General) in welfare service organisations recognised by SWD for a minimum of 3 consecutive years after completing the training programme. As at the end of December 2023, 667 out of the 755 graduates from the training programme during the academic years from 2017/18 to 2020/21 worked as Enrolled Nurses (General) in the social welfare sector during the 2-year commitment period after graduation. Among them, 502 worked in RCHEs.

Employers in the elderly care service sector were given approval to import 1 718, 1 511 and 1 631 elderly care workers through the Supplementary Labour Scheme (SLS) in 2019, 2020 and 2021, respectively. To help RCHs face the challenge of manpower shortage during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government relaxed certain requirements for the sector to import care workers through SLS from March to May 2022. RCHEs were given approval to import 3 441 care workers in the year.

SWD launched the Special Scheme to Import Care Workers for Residential Care Homes (Special Scheme) on 19 June 2023. Since then, SLS of the Labour Department (LD) no longer accepted applications from RCHs for importation of care workers. For SLS applications submitted prior to that date, approvals were given for RCHEs to import 793 care workers in 2023. As LD has to concurrently process applications received under SLS/ the Enhanced Supplementary Labour Scheme from sectors other than the elderly care service sector, the expenditure involved cannot be calculated separately.

As at December 2023, 2 rounds of applications for quotas to import care workers under the Special Scheme have been completed, resulting in 2 624 quotas (including those for contract renewal) being granted to various RCHEs. The Government will continue to monitor the demand for care workers in the RCH sector and review the Special Scheme in a timely manner. The Special Scheme is implemented by a total of 5 SWD staff members, including 1 Senior Social Work Officer, 1 Social Work Officer, 1 Executive Officer II, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Clerical Assistant. The Special Scheme incurred a manpower expenditure of about \$2.88 million for over a 10-month period in 2023-24. In addition to the dedicated manpower mentioned above, SWD has also deployed its existing resources to assist in the implementation of the Special Scheme.

As announced in the 2022 Policy Address, the Government will undertake a holistic review of the skill and qualification requirements of RCH staff, so as to establish professional standards and a career progression path to assist the RCH sector in attracting and retaining the talent required. The consultant commissioned by SWD commenced a study in July 2023 to holistically review the skill and qualification requirements of staff who provide health and rehabilitation services in RCHEs and residential care homes for persons with disabilities. One area within the scope of the review is to explore the feasibility of setting up a new rank of senior health worker in RCHs so that local health workers with suitable training can take up more health and rehabilitation work in a position with more professional development and career progression. The study is expected to be completed in 2024.

Table 1: Number of elderly residents in RCHEs

| Type of RCHE ^{Note} | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end- December 2023) |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| Subvented home | 13 763 | 14 514 | 14 856 |
| Contract home | 3 741 | 4 305 | 5 448 |
| Self-financing home | 2 172 | 2 076 | 2 107 |
| Private home | 38 161 | 36 201 | 38 348 |
| Total | 57 837 | 57 096 | 60 759 |

^{Note} Including RCHEs providing both subsidised and non-subsidised residential care places

Table 2: Number of staff employed in RCHEs (as at end-December 2023)

| Type of RCHE | Manager | Nurse | Health Worker | Care Worker | Assistant | Total |
|------------------------|------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Subvented home | 124 | 1 255 | 898 | 3 440 | 3 385 | 9 102 |
| Contract home | 59 | 1 027 | 254 | 1 746 | 986 | 4 072 |
| Self-financing home | 40 | 219 | 199 | 594 | 513 | 1 565 |
| Private Home | 647 | 1 624 | 2 804 | 6 658 | 4 260 | 15 993 |
| Total | 870 | 4 125 | 4 155 | 12 438 | 9 144 | 30 732 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)165

(Question Serial No. 0446)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25, the Government states that it will “inject additional funding into the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund) and expand the scope of the I&T Fund to allow eligible service units to procure gerontechnology products suitable for household use by elderly persons, persons with disabilities and their carers”. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the implementation progress of the I&T Fund;
- (b) the numbers of applications received and approved, along with the amount of funding granted to successful applications in 2023; and
- (c) the amount of funding to be injected into the I&T Fund.

Asked by: Hon LOONG Hon-biu, Louis (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

The Government allocated \$1 billion to launch the I&T Fund in December 2018 to subsidise eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent or trial technology products, with a view to improving the quality of life of service users and reducing the pressure on care staff and carers. Since September 2022, the eligibility for the I&T Fund has been extended from subvented service units to all private and self-financing residential care homes for the elderly and residential care homes for persons with disabilities. As at the end of February 2024, grants totalling around \$660 million have been approved under the I&T Fund to subsidise about 1 900 elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure or rent over 18 000 items of technology products. In 2023, about 700 service units applied to procure or rent around 3 500 items of technology products. The I&T Fund has already approved over \$19 million in grants for about 500 technology products. The Social Welfare Department is currently processing the remaining applications.

It is announced in the 2023 Policy Address that the Government will inject an additional \$1 billion into the I&T Fund in 2024-25, and expand the scope of the I&T Fund to cover gerontechnology products suitable for household use.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)166

(Question Serial No. 0795)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that, starting from the second quarter of this year, the number of the Residential Care Service Vouchers (RCSVs) will increase to 5 000 so that more eligible elderly persons can benefit from it at the earliest opportunity. The scheme will involve an annual expenditure of about \$1,440 million.

1. The voucher value of each RCSV, effective from 1 April 2023, is \$16,161 per month. However, based on the aforementioned expenditure amount, each RCSV should be valued at \$24,000. In this regard, how many RCSVs will be issued with the \$1,440 million mentioned above, and what will be the voucher value of each RCSV?
2. Will there be any revisions to the eligibility criteria for the RCSV Scheme due to the increase in quantity?
3. Are the aforementioned RCSVs applicable under the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme)?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

1. The Government will expand the coverage of RCSVs from care-and-attention (C&A) places to nursing home (NH) places, starting in the second quarter of 2024. An extra 1 000 RCSVs will also be provided, bringing the total to 5 000. The annual expenditure will amount to about \$1,440 million, covering the voucher value of RCSVs for C&A/NH places, the care supplement for eligible low-income RCSV users to pay for expenses on items such as diapers, special diets and medical consumables, the special supplement for RCSV users in C&A places who require enhanced care due to deteriorating health conditions, as well as administrative expenses, etc. The voucher value of RCSVs is \$16,161 per month in 2023-24. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will determine the voucher value of RCSVs for NH places with reference to the monthly cost of a place under the Nursing Home Place Purchase Scheme (i.e. \$20,838 for 2023-24).

2. The eligibility criteria for elderly persons applying for RCSVs will remain unchanged despite the Government increasing the number of RCSVs. Those who have been assessed as suitable for residential care services under SWD's Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services and are currently waitlisted for C&A or NH places on the Central Waiting List for Subsidised Long Term Care Services will be eligible to apply for the RCSV Scheme.
3. RCSVs are inapplicable under the GDRCS Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)167

(Question Serial No. 2692)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in Paragraph 197 of the Budget Speech that the Government regularised the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme) in September 2023, and extended its scope to cover the rental of assistive technology products. The number of CCSVs will increase to 11 000 in 2024-25, involving an annual expenditure of about \$900 million. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Will the Government consider increasing the budget to continuously expand the number of CCSVs in the future? If there is a plan, please provide a concrete timetable.
2. With the number of CCSVs increasing to 11 000, please provide details on the corresponding expenditure, implementation timetable and staffing arrangement.
3. What were the number of applications, the number of CCSV recipients and the distribution of CCSV quotas by district in the past year?

Asked by: Hon NG Chau-pei, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

- 1 & 2. The Government has made the CCSV permanent since September 2023. The number of CCSVs will also be increased by 1 000 in 2024-25 (i.e. starting from 1 April 2024), bringing the total to 11 000, and will be further increased to 12 000 in 2025-26. The annual expenditure involved is about \$900 million. After the CCSV was made permanent, the staffing establishment of the CCSV Office includes 26 posts in the Social Work and Clerical grades.
3. As the CCSV Scheme adopts the “money-following-the-user” principle, CCSV holders have the flexibility to choose recognised service providers based on their needs. The Government does not allocate CCSV quotas by district. In 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023), a total of 4 875 persons applied for CCSVs, and 4 727 of them were issued with CCSVs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)168

(Question Serial No. 2693)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government will continue to implement a 5-year scheme to provide full subsidies for home managers, health workers and care workers of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) to enrol in training courses recognised under the Qualifications Framework (QF). In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the estimated annual subsidy amount, specific measures, and related expenditure for each year over the 5-year period;
2. the outcomes expected to be achieved each year over the 5-year period; and
3. the current numbers of home managers, health workers and care workers in RCHEs and RCHDs, their average wages and average working hours, as well as the number of new recruits and turnover rates.

Asked by: Hon NG Chau-pei, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. & 2. To enhance the service quality of RCHEs and RCHDs on a continuous basis, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has implemented a 5-year scheme in phases since March 2019 to provide full subsidies for home managers, health workers and care workers of all RCHEs and RCHDs across the territory to enrol in QF-recognised training courses. SWD has set a maximum course fee subsidy for each trainee of the relevant courses. A training allowance is also provided for RCHEs and RCHDs concerned in order to maintain their operations through appropriate manpower deployment while their health workers and care workers are attending the courses, and to provide on-site training support and conduct on-the-job assessments for the trainees concerned. The amounts of the course fee subsidy and training allowance (if applicable) for each trainee of the courses are as follows:

| Course | Maximum course fee subsidy for each trainee | Amount of training allowance per trainee | Total |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---------|
| Training for Home Managers (Course A) | \$4,000 | N.A. | \$4,000 |
| Training for Home Managers (Course B) | \$6,000 | | \$6,000 |
| Advanced Training for Health Workers | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | \$6,000 |
| Training for Care Workers | \$2,000 | \$2,200 | \$4,200 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Once the trainees have been issued graduate certificates by the training institutes upon completion of the relevant courses, the RCHs concerned may apply to SWD for full reimbursement of the course fees already paid.

After assessing the effectiveness of the Scheme and considering the views of the sector, SWD has decided to extend the Scheme by 3 years to subsidise more RCH staff to enrol in the related training courses, thereby continuously enhancing the quality of residential care services. On average, the estimated annual expenditure involved is about \$5 million.

3. The numbers of home managers, health workers and care workers in RCHEs and RCHDs as at the end of December 2023 are set out at Annex. SWD does not have information on the average wages, average working hours, number of new recruits and turnover rates for the posts concerned.

**Numbers of home managers, health workers and care workers in RCHEs and RCHDs
as at end-December 2023**

| | Home manager | Health worker | Care worker |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| RCHE | 870 | 4 155 | 12 438 |
| RCHD | 314 | 975 | 3 852 |
| Total | 1 184 | 5 130 | 16 290 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)169

(Question Serial No. 3069)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Under Programme (1), the financial provision for the subvented/private sectors for 2024-25 is \$437,360,000, which represents a significant increase of 23.4% over the revised estimate of \$354,380,000 for 2023-24. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee about the purposes for the increased expenditure and furnish specific details about the measures that will be implemented?

Asked by: Hon NG Chau-pei, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

Under the Programme of Family and Child Welfare, the estimated financial provision for subvented/private sectors for 2024-25 increases by about \$830 million (or 23.4%) compared to the revised estimate for 2023-24. The increased funding is mainly for strengthening support services related to day child care services and child protection, including setting up an additional Residential Child Care Centre, increasing the incentive payment for foster parents, strengthening the home-based child care service under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project, extending the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children in phases to cover all 18 districts in Hong Kong, and increasing the Child Care Centre Parent Subsidy.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)170

(Question Serial No. 0693)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

To strengthen the functioning of families to better cater to the needs of PWDs, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides subventions for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to operate parents/relatives resource centres (PRCs) across the territory, in order to provide emotional support and professional advice to parents/relatives and carers of PWDs to help them understand how to take care of PWDs, exchange experiences and support one another in order to cope with stress and difficulties. Since 2018-19, the number of PRCs has increased from 6 to the current 19, with 1 centre in every district. Additionally, there is 1 PRC designated for parents/relatives and carers of persons in mental recovery. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- Please provide details of the services provided by the 19 PRCs in the past 3 years, including (i) targeted performance indicators and actual performance statistics, (ii) details of support services rendered, (iii) staffing establishment, (iv) estimated and actual expenditure, (v) evaluation of the effectiveness of PRC services and (vi) satisfaction levels of service users, as well as the expenditure and manpower for the coming year.
- SWD allocated additional resources in 2020-21 for setting up specialised ethnic minorities (EM) units in 5 PRCs located in districts with a higher EM population (i.e. Central and Western, Kwun Tong, Yau Tsim Mong, Kwai Tsing and Yuen Long). Please provide details on the service content and the results of effectiveness evaluation of these specialised EM units.
- The Chief Executive announced in his 2023 Policy Address that SWD would set up 4 additional PRCs designated for carers of persons in mental recovery in the third quarter of 2025. Please provide the details, progress and implementation timetable of this initiative, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved.
- It is understood that some NGOs have set up self-financing parents resource centres. Please provide the number of such centres, their locations, service content and attendance of service users.
- Self-financing parents resource centres cannot provide the same number of service places as subsidised PRCs. In view of this, will the Government consider allocating additional resources to strengthen support for self-financing parents resource centres?

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

PRCs subvented by SWD provide a range of support services and organise various types of activities for parents/relatives and carers of PWDs, including providing counselling and service information, as well as organising emotional support groups, community education, care skills workshops, and social and recreational activities. The essential service requirements, output standards and outcome standards of PRCs are defined in the Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs). Regarding the 19 PRCs (including those with specialised EM units), the output standards and actual performance statistics from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are set out in Table 1 of Annex; the staffing establishment for the services is set out in Table 2 of Annex; the actual expenditure, revised estimate and estimated expenditure for 2024-25 are set out in Table 3 of Annex; the outcome indicators and satisfaction levels from 2021-22 to 2022-23 are set out in Table 4 of Annex. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of FSAs, service operators may flexibly deploy their staff in accordance with their operational needs or human resources policies. Therefore, SWD does not have information on their staff deployment for the coming year.

Apart from providing the above services, PRCs with specialised EM units will also provide tailored services for EM service users in view of their language barrier and cultural difference to facilitate and encourage their use of community services, with a view to meeting their needs and promoting social inclusion. The outcome indicators from 2021-22 to 2022-23 are set out in Table 5 of Annex.

SWD will set up 4 additional PRCs for carers of persons in mental recovery in the third quarter of 2025 to support persons in mental recovery and their carers, involving an annual recurrent expenditure of about \$18 million. By then, apart from the existing PRC in Kowloon East, PRCs for carers of persons in mental recovery will be set up in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West, New Territories East and New Territories West to facilitate carers in obtaining the support they need. SWD will calculate the amount of subventions based on the staffing establishment mentioned above.

SWD is aware that there are currently 5 self-financing resource centres operated by NGOs. The districts in which they are located and their respective numbers are set out in Table 6 of Annex. As these centres are not subvented by SWD, SWD does not have information on their service content and attendance. No service quotas have been set for PRCs subvented by SWD, and citizens in need may seek services at any one of the 19 PRCs across the territory. SWD has no plan to allocate additional resources to self-financing parents resource centres.

Table 1: Output indicators and actual performance statistics of PRCs from 2021-22 to 2023-24

| Output indicator | Agreed output level | Actual performance statistics | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| 1 Monthly average of registered family membership in a year | 7 010 | 11 352 | 12 121 | 13 157 |
| 2 Average attendance per opening session per quarter in a year | 428 | 309 ^{Note} | 408 ^{Note} | 487 |
| 3 Average number of individual-based support activities per quarter in a year | 3 910 | 9 863 | 9 996 | 8 036 |
| 4 Average number of group meetings on support activities per quarter in a year | 3 350 | 4 167 | 4 734 | 5 028 |
| 5 Average number of community education/networking activities per quarter in a year | 137 | 177 | 180 | 227 |
| 6 Monthly average number of counselling cases | 810 | 1 031 | 1 048 | 1 022 |
| 7 Number of therapeutic groups in a year | 131 | 148 | 150 | 112 |

^{Note} To minimise the risk of community spread of COVID-19 during the period when the outbreak was more severe, welfare services subsidised by SWD maintained limited services. In light of the gradual easing of the epidemic situation, these services gradually resumed normal operations.

Table 2: Staffing establishment of PRCs ^{Note}

| Rank/post | PRC | PRC with specialised EM unit |
|--|-------|------------------------------|
| Social Work Officer | 0.125 | 0.25 |
| Assistant Social Work Officer | 2 | 3 |
| Social Work Assistant | 1 | 1 |
| Welfare Worker/ Special Child Care Worker | 1 | 1 |
| Welfare Worker | 1 | 2 |
| Clerical Assistant | 1 | 1 |
| Workman II | 0.667 | 1 |

^{Note} SWD calculates the amount of subventions based on the staffing establishment. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of FSAs, service operators may flexibly deploy resources and arrange suitable staffing.

Table 3: Expenditure of PRCs from 2021-22 to 2024-25

| 2021-22 (Actual) (\$ million) | 2022-23 (Actual) (\$ million) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) (\$ million) | 2024-25 (Estimate) (\$ million) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 82.9 | 94.9 | 94.1 | 100.2 |

**Table 4: Outcome indicators and satisfaction levels of all PRCs ^{Note 1}
from 2021-22 to 2022-23**

| Outcome indicator | Agreed level ^{Note 2} | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Percentage of service users indicating enhancement of problem coping and solving capability after receiving PRC service | 75% | 96% | 89% |
| Percentage of service users indicating enhancement of community support after receiving PRC service | | 93% | 85% |
| Percentage of service users being satisfied with the overall services delivered to them in a year | | 99% | 98% |

Note 1 The relevant figures for 2023-24 are not yet available.

Note 2 The agreed levels for the outcome indicators of each PRC may vary depending on the individual PRC's circumstances.

**Table 5: Outcome indicators and satisfaction levels of
PRCs with specialised EM units ^{Note 1} from 2021-22 to 2022-23**

| Outcome indicator | Agreed level ^{Note 2} | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Percentage of service users indicating enhancement of problem coping and solving capability after receiving PRC service | 75% | 94% | 96% |
| Percentage of service users indicating enhancement of community support after receiving PRC service | | 90% | 90% |
| Percentage of service users being satisfied with the overall services delivered to them in a year | | 98% | 96% |

Note 1 The relevant figures for 2023-24 are not yet available.

Note 2 The agreed levels for the outcome indicators of each PRC may vary depending on the individual PRC's circumstances.

Table 6: Districts where self-financing PRCs are located and their number

| District | Number of self-financing PRCs |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sham Shui Po | 1 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 1 |
| Kowloon City | 1 |
| Sha Tin | 1 |
| Islands | 1 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)171

(Question Serial No. 0709)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is stated in the Programme that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides pre-school services for children with disabilities through early education and training centres (EETCs), special child care centres (SCCCs), integrated programme in kindergarten-cum-child care centres (IP), on-site pre-school rehabilitation services (OPRS) and occasional child care services (OCCS) for disabled children. In 2023, SWD regularised the Tier 1 Support Services and integrated them with OPRS. In this connection, please provide this Committee with the following information:

- The waiting time and number of service places for different types of pre-school rehabilitation services in the past 5 years:

Waiting time for pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | Average waiting time (in months) | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| OPRS | | | | | |
| EETC | | | | | |
| IP | | | | | |
| SCCC | | | | | |

Number of service places for pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| OPRS | | | | | |
| EETC | | | | | |
| IP | | | | | |
| SCCC | | | | | |

- The Training Subsidy Programme for Children on the Waiting List of Subvented Pre-school Rehabilitation Services (TSP) is currently divided into 2 levels, namely the Normal Level Subsidy (NLS) with a maximum subsidy level of \$3,549 per month, and the Higher Level Subsidy (HLS) with a maximum subsidy level of \$6,904 per month. Please provide the relevant details of TSP for the past 3 years, including the number of beneficiaries, the average length of benefit period and the expenditure per beneficiary for each subsidy level, as well as the total number of beneficiaries, the total average duration of benefit period and the total expenditure.

- Please provide details of the work related to regularisation of the Tier 1 Support Services, including the particulars on taking forward and implementing the relevant arrangements, the number of service places, the number of participating pre-primary institutions, effectiveness evaluation or developments (including feedback from the sector), as well as the expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

The average waiting time and number of service places for different types of pre-school rehabilitation services (including OPRS, EETCs, IP and SCCCs) in each of the past 5 years are set out at Annex 1.

SWD provides eligible children on the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services with Training Subsidy so that they can obtain self-financing services (including individual or group training/therapy and assessment services) run by recognised service providers as soon as possible. There are currently 34 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) providing TSP services across the territory. The annual expenditure on TSP and the number of beneficiaries for the past 3 years are set out at Annex 2. SWD does not have information on the length of benefit period of TSP beneficiaries.

Given the satisfactory results of the Pilot Project on Tier 1 Support Services in Kindergartens/Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centres, SWD regularised the Tier 1 Support Services in September 2023, integrating them with OPRS and extending them to cover nearly 900 pre-primary institutions. Additional resources have been allocated to NGOs operating OPRS. Through inter-disciplinary service teams under a school-based and integrated approach, NGOs offer assistance to pre-school children who are awaiting assessment by Child Assessment Centres (CACs) or have been assessed by CACs to have borderline developmental problems (i.e. Tier 1 children), as well as providing professional consultation and training to their parents and teachers. The inter-disciplinary service teams comprise clinical/educational psychologists, speech therapists, occupational therapists/physiotherapists and special child care workers, etc. The staffing establishment of each service team following the integration of the Tier 1 Support Services and OPRS is set out at Annex 3. The Tier 1 Support Services are provided under a school-based and integrated approach, and are not subject to any quota. In 2024-25, the estimated expenditure for the Tier 1 Support Services is about \$171 million.

Table 1: Average waiting time for various pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | Average waiting time (in months) ^{Note 1} | | | | |
|--------------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
| OPRS | N.A. ^{Note 2} | 4.8 | 5.2 | 4.3 | 4.2 |
| EETC | 16.6 | 11.2 | 8.0 | 5.4 | 5.0 |
| IP | 12.6 | 7.5 | 8.0 | 6.3 | 5.3 |
| SCCC | 18.4 | 17.5 | 19.9 | 20.2 | 19.3 |

N.A. – Not applicable

Note 1 As the average waiting time is compiled on a financial-year basis covering the 1st day of April of a year to the 31st day of March of the next year, the figure for 2023-24 is not yet available.

Note 2 OPRS was regularised in October 2018.

Table 2: Number of places for various pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| OPRS | 7 074 | 8 074 | 9 074 | 10 074 | 10 124 |
| EETC | 3 771 | 3 888 | 4 174 | 4 393 | 4 393 |
| IP | 1 980 | 1 980 | 1 980 | 1 980 | 1 980 |
| SCCC | 2 020 | 2 170 | 2 274 | 2 364 | 2 456 |

Table 1: Annual expenditure on TSP

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 92.3 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 77.1 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 136.3 |

Table 2: Number of TSP beneficiaries

| Year | NLS | HLS | No. of beneficiaries |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 2 259 | 1 799 | 4 058 |
| 2022-23 | 2 158 | 1 782 | 3 940 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 2 008 | 1 542 | 3 550 |
| Total | 6 425 | 5 123 | 11 548 |

Staffing establishment of OPRS

| Every 100 OPRS children served and provision of Tier 1 Support Services in the networked kindergartens/kindergarten-cum-child care centres by each service team | |
|--|---------------------|
| Rank/Post ^{Note 1} | No. of staff |
| Social Work Officer | 0.25 |
| Assistant Social Work Officer | 1.5 |
| Social Work Assistant | 1.0 |
| Clinical/Educational Psychologist | 0.5 |
| Senior Special Child Care Worker | 1.0 |
| Special Child Care Worker | 6.75 |
| Speech Therapist | 2.5 |
| Physiotherapist I and Occupational Therapist I | 1.75 |
| Occupational Therapy Assistant | 1.0 |
| Clerical Assistant | 1.0 |
| Welfare Worker | 1.0 |
| Motor Driver ^{Note 2} | 1.0 |
| Total | 19.25 |

Note 1 The above staffing establishment is used solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of recurrent subvention. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of FSAs and the relevant statutory staffing requirements, NGOs operating subsidised services may determine their staffing establishment in accordance with their own human resources policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service output and outcomes required.

Note 2 Only applicable to service teams operating mobile training centres.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)172

(Question Serial No. 3115)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding pre-school rehabilitation services, please inform this Committee of:

- the number of children with special needs who have been assessed to be in need of pre-school rehabilitation services and their average age in each of the past 3 years;
- the waiting time and service provision of different types of pre-school rehabilitation services in the past 3 years, including the number of waitlisted children, average waiting time, distribution by district, unit cost, age distribution of service users, number of service places and utilisation rate; and
- In the 2023 Policy Address, it was mentioned that the Government would strive to strengthen support for carers, including setting up designated teams to support special school leavers and their carers, and increasing the incentive payment for home-based child carers (HCCs) of children with special educational needs (SEN). In this connection, please describe briefly the measures in place for supporting carers of SEN children, including the details of implementation, the number of beneficiaries, outcomes and the expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

- The Child Assessment Service (CAS) of the Department of Health provides comprehensive professional assessment services for children under the age of 12 with suspected developmental problems. The number of case referrals made by CAS to pre-school rehabilitation services and school rehabilitation services in 2021, 2022 and 2023 was 16 371, 13 984, and 14 972 (provisional figures), respectively. CAS does not maintain the number of referrals to pre-school rehabilitation services separately. Apart from CAS, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and private recognised professionals also offer assessment services. Therefore, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the number of children with special needs assessed to be in need of pre-school rehabilitation services and their average age.

- The average waiting time, numbers of service places and waitlisted children broken down by administrative district of SWD, as well as age distribution of service users, utilisation rate and average cost per place per month for various pre-school rehabilitation services (including on-site pre-school rehabilitation services (OPRS), early education and training centres (EETCs), integrated programme in kindergarten-cum-child care centres (IP), special child care centres (SCCCs) and occasional child care services (OCCS) for disabled children) in the past 3 years are tabulated in Tables 1 to 7 at Annex. As places of OPRS are available in all districts in the territory and allocated on an agency basis, SWD does not have information on the number of OPRS places broken down by district.
- SWD provides subventions to NGOs to offer children with special needs and their parents/carers with a series of support services, including the aforementioned pre-school rehabilitation services and parents/relatives resource centres, in all districts across the territory. Social workers will collaborate with local welfare service units based on the needs of the service users, and refer them to appropriate services, such as counselling, respite services, care skills training, stress-management groups and recreational activities, etc., taking into account their individual circumstances. Moreover, SWD set up the Designated Hotline for Carer Support and Information Gateway for Carers in September and November 2023, respectively to strengthen support for carers. As carer support measures encompass multiple services and cater to carers of persons with different types of disabilities, SWD does not maintain implementation number of beneficiaries, outcomes, expenditure and manpower involved in the provision of support measures for parents/carers of children with special needs. Home-based child care service is one of the services provided under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP). NSCCP aims at providing a flexible form of day child care service, and the children under the care of home-based child carers are not limited to children with special needs. SWD does not maintain the information on measures for supporting children with special needs and their carers under NSCCP.

Table 1: Average waiting time for pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | Average waiting time (in months) ^{Note 1} | | |
|--|--|---------|---------|
| | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
| OPRS | 5.2 | 4.3 | 4.2 |
| EETC | 8 | 5.4 | 5 |
| IP | 8 | 6.3 | 5.3 |
| SCCC | 19.9 | 20.2 | 19.3 |
| OCCS for disabled children ^{Note 2} | - | - | - |

Note 1 As the average waiting time is compiled on a financial-year basis covering the 1st day of April of a year to the 31st day of March of the next year, the figure for 2023-24 is not yet available.

Note 2 The service may admit service users directly or through referral and hence SWD does not have statistics on waiting time.

Table 2: Number of service places for pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| OPRS | 9 074 | 10 074 | 10 124 |
| EETC | 4 174 | 4 393 | 4 393 |
| IP | 1 980 | 1 980 | 1 980 |
| SCCC | 2 274 | 2 364 | 2 456 |
| OCCS for disabled children | 111 | 117 | 120 |

Table 3a: Number of service places for EETCs

| District | No. of service places for EETCs | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 473 | 473 | 473 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 401 | 401 | 401 |
| Kwun Tong | 390 | 390 | 390 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 604 | 604 | 604 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 231 | 231 | 231 |
| Sham Shui Po | 400 | 523 | 523 |
| Sha Tin | 381 | 381 | 381 |
| Tai Po/North | 487 | 487 | 487 |
| Yuen Long | 172 | 172 | 172 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 406 | 406 | 406 |
| Tuen Mun | 229 | 325 | 325 |
| Total | 4 174 | 4 393 | 4 393 |

Table 3b: Number of service places for IP

| District | No. of service places for IP | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 132 | 138 | 138 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 186 | 168 | 168 |
| Kwun Tong | 228 | 228 | 228 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 240 | 240 | 240 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 210 | 216 | 216 |
| Sham Shui Po | 108 | 114 | 114 |
| Sha Tin | 168 | 168 | 168 |
| Tai Po/North | 168 | 168 | 168 |
| Yuen Long | 186 | 186 | 186 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 198 | 198 | 198 |
| Tuen Mun | 156 | 156 | 156 |
| Total | 1 980 | 1 980 | 1 980 |

Table 3c: Number of service places for SCCCs

| District | No. of service places for SCCCs | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 313 | 313 | 313 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 216 | 216 | 246 |
| Kwun Tong | 186 | 186 | 186 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 425 | 425 | 425 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Sham Shui Po | 235 | 295 | 357 |
| Sha Tin | 138 | 168 | 168 |
| Tai Po/North | 299 | 299 | 299 |
| Yuen Long | 108 | 108 | 108 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 180 | 180 | 180 |
| Tuen Mun | 144 | 144 | 144 |
| Total | 2 274 | 2 364 | 2 456 |

Table 3d: Number of service places for OCCS for disabled children

| District | No. of service places for OCCS for disabled children | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Kwun Tong | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 19 | 19 | 19 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Sham Shui Po | 13 | 16 | 19 |
| Sha Tin | 10 | 13 | 13 |
| Tai Po/North | 17 | 17 | 17 |
| Yuen Long | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Tuen Mun | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Total | 111 | 117 | 120 |

Table 4a: Number of children waitlisted for OPRS

| District | No. of children waitlisted for OPRS ^{Note} | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 241 | 220 | 209 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 217 | 218 | 224 |
| Kwun Tong | 248 | 253 | 268 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 267 | 334 | 332 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 205 | 260 | 292 |
| Sham Shui Po | 143 | 186 | 180 |
| Sha Tin | 242 | 330 | 301 |
| Tai Po/North | 224 | 285 | 333 |
| Yuen Long | 353 | 385 | 465 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 280 | 355 | 308 |
| Tuen Mun | 283 | 253 | 319 |
| Total | 2 703 | 3 079 | 3 231 |

Note The figure does not include users of pre-school rehabilitation services who are now receiving transitional services of EETCs, or users who are waiting for a change of service type/choice of centre.

Table 4b: Number of children waitlisted for EETCs

| District | No. of children waitlisted for EETCs ^{Note} | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 99 | 86 | 48 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 120 | 91 | 82 |
| Kwun Tong | 106 | 103 | 78 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 133 | 132 | 110 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 138 | 98 | 78 |
| Sham Shui Po | 79 | 79 | 54 |
| Sha Tin | 84 | 115 | 109 |
| Tai Po/North | 122 | 113 | 70 |
| Yuen Long | 141 | 134 | 109 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 124 | 144 | 108 |
| Tuen Mun | 112 | 102 | 64 |
| Total | 1 258 | 1 197 | 910 |

^{Note} The figure does not include users of pre-school rehabilitation services who are waiting for a change of service type/choice of centre.

Table 4c: Number of children waitlisted for IP

| District | No. of children waitlisted for IP ^{Note} | | |
|------------------------------------|---|------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 23 | 20 | 17 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 37 | 35 | 29 |
| Kwun Tong | 70 | 50 | 38 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 69 | 55 | 51 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 56 | 53 | 38 |
| Sham Shui Po | 40 | 31 | 27 |
| Sha Tin | 37 | 34 | 33 |
| Tai Po/North | 46 | 40 | 43 |
| Yuen Long | 70 | 68 | 47 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 47 | 38 | 36 |
| Tuen Mun | 46 | 58 | 32 |
| Total | 541 | 482 | 391 |

^{Note} The figure does not include users of pre-school rehabilitation services who are now receiving transitional services of EETCs, or users who are waiting for a change of service type/choice of centre.

Table 4d: Number of children waitlisted for SCCCs

| District | No. of children waitlisted for SCCC ^{Note} | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Central/Western/Southern & Islands | 98 | 99 | 90 |
| Eastern/Wan Chai | 126 | 145 | 119 |
| Kwun Tong | 86 | 70 | 61 |
| Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung | 98 | 108 | 69 |
| Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong | 99 | 131 | 106 |
| Sham Shui Po | 61 | 71 | 60 |
| Sha Tin | 92 | 75 | 53 |
| Tai Po/North | 94 | 85 | 84 |
| Yuen Long | 214 | 190 | 173 |
| Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing | 112 | 110 | 97 |
| Tuen Mun | 88 | 107 | 92 |
| Total | 1 168 | 1 191 | 1 004 |

^{Note} The figure does not include users of pre-school rehabilitation services who are now receiving transitional services of EETCs or OPRS, or users who are waiting for a change of service type/choice of centre.

Table 5a: Age distribution of users of pre-school rehabilitation services in 2021-22

| Service type | No. of service users | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| OPRS | 75 | 3 844 | 5 014 | 8 933 |
| EETC | 774 | 1 768 | 1 438 | 3 980 |
| IP | 67 | 843 | 1 028 | 1 938 |
| SCCC | 46 | 667 | 1 440 | 2 153 |

Table 5b: Age distribution of users pre-school rehabilitation services in 2022-23

| Service type | No. of service users | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| OPRS | 56 | 4 239 | 5 654 | 9 949 |
| EETC | 604 | 1 922 | 1 653 | 4 179 |
| IP | 51 | 861 | 1 012 | 1 924 |
| SCCC | 35 | 638 | 1 525 | 2 198 |

**Table 5c: Age distribution of users of pre-school rehabilitation services in 2023-24
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| Service type | No. of service users | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| | Aged 0 to 2 | Aged 3 to 4 | Aged 5 to 6 | Total |
| OPRS | 98 | 4 542 | 5 322 | 9 962 |
| EETC | 696 | 1 972 | 1 425 | 4 093 |
| IP | 89 | 898 | 890 | 1 877 |
| SCCC | 49 | 830 | 1 480 | 2 359 |

Table 6: Utilisation rates of pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|--|---------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| OPRS | 98.4% | 98.8% | 98.4% |
| EETC | 95.4% | 95.1% | 93.2% |
| IP | 97.9% | 97.2% | 94.8% |
| SCCC | 94.7% | 93.0% | 96.1% |
| OCCS for disabled children ^{Note} | - | - | - |

^{Note} The service may admit service users directly or through referral and hence SWD does not have statistics on the number of service users.

Table 7: Average cost per place per month for pre-school rehabilitation services

| Service type | Average cost per place per month | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 (Actual) (\$) | 2022-23 (Actual) (\$) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) (\$) |
| Pre-school rehabilitation services | 9,764 | 9,950 | 10,695 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)173

(Question Serial No. 3116)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In 2024-25, the Government will inject an additional \$1 billion into the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund) to enhance the subsidies for eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent and trial technology products, such as ultra-low beds for medical and nursing care and intelligent anti-wandering systems, with a view to improving the quality of life of the elderly and persons with disabilities (PWDs) and reducing the pressure of carers. Regarding the application of gerontechnology, would the Government please provide the following information:

- Please provide details on the vetting of applications for the I&T Fund in the past 3 years, including information on applicant organisations, the number of applications received, types of products involved, the amount of grants awarded, and the number of beneficiaries.
- What is the current balance and utilisation status of the I&T Fund after the injection of additional funding? Please provide an estimate of the number of years the funding will sustain the operation of the I&T Fund, as well as the estimated expenditure and the number of funded projects for the coming year.
- Since the establishment of the I&T Fund, how many projects have been dedicated to the research and development (R&D) of gerontechnology and related products? Please provide a list of these R&D projects, along with details on their progress, funding and deliverables.
- The Government mentioned that it would enhance the subsidies for eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent and trial technology products after the injection of additional funding. Please provide specific measures or plans in this regard.

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

The Government allocated \$1 billion to launch the I&T Fund in December 2018 to subsidise eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent or trial technology products, with a view to improving the quality of life of service users and reducing the pressure on care staff and carers. Since September 2022, the eligibility for the I&T Fund has been extended from subvented service units to all private and self-financing residential care homes for the elderly (RCHes) and residential care homes for PWDs (RCHDs). As at the end of February 2024, grants totalling around \$670 million have been approved under the I&T Fund to subsidise eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent or trial technology products. The balance of the I&T Fund was about \$330 million. Details pertaining to the applications and approval of grants under the I&T Fund in the past 3 years are set out at Annex. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not maintain statistics on the number of persons who have used these technology products. In the coming year, SWD will continue to invite eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to submit applications. The expenditure and operational longevity of the I&T Fund are contingent upon the number of applications received, the amount of grants involved and the approval situation.

In addition, eligible service units may identify suitable technology research and development companies as working partners, and apply for trials of their technology products specifically designed and developed for the nursing and rehabilitation needs of elderly persons or PWDs. As at the end of February 2024, there were 5 projects for the trial of newly developed technology products, involving an expenditure of about \$12 million. These products include a fall prevention management system, a smart bedside intelligence management system, an interactive rehabilitation assessment and training system, a smart transportation robot suite and a sleep management system. These projects are currently being implemented. SWD will review the effectiveness of these projects in a timely manner.

It is announced in the 2023 Policy Address that the Government will inject an additional \$1 billion into the I&T Fund in 2024-25, and expand the scope of the I&T Fund to cover gerontechnology products suitable for household use. SWD is currently undertaking preparatory work to formulate the implementation details, and will announce the details in due course.

**Statistics pertaining to the applications and approval of grants under the I&T Fund
from 2021-22 to 2023-24
(as at 29 February 2024)**

| Tranche no. (application period) | Type of service unit | No. of technology products applied | Amount of grant applied (\$ million) | No. of technology products approved | Amount of grant approved (\$ million) |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| 5 (February to May 2021) | Subsidised elderly service unit | 2 046 | 60 | 1 792 | 56 |
| | Subsidised rehabilitation service unit | 1 007 | 33 | 855 | 30 |
| | Total | 3 053 | 93 | 2 647 | 86 |
| 6 (September to October 2021) | Subsidised elderly service unit | 1 254 | 40 | 1 129 | 37 |
| | Subsidised rehabilitation service unit | 377 | 21 | 334 | 19 |
| | Total | 1 631 | 61 | 1 463 | 56 |
| 7 (January to March 2022) | Subsidised elderly service unit | 726 | 25 | 620 | 23 |
| | Subsidised rehabilitation service unit | 428 | 12 | 367 | 11 |
| | Total | 1 154 | 37 | 987 | 34 |
| 8 ^{Note} (September to November 2022) | Subsidised elderly service unit | 2 268 | 57 | 2 115 | 52 |
| | Subsidised rehabilitation service unit | 1 200 | 43 | 1 023 | 40 |
| | Non-subsidised private and self- financing RCHE | 3 570 | 111 | 2 302 | 79 |
| | Non-subsidised private and self- financing RCHD | 108 | 4 | 104 | 3 |
| | Total | 7 146 | 215 | 5 544 | 174 |
| 9 (May to August 2023) | Subsidised elderly service unit | 1 465 | 41 | 274 | 9 |
| | Subsidised rehabilitation service unit | 646 | 22 | 176 | 8 |
| | Non-subsidised private and self- financing RCHE | 1 346 | 36 | 90 | 2 |
| | Non-subsidised private and | 84 | 3 | 7 | 0.4 |

| Tranche no. (application period) | Type of service unit | No. of technology products applied | Amount of grant applied (\$ million) | No. of technology products approved | Amount of grant approved (\$ million) |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| | self- financing RCHD | | | | |
| | Total | 3 541 | 102 | 547 | 19 |

Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

^{Note} The eligibility for applying for procurement and rental of technology products has been extended to non-subsidised private or self-financing RCHEs and RCHDs starting with the Eighth Tranche launched in September 2022.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)174

(Question Serial No. 0213)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that starting this year, the Government will set up 10 more aided standalone child care centres (CCCs) in phases. It will also extend the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children (ASCP(PC)) in phases to cover all districts in Hong Kong, while increasing the number of service places. In this connection, please provide this Committee with the following information:

1. a breakdown of the estimated expenditure for the above measures, and the amount of government subsidy granted in each of the past 3 years;
2. the utilisation rates of aided CCCs and ASCP(PC) in each district in the past 3 years; and
3. whether adjustments will be made to the number of service places and service content in a timely manner based on the demographic characteristics and service demand of each district to avoid misallocation of resources.
4. Has an assessment been conducted to determine whether there are sufficient manpower to meet the staffing requirements for the additional CCC and ASCP(PC) service places, as well as the measures to be taken in case of a manpower shortfall?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up 10 more aided standalone CCCs and extend ASCP(PC) to cover all districts in Hong Kong in phases within a period of 3 years starting from 2024. The estimated expenditure for these 2 measures are about \$66.4 million and \$14.2 million respectively. The amount of subsidies granted by SWD to aided standalone CCCs and ASCP(PC) in each of the past 3 financial years is tabulated below:

| Year | Amount of subsidy (\$ million) | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Aided standalone CCCs | ASCP(PC) |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 51.1 | 12.4 ^{Note} |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 53.8 | 8.0 ^{Note} |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 65.9 | 27.5 |

Note SWD has been re-engineering Mutual Help Child Care Centres (MHCCCs) from 2021-22 onwards to provide after-school care service for pre-primary children in phases. According to the Service Agreements, 10 of these MHCCCs received a portion of their subsidies for 2022-23 in March 2022.

2. The average utilisation rates of aided CCCs (including aided standalone CCCs and aided CCCs attached to kindergartens (KGs)) and ASCP(PC) in the past 3 financial years, broken down by district, are set out at Annex.
3. SWD will take into account the overall situations of child care services and the characteristics of individual districts, including the available CCC places, service utilisation, ratio of subsidised to private child care services, land supply situation, and service demand as a result of demographic changes, etc. when conducting service planning, in order to better meet the service demand in the community.
4. In accordance with the Child Care Services Regulations (Cap. 243A), the child care staff serving in a CCC have to be registered as child care workers upon successful completing a training course approved by the Director of Social Welfare. Institutions will adjust the number of training places offered based on demand. Besides, the operating expenditure of ASCP(PC) is subsidised under the Lump Sum Grant subvention. Each centre of ASCP(PC) provides 42 service places and has a staffing establishment including 1 Assistant Social Work Officer and 2 supporting staff. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements, service operators may flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service output and outcome required.

Table 1: Average utilisation rates of aided standalone CCCs, aided CCCs attached to KGs and ASCP(PC) by district (2021-22)

| District | Aided standalone CCCs | Aided CCCs attached to KGs | ASCP(PC) |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| | Average utilisation rate (%) | Average utilisation rate ^{Note 1} (%) | Average utilisation rate ^{Note 2} (%) |
| Central & Western | 100 | 24 | N.A. |
| Southern | N.A. | 55 | N.A. |
| Islands | N.A. | 24 | N.A. |
| Eastern | 100 | 50 | N.A. |
| Wan Chai | 100 | 59 | N.A. |
| Kwun Tong | N.A. | 70 | 35 |
| Wong Tai Sin | N.A. | 76 | - |
| Sai Kung | N.A. | 34 | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | 100 | 45 | N.A. |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 100 | 60 | N.A. |
| Sham Shui Po | 100 | 60 | 46 |
| Sha Tin | 91 | 71 | N.A. |
| Tai Po | N.A. | 42 | 39 |
| North | 100 | 47 | 1 |
| Yuen Long | 100 | 84 | - |
| Tsuen Wan | 99 | 70 | N.A. |
| Kwai Tsing | 100 | 63 | 20 |
| Tuen Mun | 100 | 62 | N.A. |
| Total | 98 | 54 | 32 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 Figures provided by the Education Bureau (EDB) as at September 2021.

Note 2 10 centres in Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Tai Po, Kwai Tsing, Wong Tai Sin, North and Yuen Long districts commenced service in August 2021 and February 2022.

Table 2: Average utilisation rates of aided standalone CCCs, aided CCCs attached to KGs and ASCP(PC) by district (2022-23)

| District | Aided standalone CCCs | Aided CCCs attached to KGs | ASCP(PC) |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| | Average utilisation rate (%) | Average utilisation rate ^{Note 3} (%) | Average utilisation rate ^{Note 4} (%) |
| Central & Western | 100 | 23 | N.A. |
| Southern | N.A. | 57 | 23 |
| Islands | N.A. | 20 | N.A. |
| Eastern | 100 | 53 | N.A. |
| Wan Chai | 100 | 50 | N.A. |
| Kwun Tong | N.A. | 69 | 43 |
| Wong Tai Sin | N.A. | 80 | 69 |
| Sai Kung | N.A. | 31 | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | 100 | 41 | N.A. |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 100 | 55 | N.A. |
| Sham Shui Po | 100 | 51 | 71 |
| Sha Tin | 98 | 71 | N.A. |
| Tai Po | 20 ^{Note 1} | 41 | 41 |
| North | 100 | 49 | 28 |
| Yuen Long | 91 ^{Note 2} | 83 | 42 |
| Tsuen Wan | 98 | 66 | N.A. |
| Kwai Tsing | 100 | 66 | 58 |
| Tuen Mun | 100 | 60 | N.A. |
| Total | 97 | 52 | 53 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 The first additional aided standalone CCC in the district commenced operation in January 2023.

Note 2 The second additional aided standalone CCC in the district commenced operation in March 2023.

Note 3 Figures provided by EDB as at September 2022.

Note 4 3 centres in Southern, Kwun Tong and Kwai Tsing districts commenced service in February 2023.

Table 3: Average utilisation rates of aided standalone CCCs, aided CCCs attached to KGs and ASCP(PC) by district (April to December 2023)

| District | Aided standalone CCCs | Aided CCCs attached to KGs | ASCP(PC) |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| | Average utilisation rate (%) | Average utilisation rate ^{Note 1} (%) | Average utilisation rate ^{Note 2} (%) |
| Central & Western | 100 | 27 | 9 |
| Southern | N.A. | 50 | 37 |
| Islands | N.A. | 22 | N.A. |
| Eastern | 100 | 59 | N.A. |
| Wan Chai | 100 | 42 | N.A. |
| Kwun Tong | N.A. | 69 | 54 |
| Wong Tai Sin | N.A. | 88 | 85 |
| Sai Kung | N.A. | 31 | N.A. |
| Kowloon City | 100 | 43 | N.A. |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 100 | 57 | N.A. |
| Sham Shui Po | 100 | 52 | 74 |
| Sha Tin | 99 | 74 | N.A. |
| Tai Po | 83 | 47 | 47 |
| North | 100 | 54 | 71 |
| Yuen Long | 76 | 93 | 48 |
| Tsuen Wan | 100 | 72 | N.A. |
| Kwai Tsing | 100 | 70 | 56 |
| Tuen Mun | 96 | 73 | N.A. |
| Total | 95 | 56 | 57 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 Figures provided by EDB as at September 2023.

Note 2 4 centres in Central & Western, Yuen Long and Kwai Tsing districts commenced service in August 2023.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)175

(Question Serial No. 0743)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In 2024-25, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to formulate the implementation details of the mandatory reporting regime for suspected child abuse cases, including the enhancement of training and drawing up of guidelines for practitioners in the relevant professions to facilitate early identification of child abuse cases and strengthening of support for child abuse victims and their families. At the same time, it will set up an additional residential child care centre (RCCC) to increase the number of emergency places of residential child care services. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

1. the details regarding the enhancement of training and drawing up of guidelines for practitioners in the relevant professions, including the timetable and a breakdown of the estimated expenditure; and
2. the manpower deployment and estimated expenditure for operating the newly established RCCC.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. The Government has kicked start a participative process for the formulation of the Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide) and has invited professional bodies, professionals and key service providers of the social welfare sector, education sector and healthcare sector, who will be the mandatory reporters, to envisage different potential scenarios of handling suspected child abuse/neglect cases under the reporting threshold set out in the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill (the Bill), reflect questions and provide advice. Currently, professional consultative panels of respective sectors formed at the invitation of the Government are discussing the case scenarios, questions and views collected, and a skeleton document of the Guide will be knocked out based on these discussions. To tie in with the work of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in scrutinising the Bill, the Government will provide the Bills Committee with the skeleton document of the Guide in a timely manner. After enactment of the Bill by LegCo, there will be an 18-month transitional period, during which the professional panels will continue to conduct focus group discussions with professional bodies/service providers in their respective sectors, with a view to completing the Guide before the end of the transitional

period, so that briefings on the Guide for professional bodies/service providers in their respective sectors can take place well ahead of the commencement of the Ordinance.

The Government has set up an e-learning platform to provide training, reference materials and information for relevant professionals. The Child Protection Online Training comprises online self-learning training and webinars. Module 1 of the online self-learning training has been launched in February 2024 to provide training on the basic knowledge on child protection. Module 2 will be rolled out in phases after the enactment of the Bill and will cover the basic knowledge on the relevant legal and reporting issues related to the new legislation. In addition, the Government will also organise webinars to provide the professionals with enrichment programmes to discuss different topics related to child protection and to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration among professionals. Q&A sessions will also be included according to training needs to encourage interactive learning. The expenditure involved in training and promotion is about \$2.8 million.

Apart from the Child Protection Online Training, relevant bureaux/departments/organisations have been providing, and will continue to provide, professionals with training (including talks, seminars, workshops and online training, etc.) relating to child protection and their specific professions to enhance their knowledge and skills in handling suspected child abuse. SWD will also continue to collaborate with different government departments and organisations to enhance training for social workers and relevant professionals, in order to strengthen their capability for early identification and handling of suspected child abuse cases.

2. The estimated annual operating expenditure of the new RCCC is about \$28.56 million. The RCCC's staffing establishment is tabulated below:

| Position/Rank | Number |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Assistant Social Work Officer | 1 |
| Social Work Assistant | 3 |
| Registered Nurse | 2 |
| Enrolled Nurse | 4 |
| Child Care Supervisor | 1 |
| Senior Child Care Worker | 4 |
| Child Care Worker | 28 |
| Child Care Aide | 5 |
| Clinical Psychologist | 0.8 |
| Clerical Assistant | 1 |
| Cook | 1 |
| Workman II | 4 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**LWB(W)176****(Question Serial No. 2017)**

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that the incentive payment for foster families will be substantially increased to encourage more enthusiastic individuals to become foster parents. In this connection, please inform this committee of:

- (1) the number of foster children and their age distribution;
- (2) the number of foster children waitlisted, their age distribution and the average waiting time in years;
- (3) the number of foster families, as well as their income and age distribution;
- (4) the expected increase in the number of foster families and reduction in the average waiting time of foster children after raising the incentive payment for foster families; and
- (5) the expenditure and manpower required after raising the incentive payment for foster families.

Asked by: Hon TAN Yue-heng (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

- (1) The number of children receiving foster care service and their age distribution are tabulated below:

| Age | Number of children receiving foster care service ^[Note 1] |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Newborn to below 6 | 385 |
| 6 to below 12 | 319 |
| 12 to below 18 | 139 |
| 18 or above ^[Note 2] | 1 |
| Total | 844 |

[Note 1] Statistics as at 31 December 2023.

[Note 2] Under exceptional circumstances, children receiving foster care service may extend their stay after reaching 18 years old.

- (2) According to the statistics as at 31 December 2023, the average waiting time for foster care service was about 2 months. This figure only referred to cases that were successfully matched within a 3-month period but not difficult cases in matching. The number of waitlisted children and their age distribution are tabulated below:

| Age | Number of waitlisted children ^[Note] |
|--------------------|---|
| Newborn to below 6 | 223 |
| 6 to below 12 | 66 |
| 12 to below 18 | 3 |
| Total | 292 |

^[Note] Statistics as at 31 December 2023.

- (3) The number of foster families and the age distribution of foster parents are tabulated below:

| Age | Number of foster families ^[Note] |
|----------|---|
| 25 to 40 | 33 |
| 41 to 50 | 150 |
| 51 to 55 | 130 |
| 56 to 60 | 201 |
| Above 61 | 455 |
| Total | 969 |

^[Note] Statistics as at 31 December 2023.

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the income distribution of foster families.

- (4) To enhance support for foster care service, the Government will increase the incentive payment for foster families and provide additional professional support for foster families caring for children with special learning or care needs, in order to attract more families to provide foster care service. While an addition of 100 foster care places has been provided in 2023-24, SWD will keep in view the utilisation and development of foster care service and make full use of existing resources to continue increasing 80 service places in phases. The time required for matching a child with a suitable foster family varies and depends on multiple factors, such as the characteristics of the child and the circumstances of the case, whether the foster family can meet the special needs of the child, the birth family's choice of region and the foster family's personal preferences. Therefore, the potential reduction in the average waiting time cannot be estimated.
- (5) Increasing the incentive payment for foster families involves an additional annual expenditure of about \$144 million. SWD will provide additional resources for non-governmental organisations providing foster care service to hire an additional 12 Assistant Social Work Officers to facilitate the implementation of a series of enhancement measures for foster care service.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)177

(Question Serial No. 2018)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is stated in the Budget Speech that the number of community care service vouchers (CCSVs) for the elderly will be increased to 11 000 in 2024-25. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the number of beneficiaries in the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV for the Elderly (Pilot Scheme on CCSV), along with the amount of subsidy granted and the actual staffing establishment (SE) involved;
- (2) the estimated number of beneficiaries, as well as the amount of subsidy and actual SE involved, following the increase in the number of CCSVs; and
- (3) the service types covered by the CCSV Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme) and the names of service providers.
- (4) Will CCSV Scheme be expanded to cover more service types in order to encourage elderly persons to make good use of gerontechnology products?

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

- (1) A total of 12 578 persons used CCSVs during the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV, which was funded by the Lotteries Fund with a revised estimates of \$1,000.2 million. The CCSV Office during the time had an SE of 22 posts, including those in the Social Work Officer and Clerical grades.
- (2) The Government will increase the number of CCSVs by 1 000 in 2024-25, bringing the total to 11 000, and will further increase the number to 12 000 in 2025-26. The annual expenditure involved will be about \$900 million. As the CCSV Scheme adopts the "money-following-the-user" principle, CCSV holders have the flexibility to determine when to use the services, as well as their choices of recognised service providers (RSPs) and service packages based on their needs. As RSPs are reimbursed for their actual costs under the CCSV Scheme, CCSV holders who have yet to use any services do not consume the resources of the Government or service providers, and will not hinder the distribution of CCSVs to other needy elderly persons by the Social Welfare Department (SWD). Therefore, SWD can distribute more CCSVs than the quota allows, thus

enabling more eligible elderly persons to receive services without having to wait. In 2024-25, the CCSV Office will have an SE of 26 posts, including those in the Social Work Officer and Clerical grades.

- (3) RSPs under the CCSV Scheme provide day care service, home care service and mixed mode services (i.e. both day care and home care services). The list of RSPs under the scheme in 2023-24 is provided at Annex.
- (4) The Government expanded the scope of CCSVs to cover the rental of assistive technology products in September 2023, so as to enhance the quality of life for elderly persons and alleviate the burden on carers.

List of RSPs under the CCSV Scheme in 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023)

| Organisation | RSP |
|--|--|
| Agatha Corporation Limited | Ann Health Services |
| Evercare Health Limited | Evercare Home Care Services |
| Hello Toby Technology (HK) Limited | Allied First |
| Kerry Fung & Associates Limited | Centre for Holistic Healthcare – Integrated Services |
| Senior Care Elderly Limited | Senior Care (Fuk Kwan) Elderly Care Home cum Elderly Day Care Centre |
| Silvermorph Charity Limited | Silvermorph Charity Limited |
| The Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon | Lok Sin Tong Chu Ting Cheong Home for the Aged |
| Association for Engineering and Medical Volunteer Services | Association for Engineering and Medical Volunteer Services |
| Renhe Professional Nursing Services Limited | Renhe Professional Nursing Services Limited |
| Yan Oi Tong Limited | Yan Oi Tong (Tuen Mun) Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly - Day Care Unit |
| | Yan Oi Tong Clarea Au Eldergarten |
| | Yan Oi Tong (Yuen Long) Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly - Day Care Unit |
| | Yan Oi Tong (Yau Oi) Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly - Day Care Unit |
| Yan Chai Hospital Social Services Department | Yan Chai Hospital Community Care Service for the Elderly |
| | Yan Chai Hospital Suen Choi To May Integrated Community Development Centre |
| | Yan Chai Hospital Fung Ying Seen Koon Integrated Community Development Centre |
| | Yan Chai Hospital Fung Ying Seen Koon Luen Wo Integrated Community Development Centre |
| | Yan Chai Hospital Mrs. Annie Chan Social Centre For The Elderly |
| | Yan Chai Hospital Yim Tsui Yuk Shan Active Mind Centre |
| | Yan Chai Hospital Wan Shing Memorial Social Centre for the Elderly |
| Yan Chai Happy Home Living Limited | |

| Organisation | RSP |
|--|---|
| I Passion Limited | I Passion (Touch) Day Care Centre |
| | I Passion (Rica) Day Care Centre |
| | I Passion (On Sum) Day Care Centre |
| Tin Tin Home for the Aged Limited | GY Care (Tuen Mun) |
| Sincerity Rehabilitation Service Group Limited | Virtue Club & Sincerity Rehabilitation Center |
| | Virtue Club Tuen Mun Outreaching Support and Rehabilitation Center |
| Psybridge Medical Services Limited | Silver Blossoms |
| Siu Yat Nursing Care Limited | Siu Yat Nursing Care Limited |
| | Siu Yat Nursing Care Limited (Tai Po) |
| Nu Pro (Asia) Limited | Nu Pro (Asia) Limited |
| On Fuk Nursing Home Limited | On Fuk Nursing Home Limited |
| | Tang Tat Day Care Centre For The Elderly |
| Bamboos Professional Nursing Services Limited | Bamboos Professional Nursing Services Limited - CCSV Home Care Unit |
| Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong | Fung Tak Care & Health Elderly Centre |
| Sai Kung District Community Centre | Sai Kung District Community Centre |
| Chi Lin Nunnery | Chi Lin Day Care Centre for the Elderly |
| Empower Health & Rehabilitation Centre Limited | Empower Health & Rehabilitation Centre Limited |
| Charmind Limited | Evergreen Nursing Home cum Day Care Centre |
| Quality HealthCare Nursing Agency Limited | Quality HealthCare Nursing Agency |
| Trustful Medical and Domestic Services Co. Limited | Trustful Medical and Domestic Services Co. Limited |
| | Trustful Healthcare Centre (ST) |
| Woopie Social Enterprises Limited | Woopie Club (North Point) |
| | Woopie Club Home Care Services Team |
| | Woopie Club (Sai Wan Ho) |
| | Woopie Club (Sha Tin) |
| | Woopie Club (Tuen Mun) |
| | Woopie Club (Kwun Tong) |
| | Woopie Club (Aberdeen) |
| | Woopie Club (Tai Po) |
| | Woopie Club (To Kwa Wan) |
| | Woopie Club (Tseung Kwan O) |
| | Woopie Club (Cheung Sha Wan) |
| | Woopie Club (Ma On Shan) |
| Tung Wah Group of Hospitals | Woopie Club (Yuen Long) |
| | Hua Fen Day Care Centre for the Elderly |
| | Chan Tat Chee Connect Community Support Centre for the Elderly |
| | Henry G. Leong Community Support Centre for the Elderly |

| Organisation | RSP |
|---|---|
| | Ma Cheng Shuk Ying Home for the Elderly-Home@Community Support Unit |
| | Top-Tact Home Care Services |
| | Spring of Life Community Support Unit for the Elderly |
| Delightful RCHE Limited | Yan Sin Elderly Service |
| On Golden Pond Limited | On Golden Pond (Main Street East) Day Care Centre |
| Senior Citizen Home Safety Association | Senior Citizen Home Safety Association |
| Home of the Elderly Consultancy Limited | Home of the Elderly Consultancy Limited |
| Po Leung Kuk | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Lam Tin) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Pak Tin) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Wan Hon) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Sha Tin) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Fu Cheong) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Sau Mau Ping) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Tung Chung) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Sai Wan) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Kai Ching) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Kwai Chung Estate) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Diamond Hill) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Tin Yan) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Ho Man Tin) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Sai Ying Pun) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Tak Tin) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Kwai Shing) |
| Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Tai Kok Tsui) | |
| Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Wong Chuk Hang) | |

| Organisation | RSP |
|---|---|
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Kowloon West) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Tuen Mun and Yuen Long) |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) |
| Mercy Medirehab Professional Group Limited | Mercy Medirehab Professional Group Limited |
| Florence Nightingale Home Health & Nursing Ltd | Florence Nightingale Home Health & Nursing Ltd |
| South Kwai Chung Social Service | South Kwai Chung Social Service Community Care Centre for the Elderly |
| Mastery Speech and Swallowing Clinic Limited | Mastery Speech and Swallowing Clinic Limited |
| Cedar Seeds Foundation Limited | Gracious Alliance Rehabilitation Services |
| Active Global Specialised Caregivers (Hong Kong) Pte Ltd | Active Global Specialised Caregivers (Hong Kong) Pte Ltd |
| Mie King Home for Aged Limited | Mie King Home for Aged Limited |
| OK Care Limited | OK Care Limited |
| Hygiene First Company Limited | Hygiene First Company Limited |
| Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association | Elderly Community Care Services Day Care Centre (North District) |
| The Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club | Yau Tong Day Care Centre for the Elderly |
| Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong | CYMCA Community Support Services for the Elderly - Chai Wan Neighbourhood Elderly Centre |
| | CYMCA Community Support Services for the Elderly - Tin Ping Care and Attention Home for the Elderly |
| Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre | Southern District Integrated Elderly Service Centre |
| Hong Kong Outreach Therapy and Nursing Services Limited | Hong Kong Outreach Therapy and Nursing Services Limited |
| Caritas - Hong Kong | Caritas Mutual Help Project (Day Care Centre) |
| | Caritas Jockey Club Integrated Day Services Centre for the Elderly |
| The Women's Welfare Club (Eastern District) Hong Kong | The Women's Welfare Club (Eastern District) Hong Kong Ng Siu Mui Home Joyful Garden |
| Hong Kong Old Age Nursing Association Limited | Fu Shan Day Care Elderly Centre |

| Organisation | RSP |
|--|---|
| Hong Kong Family Welfare Society | Hong Kong Family Welfare Society Lee Foo Service Centre |
| | Hong Kong Family Welfare Society Oi Tung Service Centre |
| | Hong Kong Family Welfare Society Cheung Hang Service Centre |
| Hong Kong Baptist Mr. & Mrs. Au Shue Hung Rehabilitation & Healthcare Home Ltd | The Wonderland Day Centre |
| The Hong Kong Society for the Aged | SAGE Mrs Y K Fung Home for the Elderly |
| | SAGE Mrs Wong Yee Jar Jat Memorial Home for the Elderly |
| | SAGE Shek Wai Kok Home for the Elderly |
| | SAGE Quan Chuen Home for the Elderly |
| | SAGE Madam Ho Sin Hang Home for the Elderly |
| | SAGE Kai Yip Home for the Elderly |
| | SAGE Tung Lin Kok Yuen Home for the Elderly |
| Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association | Y Care (Yau Yat Chuen) |
| | Y Senior Care |
| | NWS Y Care (North District) |
| | YWCA Jockey Club Y Care Elderly Centre (Sha Tau Kok) |
| Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited | Hong Kong Women Development Association Day Care Centre for the Elderly |
| The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation | Cheng Tak Yim Day Rehabilitation and Care Centre |
| Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited | H.K.S.K.H. Cyril and Amy Cheung Aged Care Complex |
| | H.K.S.K.H. Centre of Wellness (East Kowloon) |
| | H.K.S.K.H. Lady MacLehose Centre Cheung Hing Wah Charitable Foundation Cheung Hang Rehabilitation Centre - Home Care Link |
| | H.K.S.K.H. Western District Elderly Community Centre |
| Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod Limited | Lutheran Community Care Service Voucher Centre for the Elderly |
| | Lutheran Kwai Tsing Community Care Service Voucher Centre for the Elderly |

| Organisation | RSP |
|--|---|
| | HKLSS Community Care Service Voucher Centre for the Elderly (Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong) (Mr & Mrs Lawrence Wong Lutheran Rehabilitation and Care Centre) |
| | Lutheran Tseung Kwan O Community Care Service Voucher Centre for the Elderly |
| Hong Kong Dandelion Association Limited | Hong Kong Dandelion Association Limited |
| Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association | Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association Brain Health Centre |
| | Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association Tseung Kwan O Integrated Service Centre |
| | Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association Jean Wei Centre |
| | Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association Gene Hwa Lee Centre |
| Hong Kong Employment Development Service Limited | Grace Elderly Care Service |
| | Grace Elderly Care Service (Yuen Long) |
| Hong Kong Healthcare Market Research and Consulting Limited | Nurse HK Professional Nursing Service |
| Supreme Care Limited | Supreme Care Limited |
| Rehabvibe Medical Service Company Limited | Rehabvibe |
| Grateful Life Experience Centre | Grateful Life Home Care Service Team |
| Tri Tech Corporation Ltd. | Yi Wo Yuen Day Care Centre for The Elderly |
| Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service | Yee Tsuen Integrated Health Service Centre |
| | Yee Wui Integrated Health Service Centre |
| | Yee Lok Integrated Health Service Centre |
| | Jordan Elderly Centre |
| | Yee Chi Home-Based Cognitive Training and Day Care Centre |
| Renascence Medical Limited | Renascence Integrated Rehabilitation Centre |
| PA Company Limited | Jockey Club CADENZA Hub |
| Kin Pak Nursing Home Limited | Kin Pak Nursing Home Limited |
| V-Professional Nursing Centre | V-Professional Nursing Centre |
| International Church of the Foursquare Gospel Hong Kong District Limited | Care Navigate |
| Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union Hong Kong Limited | C & MA Tsui Lok Good Neighbours Centre for the Elderly |
| | C & MA Riviera Gardens Elderly Learning Centre |

| Organisation | RSP |
|--|--|
| Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong | ELCHK, Tuen Mun West Day Care Centre for the Elderly |
| | ELCHK, Smart Club |
| | Grace Court Day Care Centre for the Elderly |
| | ELCHK, Lutheran Healthy Aging Club |
| The Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service | Carewell-Home Care Services |
| Christian Family Service Centre | Mind Delight Memory and Cognitive Training Centre |
| | Lively Elderly Day Training Centre |
| | D & O Service - CAPD & Osteoporosis Care |
| | Vera R. Desai - Mind Delight Memory & Cognitive Training Centre |
| Haven of Hope Christian Service | Haven of Hope Lok Wah Day Care Centre for the Elderly |
| | Haven of Hope Day Care Cum Rehabilitation Centre for Elderly (HK East) |
| | Haven of Hope Tsui Lam Day Training Centre for the Elderly |
| | Haven of Hope Day Memory Care Centre for Elderly (HK West) |
| | Haven of Hope Community Care Service Centre for the Elderly |
| Professional Physiotherapy and Chinese Medicine Centre Limited | Professional Physiotherapy and Chinese Medicine Centre Limited |
| Health & Young (Hong Kong) Limited | The Longevity (HK) Home for the Aged |
| | Medipoint (Hong Kong) |
| Health & Young Limited | The Longevity Home for the Aged |
| | Medipoint |
| Healthy Link Corporation Limited | Jubilant |
| Care U Professional Nursing Service Limited | Care U Professional Nursing Service Limited |
| From Heart Escort Co., Limited | From Heart Professional Services |
| The Salvation Army | The Salvation Army Tai Po Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly |
| | The Salvation Army Mongkok Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly |
| Prestige Union Care Limited | Prestige Union Care Limited |
| Lucky Stable Limited | Neighbourhood Day Care |

| Organisation | RSP |
|--|---|
| Pok Oi Hospital | Pok Oi Hospital Day Care Centre for the Elderly (Tuen Mun) |
| | Pok Oi Hospital Day Care Centre for the Elderly (Sham Shui Po) |
| | Pok Oi Hospital Day Centre for the Elderly (Yuen Long) |
| Senior Care Nursing Home Limited | Senior Care (Tai Wah) Elderly Care Home cum Elderly Day Care Centre |
| Senior Care Limited | Senior Care (Man Kee) Elderly Care Home cum Elderly Day Care Centre |
| Methodist Epworth Village Community Centre, Social Welfare | Epworth Elderly Day Care Centre |
| Methodist Centre | Methodist Community Care Centre (Eastern) |
| | Methodist Kin Lok Centre |
| | Methodist Rejoice Centre |
| | Methodist Ap Lei Chau Centre |
| | Methodist Cheer Centre |
| | Methodist Agile Mind Centre |
| Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service | Methodist Grace Centre |
| | East Kowloon Community Care Service |
| | West Kowloon Community Care Service |
| | Senior Citizen Cognitive Training Centre |
| | Oi Man Neighbourhood Elderly Centre |
| Choi Wan Community Care Service | |
| Wise Creation Holding Limited | Oasis Day Care Centre |
| Spark Medical Limited | Spark Medical Limited |
| Ho Hok Fong Co. Limited | Paired Community Care Service for the Elderly |
| Wah Fung Nursing Centre Limited | Wah Fung Nursing Centre Limited |
| CHG Health Service Limited | CHG Health Service Limited |
| Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Social Service Limited | Nethersole Outreaching Rehabilitation Mission |
| Shun Yan Elderly Centre Limited | Shun Yan Elderly Centre Limited |
| Sik Sik Yuen | Ho Hing Health Care Services Centre (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen) 'Love@Home' Elderly Community Care Services |
| | Ho Ning Health Care Services Centre (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen) 'Love@Home' Elderly Community Care Services |
| | Ho Yam Care and Attention Home for the Elderly (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen) 'Love@Home' Elderly Community Care Services |

| Organisation | RSP |
|---|---|
| Going Home Nursing Care Limited | Going Home Nursing Care Limited |
| Home & Hope Services Limited | Home & Hope Services Limited |
| Oi Kwan Care for the Aged Home Limited | Oi Kwan Care for the Aged cum Day Care Centre for the Elderly (Branch 1) |
| | Oi Kwan Care for the Aged cum Day Care Centre for the Elderly |
| Tsz Hong Professional Service Limited | Tsz Hong Professional Service Limited |
| Chi Wah Elderly Home Limited | Chi Wah Elderly Home Limited |
| New Page Speech Therapy & Rehab Consultancy Ltd | New Page Speech Therapy & Rehab Consultancy Ltd |
| N.T. Women & Juveniles Welfare Association Ltd | New Territories Women & Juveniles Welfare Association Community Care Centre for the Elderly |
| New Town Medical Care Limited | New Town Medical Care Limited |
| Sparkle Healthcare Company Limited | Sparkle Healthcare Company Limited |
| St. Paul's Hospital | St. Paul's Hospital Elderly Day Care Centre |
| St. James' Settlement | E · Home Plus |
| | Joyful Community Care |
| | Kin Chi Dementia Care Support Service Centre (Wan Chai) |
| Eden Elder Care Specialists Limited | EDEN HOME Professional Care Services |
| GC System | Happy Home Support |
| Ka Mei Elderly Care Centre Limited | Care Well Day Care Centre |
| Kato (Hong Kong) Holdings Limited | Fai-To Sino-West Combined Home for the Aged |
| | Ka Shui Garden Day Care Centre (Hung Hom) |
| | Kato Home for the Elderly |
| | Pine Villa |
| | Ka Shui Garden Day Care Centre (Tsuen Wan) |
| Fook Yen Home for the Aged Limited | Fook Yen Home for the Aged Limited |
| Wai Ying Investment Limited | Evergreen (Tsz Ching) Nursing Home Cum Day Care Centre |
| | Evergreen (Pratas Street) Nursing Home |
| | Evergreen (Kwai Chung Estate) Nursing Home |
| | Evergreen (On Tai) Nursing Home cum Day Care Centre |
| Step Forward Para-Medical Services | Step Forward Para-Medical Services |
| Devco Technology Limited | Unicare 360 |
| LHK Social Service Limited | LHK Day Care Centre - Cordial Place |
| Shining Social Services Limited | Shining Home Care Service |
| | Amity Social Care Services |
| | Amity Social Care Services (Shatin) |
| | Amity Social Care Services (North) |

| Organisation | RSP |
|---|---|
| Walking Easy | Integrated Rehabilitation & Care Centre for Elderly |
| The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council | Shamshuipo District Community Care Service Centre for the Elderly |
| | Shatin District Community Care Service Centre for the Elderly |
| Hope Worldwide | HOPE Worldwide Elderly Care Service Company Limited |
| Chak Oi Company Limited | GY Care (Sham Shui Po) |
| Jackson Elderly Care Limited | GY Care (Aberdeen) |
| E.T. Investment Limited | Olive Nursing Home cum Day Care Unit for the Elderly |
| | Oasis Nursing Home |
| | Oasis Home Care Team |
| | Hygge Living Rehabilitation Centre |
| Treasure Tree Health & Nursing Limited | Treasure Tree Health & Nursing Limited |
| Hong Chi Culture & Media Limited | Yi Wo Yuen Day Care Centre for the Elderly(Kowloon) |
| Doctor Now Limited | DoctorNow Home |
| Caregivers Alliance (Home) Limited | Caregivers Alliance (Home) Limited |
| Spark Plus Company Limited | Spark Plus Company Limited |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)178

(Question Serial No. 2061)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Under Programme (1) of Head 170, it is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Department will extend the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children (ASCP(PC)) in phases to cover all 18 districts in Hong Kong. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the projected number of places for each phase, and what are the specific plans for the phased extension?
2. What is the estimated expenditure and manpower involved in each phase?
3. What is the division of labour and workflow regarding assessment, support, and other relevant work?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

- 1 & 2. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will extend ASCP(PC) to cover all districts in Hong Kong in phases within a period of 3 years starting from 2024. The number of centres participating in ASCP(PC) will increase from 16 to 28, while the number of places will increase from 672 to 1 176. The additional annual expenditure involved is about \$14.2 million. SWD will invite non-governmental organisations to submit proposals, and plans to launch the first phase of service extension in the first quarter of 2025.
3. The staffing establishment of each centre of ASCP(PC) includes 1 Assistant Social Work Officer and 2 supporting staff. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements, service operators may flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service output and outcome required. SWD will follow up with the selected service operators regarding the specific implementation details including assessment and related supportive work, and keep in view the progress of service extension and implementation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)179

(Question Serial No. 2062)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Department will increase the maximum level of Child Care Centre Parent Subsidy to alleviate parents' financial burden. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many families stand to benefit from increasing the maximum level of the subsidy and what is the estimated expenditure involved?
2. Will the Department continue to increase the maximum level of the subsidy in the future?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

- 1 & 2. Starting from April 2024, the Child Care Centre Parent Subsidy will be increased from a maximum of \$600 to \$1,000 per month. This subsidy applies to all aided standalone child care centres (CCCs) and CCCs attached to kindergartens. It is estimated that this measure will benefit about 10 000 parents and children each year, with an additional annual recurrent expenditure of approximately \$68.75 million. Where financial conditions permit, the Government will consider different options to support parents who are temporarily unavailable to take care of their children due to work or other reasons.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)180

(Question Serial No. 2063)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Department will strengthen the home-based child care service under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP) and increase the level of incentive payment for home-based child carers and the number of places. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of home-based child carers, their average age and salary, and the number of training places in the past year;
2. the average number of children under the care of each home-based child carer in the past year; and
3. the estimated increase in expenditure.

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

1. As at December 2023, there were 1 770 home-based child carers under NSCCP. The age distribution of these carers is as follows:

| Age group | Number of home-based child carers |
|------------------|--|
| 20 or below | 3 |
| 21-30 | 34 |
| 31-40 | 169 |
| 41-50 | 392 |
| 61-60 | 465 |
| 61 or above | 707 |
| Total | 1770 |

The current incentive payment for home-based child carers is set at the standard rate of \$25 per hour. According to the Service Agreement (SA) signed between the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and NSCCP operators, the operators are required to provide home-based child carers with regular and appropriate training. Since SWD has not imposed a limit on the number of home-based child carers and the actual number of carers fluctuates over time, SWD has not specified a fixed number of training places for home-based child carers.

2. According to the SA signed between SWD and NSCCP operators, each home-based child carer can only care for up to 3 children under the age of 9 at the same time, including the carer's own children.
3. Starting from April 2024, SWD will increase the incentive payment for home-based child carers under NSCCP. The number of places under NSCCP will also be increased starting from the fourth quarter of 2024. These measures will incur an additional annual recurrent expenditure of about \$293.3 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)181

(Question Serial No. 2064)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Department will set up a Residential Child Care Centre (RCCC) to increase the number of emergency residential child care service places. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide details regarding the estimated expenditure for establishing the RCCC, including the location of the premises, the ancillary facilities to be purchased, the internal floor area of the premises, and the estimated timeframe for the commencement of services.

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

1. The RCCC to be set up in 2024-25 will be located in Tuen Mun, with an internal floor area of about 675 square metres. It will be equipped with ancillary facilities suitable for providing training and services for children below the age of 6. The estimated annual operating expenditure is about \$28.56 million, and it is expected to commence operation by the end of 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)182

(Question Serial No. 2065)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to implement the Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low-income Families (the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons). In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Since the implementation of the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons, what are the number of beneficiaries and the growth in expenditure? What are the outcomes of the scheme?
2. In 2024-25, how much funding does the Government plan to allocate to support carers of elderly persons from low-income families? What specific measures will be implemented?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

1. The Government launched the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons on a pilot basis from June 2014 to September 2023, and has converted it into a regular measure since October 2023. The actual expenditure ^{Note} on the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons, calculated for a full financial year, increased by about 44.5% from \$53.35 million in 2015-16 to \$77.11 million in 2022-23. During the period from the pilot scheme's launch until December 2023, a cumulative total of 9 645 carers of elderly persons have benefitted. According to the Report of Consultancy Study on Needs and Support Required of Carers of Elderly Persons and of Persons with Disabilities in Hong Kong submitted by the Consulting Team from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to the Labour and Welfare Bureau in May 2022, the allowance for carers of elderly persons can alleviate their financial burden. The majority of surveyed carers and stakeholders supported the continuous provision of the living allowance to carers from low-income families, and considered the allowance as recognition of the contribution made by carers of elderly persons to both society and their families.
2. The Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons aims to provide carers of elderly persons from low-income families with a living allowance to help supplement their living expenses, so that elderly persons in need of long-term care services may, with their carers'

assistance, receive more proper care and continue to live in a familiar community. Each eligible carer of elderly person can receive a monthly allowance of \$3,000. If the carer has to take care of more than one elderly person at the same time, the maximum allowance will be \$6,000 per month. The scheme is expected to benefit about 5 000 carers annually, involving an annual funding of \$215.8 million.

Currently, SWD has engaged 214 subvented elderly centres across the territory to act as approved service providers for the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons. These centres provide essential support and follow-up services for elderly persons and their carers, such as organising training programmes, conducting home visits, and providing emotional counselling to carers of elderly persons as required.

^{Note} The actual expenditure comprises the combined sum of the allowance provided and the service fees paid to approved service providers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)183

(Question Serial No. 2066)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Under Programme (3), it is mentioned that the Department will explore the expansion of the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme) to include residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) operated by Mainland entities. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide the number of elderly persons receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and residing in private residential care homes (with a breakdown by age and disabling condition), their duration of stay and average CSSA payment in the past 5 years.
2. Does the Government have any plans to implement measures to encourage more elderly CSSA recipients to choose retirement in the Greater Bay Area (GBA)?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1. The number of CSSA recipients aged 60 or above residing in non-subsidised residential care places (RCPs) from 2019-20 to 2023-24, broken down by level of disability, is set out in Table 1 of Annex. The monthly average CSSA payments received by singletons aged 60 or above residing in non-subsidised RCPs from 2020 to 2024, broken down by level of disability, are set out in Table 2 of Annex. The Social Welfare Department does not have the other information sought.
2. The Government has previously relaxed the eligibility criteria for service operators under the GDRCS Scheme to allow Hong Kong organisations, including non-governmental and private ones, with experience and a good track record in providing subsidised residential care services for the elderly to join the GDRCS Scheme as recognised service providers and apply for their RCHEs located in Mainland cities within the Greater Bay Area to be included in the GDRCS Scheme. The Government is currently exploring the expansion of GDRCS Scheme in 2024 to include specific RCHEs operated by Mainland entities, thereby providing more choices for elderly persons retiring in Mainland cities within the GBA. Based on the experience gained, the Government will explore ways to further assist elderly CSSA recipients in residing in RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme.

Table 1: Number of CSSA recipients aged 60 or above residing in non-subsidised RCPs by level of disability from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | No. of recipients | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| | 50% disabled ^{Note} | 100% disabled | Requiring constant attendance |
| 2019-20 | 6 | 5 329 | 16 089 |
| 2020-21 | 6 | 4 802 | 15 752 |
| 2021-22 | 7 | 4 378 | 14 687 |
| 2022-23 | 15 | 3 925 | 13 926 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 12 | 3 874 | 14 436 |

Note Able-bodied recipients aged 65 or above and 50% disabled recipients aged 65 or above receive the same CSSA standard rate. For recipients aged between 60 and 64 before the eligible age for elderly CSSA was raised from 60 to 65 on 1 February 2019, those able-bodied and 50% disabled recipients received the same CSSA standard rate. Due to limitations in statistical compilation, the number of disabled CSSA recipients residing in non-subsidised RCPs excludes those aged 65 or above who are 50% disabled, as well as those aged between 60 and 64 who have received the CSSA standard rate for 50% disabled before 1 February 2019.

Table 2: Monthly average CSSA payments received by singletons aged 60 or above residing in non-subsidised RCPs by level of disability from 2020 to 2024

| | Level of disability | 1 February 2020 (\$) ^{Note 2} | 1 February 2021 (\$) ^{Note 2} | 1 February 2022 (\$) ^{Note 2} | 1 February 2023 (\$) ^{Note 2} | 1 February 2024 (\$) ^{Note 2} |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Non-subsidised RCP | Able-bodied/ 50% disabled ^{Note 1} | 7,793 | 8,203 | 8,466 | 9,087 | 9,346 |
| | 100% disabled | 9,376 | 9,837 | 10,215 | 10,844 | 11,221 |
| | Requiring constant attendance | 12,147 | 12,669 | 13,156 | 13,923 | 14,434 |

Note 1 Persons aged 65 or above and those aged between 60 and 64 who have received elderly CSSA before 1 February 2019 receive the same CSSA standard rate irrespective of whether they are able-bodied or 50% disabled. Due to limitations in statistical compilation, the number includes able-bodied persons aged 65 or above, as well as able-bodied persons aged between 60 and 64 who have received elderly CSSA before 1 February 2019.

Note 2 CSSA payments are adjusted annually on 1 February in accordance with relevant mechanisms. The listed figures refer to the average payment amounts received by CSSA households when they do not have any other sources of income.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)184

(Question Serial No. 2067)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under Programme (2) that the Department will continue to oversee the implementation of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many elderly CSSA recipients have passed away without being promptly discovered, resulting in the Government issuing additional CSSA payments? What was the amount of payment involved?
2. How many elderly persons living alone have died due to a failure to provide timely rescue? Among these elderly persons, how many died by suicide?
3. What measures will the Government take to reduce the number of deaths among elderly persons living alone due to a lack of timely detection and rescue?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

- 1 & 2. The Social Welfare Department does not have the information sought.
3. There are 41 District Elderly Community Centres and 173 Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (elderly centres) across the territory that provide support services for elderly persons and their carers at the district level, including community education, community networking, volunteer development and counselling services, etc. Each elderly centre also provides outreach, referral and support services for hidden and vulnerable elderly persons and carers. Through various outreach services and community networks, such as liaising with different neighbourhood networks and mobilising community members, the elderly centres and home care teams identify potentially vulnerable elderly persons and provide the required support services, such as home respite service, 24-hour emergency support, as well as carer support and training. Starting from late March 2024, the Government will engage the District Services and Community Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and Southern Districts on a pilot basis to help identify households of singleton and doubleton elderly, carers of elderly persons and carers of persons

with disabilities with welfare needs in these two districts, provide them with support and make referrals to welfare service units as appropriate, and assist needy households to install emergency alarm systems.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)185

(Question Serial No. 2069)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Paragraph 198 of the Budget Speech stated that the Government is committed to increasing the number of day rehabilitation, residential care and respite service places for persons with disabilities (PWDs). As at end-2023, the total number of service places had been increased to 36 400. The Government will also allocate funding of about \$130 million from the Community Care Fund to implement a 3-year pilot scheme starting from the third quarter of 2024 to provide an additional subsidy of \$500 per month for employed disabled recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) as an incentive for employment. The scheme is expected to benefit some 6 800 persons. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the number, and median and average wage of employed PWDs among CSSA recipients?
2. Has the Government conducted a comprehensive review of the employment situation of PWDs in different districts of Hong Kong and formulated a detailed research report to promote the employment of PWDs?
3. Will the Government consider increasing the amount of additional subsidy every year for the next 3 years?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

1. As at the end of December 2023, the number of disabled CSSA recipients engaged in paid employment was 6 042. Due to limitations in statistical compilation, the figure includes the number of able-bodied persons aged 65 or above since able-bodied persons and 50% disabled persons aged 65 or above receive the same standard rate. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have the other information sought in the question.
2. The Census and Statistics Department conducted a survey on PWDs and people with chronic diseases from 2019 to 2020 and published the results in the Special Topics Report No. 63, which included employment statistics related to PWDs. However, the report did not include figures broken down by district.

3. SWD is carrying out the preparatory work for implementing a 3-year pilot scheme in the third quarter of 2024 to provide an additional subsidy of \$500 per month for employed disabled recipients of CSSA. SWD will release the details of the pilot scheme before its implementation. The Government will evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot scheme in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)186

(Question Serial No. 2070)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under Programme (2) that the Bureau will oversee the assistance provided to needy households referred by the Care Teams for installation of emergency alarm systems (EASs). In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the specific number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients who have been subsidised by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for the installation of EASs, the names of the service providers who have provided services to the CSSA recipients, the number of installations handled by each service provider, and the costs involved.

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

Under the CSSA Scheme, recipients aged 65 or above who are single or living in a family with other family members who cannot take care of him/her may apply from SWD for a special grant to meet the one-off installation fee or monthly service charges of EAS. Recipients aged 60 to 64 who are single or living in a family with other family members who cannot take care of him/her can also apply from SWD for the special grant if they are certified to be more than 50% disabled or suffering from such medical conditions which, in the opinion of a doctor of a public hospital or clinic, may develop into life threatening conditions and require immediate attention. As at the end of December 2023, 27 110 recipients were receiving the grant for EAS under CSSA. Since eligible CSSA recipients are free to choose a suitable EAS service provider for themselves, SWD does not have information on the service providers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)187

(Question Serial No. 2071)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the regularisation of the Pilot Scheme on Professional Outreaching Team for Private Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities (POT), please provide the following information:

1. What was the estimated expenditure and staffing establishment for the implementation of POT in the past 3 years? How effective was POT, and has it achieved the expected goals?
2. What is the estimated expenditure and staffing establishment for the implementation of POT in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched a 4-year pilot scheme on POT in March 2019, providing free multi-disciplinary services rendered by POT service teams (service teams) for over 60 private residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) across the territory. Members of the service teams include social workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, registered nurses (psychiatric) and clinical psychologists, etc. Service teams conduct professional clinical assessments, provide nursing consultation services, formulate individual or group rehabilitation training plans and provide various social and recreational activities for residents of private RCHDs to support their social and rehabilitation needs. In addition, service teams also provide consultations, training and support to family members of the service users and RCHD staff, in order to enhance the service quality of private RCHDs.

The pilot scheme has effectively improved the physical functions/mobility and self-care abilities, emotional and mental health, and social life of the residents of RCHDs, enhanced their quality of life by encouraging their participation in community activities, and strengthened the care and nursing skills of RCHD staff. In view of these positive outcomes, POT was regularised in March 2023 to continuously support the social and rehabilitation needs of the residents of private RCHDs.

The actual expenditure in the past 3 years (2020-21 to 2022-23), the revised estimate of expenditure for 2023-24 and the estimated expenditure for 2024-25 are set out at Annex. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreement, service operators may flexibly deploy resources and arrange suitable staffing. SWD does not have information on the staffing establishment of service units.

Expenditure on POT from 2020-21 to 2024-25

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 56.6 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 67.0 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 64.4 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 72.0 |
| 2024-25 (Estimate) | 70.2 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)188

(Question Serial No. 2072)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

According to Programme (2), the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has established and published relevant key performance indicators (KPIs) on its website to ensure the provision of appropriate support to adult recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and assist them in achieving self-reliance. However, the impact of the pandemic has resulted in these KPIs not meeting their targets in the past. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many KPIs were achieved for each service centre in 2023? What were the manpower and expenditure involved in achieving these targets?
2. Has the Government considered reforming the programme to implement more proactive measures to facilitate the employment of CSSA recipients?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. In January 2013, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance (IEAPS), under which non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are commissioned to provide services to able-bodied CSSA recipients to encourage and assist them in increasing their employability and securing paid employment. In April 2020, SWD enhanced the services to improve the effectiveness of NGO in providing the relevant services.

During the current contract period of employment support services (i.e. from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2025), SWD has commissioned 26 NGOs to operate relevant services. The performance requirements and service performance of NGOs are provided at Annex. The revised estimated expenditure for relevant services was about \$160 million in 2023-24. SWD does not have information on the NGOs' manpower involved in operating employment support services.

2. Based on past experience, the causes of unemployment amongst able-bodied CSSA recipients vary, and may involve relatively deep-rooted personal behavioural and family issues, as well as factors such as the external economic environment (e.g. impact of the pandemic on the general economy, families and individuals). SWD will review the relevant services before existing contract expires.

**Performance requirements and service performance of NGOs
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| Category of services | Performance requirements (Performance requirements that NGOs are required to meet during the contract period from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2025) | | Service performance (Service performance of NGOs for the 45-month period from 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2023) | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| | Percentage of service recipients having secured employment or returned to mainstream schooling for at least 1 month | Percentage of service recipients having secured employment or returned to mainstream schooling for at least 3 months | Percentage of assisting service recipients to secure employment or return to mainstream schooling for at least 1 month | Percentage of assisting service recipients to secure employment or return to mainstream schooling for at least 3 months |
| Services for unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 15 to 64 ^[Note 1] (represents the percentage of service recipients having secured paid employment ^[Note 2] or returned to mainstream schooling) | 25% | 20% | 21.9% | 16.7% |
| Services for single parents and child carers on CSSA with their youngest child aged 12 to 14 ^[Note 1] (represents the percentage of service recipients having secured paid employment with at least 32 working hours in a month) | 40% | 30% | 31.9% | 25.7% |

[Note 1] Able-bodied CSSA adults aged 60 to 64 may receive employment support services on a voluntary basis.

[Note 2] For unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 15 to 59, paid employment refers to employment with monthly earnings no less than the prescribed level (\$2,630 per month with effect from 1 February 2024) and working hours no less than 120 hours per month.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)189

(Question Serial No. 2073)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under Programme (3) that the Government will continue to enhance support for carers such as promoting the Information Gateway for Carers (the Information Gateway) and the Designated Hotline for Carer Support (the Carer Hotline). In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

1. the monthly usage statistics of the Information Gateway and the number of registered users in the past year;
2. the number of cases handled by the Carer Hotline in the past year, broken down by case type; and
3. the specific measures to promote the Information Gateway and Carer Hotline, as well as the staffing establishment involved.

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the Information Gateway on 30 November 2023, which covers information about services provided for elderly persons, persons with disabilities and their carers, caring skills, as well as community activities and resources for carers, etc. As at 29 February 2024, the Information Gateway has a hit rate of over 280 000. Registration is not required to use the Information Gateway.
2. SWD has commissioned the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals to launch the 24-hour Carer Hotline on 26 September 2023, with 30 phone lines answered by over 100 professional social workers on shift duties. As at 29 February 2024, the Carer Hotline has received a total of 12 957 calls. The nature and number of calls received by the Carer Hotline are set out at Annex.

3. SWD promotes and publicises the Information Gateway and Carer Hotline through various channels, so that elderly persons, persons with disabilities and their carers in need can obtain the necessary information and support. Specific promotional measures include producing Television and Radio Announcements in the Public Interest, posters, service leaflets and publicity materials; placing advertisements in newspapers, online media and public transportation; and organising various publicity events at the district level, etc. SWD undertakes the publicity work by deploying internal resources and hence no additional manpower is involved.

**Table 1: Nature of calls received by the Carer Hotline in 2023-24
(as at 29 February 2024)**

| Nature of call | No. of calls |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Emotional problem | 4 332 |
| Enquiry on community support services | 3 093 |
| Care issues | 1 976 |
| Financial problem | 1 027 |
| Health problem | 578 |
| Mental health problem | 543 |
| Enquiry on residential care services | 427 |
| Request for respite services | 412 |
| Family relationship problem | 242 |
| Housing/accommodation problem | 145 |
| Others | 182 |
| Total | 12 957 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)190

(Question Serial No. 2074)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In 2023-24, 177 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are receiving government subventions for operating social welfare services in accordance with the Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs) that are specific to various service programmes. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. Currently, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) is providing lump sum grant (LSG) subventions to these 177 NGOs, which collectively operate over 3 000 service units or projects. Please provide a breakdown of these NGOs by distinguishing between those operating medium to long-term projects (i.e. without a time limit) and those operating projects with a time limit (1 to 2 years, 2 to 5 years, 5 to 10 years, etc.), along with their respective percentages.
2. What are the changes in the above data when compared to that from 3 years ago?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

- 1 & 2. As at the end of February 2024, SWD has signed a total of 344 FSAs with 177 NGOs (including 5 NGOs receiving subventions under the previous subvention mode). To ensure that subvented services align with the Government's policy objectives, SWD will specify the objectives, nature, content and target groups of the services in the FSAs. All subvented service units are required to comply with the relevant requirements and standards prescribed by SWD, including essential service requirements, output/outcome standards and service quality standards.

Prior to the implementation of the LSG Subvention System, SWD signed non-time-defined FSAs with NGOs under the previous subvention system. SWD conducts reviews for different services as needed and converts non-time-defined FSAs to time-defined FSAs upon service reviews for meeting the changing service needs and relevant requirements. Meanwhile, SWD has also been consolidating FSAs of similar service nature. As a result, there are currently both time-defined or non-time-defined FSAs, with the former accounting for a larger share. Details are tabulated below:

| | Time-defined FSA | | Non-time-defined FSA | Total |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------|
| | 3 years | 5 years | | |
| Number of FSAs (percentage) | 64 (19%) | 162 (47%) | 118 (34%) | 344 (100%) |
| | 226 (66%) | | | |

Compared to the situation at the end of 2021, the total number of FSAs has decreased by 159, with time-defined and non-time-defined FSAs reduced by 114 and 45, respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)191

(Question Serial No. 2079)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under Programme (1) that the Department will continue to enhance the training for practitioners in the relevant professions to facilitate early identification and handling of child abuse cases. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. Regarding the training for relevant professionals, what are the specific timetable, the number of participants, and the expected effectiveness?
2. Have the relevant departments formulated a series of measures to ensure the proper protection of personal privacy for both the professional undergoing training and others involved in the training process?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. The Government has set up an e-learning platform to provide training, reference materials and information for relevant professionals. The Child Protection Online Training comprises online self-learning training and webinars. Module 1 of the online self-learning training has been launched in February 2024 to provide training on the basic knowledge on child protection. Module 2 will be rolled out in phases after the enactment of the Bill and will cover the basic knowledge on the relevant legal and reporting matters related to the new legislation. In addition, the Government will also organise webinars to provide the professionals with enrichment programmes to discuss different topics related to child protection and to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration among professionals. Q&A sessions will also be included according to training needs to encourage interactive learning. The expenditure involved in training and promotion is about \$2.8 million.

Apart from the Child Protection Online Training, relevant bureaux/departments/organisations have been providing, and will continue to provide, professionals with training (including talks, seminars, workshops and online training, etc.) relating to child protection and their specific professions to enhance their knowledge and skills in handling suspected child abuse. The Social Welfare Department will also continue to collaborate with different government departments and organisations to enhance training for social workers and relevant professionals, in order to strengthen their capability for early identification and handling of suspected child abuse cases.

2. The Government has always attached great importance to the protection of privacy of personal data, and has formulated relevant measures to ensure that the personal data submitted through the aforementioned e-learning platform will be handled in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486). With the participants' knowledge and consent, the e-learning platform will collect the necessary personal data, specify the collection purpose and intended usage of the personal data, and advise participants how they may request access to or correction of the personal data provided. Unless permitted or required by law, the Government will not disclose the personal data of the participants to any third parties without their prior consent. All personal data provided by the participants through the e-learning platform will be kept confidential, and access to them is restricted to authorised personnel only.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)192

(Question Serial No. 3112)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under Programme (1) that the Department will increase the incentive payment for foster families and provide additional support to foster families caring for children with special learning or care needs, including arranging early assessment and appropriate professional therapy and training. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What is the estimated additional expenditure involved in increasing the incentive payment for foster families?
2. How many children receive professional therapy and training each year? What types of therapy are involved? How do we determine whether the children's physical and mental well-being has improved through therapy? Is there any follow-up on the outcomes of therapy?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. The additional annual expenditure involved in increasing the incentive payment for foster families is about \$144 million.
2. To strengthen support for foster care services, the Government will provide additional support to families caring for children with special learning or care needs by arranging foster children suspected to have special needs to receive early assessment and appropriate professional therapy or training, such as clinical psychological therapy, speech therapy, physiological therapy and occupational therapy. Caseworkers will maintain close contact with foster care workers to review and follow up on the progress of the foster children's treatment. The number of beneficiaries depends on the number of foster children with special learning or care needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)193

(Question Serial No. 1193)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) mainly provides family and child welfare services and programmes. It is mentioned in the 2023 Policy Address that the Government will roll out a School-based After School Care Service Scheme (the Scheme) in the 2023/24 school year. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will be engaged to run the services at the participating schools. The Scheme will be implemented on a trial basis in around 50 primary schools. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- (a) Please set out in a table the number of service places allocated for each primary school under the Scheme.
- (b) Please set out in a table the number of student beneficiaries and the amount of subsidy for each primary school under the Scheme as at 29 February 2024.
- (c) Has there been an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Scheme since its implementation? If yes, what are the details? Will SWD consider expanding the Scheme to all primary schools across the territory? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- (a) & (b) The Government implemented the Scheme in the 2023/24 school year. There are currently a total of 59 primary schools participating, offering a total of 2 915 service places. With an estimated total expenditure of \$99.02 million and an estimated total of 3 000 service places for students, the monthly average cost per service place under the Scheme is estimated to be about \$2,750. Breakdown figures of participating students and the amount of allowance to be provided are not yet available as some schools joined the Scheme some time after the start of the school year. The number of service places for each participating school is set out at Annex.
- (c) The Government will evaluate the effectiveness of the Scheme in due course, and determine its way forward based on the evaluation results and views from stakeholders.

Number of service places for each participating school under the Scheme

| Participating school in the 2023-24 school year ^{Note 1} | Number of service places |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Kowloon City | |
| S.K.H. Holy Cross Primary School | 60 |
| Oblate Primary School | 60 |
| S.K.H. Good Shepherd Primary School | 55 |
| St. Eugene de Mazenod Oblate Primary School | 45 |
| ELCHK Hung Hom Lutheran Primary School | 60 |
| Ma Tau Chung Government Primary School (Hung Hom Bay) | 35 |
| Farm Road Government Primary School | 20 |
| Kowloon Tong Government Primary School | 30 |
| Ma Tau Chung Government Primary School | 8 |
| Sub-total: | 373 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | |
| T.K.D.S Fong Shu Chuen School | 45 |
| Fresh Fish Traders' School | 75 |
| Jordan Road Government Primary School | 60 |
| CCC Wanchai Church Kei To Primary School | 55 |
| Canton Road Government Primary School | 10 |
| TWGHs Lo Yu Chik Primary School | 40 |
| Sub-total: | 285 |
| Sham Shui Po | |
| S.K.H. Kei Oi Primary School | 60 |
| S.K.H. St. Andrew's Primary School | 75 |
| Good Counsel Catholic Primary School | 60 |
| S.K.H. St. Clement's Primary School | 65 |
| Shamshuipo Kaifong Welfare Association Primary School | 30 |
| Li Cheng Uk Government Primary School | 40 |
| Fuk Wing Street Government Primary School | 40 |
| Sham Shui Po Government Primary School | 45 |
| S.K.H. St. Thomas' Primary School | 50 |
| S.K.H. Kei Fook Primary School | 60 |
| Sub-total: | 525 |
| Kwun Tong | |
| The Mission Covenant Church Holm Glad Primary School | 60 |
| HKTAYYI Chan Lui Chung Tak Memorial School | 65 |
| Sau Mau Ping Catholic Primary School | 60 |
| L.S.T. Yeung Chung Ming Primary School | 82 |
| Kwun Tong Government Primary School | 35 |
| Kwun Tong Government Primary School (Sau Ming Road) | 65 |
| Sub-total: | 367 |

| Participating school in the 2023-24 school year ^{Note 1} | Number of service places |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Kwai Tsing | |
| S.K.H. Chu Oi Primary School | 20 |
| Salesian Yip Hon Primary School | 60 |
| CNEC Ta Tung School | 25 |
| Buddhist Lam Bing Yim Memorial School (Sponsored by HKBA) | 40 |
| Yan Chai Hospital Chiu Tsang Hok Wan Primary School | 55 |
| Cho Yiu Catholic Primary School | 25 |
| Tsuen Wan Trade Association Primary School | 40 |
| TWGHs Wong See Sum Primary School | 30 |
| Asbury Methodist Primary School | 50 |
| Salesian Yip Hon Millennium Primary School | 30 |
| TWGHs Chow Yin Sum Primary School | 45 |
| TWGHs Ko Ho Ning Memorial Primary School | 60 |
| Sub-total: | 480 |
| Tsuen Wan | |
| Tsuen Wan Public Ho Chuen Yiu Memorial Primary School | 60 |
| Holy Cross Lutheran School | 70 |
| Tsuen Wan Chiu Chow Public School | 70 |
| Ho Shun Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen) | 60 |
| C.C.C. Kei Wai Primary School | 45 |
| Hoi Pa Street Government Primary School | 60 |
| HKTA The Yuen Yuen Institute Shek Wai Kok Primary School | 60 |
| Sub-total: | 425 |
| Yuen Long | |
| Lions Clubs International Ho Tak Sum Primary School | 60 |
| Yuen Long Public Middle School Alumni Association Tang Ying Yip Primary School | 60 |
| Cumberland Presbyterian Church Yao Dao Primary School | 60 |
| TWGHs Leo Tung-hai Lee Primary School | 60 |
| S.K.H. Tin Shui Wai Ling Oi Primary School | 60 |
| Ho Ming Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen) | 30 |
| TWGHs Yiu Dak Chi Memorial Primary School (Yuen Long) | 30 |
| Chiu Yang Por Yen Primary School | 60 |
| Chinese Y.M.C.A Primary School | 40 |
| Sub-total: | 460 |
| Total: | 2 915 |

Note 1 The participating schools in each district are listed based on their assigned serial numbers under the Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)194

(Question Serial No. 1196)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is responsible for providing various day child care services, including the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP) implemented since October 2011. NSCCP provides flexible home-based day child care service for families in their neighbourhood. In this connection, please provide the following information in table form for each of the past 3 financial years:

- (a) the number of children served under NSCCP in each district;
- (b) the number of home-based child carers participating in NSCCP in each district, as well as the number of training hours they have completed; and
- (c) the amount of subvention for each of the 18 service operators in all districts.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

- (a) & (b) The number of home-based child carers and the number of children served under NSCCP in the past 3 financial years, broken down by District Council (DC) district, are set out at Annex. According to the NSCCP Service Agreement signed between service operators and the Social Welfare Department (SWD), service operators are required to establish mechanisms for recruiting, assessing, screening and training home-based child carers, and for service matching. At present, home-based child carers are required to complete 4 hours of basic training. Social workers from the service operators are required to conduct monthly home visits to home-based child carers currently providing services, while child care workers will provide them with individual training/supervision. In addition, service operators are also required to continuously evaluate and follow up on the performance of home-based child carers to ensure service quality. As the training for home-based child carers is conducted by service operators, SWD does not have information on the number of training hours completed by home-based child carers.

- (c) The amount of subvention for NSCCP in the past 3 financial years is tabulated below. SWD does not have a breakdown of the expenditure on NSCCP by the 18 districts.

| Year | Expenditure on NSCCP (\$ million) |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 51.2 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) ^[Note 1] | 28.3 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) ^[Note 2] | 107.7 |

^[Note 1] The decrease in expenditure for 2022-23 was due to the fact that part of the funding for 2022-23 was disbursed in 2023-24.

^[Note 2] The increase in expenditure for 2023-24 was due to the fact that part of the funding for 2022-23 was disbursed in 2023-24.

**Numbers of home-based child carers and children served under NSCCP
in the past 3 financial years by DC district**

| District | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | April to December 2023 | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Number of home-based child carers | Number of children served | Number of home-based child carers | Number of children served | Number of home-based child carers | Number of children served |
| Central & Western | 32 | 355 | 29 | 413 | 59 | 387 |
| Eastern | 58 | 428 | 59 | 326 | 103 | 329 |
| Islands | 88 | 498 | 83 | 468 | 100 | 397 |
| Kowloon City | 515 | 588 | 521 | 455 | 525 | 280 |
| Kwun Tong | 56 | 362 | 44 | 395 | 46 | 404 |
| Kwai Tsing | 55 | 619 | 72 | 679 | 82 | 495 |
| North | 70 | 482 | 61 | 446 | 78 | 400 |
| Southern | 26 | 283 | 27 | 171 | 30 | 422 |
| Sai Kung | 135 | 513 | 139 | 591 | 83 | 469 |
| Sham Shui Po | 49 | 1 011 | 57 | 842 | 59 | 706 |
| Sha Tin | 42 | 916 | 41 | 848 | 42 | 546 |
| Tuen Mun | 31 | 767 | 33 | 732 | 37 | 644 |
| Tai Po | 73 | 552 | 69 | 580 | 77 | 380 |
| Tsuen Wan | 56 | 514 | 63 | 645 | 77 | 380 |
| Wan Chai | 98 | 287 | 73 | 189 | 67 | 201 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 45 | 621 | 45 | 595 | 112 | 525 |
| Yuen Long | 72 | 1 309 | 65 | 1 151 | 67 | 879 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 314 | 724 | 278 | 793 | 126 | 640 |
| Total | 1 815 | 10 829 | 1 759 | 10 319 | 1 770 | 8 484 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)195

(Question Serial No. 1198)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

One of the tasks of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) is to support carers. In late September last year, SWD launched the Designated Hotline for Carer Support 182 183 (the Carer Hotline), which is answered by professional social workers. The purpose of the Carer Hotline is to reduce stress and burden experienced by carers in their daily caregiving responsibilities. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the monthly number of cases received by the Carer Hotline as at 29 February 2024, presented in tabular form;
- (b) the types of services requested by callers, including but not limited to (i) enquiry/consultation service; (ii) emotional support; (iii) respite service; (iv) counselling service; and (v) emergency support service as at 29 February 2024, presented in tabular form;
- (c) the number of cases that required referrals or outreach visits upon receiving requests for assistance, as well as the average time taken to handle such cases, presented in tabular form;
- (d) the staffing of the Carer Hotline, broken down by month as at 29 February 2024, presented in tabular form; and
- (e) whether the effectiveness of the Carer Hotline has been evaluated; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

- (a) The monthly number of calls received by the Carer Hotline as at 29 February 2024 is set out in Table 1 of Annex.
- (b) The services requested by callers as at 29 February 2024 are set out in Table 2 of Annex.
- (c) The numbers of referrals and outreach visits arranged via the Carer Hotline are detailed in Table 3 of Annex. In general, the service operator will reach the caller and provide services within 1 hour of receiving his/her call, and make referral within 1 day if follow-up services are required. SWD does not require the service operator to maintain the average time taken to handle such cases.

- (d) SWD has commissioned the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals to operate the 24-hour Carer Hotline, with 30 phone lines answered by over 100 professional social workers on shift duties. SWD does not have information on the monthly staffing situation of the Carer Hotline.
- (e) The service operator is required to provide the services specified in the relevant Funding and Service Agreement, which sets out the essential service requirements, as well as output and outcome standards. SWD will review the service operator's performance and service effectiveness under the existing Service Performance Monitoring System, and will maintain liaison with the service operator to continuously improve the services.

**Table 1: Number of calls received by the Carer Hotline in 2023-24
(as at 29 February 2024)**

| 26 September to 31 October 2023 | November 2023 | December 2023 | January 2024 | February 2024 | Total |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 3 891 | 2 029 | 2 435 | 2 306 | 2 296 | 12 957 |

Table 2: Services requested by callers in 2023-24 (as at 29 February 2024)

| Service type | Count of service ^{Note} |
|--|---|
| (i) Enquiry/consultation service | 7 673 |
| (ii) Emotional support | 7 626 |
| (iii) Counselling service | 2 626 |
| (iv) Respite service | 16 |
| (v) Emergency support service/outreach visit | 14 |
| Total | 17 955 |

Note A caller may request for more than 1 type of service.

**Table 3: Number of referrals and outreach visits arranged via the Carer Hotline in 2023-24
(as at 29 February 2024)**

| Service type | Number of cases |
|--|------------------------|
| Referral service | 374 |
| Emergency support service/outreach visit | 14 |
| Total | 388 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)196

(Question Serial No. 1202)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Subsidised social welfare services are currently provided by the Government through subventions to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and subsidies to subvented/private operators in the form of contract service. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- (a) What are the current assessment criteria for NGOs bidding for subsidised welfare services?
- (b) Will the Department consider the track record and service quality of NGOs during the approval process? If yes, please provide details. If no, what are the reasons for that?
- (c) Will the Department regulate and evaluate the service quality of NGOs receiving subventions? If yes, please provide details. If no, what are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

- (a) & (b) When the Social Welfare Department (SWD) launches new subvented services, it generally invites NGOs to submit proposals or selects suitable operators through competitive bidding, and formulates the marking scheme based on the objectives, nature and key performance indicators of individual services. Apart from price, the marking scheme mainly focuses on technical assessment (i.e. service quality). The scope of technical assessment usually includes the proposed operational mode, staffing arrangement, district networks and connections, quality assurance mechanism, contingency plans, complaint management mechanism, track records in supporting the Government's policies/initiatives, and value-added or innovative services. Generally speaking, the technical assessment does not require the applicant organisation to have relevant experience, but the assessment panel will take into consideration if the organisation has experience or track records in providing welfare services.
- (c) NGOs operating subvented services are required to put in place an effective internal monitoring mechanism to monitor and manage their service units properly for compliance with the requirements of Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs).

SWD reviews the operation of various services and monitor the performance of the service units in accordance with existing mechanisms. It also conducts scheduled or surprise visits by random selection to assess the NGOs' compliance with the terms and requirements of FSAs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**LWB(W)197****(Question Serial No. 1074)**Head: (170) Social Welfare DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Social SecurityControlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and WelfareQuestion:

There are concerns raised by persons with disabilities in Hong Kong regarding the insufficiency of welfare support provided to them, which is far from adequate to cover their daily living and medical expenses. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. the respective rates of the Disability Allowance (DA) and the Higher Disability Allowance (HDA) in the recent 5 years; and
2. the expenses and median income of individuals eligible for the allowances in the recent 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)Reply:

1. The monthly rates of Normal DA (NDA) and HDA under the Social Security Allowance Scheme from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as below:

| | Monthly rate | |
|---|--------------|-------|
| | NDA | HDA |
| 2019-20 (effective from 1 February 2019) | 1,770 | 3,540 |
| 2020-21 (effective from 1 February 2020) | 1,835 | 3,670 |
| 2021-22 (effective from 1 February 2021) | 1,885 | 3,770 |
| 2022-23 (effective from 1 February 2022) | 1,935 | 3,870 |
| 2023-24 (effective from 1 February 2023) | 2,005 | 4,010 |

2. Disability allowance is non-means-tested. The Social Welfare Department does not have the information sought.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)198

(Question Serial No. 1078)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services (SCNAMES), please advise:

1. the annual number of cases arranged for assessment under SCNAMES, the number of cases having completed assessment under SCNAMES, the number of accredited assessors under SCNAMES, the number of cases for pre-appeal mediation and the number of appeal cases lodged by service users, the average number of cases handled by each assessor, and the average duration of case handling in days over the past 5 years, with a breakdown by service unit; and
2. please set out the following figures over the past 5 years in the table below:

| Party lodging the appeal | No. of cases for pre-appeal mediation | No. of appeal cases |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Service user | | |
| Service provider (Residential care home for the elderly (RCHE)) | | |
| Service provider (community service unit) | | |

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The number of cases referred for standardised care need assessment, the number of assessments completed, the number of trained and accredited assessors, and the number of cases for pre-appeal mediation from 2019 to 2023 are set out in Annexes 1 to 4.

From 2019 to 2023, there were no appeal cases related to assessments under SCNAMES.

According to the Manual of Procedures on Registration and Allocation of Long Term Care Services, assessment is generally completed within 3 weeks. Apart from exceptional circumstances, assessors have been able to complete relevant assessments within the deadline in the past 5 years. Besides, the number of cases handled by each assessor may vary due to different factors, such as the referring office concerned, service type and service district, etc. Therefore, the average number of cases handled by each assessor is not available.

Number of cases referred for standardised care need assessment

| Organisation | Service type | No. of cases | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| Social Welfare Department (SWD) | Placement Unit under Standardised Care Need Assessment Management Offices (Elderly Services) [SCNAMO(ES)] | 5 717 | 5 049 | 6 064 | 6 349 | 6 284 |
| | Medical Social Services Unit (MSSU) | 3 442 | 3 007 | 3 902 | 3 819 | 4 388 |
| | Integrated Family Service Centre (IFSC) | 1 142 | 894 | 1 039 | 1 257 | 1 152 |
| | Others (e.g. Family and Child Protective Services Unit (FCPSU)) | 300 | 312 | 485 | 97 | 93 |
| Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) | Elderly Services Unit (e.g. District Elderly Community Centre (DECC), Neighbourhood Elderly Centre (NEC), Day Care Centre for the Elderly (DE), Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) Team, etc.) | 22 394 | 18 489 | 24 207 | 21 583 | 25 824 |
| | IFSC | 897 | 710 | 877 | 894 | 1 117 |
| Hospital Authority (HA) | MSSU | 3 182 | 2 976 | 3 212 | 3 349 | 3 401 |
| Total | | 37 074 | 31 437 | 39 786 | 37 348 | 42 259 |

Number of standardised care need assessments completed

| Organisation | Service type | No. of cases | | | | |
|--------------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| SWD | SCNAMO(ES) | 16 012 | 11 526 | 15 916 | 13 584 | 16 854 |
| | MSSU | 3 259 | 2 782 | 3 837 | 3 867 | 4 573 |
| | IFSC | 1 055 | 789 | 1 482 | 1 067 | 1 131 |
| | Others (e.g. FCPSU) | 255 | 283 | 532 | 72 | 61 |
| NGOs | Elderly Services Unit (e.g. DECC, NEC, DE, IHCS Team, etc.) | 12 576 | 9 523 | 13 429 | 12 560 | 14 914 |
| | IFSC | 763 | 560 | 765 | 746 | 975 |
| HA | MSSU | 264 | 228 | 272 | 271 | 294 |
| Total | | 34 184 | 25 691 | 36 233 | 32 167 | 38 802 |

Number of trained and accredited assessors

| As at end-December 2019 | As at end-December 2020 | As at end-December 2021^{Note} | As at end-December 2022 | As at end-December 2023 |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| 3 467 | 3 469 | 1 982 | 2 094 | 2 334 |

^{Note} SWD has updated SCNAMES since July 2021, including updating the assessment tool from the Minimum Data Set-Home Care version 2.0 to the interRAI-Home Care version 9.3 and updating the service matching mechanism. Serving accredited assessors are required to complete a bridging training programme in order to use the updated assessment tool.

Number of cases for pre-appeal mediation

| Party showing disagreement towards assessment results | No. of cases | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| Service user | 36 | 24 | 41 | 31 | 52 |
| Service provider (RCHE) | 19 | 23 | 12 | 7 | 5 |
| Service provider (community care service unit) | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Total | 55 | 49 | 55 | 40 | 58 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)199

(Question Serial No. 1079)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

For elderly persons who have been confirmed after assessment to have the needs for long term care (LTC) services, their applications may be put on a Central Waiting List for Subsidised LTC Services (CWL) to wait for provision of subsidised LTC services, i.e. residential care services (RCS) or community care services (CCS). In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Among applicants waitlisted on CWL for subsidised residential care places for the elderly (RCPs), how many have withdrawn their applications or declined offers of placement in the past 5 years? Please provide a breakdown of the figures based on the reasons for withdrawal or declining offers.
2. Please provide the respective numbers of applicants assessed to be suitable for both RCS and CCS, suitable for RCS only and suitable for CCS only in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

1. From 2019 to 2023, the number of elderly persons waitlisted for subsidised RCPs (including care-and-attention (C&A) places and nursing home (NH) places) who have withdrawn their applications while waiting is as follows:

| 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 640 | 1 734 | 2 548 | 2 724 | 2 320 |

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on their reasons for withdrawal.

From 2019 to 2023, the number of elderly persons waitlisted for subsidised RCPs (including C&A places and NH places) who have declined placement offers is as follows:

| 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2 333 | 2 259 | 3 390 | 3 451 | 2 676 |

SWD does not have information on their reasons for declining placement offers.

2. The number of elderly persons assessed as “RCS only”, “CCS only” and “dual option” from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows:

| LTC service matching | No. of elderly persons | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------|---------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Suitable for RCS | 9 314 | 10 151 | 5 297 | 29 160 | 21 769 |
| Suitable for CCS | 309 | 267 | 4 377 | 8 115 | 6 196 |
| Dual option | 19 537 | 19 908 | 21 336 | N.A. ^{Note} | N.A. ^{Note} |

N.A. - Not applicable

^{Note} SWD has updated the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services (SCNAMES) since July 2021, including updating the assessment tool from the Minimum Data Set-Home Care version 2.0 (MDS-HC 2.0) to the interRAI-Home Care version 9.3 (interRAI-HC 9.3) and updating the service matching mechanism. Under the updated SCNAMES, “dual option” is no longer available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)200

(Question Serial No. 1080)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) for the Elderly (Pilot Scheme on CCSV), please provide:

1. the amount of funding, a breakdown of the subsidies, the number of recognised service providers (RSPs), the cumulative number of eligible applicants, the cumulative number of persons issued with CCSVs (broken down by age), the respective numbers of CCSV holders who have and have not used CCSVs, and the cumulative number of elderly persons who have left the Pilot Scheme on CCSV and their reasons for leaving during the first, second and third phases of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV;
2. the average time needed for elderly persons to be successfully issued with CCSVs after submitting applications, and the average time needed for them to successfully obtain services after being issued with CCSVs, since the launch of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV;
3. the respective numbers of CCSV holders (broken down by age groups of 65 to 74, 75 to 84 and 85 or above) under the first, second and third phases of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV, broken down by co-payment level, service value and service type; and
4. the numbers of service places and vacancies of different types of services provided by RSPs in each year (broken down by day care service and home care service), the full-year number of service users and the number of cases handled on an annual basis, with a breakdown by RSP; the number of service places, the number of elderly persons using CCSVs, the number of elderly persons who withdrew from the Pilot Scheme on CCSV, the number of invitation letters issued and the respective numbers of persons using the mixed mode and single mode of service in each year, with a breakdown by district; and the number of RSPs and number of service places and vacancy rates of different types of services in each year, with a breakdown by district, since the launch of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

1. The information on various phases of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV is provided at Annex 1.

2. The Government made the CCSV Scheme permanent in September 2023. As at the end of December 2023, it took an average of about 11 days for elderly persons to be issued with CCSVs, counting from the time when the Social Welfare Department (SWD) received their applications. CCSV holders have the flexibility to determine when to use the services, as well as their choices of RSPs and service packages based on their needs. SWD does not have information on the time it takes for CCSV holders to use the services for the first time from the date of issuance of the CCSVs.
3. The number of CCSV holders under the first to third phases of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV, broken down by co-payment level and type of service, is provided at Annex 2. SWD does not maintain statistics on the age distribution of CCSV holders broken down by co-payment level.
4. The information on the CCSV Scheme after it has been made permanent (including the number of service places of various RSPs, the number of RSPs and their service places broken down by district, as well as the number of elderly persons using various service modes under the CCSV Scheme in 2023-24) is provided at Annex 3. As required by SWD, RSPs should disclose the latest information on their services on SWD's Elderly Information Website, including the number of service vacancies. SWD does not maintain statistics on the number of service places as RSPs update it from time to time. SWD does not have statistics on the number of elderly persons who left the CCSV Scheme, nor the number of invitation letters issued by district.

As the CCSV Scheme adopts the “money-following-the-user” principle, CCSV holders have the flexibility to choose RSPs and service packages based on their needs. In addition, RSPs may set their own service modes, service content and number of service places and submit them to SWD for approval. As RSPs are reimbursed for their actual costs under the CCSV Scheme, unused service places of RSPs do not consume the resources of the Government. Therefore, SWD does not maintain information on the vacancy rates of the service places of each RSP. It is undesirable for SWD to release the full-year number of service users broken down by service unit, as this would involve disclosing information about RSPs' operation.

Table 1: Approved commitment of the Lotteries Fund (allocated funding) for the Pilot Scheme on CCSV

| Item | CCSV subsidy | Seed money Note 1 | Publicity | Evaluation study | Total | Grand total |
|--|--------------|----------------------|-----------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| First phase (\$ million) | 278.0 | 102.0 | - | - | 380.0 | 2,754.2 |
| Second phase (\$ million) | 921.3 | 133.0 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 1,056.2 | |
| Third phase ^{Note 2} (\$ million) | 1,271.0 | 47.0 | - | - | 1,318.0 | |

Note 1 Seed money is provided to RSPs for the purchase of vehicles and/or furniture and equipment required.

Note 2 The Government launched the Pilot Scheme on CCSV in September 2013 and made it permanent in September 2023.

Table 2: Number of RSPs and CCSV subsidy under the Pilot Scheme on CCSV

| | Number of RSPs | CCSV subsidy (\$ million) |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| First phase | 62 | 175.8 |
| Second phase | 179 | 695.6 |
| Third phase ^{Note} | 264 | 1,000.2 |

Note The Government launched the Pilot Scheme on CCSV in September 2013 and made it permanent in September 2023.

Table 3: Cumulative numbers of eligible applicants and persons issued with CCSVs under the Pilot Scheme on CCSV

| | Cumulative number of eligible applicants | Cumulative number of persons issued with CCSVs | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | Aged 60 to 74 | Aged 75 to 84 | Aged 85 or above | Total |
| First phase | 2 968 | 447 | 1 177 | 1 344 | 2 968 |
| Second phase | 12 217 | 1 949 | 4 097 | 6 108 | 12 154 ^{Note 1} |
| Third phase ^{Note 2} | 19 923 | 3 340 | 6 311 | 10 169 | 19 820 ^{Note 3} |

Note 1 Including 1 054 CCSV holders migrated from the first phase to second phase.

Note 2 The Government launched the Pilot Scheme on CCSV in September 2013 and made it permanent in September 2023.

Note 3 Including 6 159 CCSV holders migrated from the second phase to third phase.

Table 4: Numbers of CCSV holders who have and have not used CCSVs under the Pilot Scheme on CCSV

| | Cumulative number of persons issued with CCSVs | Number of CCSV holders | | Cumulative number of persons who have left the CCSV Scheme | |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | | who used CCSVs | who have yet to use CCSVs | who have used CCSVs | who have not used CCSVs |
| First phase | 2 968 | 1 053 | 1 | 1 080 | 834 |
| Second phase | 12 154 | 4 379 | 1 780 | 3 289 | 2 706 |
| Third phase ^{Note} | 19 820 | 7 557 | 3 671 | 5 021 | 3 571 |

^{Note} The Government launched the Pilot Scheme on CCSV in September 2013 and made it permanent in September 2023.

Table 5: Number of elderly persons who left the Pilot Scheme on CCSV and their reasons for leaving

| Reason for leaving the Pilot Scheme on CCSV | Number of persons | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| | First phase | Second phase | Third phase ^{Note} |
| Natural turnover | | | |
| Will be/have been allocated with/ receiving subsidised community care services or subsidised/private residential care services | 845 | 2 739 | 4 347 |
| Deceased | 298 | 1 808 | 3 412 |
| Being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers, etc. | 264 | 680 | 698 |
| Others (e.g. hospitalisation, out of town, etc.) | 106 | 473 | 135 |
| Service-related | | | |
| No suitable RSPs/service packages | 401 | 295 | - |
| Total | 1 914 | 5 995 | 8 592 |

^{Note} The Government launched the Pilot Scheme on CCSV in September 2013 and made it permanent in September 2023.

Table 1: Cumulative number of CCSV holders under the first phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV by co-payment level

| Co-payment level ^{Note} | Number of persons |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| I | 2 031 |
| II | 312 |
| III | 299 |
| IV | 53 |
| V | 273 |
| Total | 2 968 |

^{Note} The amounts of co-payment payable by CCSV holders under the first phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV are set according to their affordability at 5 levels, namely (I) to (V) (i.e. \$500 (I), \$750 (II), \$1,000 (III), \$1,500 (IV) and \$2,500 (V)).

Table 2: Cumulative number of CCSV holders under the second phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV by co-payment level

| Co-payment level ^{Note} | Number of persons |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| I | 2 081 |
| II | 5 745 |
| III | 1 156 |
| IV | 1 173 |
| V | 208 |
| VI | 1 791 |
| Total | 12 154 |

^{Note} The amounts of co-payment payable by CCSV holders under the second phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV are set according to their affordability at 6 levels, namely (I) to (VI) (i.e. 5% (I), 8% (II), 12% (III), 16% (IV), 25% (V) and 40% (VI) of the CCSV value). CCSV holders shall settle their service fees each month in accordance with the voucher value of the CCSVs they used and their corresponding co-payment percentages. The 5 types of CCSV values are set at \$4,130, \$5,970, \$7,460, \$8,380, \$9,870 per month in 2020-21.

Table 3: Cumulative number of CCSV holders under the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV by co-payment level

| Co-payment level ^{Note} | Number of persons |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| I | 2 854 |
| II | 10 047 |
| III | 1 715 |
| IV | 1 998 |
| V | 371 |
| VI | 2 835 |
| Total | 19 820 |

^{Note} The amounts of co-payment payable by CCSV holders under the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV are set according to their affordability at 6 levels, namely (I) to (VI) (i.e. 5% (I), 8% (II), 12% (III), 16% (IV), 25% (V) and 40% (VI) of the CCSV value). CCSV holders shall settle their service fees each month in accordance with the voucher value of the CCSVs they used and their corresponding co-payment percentages. The CCSV values in 2023-24 range from \$4,290 to \$10,260 per month.

**Table 4: Number of CCSV holders under the Pilot Scheme on CCSV
by type of service used**

| | Number of persons | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Day care service | Home care service | Day care service and home care service |
| First phase ^{Note 1} | 1 053 | | |
| Second phase | 1 725 | 1 599 | 1 055 |
| Third phase ^{Note 2} | 2 199 | 3 950 | 1 408 |

Note 1 Under the first phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV, service providers could provide day care services (single mode) or mixed mode services but not home care service (single mode). SWD does not have information on the number of users under this phase by type of service.

Note 2 The Government launched the Pilot Scheme on CCSV in September 2013 and made it permanent in September 2023.

Table 1 : Number of service places under the CCSV Scheme by service provider in 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023)

| Organisation | RSP | Number of service places | |
|--|--|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Day care service | Home care service |
| Agatha Corporation Limited | Ann Health Services | - | 100 |
| Evercare Health Limited | Evercare Home Care Services | - | 150 |
| Hello Toby Technology (HK) Limited | Allied First | - | 100 |
| Kerry Fung & Associates Limited | Centre for Holistic Healthcare – Integrated Services | - | 70 |
| Senior Care Elderly Limited | Senior Care (Fuk Kwan) Elderly Care Home cum Elderly Day Care Centre | 10 | 20 |
| Silvermorph Charity Limited | Silvermorph Charity Limited | - | 20 |
| The Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon | Lok Sin Tong Chu Ting Cheong Home for the Aged | 12 | - |
| Association for Engineering and Medical Volunteer Services | Association for Engineering and Medical Volunteer Services | - | 10 |
| Renhe Professional Nursing Services Limited | Renhe Professional Nursing Services Limited | - | 20 |
| Yan Oi Tong Limited | Yan Oi Tong (Tuen Mun) Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly - Day Care Unit | 20 | 5 |
| | Yan Oi Tong Clarea Au Eldergarten | 53 | 15 |
| | Yan Oi Tong (Yuen Long) Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly - Day Care Unit | 20 | 3 |
| | Yan Oi Tong (Yau Oi) Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly - Day Care Unit | 20 | 3 |
| Yan Chai Hospital Social Services Department | Yan Chai Hospital Community Care Service for the Elderly | 30 | 60 |
| | Yan Chai Hospital Suen Choi To May Integrated Community Development Centre | 20 | 40 |

| Organisation | RSP | Number of service places | |
|--|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Day care service | Home care service |
| | Yan Chai Hospital Fung Ying Seen Koon Integrated Community Development Centre | 20 | 40 |
| | Yan Chai Hospital Fung Ying Seen Koon Luen Wo Integrated Community Development Centre | 20 | 60 |
| | Yan Chai Hospital Mrs. Annie Chan Social Centre For The Elderly | 20 | 40 |
| | Yan Chai Hospital Yim Tsui Yuk Shan Active Mind Centre | 29 | 40 |
| | Yan Chai Hospital Wan Shing Memorial Social Centre for the Elderly | 20 | 40 |
| | Yan Chai Happy Home Living Limited | - | 100 |
| I Passion Limited | I Passion (Touch) Day Care Centre | 20 | 50 |
| | I Passion (Rica) Day Care Centre | 20 | 50 |
| | I Passion (On Sum) Day Care Centre | 20 | 50 |
| Tin Tin Home for the Aged Limited | GY Care (Tuen Mun) | - | 100 |
| Sincerity Rehabilitation Service Group Limited | Virtue Club & Sincerity Rehabilitation Center | - | 40 |
| | Virtue Club Tuen Mun Outreaching Support and Rehabilitation Center | - | 40 |
| Psybridge Medical Services Limited | Silver Blossoms | - | 100 |
| Siu Yat Nursing Care Limited | Siu Yat Nursing Care Limited | 20 | 150 |
| | Siu Yat Nursing Care Limited (Tai Po) | 14 | 150 |
| Nu Pro (Asia) Limited | Nu Pro (Asia) Limited | - | 100 |
| On Fuk Nursing Home Limited | On Fuk Nursing Home Limited | 20 | 40 |
| | Tang Tat Day Care Centre For The Elderly | 20 | 40 |
| Bamboos Professional Nursing Services Limited | Bamboos Professional Nursing Services Limited - CCSV Home Care Unit | - | 100 |
| Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong | Fung Tak Care & Health Elderly Centre | 25 | - |
| Sai Kung District Community Centre | Sai Kung District Community Centre | 10 | 20 |
| Chi Lin Nunnery | Chi Lin Day Care Centre for the Elderly | 5 | - |

| Organisation | RSP | Number of service places | |
|--|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Day care service | Home care service |
| Empower Health & Rehabilitation Centre Limited | Empower Health & Rehabilitation Centre Limited | - | 30 |
| Charmind Limited | Evergreen Nursing Home cum Day Care Centre | 10 | 100 |
| Quality HealthCare Nursing Agency Limited | Quality HealthCare Nursing Agency | - | 100 |
| Trustful Medical and Domestic Services Co. Limited | Trustful Medical and Domestic Services Co. Limited | - | 30 |
| | Trustful Healthcare Centre (ST) | 23 | 25 |
| Woopie Social Enterprises Limited | Woopie Club (North Point) | 23 | 100 |
| | Woopie Club Home Care Services Team | - | 200 |
| | Woopie Club (Sai Wan Ho) | 25 | 100 |
| | Woopie Club (Sha Tin) | 12 | 100 |
| | Woopie Club (Tuen Mun) | 47 | 100 |
| | Woopie Club (Kwun Tong) | 58 | 100 |
| | Woopie Club (Aberdeen) | 24 | 100 |
| | Woopie Club (Tai Po) | 30 | 100 |
| | Woopie Club (To Kwa Wan) | 42 | 100 |
| | Woopie Club (Tseung Kwan O) | 24 | 100 |
| | Woopie Club (Cheung Sha Wan) | 47 | 100 |
| | Woopie Club (Ma On Shan) | 90 | 100 |
| Woopie Club (Yuen Long) | 80 | 100 | |
| Tung Wah Group of Hospitals | Hua Fen Day Care Centre for the Elderly | 44 | 24 |
| | Chan Tat Chee Connect Community Support Centre for the Elderly | 23 | - |
| | Henry G. Leong Community Support Centre for the Elderly | 93 | 45 |
| | Ma Cheng Shuk Ying Home for the Elderly-Home@Community Support Unit | 15 | - |
| | Top-Tact Home Care Services | - | 25 |
| | Spring of Life Community Support Unit for the Elderly | 5 | 10 |
| Delightful RCHE Limited | Yan Sin Elderly Service | 20 | 150 |
| On Golden Pond Limited | On Golden Pond (Main Street East) Day Care Centre | 33 | 150 |
| Senior Citizen Home Safety Association | Senior Citizen Home Safety Association | - | 60 |

| Organisation | RSP | Number of service places | |
|---|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Day care service | Home care service |
| Home of the Elderly Consultancy Limited | Home of the Elderly Consultancy Limited | - | 40 |
| Po Leung Kuk | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Lam Tin) | 20 | 20 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Pak Tin) | 10 | 10 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Wan Hon) | 40 | 20 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Sha Tin) | 20 | 20 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Fu Cheong) | 20 | 20 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Sau Mau Ping) | 40 | 20 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Tung Chung) | 20 | 20 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Sai Wan) | 20 | 20 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Kai Ching) | 5 | 5 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Kwai Chung Estate) | 40 | 20 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Diamond Hill) | 20 | 20 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Tin Yan) | 10 | 10 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Ho Man Tin) | 20 | 20 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Sai Ying Pun) | 20 | 20 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Tak Tin) | 13 | 20 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Kwai Shing) | 20 | 20 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Tai Kok Tsui) | 10 | 10 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Wong Chuk Hang) | 20 | 20 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Kowloon West) | - | 40 |
| | Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Tuen Mun and Yuen Long) | - | 40 |
| Po Leung Kuk Care Service for the Elders (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) | - | 40 | |

| Organisation | RSP | Number of service places | |
|---|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Day care service | Home care service |
| Mercy Medirehab Professional Group Limited | Mercy Medirehab Professional Group Limited | - | 200 |
| Florence Nightingale Home Health & Nursing Ltd | Florence Nightingale Home Health & Nursing Ltd | - | 30 |
| South Kwai Chung Social Service | South Kwai Chung Social Service Community Care Centre for the Elderly | 10 | 20 |
| Mastery Speech and Swallowing Clinic Limited | Mastery Speech and Swallowing Clinic Limited | - | 150 |
| Cedar Seeds Foundation Limited | Gracious Alliance Rehabilitation Services | 20 | 50 |
| Active Global Specialised Caregivers (Hong Kong) Pte Ltd | Active Global Specialised Caregivers (Hong Kong) Pte Ltd | - | 350 |
| Mie King Home for Aged Limited | Mie King Home for Aged Limited | 10 | - |
| OK Care Limited | OK Care Limited | - | 100 |
| Hygiene First Company Limited | Hygiene First Company Limited | - | 50 |
| Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association | Elderly Community Care Services Day Care Centre (North District) | 12 | 30 |
| The Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club | Yau Tong Day Care Centre for the Elderly | 20 | 20 |
| Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong | CYMCA Community Support Services for the Elderly - Chai Wan Neighbourhood Elderly Centre | - | 30 |
| | CYMCA Community Support Services for the Elderly - Tin Ping Care and Attention Home for the Elderly | - | 40 |
| Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre | Southern District Integrated Elderly Service Centre | 8 | 20 |
| Hong Kong Outreach Therapy and Nursing Services Limited | Hong Kong Outreach Therapy and Nursing Services Limited | - | 100 |

| Organisation | RSP | Number of service places | |
|--|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Day care service | Home care service |
| Caritas - Hong Kong | Caritas Mutual Help Project (Day Care Centre) | 24 | - |
| | Caritas Jockey Club Integrated Day Services Centre for the Elderly | 80 | 10 |
| The Women's Welfare Club (Eastern District) Hong Kong | The Women's Welfare Club (Eastern District) Hong Kong Ng Siu Mui Home Joyful Garden | 10 | - |
| Hong Kong Old Age Nursing Association Limited | Fu Shan Day Care Elderly Centre | 68 | - |
| Hong Kong Family Welfare Society | Hong Kong Family Welfare Society Lee Foo Service Centre | 13 | 20 |
| | Hong Kong Family Welfare Society Oi Tung Service Centre | - | 12 |
| | Hong Kong Family Welfare Society Cheung Hang Service Centre | - | 10 |
| Hong Kong Baptist Mr. & Mrs. Au Shue Hung Rehabilitation & Healthcare Home Ltd | The Wonderland Day Centre | 20 | 40 |
| The Hong Kong Society for the Aged | SAGE Mrs Y K Fung Home for the Elderly | 10 | - |
| | SAGE Mrs Wong Yee Jar Jat Memorial Home for the Elderly | 6 | - |
| | SAGE Shek Wai Kok Home for the Elderly | 10 | - |
| | SAGE Quan Chuen Home for the Elderly | 20 | - |
| | SAGE Madam Ho Sin Hang Home for the Elderly | 10 | - |
| | SAGE Kai Yip Home for the Elderly | 6 | - |
| | SAGE Tung Lin Kok Yuen Home for the Elderly | 6 | - |
| | SAGE Hong Kong East Integrated Home Care Services | - | 20 |
| Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association | Y Care (Yau Yat Chuen) | 40 | 20 |
| | Y Senior Care | - | 40 |
| | NWS Y Care (North District) | 40 | 20 |
| | YWCA Jockey Club Y Care Elderly Centre (Sha Tau Kok) | 20 | 20 |
| Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited | Hong Kong Women Development Association Day Care Centre for the Elderly | 28 | 50 |

| Organisation | RSP | Number of service places | |
|--|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Day care service | Home care service |
| The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation | Cheng Tak Yim Day Rehabilitation and Care Centre | 30 | - |
| Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited | H.K.S.K.H. Cyril and Amy Cheung Aged Care Complex | 25 | 40 |
| | H.K.S.K.H. Centre of Wellness (East Kowloon) | 40 | 40 |
| | H.K.S.K.H. Lady MacLehose Centre Cheung Hing Wah Charitable Foundation Cheung Hang Rehabilitation Centre - Home Care Link | 20 | 90 |
| | H.K.S.K.H. Western District Elderly Community Centre | - | 30 |
| Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod Limited | Lutheran Community Care Service Voucher Centre for the Elderly | 16 | 2 |
| | Lutheran Kwai Tsing Community Care Service Voucher Centre for the Elderly | 20 | 15 |
| | HKLSS Community Care Service Voucher Centre for the Elderly (Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong) (Mr & Mrs Lawrence Wong Lutheran Rehabilitation and Care Centre) | 10 | 15 |
| | Lutheran Tseung Kwan O Community Care Service Voucher Centre for the Elderly | 20 | - |
| Hong Kong Dandelion Association Limited | Hong Kong Dandelion Association Limited | - | 100 |
| Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association | Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association Brain Health Centre | 20 | 10 |
| | Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association Tseung Kwan O Integrated Service Centre | 30 | 5 |
| | Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association Jean Wei Centre | 25 | 10 |
| | Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association Gene Hwa Lee Centre | 35 | 5 |
| Hong Kong Employment Development Service Limited | Grace Elderly Care Service | 12 | 20 |
| | Grace Elderly Care Service (Yuen Long) | 20 | 20 |

| Organisation | RSP | Number of service places | |
|--|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Day care service | Home care service |
| Hong Kong Healthcare Market Research and Consulting Limited | Nurse HK Professional Nursing Service | - | 100 |
| Supreme Care Limited | Supreme Care Limited | - | 10 |
| Rehabvibe Medical Service Company Limited | Rehabvibe | - | 50 |
| Grateful Life Experience Centre | Grateful Life Home Care Service Team | - | 50 |
| Tri Tech Corporation Ltd. | Yi Wo Yuen Day Care Centre for The Elderly | 46 | 150 |
| Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service | Yee Tsuen Integrated Health Service Centre | 35 | 20 |
| | Yee Wui Integrated Health Service Centre | 26 | 20 |
| | Yee Lok Integrated Health Service Centre | 19 | 20 |
| | Jordan Elderly Centre | 28 | 20 |
| | Yee Chi Home-Based Cognitive Training and Day Care Centre | 32 | 50 |
| Renascence Medical Limited | Renascence Integrated Rehabilitation Centre | - | 50 |
| PA Company Limited | Jockey Club CADENZA Hub | 50 | 35 |
| Kin Pak Nursing Home Limited | Kin Pak Nursing Home Limited | - | 20 |
| V-Professional Nursing Centre | V-Professional Nursing Centre | - | 20 |
| International Church of the Foursquare Gospel Hong Kong District Limited | Care Navigate | - | 20 |
| Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union Hong Kong Limited | C & MA Tsui Lok Good Neighbours Centre for the Elderly | 20 | 10 |
| | C & MA Riviera Gardens Elderly Learning Centre | 10 | 3 |
| Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong | ELCHK, Tuen Mun West Day Care Centre for the Elderly | 40 | 40 |
| | ELCHK, Smart Club | 33 | 12 |
| | Grace Court Day Care Centre for the Elderly | 25 | - |
| | ELCHK, Lutheran Healthy Aging Club | 10 | - |

| Organisation | RSP | Number of service places | |
|--|--|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Day care service | Home care service |
| The Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service | Carewell-Home Care Services | 24 | 24 |
| Christian Family Service Centre | Mind Delight Memory and Cognitive Training Centre | 33 | 40 |
| | Lively Elderly Day Training Centre | 41 | 40 |
| | D & O Service - CAPD & Osteoporosis Care | - | 30 |
| | Vera R. Desai - Mind Delight Memory & Cognitive Training Centre | 8 | 10 |
| Haven of Hope Christian Service | Haven of Hope Lok Wah Day Care Centre for the Elderly | 6 | 24 |
| | Haven of Hope Day Care Cum Rehabilitation Centre for Elderly (HK East) | 40 | 70 |
| | Haven of Hope Tsui Lam Day Training Centre for the Elderly | 42 | 100 |
| | Haven of Hope Day Memory Care Centre for Elderly (HK West) | 20 | 40 |
| | Haven of Hope Community Care Service Centre for the Elderly | 20 | 40 |
| Professional Physiotherapy and Chinese Medicine Centre Limited | Professional Physiotherapy and Chinese Medicine Centre Limited | - | 150 |
| Health & Young (Hong Kong) Limited | The Longevity (HK) Home for the Aged | 20 | - |
| | Medipoint (Hong Kong) | 50 | 160 |
| Health & Young Limited | The Longevity Home for the Aged | 20 | - |
| | Medipoint | 30 | 120 |
| Healthy Link Corporation Limited | Jubilant | 17 | 17 |
| Care U Professional Nursing Service Limited | Care U Professional Nursing Service Limited | - | 50 |
| From Heart Escort Co., Limited | From Heart Professional Services | - | 40 |
| The Salvation Army | The Salvation Army Tai Po Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly | 20 | 40 |
| | The Salvation Army Mongkok Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly | 5 | - |

| Organisation | RSP | Number of service places | |
|--|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Day care service | Home care service |
| Prestige Union Care Limited | Prestige Union Care Limited | - | 50 |
| Lucky Stable Limited | Neighbourhood Day Care | 4 | 60 |
| Pok Oi Hospital | Pok Oi Hospital Day Care Centre for the Elderly (Tuen Mun) | 12 | - |
| | Pok Oi Hospital Day Care Centre for the Elderly (Sham Shui Po) | 14 | - |
| | Pok Oi Hospital Day Centre for the Elderly (Yuen Long) | 10 | 5 |
| Senior Care Nursing Home Limited | Senior Care (Tai Wah) Elderly Care Home cum Elderly Day Care Centre | 10 | 20 |
| Senior Care Limited | Senior Care (Man Kee) Elderly Care Home cum Elderly Day Care Centre | 10 | 20 |
| Methodist Epworth Village Community Centre, Social Welfare | Epworth Elderly Day Care Centre | 13 | 30 |
| Methodist Centre | Methodist Community Care Centre (Eastern) | 15 | 40 |
| | Methodist Kin Lok Centre | 10 | 16 |
| | Methodist Rejoice Centre | 26 | 50 |
| | Methodist Ap Lei Chau Centre | - | 10 |
| | Methodist Cheer Centre | 30 | 20 |
| | Methodist Agile Mind Centre | 20 | 20 |
| | Methodist Grace Centre | - | 50 |
| Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service | East Kowloon Community Care Service | 15 | 30 |
| | West Kowloon Community Care Service | 13 | 30 |
| | Senior Citizen Cognitive Training Centre | 40 | 60 |
| | Oi Man Neighbourhood Elderly Centre | - | 20 |
| | Choi Wan Community Care Service | 23 | 5 |
| Wise Creation Holding Limited | Oasis Day Care Centre | 40 | 200 |
| Spark Medical Limited | Spark Medical Limited | - | 100 |
| Ho Hok Fong Co. Limited | Paired Community Care Service for the Elderly | - | 60 |
| Wah Fung Nursing Centre Limited | Wah Fung Nursing Centre Limited | 10 | 10 |
| CHG Health Service Limited | CHG Health Service Limited | - | 50 |

| Organisation | RSP | Number of service places | |
|---|--|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Day care service | Home care service |
| Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Social Service Limited | Nethersole Outreaching Rehabilitation Mission | - | 100 |
| Shun Yan Elderly Centre Limited | Shun Yan Elderly Centre Limited | - | 80 |
| Sik Sik Yuen | Ho Hing Health Care Services Centre (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen) 'Love@Home' Elderly Community Care Services | 26 | 26 |
| | Ho Ning Health Care Services Centre (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen) 'Love@Home' Elderly Community Care Services | 26 | 26 |
| | Ho Yam Care and Attention Home for the Elderly (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen) 'Love@Home' Elderly Community Care Services | 20 | - |
| Going Home Nursing Care Limited | Going Home Nursing Care Limited | - | 100 |
| Home & Hope Services Limited | Home & Hope Services Limited | - | 10 |
| Oi Kwan Care for the Aged Home Limited | Oi Kwan Care for the Aged cum Day Care Centre for the Elderly (Branch 1) | 5 | - |
| | Oi Kwan Care for the Aged cum Day Care Centre for the Elderly | 5 | - |
| Tsz Hong Professional Service Limited | Tsz Hong Professional Service Limited | - | 50 |
| Chi Wah Elderly Home Limited | Chi Wah Elderly Home Limited | 8 | 50 |
| New Page Speech Therapy & Rehab Consultancy Ltd | New Page Speech Therapy & Rehab Consultancy Ltd | - | 100 |
| N.T. Women & Juveniles Welfare Association Ltd | New Territories Women & Juveniles Welfare Association Community Care Centre for the Elderly | 10 | 40 |
| New Town Medical Care Limited | New Town Medical Care Limited | - | 20 |
| Sparkle Healthcare Company Limited | Sparkle Healthcare Company Limited | - | 100 |
| St. Paul's Hospital | St. Paul's Hospital Elderly Day Care Centre | 40 | 10 |

| Organisation | RSP | Number of service places | |
|---|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Day care service | Home care service |
| St. James' Settlement | E · Home Plus | 20 | 20 |
| | Joyful Community Care | 20 | - |
| | Kin Chi Dementia Care Support Service Centre (Wan Chai) | 20 | - |
| Eden Elder Care Specialists Limited | EDEN HOME Professional Care Services | - | 100 |
| GC System | Happy Home Support | - | 30 |
| Ka Mei Elderly Care Centre Limited | Care Well Day Care Centre | 48 | 100 |
| Kato (Hong Kong) Holdings Limited | Fai-To Sino-West Combined Home for the Aged | 20 | 200 |
| | Ka Shui Garden Day Care Centre (Hung Hom) | 20 | 200 |
| | Kato Home for the Elderly | 20 | 200 |
| | Pine Villa | 40 | 200 |
| | Ka Shui Garden Day Care Centre (Tsuen Wan) | 20 | 200 |
| Fook Yen Home for the Aged Limited | Fook Yen Home for the Aged Limited | - | 40 |
| Wai Ying Investment Limited | Evergreen (Tsz Ching) Nursing Home Cum Day Care Centre | 20 | 300 |
| | Evergreen (Pratas Street) Nursing Home | 10 | 150 |
| | Evergreen (Kwai Chung Estate) Nursing Home | 20 | 100 |
| | Evergreen (On Tai) Nursing Home cum Day Care Centre | 20 | 100 |
| Step Forward Para-Medical Services | Step Forward Para-Medical Services | - | 100 |
| Devco Technology Limited | Unicare 360 | - | 300 |
| LHK Social Service Limited | LHK Day Care Centre - Cordial Place | 23 | 50 |
| Shining Social Services Limited | Shining Home Care Service | - | 80 |
| | Amity Social Care Services | - | 40 |
| | Amity Social Care Services (Shatin) | - | 40 |
| | Amity Social Care Services (North) | - | 40 |
| Walking Easy | Integrated Rehabilitation & Care Centre for Elderly | 40 | 80 |
| The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council | Shamshuipo District Community Care Service Centre for the Elderly | 12 | 8 |
| | Shatin District Community Care Service Centre for the Elderly | 20 | - |
| Hope Worldwide | HOPE Worldwide Elderly Care Service Company Limited | - | 50 |

| Organisation | RSP | Number of service places | |
|--|--|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Day care service | Home care service |
| Chak Oi Company Limited | GY Care (Sham Shui Po) | - | 100 |
| Jackson Elderly Care Limited | GY Care (Aberdeen) | - | 100 |
| E.T. Investment Limited | Olive Nursing Home cum Day Care Unit for the Elderly | 7 | 100 |
| | Oasis Nursing Home | 12 | 100 |
| | Oasis Home Care Team | - | 200 |
| | Hygge Living Rehabilitation Centre | 27 | 100 |
| Treasure Tree Health & Nursing Limited | Treasure Tree Health & Nursing Limited | - | 50 |
| Hong Chi Culture & Media Limited | Yi Wo Yuen Day Care Centre for the Elderly(Kowloon) | 20 | 100 |
| Doctor Now Limited | DoctorNow Home | - | 100 |
| Caregivers Alliance (Home) Limited | Caregivers Alliance (Home) Limited | - | 300 |
| Spark Plus Company Limited | Spark Plus Company Limited | - | 100 |
| Total | | 4 102 | 13 885 |

Table 2 : Number of service places, number of elderly persons using CCSVs, numbers of persons using the mixed mode and single mode of service under the CCSV Scheme by district of RSPs in 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023)

| District | Number of service places | Number of elderly persons using CCSVs | Number of persons using the mixed mode of service | Number of persons using the single mode of service |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Eastern | 1 372 | 644 | 144 | 500 |
| Wan Chai | 961 | 369 | 6 | 363 |
| Central & Western | 920 | 800 | 35 | 765 |
| Southern | 524 | 264 | 33 | 231 |
| Islands | 70 | 19 | 6 | 13 |
| Kwun Tong | 1 369 | 902 | 189 | 713 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 1 114 | 731 | 120 | 611 |
| Sai Kung | 657 | 330 | 75 | 255 |
| Sham Shui Po | 1 383 | 525 | 67 | 458 |
| Kowloon City | 1 840 | 616 | 69 | 547 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 1 949 | 513 | 33 | 480 |
| Sha Tin | 1 104 | 614 | 103 | 511 |
| Tai Po | 609 | 435 | 67 | 368 |
| North | 302 | 131 | 21 | 110 |
| Kwai Tsing | 1 085 | 547 | 138 | 409 |
| Tsuen Wan | 1 157 | 649 | 124 | 525 |
| Tuen Mun | 1 105 | 562 | 69 | 493 |
| Yuen Long | 466 | 146 | 23 | 123 |
| Total | 17 987 | 8 797^{Note} | 1 322 | 7 475 |

Note Including the number of persons using services provided by 2 RSPs at the same time.

**Table 3 : Numbers of RSPs and service places under the CCSV Scheme
by district in 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023)**

| District | Number of RSPs | Number of service places | |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Day care service | Home care service |
| Eastern | 22 | 291 | 1 081 |
| Wan Chai | 11 | 161 | 800 |
| Central & Western | 11 | 80 | 840 |
| Southern | 12 | 114 | 410 |
| Islands | 2 | 20 | 50 |
| Kwun Tong | 21 | 455 | 914 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 16 | 343 | 771 |
| Sai Kung | 8 | 192 | 465 |
| Sham Shui Po | 22 | 265 | 1 118 |
| Kowloon City | 20 | 290 | 1 550 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 24 | 219 | 1 730 |
| Sha Tin | 15 | 422 | 682 |
| Tai Po | 9 | 160 | 449 |
| North | 6 | 92 | 210 |
| Kwai Tsing | 19 | 324 | 761 |
| Tsuen Wan | 15 | 239 | 918 |
| Tuen Mun | 17 | 237 | 868 |
| Yuen Long | 8 | 198 | 268 |
| Total | 258 | 4 102 | 13 885 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)201

(Question Serial No. 1085)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the residential and day respite services for persons with disabilities (PWDs), please provide the following information:

- i. the numbers of service places, applicants, users and waitlisted persons, as well as average waiting time for each service unit in the past 5 years;
- ii. the shortest, longest and average durations of stay in days (applicable to residential respite service) in the past 5 years;
- iii. the estimated and actual numbers of additional places in the past 5 years;
- iv. the number of service users in each quarter (with the same service user in the same quarter counted as 1 user) in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by district of residence, gender and age group;
- v. the number of persons for whom services were not arranged (with the same person who was refused service in more than 1 district counted as 1 person) and the cost per service user in the past 5 years; and
- vi. the number of places for planned services, with a detailed breakdown by district.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

- i & ii. As the relevant data system was established by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in 2021-22, the statistics for 2019-20 and 2020-21 are not available. The numbers of service places and headcount of service users for each type of service units providing day and residential respite services for PWDs in the past 3 years are tabulated at Annex 1. SWD does not have information such as the shortest, longest and average durations of stay in days of day and residential respite services provided by various service units. Since service users are not required to apply for day or residential respite services through SWD's Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services, SWD does not have the number of waitlisted persons and the waiting time for day and residential respite services for PWDs. Service units will accord priority to service users with pressing needs based on the merits of each individual case.

- iii, iv & v. In the past 5 years, SWD provided 75 and 104 additional service places for day and residential respite services for PWDs, respectively. The number of service places and headcount of service users in each of the past 5 years are set out at Annex 2. The headcount of service users per quarter for residential and day respite services is set out at Annex 3. SWD does not possess statistical information on the districts of residence, gender, age group and the per capita cost of users of respite services. Besides, SWD has not received any reports of services not being arranged.
- vi. SWD will provide an additional of about 110 places of respite services for PWDs in 2023-24 and 2024-25. The distribution of the service places is at Annex 4.

Table 1: Number of service places for each type of day respite services for PWDs from 2021-22 to 2023-24

| Type of service unit | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|--|------------|------------|--|
| Day activity centre (DAC) | 110 | 110 | 110 |
| District support centre for PWDs (DSC) | 40 | 48 | 48 |
| Care and attention home for severely disabled persons (C&A/SD) | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| Private Residential care home for PWDs (RCHDs) under the Bought Place Scheme (BPS) | - | - | 63 |
| Total | 164 | 172 | 235 |

Table 2: Number of service places for each type of residential respite services for PWDs from 2021-22 to 2023-24

| Type of service unit | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|---|------------|------------|--|
| C&A/SD | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| Hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons (HMMH) | 104 | 107 | 109 |
| Hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons (HSMH) | 148 | 150 | 150 |
| Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons (HSPH) | 11 | 11 | 13 |
| Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons with mental handicap (HSPH/MH) | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Supported hostel (SHOS) | 41 | 46 | 46 |
| Integrated rehabilitation centre | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Private RCHDs under BPS | 45 | 48 | 63 |
| Total | 390 | 403 | 422 |

Table 3: Headcount of service users for each type of day respite services for PWDs from 2021-22 to 2023-24

| Service type | Headcount of service users ^{Note} | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| DAC | 141 | 95 | 193 |
| DSC | 1 183 | 1 126 | 1 307 |
| C&A/SD | - | - | - |
| Private RCHDs under BPS | - | - | - |
| Total | 1 324 | 1 221 | 1 500 |

^{Note} A service user may have multiple admissions for day respite services in a year.

Table 4: Headcount of service users for each type of residential respite services for PWDs from 2021-22 to 2023-24

| Service type | Headcount of service users ^{Note} | | |
|----------------------------------|--|------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| C&A/SD | 8 | 11 | 19 |
| HMMH | 33 | 80 | 196 |
| HSMH | 166 | 151 | 433 |
| HSPH | 2 | 5 | 9 |
| HSPH/MH | - | - | - |
| SHOS | 9 | 27 | 28 |
| Integrated rehabilitation centre | 70 | 93 | 302 |
| Private RCHDs under BPS | 140 | 211 | 206 |
| Total | 428 | 578 | 1 193 |

^{Note} A service user may have multiple admissions for residential respite services in a year.

Table 1: Number of service places of day and residential respite services for PWDs from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | Number of places ^{Note} | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Day respite service | Residential respite service |
| 2019-20 | 160 | 318 |
| 2020-21 | 160 | 380 |
| 2021-22 | 164 | 390 |
| 2022-23 | 172 | 403 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 235 | 422 |

^{Note} Including designated day/residential respite service places provided by Private RCHDs under BPS.

Table 2: Headcount of service users of day and residential respite services for PWDs from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | Headcount of service users ^{Note} | |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| | Day respite service | Residential respite service |
| 2019-20 | 1 805 | 2 285 |
| 2020-21 | 896 | 224 |
| 2021-22 | 1 324 | 428 |
| 2022-23 | 1 221 | 578 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 1 500 | 1 193 |

^{Note} A service user may have multiple admissions for day or residential respite service in a year, including the utilisation of designated day/residential respite services provided by Private RCHDs under BPS.

Table 1: Headcount of service users of residential respite services per quarter in 2019-20

| April to June 2019 | July to September 2019 | October to December 2019 | January to March 2020 | Total |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 588 | 656 | 768 | 273 | 2 285 |

Table 2: Headcount of service users of residential respite services per quarter in 2020-21 ^{Note 1}

| April to June 2020 | July to September 2020 | October to December 2020 | January to March 2021 | Total |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 56 | 59 | 44 | 65 | 224 |

Table 3: Headcount of service users of residential respite services per quarter in 2021-22 ^{Note 1}

| April to June 2021 | July to September 2021 | October to December 2021 | January to March 2022 | Total |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 94 | 120 | 140 | 74 | 428 |

Table 4: Headcount of service users of residential respite services per quarter in 2022-23 ^{Note 1}

| April to June 2022 | July to September 2022 | October to December 2022 | January to March 2023 | Total |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 103 | 131 | 136 | 208 | 578 |

Table 5: Headcount of service users of residential respite services per quarter in 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) ^{Note 2}

| April to June 2023 | July to September 2023 | October to December 2023 | Total |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 335 | 377 | 481 | 1 193 |

Note 1 Including the utilisation of designated residential respite services provided by Private RCHDs under BPS.

Note 2 Including the utilisation of designated day/residential respite services provided by Private RCHDs under BPS.

Table 6: Headcount of service users of day respite services per quarter in 2019-20

| April to June 2019 | July to September 2019 | October to December 2019 | January to March 2020 | Total |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 516 | 588 | 442 | 259 | 1 805 |

Table 7: Headcount of service users of day respite services per quarter in 2020-21

| April to June 2020 | July to September 2020 | October to December 2020 | January to March 2021 | Total |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 160 | 166 | 273 | 297 | 896 |

Table 8: Headcount of service users of day respite services per quarter in 2021-22

| April to June 2021 | July to September 2021 | October to December 2021 | January to March 2022 | Total |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 336 | 413 | 386 | 189 | 1 324 |

Table 9: Headcount of service users of day respite services per quarter in 2022-23

| April to June 2022 | July to September 2022 | October to December 2022 | January to March 2023 | Total |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 222 | 325 | 397 | 277 | 1 221 |

Table 10: Headcount of service users of day respite services per quarter in 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) ^{Note}

| April to June 2023 | July to September 2023 | October to December 2023 | Total |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 375 | 592 | 533 | 1 500 |

^{Note} Including the utilisation of designated day/residential respite services provided by Private RCHDs under BPS.

**Table 1: Number of additional places and their distribution by district
for planned residential respite services for PWDs
from 2023-24 to 2024-25**

| District | 2023-24 ^{Note 1} | 2024-25 |
|---------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Eastern | 2 | - |
| Sai Kung | - | 1 |
| Kowloon City | 2 | - |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 3 | - |
| Sham Shui Po | 4 | - |
| Sha Tin | - | 1 |
| North | - | 8 |
| Kwai Tsing | 6 | - |
| Tuen Mun | 14 ^{Note 2} | - |
| Others | -6 ^{Note 3} | 6 |
| Total | 25 | 16 |

Note 1 Including 17 designated day/residential respite service places provided by Private RCHDs under BPS.

Note 2 Including 4 service places that have commenced service by 31 December 2023 and 10 service places that will commence service by April 2024.

Note 3 Including the reduction in day/residential respite service places provided by 2 Private RCHDs under BPS due to termination of contracts in September 2023 and January 2024 respectively.

**Table 2: Number of additional places and their distribution by district
for planned day respite services for PWDs
from 2023-24 to 2024-25**

| District | 2023-24 ^{Note 1} | 2024-25 |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Eastern | 4 | - |
| Kowloon City | 6 | - |
| Sham Shui Po | 10 | - |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 11 | - |
| North | 8 | - |
| Yuen Long | 2 | - |
| Tsuen Wan | 3 | - |
| Kwai Tsing | 12 | - |
| Tuen Mun | 7 | - |
| Others | -4 ^{Note 2} | 6 |
| Total | 59 | 6 |

Note 1 Including 63 designated day/residential respite service places provided by Private RCHDs under BPS.

Note 2 Including a reduction of 4 designated day/residential respite service places provided by Private RCHDs under BPS due to termination of contracts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)202

(Question Serial No. 1086)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding day training and vocational rehabilitation services, including sheltered workshop (SW), supported employment service, On the Job Training Programme, integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre (IVRSC), integrated vocational training centre (day service) [IVTC(Day)] and Work Extension Programme (WEP), please inform this Committee of:

- i. the number of service places, the planned and actual numbers of additional service places, and the longest, shortest, average and median waiting time (broken down by priority and normal waiting list, if applicable) in each of the past 5 years;
- ii. the per capita costs of services in the past 5 years;
- iii. the numbers of applicants, persons served and persons applying for a freeze in service allocation in the past 5 years, broken down by district of residence, age group and gender;
- iv. the number of persons having refused service allocation, the length of their waiting time in years, and their reasons for refusal in the past 5 years;
- v. the age of service users in each service unit in the territory; and
- vi. the number of places for planned services, broken down by district.
- vii. The current rate of incentive payment for service users of SWs and IVRSCs is \$26.5 per day, which was set in 2014. The previous adjustment was made in 2008 (\$21). What is the mechanism for the setting and adjustment of the rate of incentive payment?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

- i. The number of service places for various vocational rehabilitation services in each of the past 5 years is set out at Annex 1. The planned and actual number of additional service places for SWs, IVRSCs and WEP in each of the past 5 years is set out at Annex 2. The average waiting time for the above services in each of the past 5 years is set out at Annex 3. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have statistics on the longest, shortest or median waiting time.

- ii. The average monthly cost per SW place in each of the past 5 years is set out at Annex 4. SWD does not have information on the unit costs of services under SE, On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities (OJT), Sunnyway - On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities (Sunnyway), IVRSCs, IVTC(Day) or WEP.
- iii & iv. The number of applicants for SWs and SE services in the past 5 years, broken down by administrative district of SWD and age group, is set out at Annex 5. The number of service users of SWs, SE and IVRSCs is set out at Annex 6. Since OJT, Sunnyway and IVTC(Day) may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have information on the number of applicants, number of service recipients, number of persons applying for a freeze in service allocation, number of persons having refused service allocation, the length of their waiting time, or the age distribution of service users of the relevant service units. As services are allocated to applicants on the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services of SWD in sequential order without considering their gender, SWD does not have statistical information on the applicants' gender. As there is no Central Waiting List (CWL) for WEP and applicants are selected from SWs, SWD does not have the relevant statistical information.
- v. The age distribution of service users of SWs, SE services and IVRSCs is set out at Annex 7. Since OJT, Sunnyway and IVTC(Day) may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have information on the age distribution of service users of the relevant service units. As there is no CWL for WEP and applicants are selected from SWs, SWD does not have information on the age distribution of the service users of WEP.
- vi. The planned number and geographical distribution of additional IVRSC places by SWD are set out at Annex 8. A total of 920 service places are expected to be added in the next 5 years.
- vii. The purpose of the incentive payment in SWs is mainly to encourage persons with disabilities to participate in vocational rehabilitation training programmes. According to the mechanism endorsed by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, the rate of incentive payment will be adjusted if there is an increase of more than 20% in the Consumer Price Index (A) [CPI(A)]. SWD has increased the rate of incentive payment to \$33/day starting from October 2023 in accordance with the mechanism.

**Number of service places for various vocational rehabilitation services
from 2019-20 to 2023-24**

| Service type | No. of service places | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| SW | 5 399 | 5 399 | 5 399 | 5 399 | 5 399 |
| SE | 1 633 | 1 633 | 1 633 | 1 633 | 1 633 |
| OJT | 432 | 432 | 432 | 432 | 432 |
| Sunnyway | 311 | 311 | 311 | 311 | 311 |
| IVRSC | 5 288 | 5 523 | 5 523 | 5 648 | 5 808 |
| IVTC(Day) | 453 | 453 | 453 | 453 | 453 |
| WEP | 1 130 | 1 130 | 1 130 | 1 130 | 1 130 |

**Planned and actual number of additional places for SWs, IVRSCs and WEP
from 2019-20 to 2023-24**

| Year | SW | | IVRSC | | WEP | |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Planned no. of additional places | Actual no. of additional places | Planned no. of additional places | Actual no. of additional places | Planned no. of additional places | Actual no. of additional places |
| 2019-20 | 0 | 10 | 466 | 466 | 0 | 10 |
| 2020-21 | 0 | 0 | 235 | 235 | 0 | 0 |
| 2021-22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2022-23 | 0 | 0 | 125 | 125 | 0 | 0 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 0 | 0 | 160 | 160 | 0 | 0 |

Average waiting time for vocational rehabilitation services

| Service type | Average waiting time in 2019-20 (in months) Note 4 | Average waiting time in 2020-21 (in months) Note 4 | Average waiting time in 2021-22 (in months) Note 4 | Average waiting time in 2022-23 (in months) Note 4 | Average waiting time in 2023-24 (in months) Note 4 |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| SW | 18.8 | 20.6 | 12.6 | 14.0 | Not yet available ^{Note 5} |
| SE | 3.8 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.5 | Not yet available ^{Note 5} |
| OJT ^{Note 1} | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| Sunnyway ^{Note 1} | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| IVRSC ^{Note 2} | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| IVTC(Day) ^{Note 1} | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| WEP ^{Note 3} | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |

N.A. - Not applicable.

^{Note 1} As this service may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have the relevant statistics.

^{Note 2} There is no CWL for IVRSCs and applicants are selected from CWLs for SWs and SE.

^{Note 3} There is no CWL for WEP and applicants are selected from SWs.

^{Note 4} The waiting time is affected by a number of factors, including the location preference indicated by the applicants, the choice of specific service units indicated, the turnover rate of the service units selected by the applicants, etc.

^{Note 5} The figures for 2023-24 are not yet available as the average waiting time is compiled on a financial-year basis covering the 1st of April of a year to the 31st of March of the next year.

Average monthly cost per SW place from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | SW |
|----------------------------|--|
| | Average monthly cost per place (\$) |
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 5,856 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 5,889 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 5,834 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 5,913 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 6,201 |

**Table 1: Number of applicants for SWs in 2019-20
(by administrative district of SWD and age group)**

| District | No. of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 39 | 57 | 31 | 17 | 44 | 12 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 48 | 40 | 29 | 27 | 30 | 16 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 52 | 80 | 25 | 47 | 52 | 13 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 99 | 93 | 39 | 41 | 58 | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 58 | 33 | 21 | 27 | 37 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 44 | 32 | 14 | 19 | 29 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 38 | 49 | 28 | 36 | 35 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 53 | 73 | 38 | 27 | 33 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 76 | 48 | 29 | 18 | 37 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 50 | 66 | 34 | 42 | 45 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 46 | 47 | 34 | 30 | 26 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 603 | 618 | 322 | 331 | 426 | 111 | 5 | 0 |

**Table 2: Number of applicants for SWs in 2020-21
(by administrative district of SWD and age group)**

| District | No. of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 32 | 50 | 19 | 21 | 38 | 12 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 42 | 40 | 23 | 24 | 37 | 16 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 56 | 66 | 21 | 30 | 29 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 87 | 63 | 33 | 29 | 45 | 12 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 26 | 19 | 23 | 26 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 40 | 24 | 10 | 17 | 17 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 42 | 42 | 26 | 30 | 22 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 46 | 77 | 30 | 28 | 27 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 70 | 49 | 23 | 19 | 35 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 45 | 59 | 29 | 27 | 41 | 12 | 2 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 61 | 58 | 32 | 35 | 23 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 574 | 554 | 265 | 283 | 340 | 94 | 6 | 0 |

**Table 3: Number of applicants for SWs in 2021-22
(by administrative district of SWD and age group)**

| District | No. of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 34 | 42 | 21 | 14 | 30 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 32 | 33 | 21 | 18 | 32 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 59 | 71 | 14 | 24 | 27 | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 85 | 69 | 36 | 31 | 42 | 10 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 35 | 23 | 20 | 29 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 49 | 25 | 16 | 12 | 23 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 52 | 40 | 34 | 37 | 29 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 54 | 76 | 32 | 28 | 31 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 76 | 60 | 28 | 24 | 32 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 52 | 57 | 33 | 24 | 40 | 14 | 2 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 65 | 57 | 32 | 41 | 20 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 611 | 565 | 290 | 273 | 335 | 96 | 6 | 0 |

**Table 4: Number of applicants for SWs in 2022-23
(by administrative district of SWD and age group)**

| District | No. of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 24 | 45 | 25 | 17 | 23 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 29 | 33 | 22 | 11 | 34 | 11 | 2 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 67 | 73 | 16 | 25 | 27 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 85 | 92 | 39 | 33 | 30 | 12 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 43 | 46 | 25 | 19 | 22 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 58 | 24 | 17 | 12 | 18 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 63 | 49 | 31 | 34 | 30 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 60 | 87 | 31 | 27 | 31 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 83 | 67 | 32 | 22 | 33 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 51 | 54 | 38 | 20 | 42 | 13 | 2 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 58 | 50 | 32 | 46 | 24 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 621 | 620 | 308 | 266 | 314 | 99 | 11 | 0 |

**Table 5: Number of applicants for SWs in 2023-24
(by administrative district of SWD and age group)
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | No. of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 26 | 41 | 22 | 16 | 16 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 23 | 35 | 19 | 14 | 29 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 63 | 75 | 14 | 22 | 26 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 93 | 77 | 40 | 20 | 23 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 39 | 17 | 14 | 23 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 54 | 34 | 20 | 18 | 12 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 68 | 44 | 24 | 36 | 23 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 57 | 84 | 39 | 34 | 22 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 87 | 68 | 26 | 27 | 26 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 50 | 47 | 34 | 21 | 35 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 54 | 50 | 21 | 37 | 19 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 628 | 594 | 276 | 259 | 254 | 95 | 4 | 0 |

**Table 6: Number of applicants for SE in 2019-20
(by administrative district of SWD and age group)**

| District | No. of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Table 7: Number of applicants for SE in 2020-21
(by administrative district of SWD and age group)**

| District | No. of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 8 | 11 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

**Table 8: Number of applicants for SE in 2021-22
(by administrative district of SWD and age group)**

| District | No. of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

**Table 9: Number of applicants for SE in 2022-23
(by administrative district of SWD and age group)**

| District | No. of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 2 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

**Table 10: Number of applicants for SE in 2023-24
(by administrative district of SWD and age group)
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | No. of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1 | 3 | 6 | 17 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Number of service users of vocational rehabilitation services

| Service type/ Year | No. of service users | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| SW | 5 303 | 5 265 | 5 273 | 5 273 | 5 289 |
| SE | 2 036 | 1 987 | 2 033 | 1 954 | 2 416 |
| IVRSC | 5 176 | 5 609 | 5 327 | 5 778 | 5 947 |

**Age distribution of service users of vocational rehabilitation services in 2023-24
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| Service type | No. of service users | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| SW | 30 | 629 | 1 037 | 1 310 | 1 246 | 867 | 165 | 5 |
| SE | 6 | 481 | 666 | 600 | 456 | 191 | 16 | 0 |
| IVRSC | 33 | 989 | 1 523 | 1 283 | 1 202 | 786 | 128 | 3 |

Planned number and geographical distribution of additional IVRSC places

| Service type | No. of service places | District Council district |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| IVRSC | 200 | Tuen Mun |
| | 280 | Southern |
| | 200 | Kowloon City |
| | 120 | Sham Shui Po |
| | 120 | North |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)203

(Question Serial No. 1087)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the support for carers of persons with disabilities (PWDs) living in the community, please provide the following information:

- i the number of carers who have received home-based respite service, training for carers, emotional support for carers and case management service in the past 2 years;
- ii the respective numbers of carers of PWDs served by district support centres for PWDs (DSCs), parents/relatives resource centres (PRCs), integrated community centres for mental wellness (ICCMWs), home care service for persons with severe disabilities (HCS), and integrated support service for persons with severe physical disabilities (ISS) in the past 2 years, broken down by type of service; and
- iii the numbers of applicants, service places, service users and related activities organised by DSCs, PRCs, ICCMWs, HCS, and ISS in each of the past 2 years, broken down by type of service received by carers.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

- i & ii. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides home respite services through DSCs, HCS and ISS to reduce the pressure on the families/carers of PWDs. From 2022-23 to 2023-24, the headcount of users of home respite service is set out in Table 1 of Annex 1. The number of cases provided with case management services by DSCs, HCS, ISS, PRCs and ICCMWs is set out in Table 2 of Annex 1. All of the above services provide carer training and carer emotional support services. SWD does not have a breakdown of the number of users by service type.
- iii. Service users do not have to waitlist for DSCs, HCS, ISS, PRCs or ICCMWs through the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services. The service places for HCS and ISS in 2023-24 were 3 550 and 900, respectively. There are no quotas set for the other services. The respective numbers of users (including PWDs and their families/carers) of the above services and activities organised from 2022-23 to 2023-24 are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 2.

Table 1 : Headcount of users of home respite service provided by DSCs and under HCS and ISS

| Service type | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|---------------------|----------------|---|
| DSC | 581 | 546 |
| HCS | 12 841 | 12 406 |
| ISS | 5 487 | 4 453 |

Table 2: Number of cases ^{Note 1} provided with case management services by various types of services

| Service type | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|-------------------------|----------------|---|
| DSC | 2 082 | 2 324 |
| HCS | 4 769 | 4 549 |
| ISS | 1 189 | 1 172 |
| PRC ^{Note 2} | 1 048 | 1 022 |
| ICCMW ^{Note 2} | 2 356 | 1 715 |

Note 1 Including PWDs and their families/carers.

Note 2 Number of cases provided with casework services.

Table 1: Number of users of various types of services

| Service type | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|-----------------------|----------------|---|
| DSC | 7 079 | 8 470 |
| HCS ^{Note} | 5 771 | 4 837 |
| ISS ^{Note} | 1 477 | 1 418 |
| PRC ^{Note} | 12 121 | 13 157 |
| ICCMW ^{Note} | 5 188 | 4 230 |

Note Including PWDs and their families/carers.

Table 2 : Number of activities organised by various types of services

| Service type | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|---------------------|----------------|---|
| DSC | 1 569 | 1 282 |
| HCS | 167 | 78 |
| ISS | 48 | 41 |
| PRC | 9 712 | 6 856 |
| ICCMW | 854 | 689 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)204

(Question Serial No. 1088)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the services of district support centres for persons with disabilities (DSCs), please provide:

- i. the total number of members of each unit in the past 5 years, broken down by type of disabilities, gender and age (age group in ten-year bands from the age over 15);
- ii. the number of persons who were refused service in each unit, broken down by reason for refusal, in the past 5 years;
- iii. the average waiting time for each service unit in the past 5 years; and
- iv. the expenditure on the entire scheme, per capita cost of each service unit and per capita cost of each type of service in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

- i. The number of DSC members in each of the past 5 years, broken down by unit, is set out in Table 1 of Annex. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the number of members broken down by type of disabilities, gender and age.
- ii & iii. SWD does not have the information sought.
- iv. The expenditure of DSCs in each of the past 5 years is set out in Table 2 of Annex. SWD does not have information on the per capita cost of each service unit and each type of service.

Table 1: Number of DSC members from 2019-20 to 2023-24 by district

| District | No. of members | | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end- December 2023) |
| Central/Western/ Southern & Islands | 528 | 514 | 507 | 772 | 1 146 |
| Eastern & Wan Chai | 252 | 238 | 219 | 275 | 342 |
| Kwun Tong | 581 | 651 | 686 | 950 | 1 192 |
| Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung | 1 047 | 1 053 | 1 036 | 976 | 1 053 |
| Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong | 246 | 240 | 351 | 460 | 482 |
| Sham Shui Po | 317 | 257 | 288 | 347 | 464 |
| Sha Tin | 347 | 349 | 365 | 626 | 813 |
| Tai Po & North | 542 | 559 | 570 | 657 | 654 |
| Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing | 1 025 | 741 | 686 | 938 | 962 |
| Tuen Mun | 302 | 308 | 308 | 366 | 413 |
| Yuen Long | 653 | 898 | 747 | 712 | 949 |
| Total | 5 840 | 5 808 | 5 763 | 7 079 | 8 470 |

Table 2: Expenditure on DSCs from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 211.5 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 269.1 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 263.2 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 305.0 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 329.3 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)205

(Question Serial No. 1090)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare
(3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
(6) Community Development
(7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It was announced in the 2019-20 Budget that \$20 billion would be allocated for the purchase of 60 properties over some 3 years for accommodating more than 130 welfare facilities, including day child care centres (CCCs), neighbourhood elderly centres (NECs), on-site pre-school rehabilitation services (OPRS), etc., which are expected to benefit about 86 000 people. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What is the Government's latest progress in purchasing properties? Please provide the total number and value of purchased properties, the staffing establishment and administrative costs involved, and the agency costs incurred.
2. Please set out in a table the location, size, price, average price per square foot, service type/nature of the welfare facilities proposed to be accommodated, expected date of service commencement, and number of beneficiaries for each purchased property.
3. What criteria does the Government adopt in the process of purchasing and deciding the use of properties?
4. What are the objectives and timetable for this financial year?
5. When is the expected completion date for the purchase?
6. Please provide the number of projects expected to be completed under the special scheme in the next 5 years and the number of residential service places to be offered each year.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

With the assistance of the Government Property Agency (GPA), the Social Welfare Department (SWD) is striving to identify suitable premises for purchase through different channels. As at 29 February 2024, SWD has incurred about \$240 million in actual expenditure on the “purchase of welfare premises” under the Capital Works Reserve Fund, covering the payment for 5 premises. 2 of these premises are located in Sham Shui Po District, while the remaining 3 are located in Central and Western District, Eastern District and Kwun Tong District respectively. These premises are for operating a Parents/Relatives Resource Centre, a Support Centre for Persons with Autism and a neighbourhood elderly centre, as well as for providing on-site pre-school rehabilitation services.

The progress of purchasing premises, as well as the number, location, expenditure and purpose of such premises, depend on the availability of suitable properties in the market and various external factors, including whether the properties for sale have fire safety and barrier-free access facilities, whether the size and location meet operational requirements, whether the surrounding land uses are compatible with welfare uses, and whether the selling prices fall within the acceptable price range determined by GPA with reference to market value. Currently, SWD and GPA are continuing their efforts to identify and purchase suitable premises, and have earmarked about \$499 million for related work in 2024-25. If market conditions permit, the goal of SWD and GPA is to purchase as many premises as possible in order to provide more welfare facilities.

SWD has 2 time-limited non-directorate posts dedicated to assist in the purchase of premises in 2023-24. GPA has 5 time-limited non-directorate posts to handle the purchases in 2023-24. Apart from the above dedicated manpower, SWD and GPA have deployed their existing resources to handle the purchase of premises. No additional administrative costs or agency costs are involved in the purchase of premises.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)206

(Question Serial No. 1091)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. Please set out the numbers of service places and users in respect of residential respite service (RRS) and day respite service (DRS) for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in each of the past 5 years, as well as the number of planned service places in the future by geographical distribution and in detail.
2. Please set out the number of persons who have used the services of various day care service units and the number of service places available for application in each of the past 5 years.
3. Please set out i) the number of users, annual expenditure and staffing establishment (SE) of each district support centre for PWDs (DSC) in each of the past 5 years; ii) the SE, annual estimated expenditure, number of graduates benefitted and service details of the designated teams under DSCs, as indicated in last year's Policy Address that designated teams would be set up under DSCs to support special school graduates.
4. Please set out i) the actual expenditure, number of service places and number of PWDs waitlisted for each type of rehabilitation services (including day and residential services) in each of the past 5 years; ii) the average monthly cost per place of residential rehabilitation services, day services (including sheltered workshops (SWs) and day activity centres (DACs)) and pre-school rehabilitation services in each of the past 5 years.
5. Please set out i) the number of users and service places in each service unit under integrated support service for persons with severe physical disabilities (ISS) and home care service for persons with severe disabilities (HCS) in each quarter in each of the past 5 years; and ii) the number of planned additional service places in the future.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. The numbers of service places and users in respect of RRS and DRS for PWDs in different districts from 2019-20 to 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) are set out at Annexes 1 to 4. In 2023-24 and 2024-25, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will provide around 110 additional respite service places for PWDs. The distribution of these service places is shown in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 5.

2. Day care service for persons with severe disabilities is attached to 11 Care-and-Attention Homes for Severely Disabled Persons, 15 DSCs and 4 Community Rehabilitation Day Centres, providing a total of 245 places for day care service. Persons in need may apply for the service directly from the service units. Therefore, SWD does not have information on the number of service users of each day care service unit.
3.
 - i) The number of members, annual expenditure and SE of DSCs from 2019-20 to 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) are set out in Tables 1 to 3 of Annex 6, respectively.
 - ii) SWD will set up a designated team in each of the 21 DSCs across the territory in April 2024 to provide early intervention services for special school leavers at least 6 months before graduation and follow-up the needy cases up to 18 months after graduation with a view to assisting them in smooth transition. from school to the community living. Each designated team is composed of social workers, occupational therapists and supporting staff to collaborate with school social workers to provide support services to school leavers and their carers, including formulating care plans, strengthening independent living skills for school leavers, matching them with the appropriate community support services, and providing carers with mutual support groups or caring skills training programmes to relieve the carers' stress. It is estimated that about 600 school leavers will benefit each year, involving an annual expenditure around \$110 million.
4.
 - i) The expenditure, number of service places and number of persons waitlisted for various types of day and residential rehabilitation services from 2019-20 to 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) are set out in Tables 1 to 3 of Annex 7.
 - ii) The overall average monthly cost per place for residential rehabilitation services for PWDs, and the average monthly cost per place for day services (SWs and DACs) and pre-school rehabilitation services from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are set out in Tables 1 to 3 of Annex 8.
5.
 - i) The number of service users and places in each service unit under HCS and ISS and in each quarter from 2019-20 to 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) are set out in Tables 1 to 7 of Annex 9.
 - ii) At present, there is no plan to increase the number of places for these 2 home care services.

Number of RRS places for PWDs by district ^{Note 1} from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| District | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| Central & Western | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Southern | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 |
| Islands | - | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Eastern | 10 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 14 |
| Wan Chai | - | - | - | - | - |
| Kwun Tong | 34 | 44 | 44 | 44 | 44 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Sai Kung | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 |
| Kowloon City | 11 | 13 | 15 | 15 | 17 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 2 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 13 |
| Sham Shui Po | 13 | 26 | 27 | 35 | 39 |
| Sha Tin | 34 | 36 | 36 | 38 | 38 |
| Tai Po | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| North | 16 | 22 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Yuen Long | 22 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Tsuen Wan | 10 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Kwai Tsing | 36 | 41 | 41 | 44 | 48 |
| Tuen Mun | 33 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 44 |
| Total | 318 | 380 | 390 | 403 | 422 |

Note 1 Including designated DRS/RRS places under the Bought Place Scheme (BPS) for Private Residential Care Homes for PWDs (RCHDs).

Number of DRS places for PWDs by district ^{Note 1} from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| District | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---|
| Central & Western | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Eastern | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 10 |
| Wan Chai | - | - | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Southern | 4 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 8 |
| Islands | - | - | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Kwun Tong | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Sai Kung | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Kowloon City | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 10 |
| Sham Shui Po | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 22 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 15 |
| Sha Tin | 24 | 24 | 24 | 26 | 26 |
| Tai Po | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| North | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 32 |
| Yuen Long | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 8 |
| Tsuen Wan | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 11 |
| Kwai Tsing | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 36 ^{Note 2} |
| Tuen Mun | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 18 |
| Total | 160 | 160 | 164 | 172 | 235 |

Note 1 Including designated DRS/RRS places provided by private RCHDs under BPS.

Note 2 Excluding the reduction of 2 DRS/RRS places provided by a private RCHD participating in the BPS due to termination of contract in September 2023.

Number of users of RRS places for PWDs by district ^{Note 1} from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| District | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|---|
| Central & Western | 9 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Southern | 218 | 25 | 22 | 24 | 52 |
| Islands | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern | 58 | 1 | 18 | 10 | 31 |
| Wan Chai | - | - | - | - | - |
| Kwun Tong | 222 | 18 | 28 | 59 | 131 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Sai Kung | 226 | 30 | 63 | 85 | 140 |
| Kowloon City | 92 | 37 | 27 | 39 | 72 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 19 | 0 | 37 | 29 | 29 |
| Sham Shui Po | 82 | 5 | 27 | 54 | 110 |
| Sha Tin | 377 | 21 | 20 | 56 | 186 |
| Tai Po | 31 | 6 | 15 | 18 | 47 |
| North | 157 | 2 | 28 | 46 | 59 |
| Yuen Long | 251 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 86 |
| Tsuen Wan | 108 | 0 | 5 | 16 | 11 |
| Kwai Tsing | 125 | 17 | 31 | 58 | 120 |
| Tuen Mun | 280 | 52 | 102 | 68 | 98 |
| Total | 2 285 | 224 | 428 | 578 | 1 193 |

**Number of users of DRS for PWDs by district
from 2019-20 to 2023-24**

| District | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| Central & Western | 57 | 111 | 159 | 74 | 150 |
| Eastern | 15 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 39 |
| Wan Chai | 0 | 0 | 3 | 84 | 32 |
| Southern | 91 | 49 | 99 | 73 | 145 |
| Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 18 |
| Kwun Tong | 199 | 98 | 134 | 119 | 77 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 26 | 24 | 25 | 24 | 18 |
| Sai Kung | 66 | 57 | 64 | 44 | 33 |
| Kowloon City | 123 | 0 | 0 | 118 | 217 |
| Sham Shui Po | 58 | 2 | 16 | 42 | 53 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 325 | 141 | 141 | 150 | 148 |
| Sha Tin | 155 | 66 | 109 | 113 | 278 |
| Tai Po | 13 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 8 |
| North | 184 | 1 | 25 | 24 | 29 |
| Yuen Long | 72 | 130 | 115 | 113 | 43 |
| Tsuen Wan | 57 | 101 | 142 | 51 | 37 |
| Kwai Tsing | 124 | 22 | 0 | 3 | 10 |
| Tuen Mun | 240 | 94 | 285 | 173 | 165 |
| Total | 1 805 | 896 | 1 324 | 1 221 | 1 500 |

**Table 1: Number of additional places and their distribution by district
for planned RRS for PWDs from 2023-24 to 2024-25**

| District | 2023-24 ^{Note 1} | 2024-25 |
|---------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Eastern | 2 | - |
| Sai Kung | - | 1 |
| Kowloon City | 2 | - |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 3 | - |
| Sham Shui Po | 4 | - |
| Sha Tin | - | 1 |
| North | - | 8 |
| Kwai Tsing | 6 | - |
| Tuen Mun | 14 ^{Note 2} | - |
| Others | -6 ^{Note 3} | 6 |
| Total | 25 | 16 |

Note 1 Including 17 designated DRS/RRS places provided by private RCHDs under BPS.

Note 2 Including 4 service places that have commenced service by 31 December 2023 and 10 service places that will commence service by April 2024.

Note 3 Including the reduction in DRS/RRS places provided by 2 private RCHDs under BPS due to termination of contracts in September 2023 and January 2024, respectively.

**Table 2: Number of additional places and their distribution by district
for planned DRS for PWDs
from 2023-24 to 2024-25**

| District | 2023-24 ^{Note 1} | 2024-25 |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Eastern | 4 | - |
| Kowloon City | 6 | - |
| Sham Shui Po | 10 | - |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 11 | - |
| North | 8 | - |
| Yuen Long | 2 | - |
| Tsuen Wan | 3 | - |
| Kwai Tsing | 12 | - |
| Tuen Mun | 7 | - |
| Others | -4 ^{Note 2} | 6 |
| Total | 59 | 6 |

Note 1 Including 63 designated DRS/RRS places provided by private RCHDs under BPS.

Note 2 Including the reduction of 4 DRS/RRS places provided by private RCHDs under BPS due to termination of contracts.

Table 1: Number of DSC members from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| 5 840 | 5 808 | 5 763 | 7 079 | 8 470 |

Table 2: Annual expenditure on DSCs from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| 2019-20 (Actual) (\$ million) | 2020-21 (Actual) (\$ million) | 2021-22 (Actual) (\$ million) | 2022-23 (Actual) (\$ million) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) (\$ million) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 211.5 | 269.1 | 263.2 | 305.0 | 329.3 |

Table 3: SE of DSCs ^{Note}

| DSC | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Rank/Post | No. of staff |
| Social Work Officer | 1 |
| Assistant Social Work Officer | 1 |
| Senior Social Work Assistant | 1 |
| Social Work Assistant | 4 |
| Clinical Psychologist | 0.5 |
| Physiotherapist I | 0.5 |
| Occupational Therapist I | 1 |
| Speech Therapist | 1 |
| Enrolled Nurse | 0.5 |
| Personal Care Worker | 7 |
| Welfare Worker | 8 |
| Clerical Assistant | 1.5 |
| Workman II | 1 |
| Driver | 1 |

^{Note} SWD calculates the subvention for subvented services on the basis of SE. Under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, service operators have the flexibility to deploy resources and arrange suitable staffing to meet the requirements set out in the Funding and Service Agreements.

Table 1: Expenditure on various day and residential rehabilitation services from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Service type | Annual expenditure (\$ million) | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 2019-20 (Actual) | 2020-21 (Actual) | 2021-22 (Actual) | 2022-23 (Actual) | 2023-24 (Revised estimate) |
| Day rehabilitation service | | | | | |
| Day activity centre (DAC) | 745.7 | 772.1 | 776.6 | 792.5 | 857.5 |
| Sheltered workshop (SW) | 375.6 | 378.1 | 374.4 | 380.0 | 398.1 |
| Integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre (IVRSC) | 312.7 | 347.4 | 370.1 | 361.8 | 406.7 |
| Integrated vocational training centre (IVTC) | 33.3 | 33.2 | 32.9 | 33.1 | 34.4 |
| Supported employment (SE) | 100.4 | 100.0 | 98.9 | 100.1 | 106.3 |
| On the job training programme for people with disabilities (OJT) | 21.9 | 21.8 | 21.8 | 22.1 | 22.7 |
| Sunnyway - on the job training programme for young people with disabilities (Sunnyway) | 16.5 | 16.6 | 16.5 | 16.7 | 17.2 |
| Residential rehabilitation service | | | | | |
| Halfway house (HWH) | 220.3 | 228.8 | 229.6 | 232.7 | 240.3 |
| Long stay care home (LSCH) | 311.0 | 309.8 | 307.7 | 319.5 | 375.9 |
| Integrated vocational training centre (residential service) [IVTC(Res)] | 11.9 | 11.8 | 11.7 | 11.9 | 12.4 |
| Hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons (HSMH) | 937.0 | 981.2 | 999.1 | 1,018.8 | 1,135.9 |
| Hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons (HMMH) | 350.2 | 369.8 | 387.6 | 388.7 | 443.6 |
| Care-and-attention home for severely disabled persons (C&A/SD) | 292.3 | 317.7 | 331.2 | 341.1 | 391.4 |
| Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons (HSPH) | 146.8 | 170.0 | 204.7 | 193.8 | 212.9 |
| Care-and-attention home for the aged blind (C&A/AB) | 181.0 | 178.9 | 179.2 | 182.7 | 188.7 |
| Small group home for mildly mentally handicapped children [SGH(MMHC)] ^{Note} | 31.7 | 31.9 | 34.4 | 34.3 | 35.7 |
| Supported hostel (SHOS) | 102.8 | 112.0 | 112.2 | 120.2 | 131.6 |
| BPS for Private RCHD | 94.7 | 132.1 | 176.5 | 200.0 | 226.6 |

Note SGHs(MMHC) include integrated small group homes (ISGHs).

Table 2: Number of service places for various day and residential rehabilitation services from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Service type | No. of service places | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Day rehabilitation service | | | | | |
| DAC | 5 646 | 5 808 | 5 808 | 5 865 | 5 876 |
| SW | 5 399 | 5 399 | 5 399 | 5 399 | 5 399 |
| IVRSC | 5 288 | 5 523 | 5 523 | 5 648 | 5 808 |
| IVTC | 453 | 453 | 453 | 453 | 453 |
| SE | 1 633 | 1 633 | 1 633 | 1 633 | 1 633 |
| OJT | 432 | 432 | 432 | 432 | 432 |
| Sunnyway | 311 | 311 | 311 | 311 | 311 |
| Residential rehabilitation service | | | | | |
| HWH | 1 594 | 1 594 | 1 594 | 1 594 | 1 594 |
| LSCH | 1 587 | 1 587 | 1 587 | 1 587 | 1 987 |
| IVTC(Res) | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 |
| HSMH | 3 929 | 4 060 | 4 060 | 4 112 | 4 123 |
| HMMH | 2 658 | 2 800 | 2 800 | 2 851 | 2 926 |
| C&A/SD | 1 042 | 1 132 | 1 132 | 1 132 | 1 132 |
| HSPH | 665 | 715 | 715 | 715 | 790 |
| C&A/AB | 828 | 828 | 828 | 828 | 828 |
| SGH(MMHC) ^{Note} | 128 | 128 | 128 | 128 | 128 |
| SHOS | 744 | 784 | 804 | 866 | 866 |
| BPS for Private RCHD | 1 018 | 1 018 | 1 264 | 1 379 | 1 320 |

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 3: Number of persons waitlisted for various day and residential rehabilitation services from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Service type | No. of persons waitlisted | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| Day rehabilitation service | | | | | |
| DAC | 1 259 | 1 238 | 1 181 | 1 195 | 1 129 |
| SW | 2 416 | 2 116 | 2 176 | 2 239 | 2 110 |
| IVRSC ^{Note 1} | N.A. | | | | |
| IVTC ^{Note 2} | N.A. | | | | |
| SE | 23 | 29 | 25 | 23 | 35 |
| OJT ^{Note 2} | N.A. | | | | |
| Sunnyway ^{Note 2} | N.A. | | | | |
| Residential rehabilitation service | | | | | |
| HWH | 617 | 506 | 616 | 517 | 598 |
| LSCH | 2 627 | 2 664 | 2 651 | 2 450 | 2 206 |
| IVTC(Res) ^{Note 2} | N.A. | | | | |
| HSMH | 2 427 | 2 416 | 2 400 | 2 417 | 2 294 |
| HMMH | 2 516 | 2 535 | 2 661 | 2 798 | 2 757 |
| C&A/SD | 581 | 506 | 509 | 438 | 363 |
| HSPH | 545 | 375 | 339 | 329 | 270 |
| C&A/AB | 148 | 118 | 57 | 31 | 36 |
| SGH(MMHC) ^{Note 3} | 50 | 79 | 104 | 108 | 111 |
| SHOS | 2 203 | 2 247 | 2 353 | 2 370 | 2 326 |
| BPS for Private RCHD ^{Note 4} | N.A. | | | | |

N.A. – Not applicable

Note 1 There is no central waiting list for IVRSCs and applicants are selected from the central waiting lists for SW and SE.

Note 2 Since IVTC, OJT and Sunnyway may admit service users directly or through referral, SWD does not have information on the number of persons waitlisted for the relevant services.

Note 3 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 4 There is no central waiting list system or statistical information on the number of applicants under BPS. For applicants on the waiting list for LSCHs, HMMHs, HWHs, SHOSs under the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services, BPS places are allocated by SWD according to the preference of the applicants who have indicated acceptance of BPS.

**Table 1: Average monthly cost per place for residential rehabilitation service
from 2019-20 to 2023-24**

| Year | Average monthly cost per place for residential rehabilitation service (\$) |
|----------------------------|---|
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 18,221 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 18,033 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 18,011 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 18,531 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 19,338 |

**Table 2: Average monthly cost per place for SWs and DACs
from 2019-20 to 2023-24**

| Year | SW | DAC |
|----------------------------|--|------------|
| | Average monthly cost per place (\$) | |
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 5,856 | 11,361 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 5,889 | 11,539 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 5,834 | 11,281 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 5,913 | 11,481 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 6,201 | 11,740 |

**Table 3: Average monthly cost per place for pre-school rehabilitation services
from 2019-20 to 2023-24**

| Year | Average monthly cost per place (\$) |
|----------------------------|--|
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 9,544 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 9,930 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 9,764 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 9,950 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 10,695 |

**Table 1: Number of ISS users per quarter
from 2019-20 to 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023)**

| Service Unit | Year | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| | 2019-20 | | | | 2020-21 | | | | 2021-22 | | | |
| | April to June 2019 | July to September 2019 | October to December 2019 | January to March 2020 | April to June 2020 | July to September 2020 | October to December 2020 | January to March 2021 | April to June 2021 | July to September 2021 | October to December 2021 | January to March 2022 |
| Hong Kong Island and Kowloon | 475 | 474 | 466 | 446 | 445 | 444 | 459 | 463 | 486 | 513 | 530 | 516 |
| New Territories | 512 | 518 | 535 | 513 | 512 | 486 | 497 | 493 | 477 | 464 | 466 | 463 |
| Total | 987 | 992 | 1 001 | 959 | 957 | 930 | 956 | 956 | 963 | 977 | 996 | 979 |

| Service Unit | Year | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| | 2022-23 | | | | 2023-24 (As at 31 December 2023) | | | |
| | April to June 2022 | July to September 2022 | October to December 2022 | January to March 2023 | April to June 2023 | July to September 2023 | October to December 2023 | |
| Hong Kong Island and Kowloon | 517 | 545 | 544 | 540 | 547 | 539 | 535 | |
| New Territories | 453 | 447 | 459 | 460 | 482 | 496 | 489 | |
| Total | 970 | 992 | 1 003 | 1 000 | 1 029 | 1 035 | 1 024 | |

Table 2: Number of HCS users per quarter in 2019-20

| Service unit by district | April to June 2019 | July to September 2019 | October to December 2019 | January to March 2020 |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Central Western, Southern and Islands, Eastern and Wan Chai | 606 | 597 | 603 | 539 |
| Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin | 556 | 556 | 563 | 539 |
| Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong and Tseung Kwan O | 736 | 682 | 673 | 624 |
| Tsuen Wan, Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai | 627 | 604 | 595 | 532 |
| Kwai Chung, Tsing Yi, Tuen Mun | 550 | 532 | 485 | 442 |
| Sha Tin, Tai Po and North, Sai Kung | 773 | 775 | 769 | 720 |
| Total | 3 848 | 3 746 | 3 688 | 3 396 |

Table 3: Number of HCS users per quarter in 2020-21

| Service unit by district | April to June 2020 | July to September 2020 | October to December 2020 | January to March 2021 |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Central Western, Southern and Islands, Eastern and Wan Chai | 516 | 475 | 510 | 514 |
| Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin | 580 | 588 | 621 | 604 |
| Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong and Tseung Kwan O | 710 | 718 | 754 | 753 |
| Tsuen Wan, Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai | 510 | 490 | 505 | 531 |
| Kwai Chung, Tsing Yi, Tuen Mun | 444 | 451 | 491 | 505 |
| Sha Tin, Tai Po and North, Sai Kung | 731 | 731 | 749 | 750 |
| Total | 3 491 | 3 453 | 3 630 | 3 657 |

Table 4: Number of HCS users per quarter in 2021-22

| Service unit by district | April to June 2021 | July to September 2021 | October to December 2021 | January to March 2021 |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Central Western, Southern and Islands, Eastern and Wan Chai | 567 | 602 | 618 | 592 |
| Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin | 605 | 602 | 598 | 567 |
| Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong and Tseung Kwan O | 779 | 749 | 759 | 719 |
| Tsuen Wan, Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai | 552 | 562 | 565 | 566 |
| Kwai Chung, Tsing Yi, Tuen Mun | 516 | 495 | 512 | 488 |
| Sha Tin, Tai Po and North, Sai Kung | 769 | 771 | 794 | 745 |
| Total | 3 788 | 3 781 | 3 846 | 3 677 |

Table 5: Number of HCS users per quarter in 2022-23

| Service unit by district | April to June 2022 | July to September 2022 | October to December 2022 | January to March 2023 |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Central Western, Southern and Islands, Eastern and Wan Chai | 633 | 654 | 651 | 641 |
| Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin | 575 | 580 | 582 | 592 |
| Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong and Tseung Kwan O | 730 | 760 | 780 | 783 |
| Tsuen Wan, Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai | 560 | 566 | 585 | 594 |
| Kwai Chung, Tsing Yi, Tuen Mun | 510 | 516 | 520 | 558 |
| Sha Tin, Tai Po and North, Sai Kung | 788 | 799 | 799 | 817 |
| Total | 3 796 | 3 875 | 3 917 | 3 985 |

**Table 6: Number of HCS users per quarter in 2023-24
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| Service unit by district | April to June 2023 | July to September 2023 | October to December 2023 |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Central Western, Southern and Islands, Eastern and Wan Chai | 634 | 633 | 614 |
| Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin | 590 | 591 | 588 |
| Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong and Tseung Kwan O | 782 | 782 | 786 |
| Tsuen Wan, Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai | 601 | 600 | 604 |
| Kwai Chung, Tsing Yi, Tuen Mun | 582 | 608 | 632 |
| Sha Tin, Tai Po and North, Sai Kung | 800 | 816 | 820 |
| Total | 3 989 | 4 030 | 4 044 |

Table 7: Numbers of service places of ISS and HCS from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | No. of service places | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| | ISS | HCS |
| 2019-20 | 900 | 3 550 |
| 2020-21 | 900 | 3 550 |
| 2021-22 | 900 | 3 550 |
| 2022-23 | 900 | 3 550 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 900 | 3 550 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**LWB(W)207****(Question Serial No. 1093)**Head: (170) Social Welfare DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Social SecurityControlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and WelfareQuestion:

Please provide the number of children from families not receiving the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) with incomes below 50%, between 50% and 60% and between 60% and 70% of the median household income in the past 10 years.

Number of Children

| | Below 50% of the median household income | Between 50% and 60% of the median household income | Between 60% and 70% of the median household income |
|-----------|---|---|---|
| 2023-2024 | | | |
| 2022-2023 | | | |
| 2021-2022 | | | |
| 2020-2021 | | | |
| 2019-2020 | | | |
| 2018-2019 | | | |
| 2017-2018 | | | |
| 2016-2017 | | | |
| 2015-2016 | | | |
| 2014-2015 | | | |

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)Reply:

The CSSA Scheme provides a safety net of last resort for those who cannot support themselves financially to help them meet their basic needs. CSSA households must pass the income and asset tests under the CSSA Scheme, or their applications will not be accepted. The Social Welfare Department does not have information on the income level of or number of children in families not receiving CSSA.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)208

(Question Serial No. 1095)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of households with children aged below 18 that have successfully applied for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and the number of such children in the past 10 years.

Number of households that have successfully applied for CSSA and number of children

| | Number of families | Number of children |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2023-2024 | | |
| 2022-2023 | | |
| 2021-2022 | | |
| 2020-2021 | | |
| 2019-2020 | | |
| 2018-2019 | | |
| 2017-2018 | | |
| 2016-2017 | | |
| 2015-2016 | | |
| 2014-2015 | | |

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

The standard rates for children under the CSSA Scheme are applicable to those aged below 15 or aged 15 to 21 receiving full-time education (students receiving post-secondary education are normally not eligible under the CSSA Scheme). From 2019-20 to 2023-24, the number of CSSA cases involving households with members aged below 15 and the number of CSSA recipients aged below 15 are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex, respectively. The Social Welfare Department does not have the other information sought.

Table 1 Number of CSSA cases involving households with members aged below 15 from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | Number of CSSA cases involving households with members aged below 15 |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2019-20 | 30 419 |
| 2020-21 | 31 727 |
| 2021-22 | 29 335 |
| 2022-23 | 26 701 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 24 761 |

Table 2 Number of CSSA recipients aged below 15 from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | Number of CSSA recipients aged below 15 |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2019-20 | 45 807 |
| 2020-21 | 47 507 |
| 2021-22 | 43 751 |
| 2022-23 | 39 910 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 37 080 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)209

(Question Serial No. 1096)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Pilot Scheme on Home Care and Support for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment (Pilot Scheme on HSMI), please provide the following statistics for the past 3 years:

1. the number of elderly persons who have undergone assessment;
2. the number of elderly persons assessed as eligible by the Community Care Fund (CCF);
3. the number of elderly persons who have been refused the service (please provide the information using the table below);

| | No. of elderly persons |
|---|------------------------|
| Assessed to have no impairment | |
| Assessed to have non-mild impairment | |
| Assessed to have mild impairment but failed to meet the means test of CCF | |
| Others | |

4. the number of elderly persons who have been assessed as eligible but refused to use the service;
5. the number of elderly persons who have withdrawn from the service and the reasons for withdrawal;
6. the number of accredited assessors for elderly services;
7. the total expenditure on the Pilot Scheme on HSMI; and
8. the respective numbers of elderly persons currently using Integrated Home Care Services (Ordinary Cases) [IHCS(OC)], participating in the Pilot Scheme on HSMI, and waitlisted for IHCS(OC) in various districts (please provide the information using the table below):

| | No. of elderly persons currently using IHCS(OC) | No. of elderly persons currently participating in the Pilot Scheme on HSMI | No. of elderly persons waitlisted for IHCS(OC) |
|-------------------|---|--|--|
| Central & Western | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | |
| Eastern | | | |
| Southern | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | |
| Tsuen Wan | | | |
| Tuen Mun | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | |
| North | | | |
| Tai Po | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | |
| Islands | | | |

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

HSMI was launched on a pilot basis in December 2017 with funding from CCF. It aims to provide elderly persons assessed with mild impairment who are waitlisted for IHCS(OC) with necessary home care and support services, including meals, household cleaning, escort, purchase and delivery of daily necessities, etc. In addition, the Pilot Scheme on HSMI also provides various support and assistance to carers. The Pilot Scheme on HSMI was converted into a regular measure in January 2023, providing 4 000 service places every year.

- 1 to 4. By the completion of the Pilot Scheme at the end of December 2022, a cumulative total of 7 747 elderly persons had undergone simplified assessments. Among them, 6 135 were assessed with mild impairment, deemed eligible for HSMI by CCF, and referred to service units for follow-up. 229 were assessed with no impairment, while 177 were assessed that their physical function might require a higher level of care and were referred for further assessment. Another 86 did not meet the stipulated eligibility criteria. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have the number of eligible elderly persons who declined to use the services.
5. The cumulative number of persons who left the Pilot Scheme on HSMI by reason for termination of services from 2020-21 up till the completion of the Pilot Scheme are set out at Annex 1.
6. As at the end of December 2023, SWD trained a total of 357 accredited assessors.
7. The total expenditure of the Pilot Scheme amounted to about \$250 million. A cumulative total of 5 874 people received the services.
8. From 2021-22 to 2023-24 (as at the end of December 2023), the numbers of elderly persons using and waitlisted for IHCS(OC) in various districts are set out at Annexes 2 and 3, respectively. The number of persons who participated in the Pilot Scheme on HSMI and received subsidies from CCF during the period from

2020-21 up till the completion of the Pilot Scheme is set out at Annex 4. SWD does not have the number of the Pilot Scheme participants by District Council district.

Cumulative number of persons who left the Pilot Scheme on HSMI Scheme by reason for termination of services from 2020-21 to 2022-23^{Note 1}

| Year | Reasons for termination of services | | | | Total ^{Note 3} |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| | Deceased | Admitted to residential care services | Admitted to subvented community care services | Withdrawn from the services ^{Note 2} | |
| 2020-21 | 245 | 191 | 217 | 599 | 1 252 |
| 2021-22 | 352 | 283 | 379 | 823 | 1 837 |
| 2022-23 (till the conclusion of the pilot scheme) ^{Note 1} | 496 | 387 | 550 | 1 125 | 2 558 |

^{Note 1} Following the completion of the Pilot Scheme at the end of December 2022, the Government converted it into a regular measure in January 2023, providing 4 000 service places every year.

^{Note 2} The main reasons for the elderly to withdraw from the services include hospitalisation or changes in their family support situation, e.g. being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers, etc.

^{Note 3} The cumulative numbers are calculated from the launch of the Pilot Scheme in December 2017.

Number of elderly persons using IHCS(OC) from 2021-22 to 2023-24^{Note}

| District | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Central & Western | 498 | 476 | 467 |
| Eastern | 1 369 | 1 266 | 1 204 |
| Wan Chai | 361 | 344 | 331 |
| Southern | 852 | 859 | 772 |
| Islands | 287 | 240 | 236 |
| Kwun Tong | 1 613 | 1 563 | 1 620 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 1 193 | 1 178 | 1 226 |
| Sai Kung | 321 | 299 | 335 |
| Kowloon City | 1 130 | 1 098 | 988 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 781 | 793 | 729 |
| Sham Shui Po | 1 424 | 1 338 | 1 335 |
| Sha Tin | 1 188 | 1 079 | 966 |
| Tai Po | 475 | 407 | 398 |
| North | 922 | 833 | 590 |
| Yuen Long | 921 | 848 | 750 |
| Tuen Mun | 840 | 773 | 573 |
| Tsuen Wan | 388 | 373 | 401 |
| Kwai Tsing | 1 065 | 1 008 | 982 |
| Total | 15 628 | 14 775 | 13 903 |

^{Note} The figures represent the number of elderly persons using the services at the end of the year concerned.

Number of elderly persons waitlisted for IHCS(OC) from 2021-22 to 2023-24^{Note}

| District | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Central & Western | 113 | 97 | 122 |
| Eastern | 265 | 224 | 228 |
| Wan Chai | 123 | 61 | 44 |
| Southern | 113 | 137 | 211 |
| Islands | 51 | 70 | 19 |
| Kwun Tong | 883 | 655 | 623 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 639 | 562 | 470 |
| Sai Kung | 161 | 181 | 180 |
| Kowloon City | 107 | 131 | 202 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 39 | 16 | 11 |
| Sham Shui Po | 335 | 271 | 298 |
| Sha Tin | 580 | 538 | 745 |
| Tai Po | 234 | 169 | 292 |
| North | 88 | 35 | 55 |
| Yuen Long | 204 | 217 | 153 |
| Tuen Mun | 410 | 369 | 300 |
| Tsuen Wan | 7 | 3 | - |
| Kwai Tsing | 34 | 57 | 10 |
| Total | 4 386 | 3 793 | 3 963 |

^{Note} The non-governmental organisations currently operating IHCS(OC) maintain and manage their own waiting lists. The figures represent the number of elderly persons waitlisted for the services at the end of the year concerned.

**Number of persons who participated in the Pilot Scheme on HSMI
and received subsidies from CCF
from 2020-21 to 2022-23^{Note 1}**

| Year | Number of persons who participated in the Pilot Scheme and received subsidies from CCF |
|--|---|
| 2020-21 | 2 432 |
| 2021-22 | 2 794 |
| 2022-23 (by the completion of the Pilot Scheme) ^{Note 1} | 3 316 |

^{Note 1} Following the completion of the Pilot Scheme at the end of December 2022, the Government converted it into a regular measure in January 2023, providing 4 000 service places every year. The figures represent the number of persons using the Pilot Scheme services while receiving subsidies from CCF at the end of the year concerned.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)210

(Question Serial No. 1097)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) for the Elderly (Pilot Scheme on CCSV), the Pilot Scheme on Home Care and Support for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment (Pilot Scheme on HSMI) and the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) for the Elderly (Pilot Scheme on RCSV), please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of recognised service providers (RSPs), the number of service places, the number of current voucher users, the number of elderly persons withdrawn, as well as the expenditure involved since the launch of the 3 pilot schemes;
2. the average time it takes for the elderly to receive services from the date they apply for the 3 pilot schemes;
3. the average time it takes for the elderly to receive services from the date their applications for the 3 pilot schemes are approved;
4. a breakdown of the cumulative number of elderly persons withdrawn from the 3 pilot schemes by reason for withdrawal; and
5. a breakdown of the cumulative number of voucher holders under the 3 pilot schemes by co-payment level.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

1 & 4. As at the end of December 2023, there were 8 395 CCSV users and 258 RSPs. The revised estimate for the CCSV Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme) was about \$573.5 million in 2023-24. The Government has made the CCSV permanent since September 2023. The number of CCSVs will be increased by 1 000 in 2024-25, bringing the total to 11 000, and will be further increased to 12 000 in 2025-26.

As at the end of December 2023, there were 3 433 RCSV users and 202 RSPs. The revised estimate for the RCSV Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme) was about \$744.4 million in 2023-24. In the second quarter of 2024, the Government

will expand the coverage of RCSVs from care-and-attention places to nursing home places. An extra 1 000 RCSVs will also be provided, bringing the total to 5 000.

HSMI was launched on a pilot basis in December 2017. Under the pilot scheme, 61 integrated home care services teams across the territory provided home care and support services to elderly persons assessed to have mild impairment and waitlisted for Integrated Home Care Services (Ordinary Cases). The cumulative total expenditure of the pilot scheme amounted to about \$250 million. The Government converted HSMI into a regular measure in January 2023, providing a total of 4 000 service places. In 2023-24 (as at end of December 2023), there were 6 633 service users under HSMI.

The number of elderly persons who left the above 3 schemes and their reasons for leaving are set out at Annex 1.

- 2 & 3. As at the end of December 2023, it took an average of 11 days for the elderly to receive CCSVs from the date SWD received their applications. CCSV holders have the flexibility to choose RSPs and service packages according to their needs (including when they want to use the services for the first time). Therefore, SWD does not have information on the time it takes for CCSV holders to use the services for the first time from the date of issuance.

As at the end of December 2023, the average time for the elderly to be issued RCSVs from the date SWD received their applications was about 2.1 months, while the average time from the date of issuance to using the services was about 19 days.

SWD does not have information on the time it takes for service users under HSMI to receive services from the date of application during the pilot phase up until now.

5. The number of elderly service users under the above 3 schemes, broken down by co-payment level, is set out at Annex 2.

Table 1: Cumulative number of elderly persons having left the CCSV Scheme by reason for leaving

| Reason for leaving | No. of persons who left | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| | Pilot Scheme on CCSV | | | Upon converting into a permanent measure ^{Note} (as at end-December 2023) |
| | First phase | Second phase | Third phase | |
| Will be/have been allocated with/receiving subsidised community care services or subsidised/private residential care services | 845 | 2 739 | 4 347 | 661 |
| Deceased | 298 | 1 808 | 3 412 | 470 |
| Being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers, etc. | 264 | 680 | 698 | 12 |
| Others (e.g. hospitalisation, out of town, etc.) | 106 | 473 | 135 | 5 |
| No suitable RSPs/service packages | 401 | 295 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1 914 | 5 995 | 8 592 | 1 148 |

^{Note} The Government has made the CCSV permanent since September 2023.

Table 2: Cumulative number of elderly persons having left the RCSV Scheme by reason for leaving (as at end-December 2023)

| Reason for leaving | No. of persons who left |
|---|-------------------------|
| Deceased | 2 031 |
| Having no immediate need for residential care services (e.g. taken care of by family members or domestic helpers) | 375 |
| The preferred RSP was full/no suitable RSPs | 171 |
| Chose to wait for subsidised residential care places | 120 |
| Refused to accept the co-payment arrangement | 56 |
| Others (e.g. long-term hospitalisation, out of town, etc.) | 70 |
| Total | 2 823 |

Table 3: Cumulative number of elderly persons having left the Pilot Scheme on HSMI by reason for termination of services (by the completion of the Pilot Scheme)

Note 1

| Reason for termination of services | Deceased | Admitted to residential care services | Admitted to subsidised community care services | Withdrawn from the services^{Note 2} | Total |
|---|-----------------|--|---|---|--------------|
| No. of persons | 496 | 387 | 550 | 1 125 | 2 558 |

Note 1 Upon the completion of the Pilot Scheme at the end of December 2022, the Government converted it into a regular measure in January 2023, providing a total of 4 000 service places.

Note 2 The main reasons for the elderly to withdraw from the services include hospitalisation or changes in their family support situation, e.g. being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers, etc.

Table 1: Cumulative number of CCSV holders under the first phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV by co-payment level

| Co-payment level ^{Note} | No. of persons |
|---|-----------------------|
| I | 2 031 |
| II | 312 |
| III | 299 |
| IV | 53 |
| V | 273 |
| Total | 2 968 |

Note The amounts of co-payment payable by CCSV holders under the first phase of the scheme were set according to their affordability at 5 levels, namely (I) to (V) (i.e. \$500 (I), \$750 (II), \$1,000 (III), \$1,500 (IV) and \$2,500 (V)).

Table 2: Cumulative number of CCSV holders under the second phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV by co-payment level

| Co-payment level ^{Note} | No. of persons |
|---|-----------------------|
| I | 2 081 |
| II | 5 745 |
| III | 1 156 |
| IV | 1 173 |
| V | 208 |
| VI | 1 791 |
| Total | 12 154 |

Note The amounts of co-payment payable by CCSV holders under the second phase of the scheme were set according to their affordability at 6 levels, namely (I) to (VI) (i.e. 5% (I), 8% (II), 12% (III), 16% (IV), 25% (V) and 40% (VI) of the CCSV value). CCSV holders settle their service fees each month in accordance with the voucher value of the CCSVs they used and their corresponding co-payment percentages. The 5 types of CCSV values were set at \$4,130, \$5,970, \$7,460, \$8,380, \$9,870 per month in 2020-21.

Table 3: Cumulative number of CCSV holders under the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV by co-payment level

| Co-payment level ^{Note} | No. of persons |
|---|-----------------------|
| I | 2 854 |
| II | 10 047 |
| III | 1 715 |
| IV | 1 998 |
| V | 371 |
| VI | 2 835 |
| Total | 19 820 |

Note The amounts of co-payment payable by CCSV holders under the third phase of the scheme are set according to their affordability at 6 levels, namely (I) to (VI) (i.e. 5% (I), 8% (II), 12% (III), 16% (IV), 25% (V) and 40% (VI) of the CCSV value). CCSV holders settle their service fees each month in accordance with the voucher value of the CCSVs they used and their corresponding co-payment percentages. The CCSV values in 2023-24 ranged from \$4,290 to \$10,260 per month.

Table 4: Cumulative number of CCSV holders upon the conversion of the CCSV Scheme into a permanent measure by co-payment level ^{Note 1} (as at end-December 2023)

| Co-payment level ^{Note 2} | No. of persons |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| I | 1 841 |
| II | 7 132 |
| III | 1 146 |
| IV | 1 337 |
| V | 236 |
| VI | 1 837 |
| Total | 13 529 |

Note 1 The Government has made the CCSV permanent since September 2023.

Note 2 The amounts of co-payment payable by CCSV holders following the conversion of the CCSV Scheme into a permanent measure are set according to their affordability at 6 levels, namely (I) to (VI) (i.e. 5% (I), 8% (II), 12% (III), 16% (IV), 25% (V) and 40% (VI) of the CCSV value). CCSV holders settle their service fees each month in accordance with the voucher value of the CCSVs they used and their corresponding co-payment percentages. The CCSV values in 2023-24 ranged from \$4,290 to \$10,260 per month.

Table 5: Cumulative number of RCSV holders by co-payment level (as at end-December 2023)

| Level ^{Note} | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Co-payment percentages | 0.0% | 10.0% | 20.0% | 30.0% | 40.0% | 50.0% | 62.5% | 75.0% |
| Cumulative no. of RCSV holders | 5 546 | 661 | 22 | 16 | 6 | 5 | - | 282 |

Note The voucher value of an RCSV is set at \$16,161 per month from 1 April 2023. RCSV has 8 co-payment levels, ranging from the lowest Level 0 to the highest Level 7. While RCSV holders at Level 0 are fully subsidised by the Government, RCSV holders at Levels 1 to 7 are required to pay for a portion of the voucher value according to their respective co-payment percentages.

Table 6: Cumulative number of service users under the Pilot Scheme on HSMI by co-payment level (by the completion of the Pilot Scheme) ^{Note 1}

| Co-payment level ^{Note 2} | No. of persons |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| I | 2 328 |
| II | 2 902 |
| III | 306 |
| IV | 286 |
| V | 52 |
| Total | 5 874 |

Note 1 Upon the completion of HSMI at the end of December 2022, the Government converted it into a regular measure in January 2023, providing a total of 4 000 service places.

Note 2 The 5 co-payment percentages for meal services were set at 20%, 30%, 35%, 40% and 45% of the service value, whereas the 5 co-payment percentages for home services were set at 0%, 9%, 15%, 21% and 27% of the service value.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)211

(Question Serial No. 1100)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, please provide the following information for the past 3 years, with a breakdown by District Council (DC) district:

- (1) the number of cases involving CSSA households living in private rental housing with actual rent exceeding the maximum rent allowance (MRA):

| District | 1-person household | 2-person household | 3-person household | 4-person household | 5-person household | Household with 6 persons or above |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Central & Western | | | | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | | | | |
| Eastern | | | | | | |
| Southern | | | | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | | | | |
| Tsuen Wan | | | | | | |
| Tuen Mun | | | | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | | | | |
| North | | | | | | |
| Tai Po | | | | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | | | | |
| Islands | | | | | | |

- (2) the number of cases involving CSSA households living in public rental housing with actual rent exceeding MRA:

| District | 1-person household | 2-person household | 3-person household | 4-person household | 5-person household | Household with 6 persons or above |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Central & Western | | | | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | | | | |
| Eastern | | | | | | |
| Southern | | | | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | | | | |
| Tsuen Wan | | | | | | |
| Tuen Mun | | | | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | | | | |
| North | | | | | | |
| Tai Po | | | | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | | | | |
| Islands | | | | | | |

- (3) the number of CSSA cases benefitted from the provision of disregarded earnings (DE):

| District | 1-person household | 2-person household | 3-person household | 4-person household | 5-person household | Household with 6 persons or above |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Central & Western | | | | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | | | | |
| Eastern | | | | | | |
| Southern | | | | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | | | | |
| Tsuen Wan | | | | | | |
| Tuen Mun | | | | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | | | | |
| North | | | | | | |
| Tai Po | | | | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | | | | |
| Islands | | | | | | |

(4) the level of assistance received by CSSA cases benefitted from the provision of DE:

| District | 1-person household | 2-person household | 3-person household | 4-person household | 5-person household | Household with 6 persons or above |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Central & Western | | | | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | | | | |
| Eastern | | | | | | |
| Southern | | | | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | | | | |
| Tsuen Wan | | | | | | |
| Tuen Mun | | | | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | | | | |
| North | | | | | | |
| Tai Po | | | | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | | | | |
| Islands | | | | | | |

(5) the number of CSSA recipients under the case nature of “permanent disability”:

| District | Aged 18 or below | Aged 19-29 | Aged 30-39 | Aged 40-49 | Aged 50-59 | Aged 60-64 | Aged 65 or above |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Central & Western | | | | | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | | | | | |
| Eastern | | | | | | | |
| Southern | | | | | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | | | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | | | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | | | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | | | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | | | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | | | | | |
| Tsuen Wan | | | | | | | |
| Tuen Mun | | | | | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | | | | | |
| North | | | | | | | |
| Tai Po | | | | | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | | | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | | | | | |
| Islands | | | | | | | |

(6) the number of CSSA recipients under the case nature of “ill health”:

| District | Aged 18 or below | Aged 19-29 | Aged 30-39 | Aged 40-49 | Aged 50-59 | Aged 60-64 | Aged 65 or above |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Central & Western | | | | | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | | | | | |
| Eastern | | | | | | | |
| Southern | | | | | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | | | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | | | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | | | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | | | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | | | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | | | | | |
| Tsuen Wan | | | | | | | |
| Tuen Mun | | | | | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | | | | | |
| North | | | | | | | |
| Tai Po | | | | | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | | | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | | | | | |
| Islands | | | | | | | |

(7) the number of CSSA recipients under the case nature of “single parent”:

| District | Aged 18 or below | Aged 19-29 | Aged 30-39 | Aged 40-49 | Aged 50-59 | Aged 60-64 | Aged 65 or above |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Central & Western | | | | | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | | | | | |
| Eastern | | | | | | | |
| Southern | | | | | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | | | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | | | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | | | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | | | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | | | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | | | | | |
| Tsuen Wan | | | | | | | |
| Tuen Mun | | | | | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | | | | | |
| North | | | | | | | |
| Tai Po | | | | | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | | | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | | | | | |
| Islands | | | | | | | |

(8) the number of CSSA recipients under the case nature of “low earnings”:

| District | Aged 18 or below | Aged 19-29 | Aged 30-39 | Aged 40-49 | Aged 50-59 | Aged 60-64 | Aged 65 or above |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Central & Western | | | | | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | | | | | |
| Eastern | | | | | | | |
| Southern | | | | | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | | | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | | | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | | | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | | | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | | | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | | | | | |
| Tsuen Wan | | | | | | | |
| Tuen Mun | | | | | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | | | | | |
| North | | | | | | | |
| Tai Po | | | | | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | | | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | | | | | |
| Islands | | | | | | | |

(9) the number of CSSA recipients under the case nature of “unemployment”:

| District | Aged 18 or below | Aged 19-29 | Aged 30-39 | Aged 40-49 | Aged 50-59 | Aged 60-64 | Aged 65 or above |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Central & Western | | | | | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | | | | | |
| Eastern | | | | | | | |
| Southern | | | | | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | | | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | | | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | | | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | | | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | | | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | | | | | |
| Tsuen Wan | | | | | | | |
| Tuen Mun | | | | | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | | | | | |
| North | | | | | | | |
| Tai Po | | | | | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | | | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | | | | | |
| Islands | | | | | | | |

(10) the number of CSSA recipients under the case nature of “others”:

| District | Aged 18 or below | Aged 19-29 | Aged 30-39 | Aged 40-49 | Aged 50-59 | Aged 60-64 | Aged 65 or above |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Central & Western | | | | | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | | | | | |
| Eastern | | | | | | | |
| Southern | | | | | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | | | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | | | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | | | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | | | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | | | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | | | | | |
| Tsuen Wan | | | | | | | |
| Tuen Mun | | | | | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | | | | | |
| North | | | | | | | |
| Tai Po | | | | | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | | | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | | | | | |
| Islands | | | | | | | |

(11) the number of CSSA recipients residing in subsidised residential care services (RCS) places:

| District | Aged below 3 | Aged 3-5 | Aged 6-11 | Aged 12-15 | Aged 16-18 | Aged 19-20 | Aged 21-29 | Aged 30-39 | Aged 40-49 | Aged 50-59 | Aged 60-64 | Aged 65 or above |
|-------------------|--------------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Central & Western | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eastern | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Southern | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tsuen Wan | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tuen Mun | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| North | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tai Po | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Islands | | | | | | | | | | | | |

- 4) The average monthly DE of each CSSA recipient benefitted from the DE arrangement from 2021-22 to 2023-24 is tabulated below:

| Year | Average monthly DE of each CSSA recipient benefitted from the DE arrangement (\$) |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2021-22 | 1,830 |
| 2022-23 | 1,794 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 1,772 |

SWD does not have information on the average monthly DE by district or number of eligible household members.

- 5 to 10) The number of CSSA recipients from 2021-22 to 2023-24, broken down by district and case nature, is set out in Table 3 of Annex. SWD does not have information on the number of CSSA recipients by age group.
- 11) to 12) The number of CSSA recipients residing in residential care homes (RCHs) from 2021-22 to 2023-24, broken down by age group and type of residential care places (RCPs), is set out in Table 4 of Annex. SWD does not have information on the number of CSSA recipients by district and age group.
- 13 to 14) The number of PCSSA recipients from 2021-22 to 2023-24, broken down by province of residence and age group, is set out in Table 5 of Annex.
- 15) The CSSA Scheme provides a dental grant for its recipients to pay for dental treatment services (including tooth extraction, dentures, crowns, bridges, post, post and core, scaling and polishing, fillings and root canal treatment). CSSA recipients should first apply to SWD, and approach the dental clinics designated by SWD for dental examination. Dentists of the designated dental clinics will make recommendation on necessary dental treatments. CSSA recipients may then choose to receive relevant dental treatments from any registered dentists in Hong Kong, including those of the SWD designated dental clinics, according to the cost estimate made by the designated dental clinic. As at the end of December 2023, there were 77 dental clinics (including 2 mobile dental vans) designated by SWD to provide dental examination and cost estimate for CSSA recipients. The list is set out in Table 6 of Annex.

Table 1: Number of CSSA cases where the recipients are residing in private rental housing that received rent allowance, with actual rent exceeding MRA, from 2021-22 to 2023-24 by number of eligible household members

| Number of eligible household members | Number of CSSA cases where the recipients are residing in private rental housing with actual rent exceeding MRA | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| 1 | 7 449 | 7 439 | 7 539 |
| 2 | 4 115 | 3 721 | 3 553 |
| 3 | 2 124 | 1 861 | 1 780 |
| 4 | 770 | 710 | 682 |
| 5 | 241 | 231 | 221 |
| 6 or above | 89 | 82 | 85 |
| Total | 14 788 | 14 044 | 13 860 |

Table 2: Number of CSSA cases where the recipients are residing in public housing estates ^[Note] that received rent allowance, with actual rent exceeding MRA, from 2021-22 to 2023-24 by number of eligible household members

| Number of eligible household members | Number of CSSA cases where the recipients are residing in public housing estates ^[Note] with actual rent exceeding MRA | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| 1 | 2 299 | 2 442 | 3 917 |
| 2 | 190 | 169 | 347 |
| 3 | 48 | 39 | 78 |
| 4 | 21 | 14 | 19 |
| 5 | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| 6 or above | - | - | 3 |
| Total | 2 564 | 2 670 | 4 376 |

^[Note] Including public rental housing estates under the Housing Authority, estates under the Tenants Purchase Scheme and rental estates under the Hong Kong Housing Society.

Table 3: Number of CSSA recipients from 2021-22 to 2023-24 by district ^[Note 1] and case nature ^[Note 2]

| District ^[Note 1] | 2021-22 | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Number of CSSA recipients by case nature | | | | | |
| | Permanent disability | Ill health | Single parent | Low-earnings | Unemployment | Others |
| Central & Western | 290 | 301 | 375 | 53 | 200 | 53 |
| Eastern | 1 307 | 1 669 | 2 164 | 310 | 917 | 215 |
| Islands | 413 | 756 | 1 645 | 297 | 1 232 | 126 |
| Kowloon City | 1 027 | 1 893 | 3 275 | 347 | 1 731 | 253 |
| Kwai Tsing | 2 737 | 3 220 | 4 369 | 947 | 2 481 | 434 |
| Kwun Tong | 2 411 | 4 608 | 7 857 | 1 013 | 3 972 | 588 |
| North | 1 182 | 2 153 | 3 987 | 263 | 1 859 | 304 |
| Sai Kung | 809 | 1 347 | 1 195 | 220 | 611 | 259 |
| Sha Tin | 1 819 | 3 138 | 5 285 | 478 | 1 801 | 357 |
| Sham Shui Po | 1 612 | 3 807 | 6 185 | 689 | 3 264 | 446 |
| Southern | 1 168 | 968 | 900 | 202 | 496 | 174 |
| Tai Po | 894 | 1 589 | 1 940 | 142 | 600 | 294 |
| Tsuen Wan | 761 | 867 | 1 907 | 202 | 704 | 122 |
| Tuen Mun | 2 242 | 2 774 | 3 682 | 384 | 1 776 | 388 |
| Wan Chai | 66 | 145 | 213 | 9 | 200 | 100 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 1 284 | 2 795 | 3 916 | 575 | 1 920 | 357 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 533 | 1 633 | 2 527 | 98 | 1 875 | 231 |
| Yuen Long | 2 064 | 4 525 | 6 425 | 742 | 3 534 | 660 |
| Total | 22 619 | 38 188 | 57 847 | 6 971 | 29 173 | 5 361 |

^[Note 1] The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

^[Note 2] The nature of CSSA cases includes old age, permanent disability, ill health, single parent, low earnings, unemployment and others. Table 3 does not include the number of old age CSSA recipients.

| District [Note 1] | 2022-23 | | | | | |
|----------------------|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Number of CSSA recipients by case nature | | | | | |
| | Permanent disability | Ill health | Single parent | Low-earnings | Unemployment | Others |
| Central & Western | 295 | 284 | 390 | 51 | 197 | 41 |
| Eastern | 1 331 | 1 668 | 2 005 | 282 | 836 | 248 |
| Islands | 400 | 724 | 1 512 | 229 | 1 124 | 120 |
| Kowloon City | 990 | 1 867 | 3 008 | 289 | 1 489 | 223 |
| Kwai Tsing | 2 643 | 3 198 | 4 019 | 848 | 2 366 | 394 |
| Kwun Tong | 2 394 | 4 586 | 7 117 | 776 | 3 785 | 546 |
| North | 1 178 | 2 199 | 4 294 | 253 | 1 971 | 300 |
| Sai Kung | 794 | 1 330 | 1 081 | 175 | 556 | 228 |
| Sha Tin | 1 714 | 3 113 | 4 953 | 414 | 1 576 | 348 |
| Sham Shui Po | 1 589 | 3 960 | 5 795 | 556 | 3 021 | 428 |
| Southern | 1 070 | 1 001 | 783 | 156 | 486 | 161 |
| Tai Po | 900 | 1 430 | 1 681 | 112 | 532 | 283 |
| Tsuen Wan | 744 | 883 | 1 739 | 185 | 669 | 122 |
| Tuen Mun | 2 291 | 3 005 | 4 049 | 335 | 1 775 | 394 |
| Wan Chai | 51 | 167 | 213 | 17 | 165 | 103 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 1 239 | 2 826 | 3 709 | 508 | 1 868 | 351 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 522 | 1 614 | 2 153 | 57 | 1 719 | 230 |
| Yuen Long | 2 028 | 4 308 | 5 466 | 565 | 3 129 | 611 |
| Total | 22 173 | 38 163 | 53 967 | 5 808 | 27 264 | 5 131 |

| District [Note 1] | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | | | | | |
|----------------------|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Number of CSSA recipients by case nature | | | | | |
| | Permanent disability | Ill health | Single parent | Low-earnings | Unemployment | Others |
| Central & Western | 297 | 260 | 361 | 60 | 168 | 42 |
| Eastern | 1 288 | 1 659 | 1 877 | 226 | 839 | 234 |
| Islands | 364 | 737 | 1 329 | 172 | 986 | 130 |
| Kowloon City | 937 | 1 831 | 2 788 | 256 | 1 368 | 234 |
| Kwai Tsing | 2 563 | 3 315 | 3 742 | 752 | 2 228 | 402 |
| Kwun Tong | 2 320 | 4 624 | 6 531 | 648 | 3 568 | 464 |
| North | 1 119 | 2 150 | 4 033 | 216 | 1 929 | 295 |
| Sai Kung | 787 | 1 351 | 996 | 146 | 595 | 220 |
| Sha Tin | 1 656 | 3 062 | 4 516 | 361 | 1 420 | 329 |
| Sham Shui Po | 1 625 | 4 014 | 5 383 | 460 | 2 882 | 404 |
| Southern | 1 050 | 1 014 | 755 | 147 | 457 | 142 |
| Tai Po | 872 | 1 387 | 1 634 | 106 | 520 | 254 |
| Tsuen Wan | 744 | 889 | 1 660 | 152 | 644 | 133 |
| Tuen Mun | 2 237 | 3 074 | 3 765 | 286 | 1 597 | 371 |
| Wan Chai | 54 | 148 | 197 | 12 | 187 | 110 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 1 198 | 2 815 | 3 544 | 430 | 1 717 | 351 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 516 | 1 601 | 1 923 | 53 | 1 542 | 219 |
| Yuen Long | 2 010 | 4 320 | 5 253 | 487 | 3 075 | 607 |
| Total | 21 637 | 38 251 | 50 287 | 4 970 | 25 722 | 4 941 |

Table 4: Number of CSSA recipients residing in RCHs from 2021-22 to 2023-24 by age group and type of RCPs

| Year | Number of recipients | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | Subsidised RCP | | Non-subsidised RCP | |
| | Aged below 60 | Aged 60 or above | Aged below 60 | Aged 60 or above |
| 2021-22 | 9 265 | 16 927 | 3 518 | 20 563 |
| 2022-23 | 9 235 | 17 085 | 3 393 | 18 995 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 9 231 | 17 736 | 3 317 | 19 421 |

Table 5: Number of PCSSA recipients from 2021-22 to 2023-24 by age group and province of residence

| Year | Number of recipients ^[Note] | | | | | | Total |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|------------|
| | GD Province | | | FJ Province | | | |
| | Aged 60 to 64 | Aged 65 to 74 | Aged 75 or above | Aged 60 to 64 | Aged 65 to 74 | Aged 75 or above | |
| 2021-22 | 2 | 80 | 625 | - | 3 | 76 | 786 |
| 2022-23 | 2 | 61 | 525 | - | 3 | 61 | 652 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | - | 56 | 474 | - | 4 | 50 | 584 |

[Note] A person who has reached the age of 60 to 64 and started receiving CSSA before 1 February 2019 may choose to participate in the PCSSA Scheme, provided that he/she meets the other eligibility criteria.

Table 6: List of dental clinics designated by SWD to provide dental examination and cost estimate for CSSA recipients (as at end-December 2023)

| |
|--|
| Bradbury Kwong Tin Community Health Centre |
| Caritas Dental Clinics Limited-Aberdeen |
| Caritas Dental Clinics Limited-Caine Road |
| Caritas Dental Clinics Limited-Ngau Tau Kok |
| Caritas Dental Clinics Limited-Tsuen Wan |
| Chai Wan Baptist Church Dental Clinic Limited |
| Chi Lin Dental Clinic Limited |
| Christian Family Service Centre Dental Services |
| Christian Family Service Centre Dental Services Tokwawan Dental Clinic |
| Emmanuel Medical Mission |
| Fu Heng Community Health Centre |
| Haven of Hope Bradbury King Lam Clinic |
| Haven of Hope S K Yee Hau Tak Clinic |
| Haven of Hope S K Yee Tiu Keng Leng Clinic |
| HK & KLN Senior Citizens' Welfare Association Dental Clinic |

| |
|--|
| H.K.S.K.H. Lady MacLehose Centre Dental Clinic |
| Hope Worldwide Dental Centre (Kwai Tsing) |
| Hope Worldwide Dental Centre (Sham Shui Po) |
| Hope Worldwide Dental Centre (Yau Tsim Mong) |
| Jockey Club Tin Shui Wai Community Health Centre |
| Jockey Club Wo Lok Community Health Centre |
| Kiangsu Chekiang & Shanghai Medical Centre |
| Lok Sin Tong Chan Kwong Hing Memorial Primary Health Centre |
| Lok Sin Tong EnGenius Dental Clinic |
| Lok Sin Tong Kwok Hang Shek Memorial Dental Clinic |
| Lok Sin Tong Tung Ching Bor Causeway Bay Dental Clinic |
| Lok Sin Tong Wong Siu Sang Polyclinics Tai Po (Dental Division) |
| Loving Smiles Special Care Dental Centre |
| Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital Limited-Dental Clinic |
| Peace Dental Clinic |
| Pentecostal Holiness Church Fung Tak Medical Centre |
| Po Leung Kuk Cheerful Court Integrated Health Centre |
| Pok Oi Hospital Dental Clinic (Kong Ha Wai) |
| Pok Oi Hospital Dental Clinic (Kwai Shing) |
| Pok Oi Hospital Dr. Leung On Mei Memorial Dental Clinic |
| Project Concern Hong Kong Choi Wan Dental Clinic |
| Project Concern Hong Kong Dental Van (2 dental vans) |
| Project Concern Hong Kong Hing Man Estate Dental Clinic |
| Project Concern Hong Kong Lei Cheng Uk Dental Clinic |
| Project Concern Hong Kong Pak Tin Estate Dental Clinic |
| Project Concern Hong Kong Shau Kei Wan Dental Clinic |
| Project Concern Hong Kong Tin Yuet Dental Clinic |
| Project Concern Hong Kong Tsz Wan Shan Dental Clinic |
| Project Concern Hong Kong Yat Tung Dental Clinic |
| Sau Mau Ping Community Health Centre |
| Sham Shui Po District Council Po Leung Kuk Shek Kip Mei Community Services Centre (Medical Services) |
| Sik Sik Yuen Dental Clinic |
| St James' Settlement Dental Clinic Limited |
| The Hong Kong Tuberculosis Association Rusy M. Shroff Oral Health Services Limited |
| Tsim Sha Tsui District Kai Fong Welfare Association Dental Clinic |
| TWGHs Carrie Sze Memorial Dental Centre |
| TWGHs Dental Clinic (Kwong Wah Hospital) |
| TWGHs Ho Yuk Ching Community Dental Clinic |
| Yan Chai Hospital Board So Kai Sing Dental Clinic |
| Yan Chai Hospital Dental Clinic (Fanling) |
| Yan Chai Hospital Dental Clinic (Kwun Tong) |
| Yan Chai Hospital Dental Clinic (North Point) |
| Yan Chai Hospital Dental Clinic (Sham Shui Po) |
| Yan Chai Hospital Dental Clinic (Shau Kei Wan) |
| Yan Chai Hospital Dental Clinic (Tai Po) |
| Yan Chai Hospital Dental Clinic (Tai Wai) |
| Yan Chai Hospital Dental Clinic (To Kwa Wan) |

| |
|--|
| Yan Chai Hospital Dental Clinic (Yuen Long) |
| Yan Chai Hospital Integrated Medical Centre |
| Yan Oi Tong Chan Wai Leng Medical Centre |
| Yan Oi Tong Dental Clinic |
| Yan Oi Tong Fiona Cheung Sum Yu Dental Centre |
| Yan Oi Tong International Association of Chinese Traders Dental Centre |
| Yan Oi Tong Melody Garden Dental Centre |
| Yan Oi Tong Tin Ka Ping Medical Centre |
| Yan Oi Tong Tse Ng Tsui Ha Medical Centre |
| Yang Dental Clinic (Asbury) |
| Yang Dental Clinic (Mongkok) |
| Yang Dental Clinic (Prince Edward) |
| Yang Dental Clinic (Wan Chai) |
| Yang Dental Clinic (Yau Ma Tei) |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)212

(Question Serial No. 1102)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Social Security Allowance Scheme, please provide the following information for the past 3 years:

the number of Normal Disability Allowance (NDA) recipients;

the number of Higher Disability Allowance (HDA) recipients;

the number of recipients of full-rate special care subsidy;

the number of recipients of 3/4-rate special care subsidy; and

the number of recipients of half-rate special care subsidy.

| District | Aged 0-5 | Aged 6-11 | Aged 12-18 | Aged 19-29 | Aged 30-39 | Aged 40-49 | Aged 50-59 | Aged 60-64 |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Western | | | | | | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | | | | | | |
| Eastern | | | | | | | | |
| Southern | | | | | | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | | | | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | | | | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | | | | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | | | | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | | | | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | | | | | | |
| Tsuen Wan | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Tuen Mun | | | | | | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | | | | | | |
| North | | | | | | | | |
| Tai Po | | | | | | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | | | | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | | | | | | |
| Islands | | | | | | | | |

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

The numbers of NDA and HDA cases aged below 65 from 2021-22 to 2023-24, broken down by district, are set out at Table 1 of Annex. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the number of cases by age group.

The Special Care Subsidy Scheme for Persons with Severe Disabilities (the Subsidy Scheme) has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme in October 2023. Eligible persons may be granted a special care subsidy at full rate, 3/4 rate or half rate. As at the end of December 2023, a total of 3 271 persons have received the subsidy. The respective numbers of special care subsidy cases with recipients aged below 60, broken down by subsidy rate and district, are set out at Annex 2. Applicants and recipients of the Subsidy Scheme must also be HDA recipients aged below 60. As persons aged above 60 do not meet the eligibility criteria for the Subsidy Scheme, SWD does not have information on the number of special care subsidy cases with applicants aged above 60.

Table 1: Numbers of NDA and HDA cases aged below 65 from 2021-22 to 2023-24 by district ^[Note]

| District ^[Note] | Number of cases | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| | NDA | | | HDA | | |
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 2 499 | 2 628 | 2 591 | 224 | 198 | 203 |
| Eastern | 9 203 | 9 485 | 9 569 | 599 | 591 | 608 |
| Islands | 2 694 | 2 834 | 2 921 | 150 | 143 | 155 |
| Kowloon City | 5 089 | 5 280 | 5 419 | 388 | 409 | 418 |
| Kwai Tsing | 9 527 | 9 791 | 9 879 | 608 | 649 | 661 |
| Kwun Tong | 11 452 | 11 787 | 12 124 | 835 | 852 | 849 |
| North | 5 932 | 6 198 | 6 421 | 419 | 455 | 480 |
| Sai Kung | 6 388 | 6 635 | 6 730 | 579 | 588 | 590 |
| Sha Tin | 12 361 | 12 496 | 12 669 | 993 | 951 | 976 |
| Sham Shui Po | 6 918 | 7 207 | 7 458 | 493 | 500 | 519 |
| Southern | 5 314 | 5 417 | 5 486 | 391 | 369 | 365 |
| Tai Po | 5 726 | 5 810 | 5 895 | 393 | 380 | 400 |
| Tsuen Wan | 3 942 | 4 100 | 4 164 | 337 | 321 | 347 |
| Tuen Mun | 9 667 | 10 131 | 10 208 | 597 | 588 | 637 |
| Wan Chai | 1 262 | 1 331 | 1 324 | 93 | 103 | 99 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 7 423 | 7 584 | 7 646 | 556 | 539 | 548 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 3 435 | 3 518 | 3 646 | 270 | 284 | 283 |
| Yuen Long | 11 123 | 11 489 | 11 850 | 838 | 827 | 853 |
| Total | 119 955 | 123 721 | 126 000 | 8 763 | 8 747 | 8 991 |

^[Note] The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 District Council (DC) districts.

Table 2: Numbers of cases with persons aged below 60 receiving special care subsidy at full rate, 3/4 rate and half rate by district ^[Note] (as at end-December 2023)

| District ^[Note] | Number of cases | | |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| | Receiving special subsidy at full rate | Receiving special subsidy at 3/4 rate | Receiving special subsidy at half rate |
| Central & Western | 65 | 5 | 4 |
| Eastern | 198 | 21 | 6 |
| Islands | 47 | 2 | 1 |
| Kowloon City | 120 | 8 | 2 |
| Kwai Tsing | 228 | 17 | 3 |
| Kwun Tong | 331 | 21 | 7 |
| North | 167 | 10 | 3 |
| Sai Kung | 198 | 16 | 7 |
| Sha Tin | 301 | 23 | 17 |
| Sham Shui Po | 191 | 11 | 4 |
| Southern | 92 | 9 | 5 |
| Tai Po | 130 | 3 | 4 |
| Tsuen Wan | 118 | 7 | 5 |
| Tuen Mun | 209 | 20 | 6 |
| Wan Chai | 28 | 1 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 198 | 7 | 7 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 59 | 5 | 3 |
| Yuen Long | 291 | 21 | 9 |
| Total | 2 971 | 207 | 93 |
| | 3 271 | | |

^[Note] The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)213

(Question Serial No. 1105)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

For elderly persons who have been confirmed after assessment to have the needs for long term care (LTC) services, their applications may be put on a Central Waiting List for Subsidised LTC Services (CWL) to wait for provision of subsidised long term care services, i.e. residential care services (RCS) or community care services (CCS). In this connection, please advise:

1. for the past 5 years, among the applicants on CWL for subsidised residential care places for the elderly, the numbers of applicants who have withdrawn their applications and those who have declined placement offers, with a breakdown by reason; and
2. Please provide the following information by District Council (DC) district for the past 3 years:
 1. the number of places and average waiting time of various type of CCS for the elderly (including residential and day respite services), with a breakdown by gender, age and 18 DC districts;
 2. the per capita costs, fees and charges, and total amount of subsidy for various types of CCS for the elderly (including residential and day respite services);
 3. the number of persons waitlisted for various type of CCS for the elderly (including residential and day respite services), with a breakdown by gender, age and 18 DC districts; and

| District | Aged 60-65 | Aged 65-70 | Aged 70-75 | Aged 76-80 | Aged 81 or above |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Western | | | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | | | |
| Eastern | | | | | |
| Southern | | | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Tsuen Wan | | | | | |
| Tuen Mun | | | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | | | |
| North | | | | | |
| Tai Po | | | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | | | |
| Islands | | | | | |

4. the number of service users of various types of CCS for the elderly (including residential and day respite services), with a breakdown by gender, age and 18 DC districts.

| District | Aged 60-65 | Aged 65-70 | Aged 70-75 | Aged 76-80 | Aged 81 or above |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Western | | | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | | | |
| Eastern | | | | | |
| Southern | | | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | | | |
| Tsuen Wan | | | | | |
| Tuen Mun | | | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | | | |
| North | | | | | |
| Tai Po | | | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | | | |
| Islands | | | | | |

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

1. From 2019 to 2023, the number of elderly persons waitlisted for subsidised residential care places (RCPs) (including care-and-attention (C&A) places and nursing home (NHs) places) who have withdrawn their applications while waiting is as follows:

| 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 640 | 1 734 | 2 548 | 2 724 | 2 320 |

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have any information on their reasons for their withdrawal.

From 2019 to 2023, the number of elderly persons waitlisted for subsidised RCPs (including C&A places and NH places) who have declined placement offers is as follows:

| 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2 333 | 2 259 | 3 390 | 3 451 | 2 676 |

SWD does not have any information on their reasons for declining placement offers.

2. The number of places in Day Care Centres/Units for the Elderly (DEs/DCUs), the number of service places for Integrated Home Care Services (Frail Cases) [IHCS(FC)] and the number of service places for Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) from 2021-22 to 2023-24 by DC district are set out at Annexes 1 to 3, respectively.

Subsidised DEs/DCUs will continue to provide day respite services for elderly persons. Additionally, since December 2020, SWD has required private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) with “Designated Residential Respite Places (DRRPs) for the Elderly” to provide day respite services when there are vacant residential respite places. The number of designated day respite service places and the number of day respite service places in private RCHEs under EBPS with “DRRPs for the Elderly” from 2021-22 to 2023-24, broken down by DC district, are set out at Annexes 4 and 5, respectively. SWD does not have any information on the waiting time and the number of persons waitlisted for respite services by gender, age group and DC district.

The average waiting time and the numbers of persons waitlisted for DEs/DCUs, IHCS(FC) and EHCCS from 2021-22 to 2023-24, broken down by DC district, are set out at Annexes 6 to 8. SWD does not have any information on the waiting time and the number of waitlisted persons by gender and age group.

The full-year numbers of service users of DEs/DCUs, IHCS(FC) and EHCCS from 2021-22 to 2023-24, broken down by DC district, are set out at Annexes 9 to 11, respectively. SWD does not have any information on the number of service users by gender and age group.

The full-year attendance of designated day respite services and that of day respite services provided by private RCHEs under EBPS with “DRRPs for the Elderly” from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are as follows:

| Year | Designated Day Respite Services | Day Respite Services provided by private RCHEs under EBPS with “DRRPs for the Elderly” |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 2021-22 | 14 440 | - |
| 2022-23 | 19 968 | - |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 28 936 | 5 ^{Note} |

^{Note} The new initiative has been implemented since 1 December 2023 and the figure represents the attendance as at the end of December in that year.

Service users can either directly apply for respite services at centres/units/residential homes that provide respite services or through referrals by social workers. As a result, SWD does not have information on the number of service users by DC district, gender and age group.

The number of designated RRS places for the elderly from 2021-22 to 2023-24, broken down by DC district, is out at Annex 12. SWD does not have information on the waiting time, the number of persons waitlisted or the number of service users by gender, age group or DC district. The utilisation rates and full-year attendance of designated RRS for the elderly are as follows:

| Year | Utilisation rate | Attendance |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 2021-22 | 52.14% | 1 834 |
| 2022-23 | 51.31% | 1 863 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 60.35% | 1 780 |

The average monthly cost per place and the total annual expenditure on DEs/DCUs from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are as follows:

| Year | Average monthly cost per place (\$) | Total annual expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 12,083 | 473.9 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 12,346 | 505.2 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 12,829 | 545.5 |

The average monthly cost per case served and the total annual expenditure on IHCS from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are as follows:

| Year | Average monthly cost per case served (\$) ^{Note 1} | Total annual expenditure (\$ million) |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 3,133 | 1,083.1 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) ^{Note 2} | 2,931 | 1,101.1 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) ^{Note 2} | 3,319 | 1,417.8 |

Note 1 SWD does not keep separate records of the average monthly cost per case served and the total annual expenditure of IHCS (Ordinary Cases) [IHCS(OC)] and IHCS(FC).

Note 2 Starting from January 2023, the average monthly cost and total expenditure of IHCS include that of IHCS(FC), IHCS(OC) and Home Care and Support Services for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment, which has been converted into regular programme since January 2023. The abovementioned services are all rendered by IHCS teams.

The average monthly cost per case served and the total annual expenditure on EHCCS from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are as follows:

| Year | Average monthly cost per case served (\$) | Total annual expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 9,398 | 1,051.3 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 9,597 | 1,073.8 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 9,984 | 1,121.4 |

SWD does not have any information on the per capita cost of or the total amount of subsidies for designated day respite services provided by DEs/DCUs and designated RRS for the elderly.

Fees and charges for DEs/DCUs, day respite services, IHCS(FC), EHCCS, and DRRPs for the elderly from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are set out in Tables 1 to 3 of Annex 13.

Number of service places in DEs/DCUs

| District | No. of service places | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 129 | 129 | 124 |
| Eastern | 258 | 258 | 258 |
| Wan Chai | 130 | 130 | 130 |
| Southern | 108 | 108 | 108 |
| Islands | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| Kwun Tong | 452 | 452 | 452 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 350 | 350 | 347 |
| Sai Kung | 225 | 225 | 225 |
| Kowloon City | 158 | 158 | 158 |
| Sham Shui Po | 280 | 284 | 324 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 152 | 152 | 152 |
| Sha Tin | 378 | 408 | 408 |
| Tai Po | 124 | 124 | 124 |
| North | 88 | 148 | 188 |
| Yuen Long | 218 | 218 | 218 |
| Tsuen Wan | 183 | 183 | 183 |
| Kwai Tsing | 295 | 295 | 295 |
| Tuen Mun | 268 | 328 | 328 |
| Total | 3 836 | 3 990 | 4 062 |

Number of service places for IHCS(FC)

| District | No. of service places |
|-------------------|--|
| | From 2021-22 to 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 110 |
| Eastern | 360 |
| Wan Chai | 95 |
| Southern | 190 |
| Islands | 45 |
| Kwun Tong | 575 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 420 |
| Sai Kung | 175 |
| Kowloon City | 155 |
| Sham Shui Po | 210 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 110 |
| Sha Tin | 350 |
| Tai Po | 170 |
| North | 190 |
| Yuen Long | 175 |
| Tsuen Wan | 200 |
| Kwai Tsing | 385 |
| Tuen Mun | 205 |
| Total | 4 120 |

Number of service places for EHCCS

| District | No. of service places |
|-------------------|--|
| | From 2021-22 to 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 242 |
| Eastern | 677 |
| Wan Chai | 226 |
| Southern | 200 |
| Islands | 105 |
| Kwun Tong | 1 210 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 1 173 |
| Sai Kung | 552 |
| Kowloon City | 554 |
| Sham Shui Po | 647 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 339 |
| Sha Tin | 795 |
| Tai Po | 175 |
| North | 190 |
| Yuen Long | 326 |
| Tsuen Wan | 463 |
| Kwai Tsing | 970 |
| Tuen Mun | 401 |
| Total | 9 245 |

Number of designated day respite service places provided by DEs/DCUs

| District | No. of service places | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------|---|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 13 | 13 | 11 |
| Eastern | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Wan Chai | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Southern | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Islands | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Kwun Tong | 36 | 41 | 41 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 14 | 14 | 15 |
| Sai Kung | 13 | 16 | 16 |
| Kowloon City | - | - | - |
| Sham Shui Po | 26 | 29 | 34 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Sha Tin | 25 | 28 | 31 |
| Tai Po | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| North | 5 | 10 | 16 |
| Yuen Long | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Tsuen Wan | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| Kwai Tsing | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Tuen Mun | 23 | 28 | 28 |
| Total | 228 | 252 | 263 |

**Number of day respite service places^{Note} provided by private RCHEs under EBPS
with “DRRPs for the Elderly”**

| District | No. of service places ^{Note} |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 22 |
| Eastern | 18 |
| Wan Chai | 6 |
| Southern | 14 |
| Islands | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 14 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 8 |
| Sai Kung | 0 |
| Kowloon City | 40 |
| Sham Shui Po | 18 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 22 |
| Sha Tin | 0 |
| Tai Po | 10 |
| North | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 32 |
| Tsuen Wan | 18 |
| Kwai Tsing | 26 |
| Tuen Mun | 22 |
| Total | 270 |

^{Note} Private RCHEs under EBPS has started to provide day respite services when vacant DRRPs are available since December 2023. The number of service places refers to the number of “DRRPs for the Elderly”.

Table 1: Average waiting time for DEs/DCUs

| Year | Average waiting time (in months)^{Note} (average of the past 3 months) |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 2021-22 | 8 |
| 2022-23 | 4 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 4 |

^{Note} Except for 2023-24, the figures represent the average waiting time as at the end of March in the year concerned.

Table 2: Average waiting time for IHCS(FC) and EHCCS

| Year | Average waiting time (in months)^{Note} (average of the past 3 months) |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 2021-22 | 6 |
| 2022-23 | 6 |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 7 |

^{Note} Except for 2023-24, the figures represent the average waiting time as at the end of March in the year concerned.

Number of persons waitlisted for DEs/DCUs

| District | No. of waitlisted persons ^{Note} | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 63 | 39 | 32 |
| Eastern | 301 | 247 | 225 |
| Wan Chai | 22 | 26 | 29 |
| Southern | 143 | 138 | 149 |
| Islands | 19 | 23 | 21 |
| Kwun Tong | 169 | 90 | 132 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 324 | 179 | 183 |
| Sai Kung | 127 | 119 | 116 |
| Kowloon City | 106 | 87 | 107 |
| Sham Shui Po | 83 | 43 | 51 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 82 | 39 | 44 |
| Sha Tin | 399 | 212 | 355 |
| Tai Po | 96 | 17 | 17 |
| North | 99 | 36 | 37 |
| Yuen Long | 54 | 101 | 130 |
| Tsuen Wan | 73 | 55 | 81 |
| Kwai Tsing | 77 | 35 | 63 |
| Tuen Mun | 134 | 95 | 125 |
| Total | 2 371 | 1 581 | 1 897 |

^{Note} The number of waitlisted persons exclude elderly persons classified as inactive cases because of their participation in the Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme). Except for 2023-24, the figures represent the number of persons waitlisted for services as at the end of March in the year concerned.

Number of persons waitlisted for IHCS(FC) and EHCCS

| District | No. of waitlisted persons ^{Note} | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 141 | 161 | 233 |
| Eastern | 373 | 455 | 484 |
| Wan Chai | 101 | 114 | 126 |
| Southern | 181 | 232 | 361 |
| Islands | 68 | 97 | 115 |
| Kwun Tong | 431 | 503 | 686 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 280 | 274 | 330 |
| Sai Kung | 116 | 168 | 287 |
| Kowloon City | 118 | 134 | 237 |
| Sham Shui Po | 180 | 210 | 249 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 117 | 93 | 154 |
| Sha Tin | 489 | 487 | 682 |
| Tai Po | 188 | 238 | 334 |
| North | 129 | 98 | 168 |
| Yuen Long | 163 | 189 | 251 |
| Tsuen Wan | 152 | 233 | 301 |
| Kwai Tsing | 458 | 337 | 523 |
| Tuen Mun | 295 | 318 | 318 |
| Total | 3 980 | 4 341 | 5 839 |

^{Note} The number of waitlisted persons exclude elderly persons classified as inactive cases because of their participation in the CCSV Scheme. Except for 2023-24, the figures represent the number of persons waitlisted for services as at the end of March in the year concerned.

Full-year number of service users of DEs/DCUs

| District | Full-year no. of service users | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 304 | 314 | 293 |
| Eastern | 542 | 574 | 556 |
| Wan Chai | 230 | 225 | 214 |
| Southern | 213 | 226 | 222 |
| Islands | 80 | 88 | 93 |
| Kwun Tong | 939 | 948 | 852 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 613 | 701 | 666 |
| Sai Kung | 459 | 462 | 436 |
| Kowloon City | 310 | 330 | 309 |
| Sham Shui Po | 533 | 578 | 531 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 309 | 319 | 307 |
| Sha Tin | 693 | 853 | 816 |
| Tai Po | 144 | 297 | 309 |
| North | 90 | 201 | 258 |
| Yuen Long | 451 | 451 | 412 |
| Tsuen Wan | 370 | 417 | 365 |
| Kwai Tsing | 550 | 579 | 564 |
| Tuen Mun | 506 | 586 | 599 |
| Total | 7 336 | 8 149 | 7 802 |

Full-year number of service users of IHCS(FC)

| District | Full-year no. of service users | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 147 | 135 | 128 |
| Eastern | 486 | 479 | 457 |
| Wan Chai | 136 | 123 | 120 |
| Southern | 240 | 252 | 232 |
| Islands | 60 | 59 | 57 |
| Kwun Tong | 786 | 796 | 727 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 561 | 565 | 523 |
| Sai Kung | 245 | 239 | 206 |
| Kowloon City | 203 | 214 | 186 |
| Sham Shui Po | 286 | 305 | 271 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 145 | 149 | 136 |
| Sha Tin | 474 | 500 | 438 |
| Tai Po | 219 | 238 | 215 |
| North | 256 | 264 | 243 |
| Yuen Long | 244 | 255 | 223 |
| Tsuen Wan | 270 | 266 | 237 |
| Kwai Tsing | 484 | 533 | 479 |
| Tuen Mun | 282 | 282 | 258 |
| Total | 5 524 | 5 654 | 5 136 |

Full-year number of service users of EHCCS

| District | Full-year no. of service users | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
| Central & Western | 313 | 331 | 295 |
| Eastern | 815 | 875 | 831 |
| Wan Chai | 303 | 305 | 292 |
| Southern | 267 | 288 | 266 |
| Islands | 117 | 145 | 134 |
| Kwun Tong | 1 648 | 1 707 | 1 545 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 1 630 | 1 677 | 1 525 |
| Sai Kung | 746 | 797 | 735 |
| Kowloon City | 740 | 771 | 715 |
| Sham Shui Po | 855 | 882 | 843 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 460 | 460 | 417 |
| Sha Tin | 1 014 | 1 106 | 1 005 |
| Tai Po | 237 | 237 | 221 |
| North | 275 | 282 | 250 |
| Yuen Long | 422 | 431 | 413 |
| Tsuen Wan | 613 | 639 | 581 |
| Kwai Tsing | 1 221 | 1 277 | 1187 |
| Tuen Mun | 527 | 556 | 489 |
| Total | 12 203 | 12 766 | 11 744 |

Number of designated RRS places for the elderly ^{Note}

| District | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Central & Western | 24 | 24 | 22 |
| Eastern | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| Wan Chai | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Southern | 22 | 22 | 19 |
| Islands | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Kwun Tong | 18 | 17 | 17 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 13 | 11 | 11 |
| Sai Kung | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Kowloon City | 42 | 41 | 41 |
| Sham Shui Po | 25 | 23 | 22 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 22 | 22 | 21 |
| Sha Tin | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Tai Po | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| North | 12 | 12 | 2 |
| Yuen Long | 36 | 35 | 35 |
| Tsuen Wan | 22 | 21 | 21 |
| Kwai Tsing | 29 | 29 | 28 |
| Tuen Mun | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| Total | 335 | 328 | 310 |

^{Note} These refer to the designated RRS places for the elderly provided by subvented RCHEs, contract homes and private RCHEs under EBPS.

Table 1: Fees and charges for various types of subsidised DEs/DCUs and day respite services (from 2021-22 to 2023-24)

| Service type | Fees and charges (\$) |
|---|-----------------------|
| Subvented DE/DCU | 1,002/month |
| DCU for the elderly attached to contract homes | 1,014/month |
| Day respite services (including designated day respite services and day respite services provided by private RCHEs under EBPS with “Designated Places of RRS for the Elderly” | 41.5/day |

Table 2: Fees and charges for IHCS(FC) and EHCCS (from 2021-22 to 2023-24)

| Service type | Service fees and charges (\$) (subject to income level) | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) level or below | Between CSSA to 1.5 CSSA level | Above 1.5 CSSA level |
| Meal Service | 13 | 16 | 19 |
| Laundry service | Light | 0.7 | |
| | Medium | 0.9 | |
| | Heavy | 1.8 | |
| Direct care, home respite services and escort services (per hour) | 5.5 | 12 | 19 |

Table 3: Fees and charges for designated RRS for the elderly (2021-22 to 2023-24)

| Type of residential care places | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Daily (\$) | Daily (\$) | Daily (\$) |
| Home for the aged place | 52 | 52 | 52 |
| C&A place ^{Note 1} | 62 | 62 | 62 |
| NH place ^{Note 2} | 72 | 72 | 72 |

Note 1 Including places in subvented C&A homes providing continuum of care, C&A places of contract homes, and places of private RCHEs under EBPS.

Note 2 Including NH places of contract homes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)214

(Question Serial No. 1106)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Services (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. Please set out i) the planned and actual number of additional service places for various types of residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs), the average waiting time and the number of persons waitlisted for RCHDs in each of the past 5 years; ii) the per capita service cost of various types of RCHDs in each of the past 5 years; iii) the age of service users (in ten-year bands) of various types of RCHDs in each of the past 5 years; iv) the number of applicants waitlisted for various types of RCHDs, with a breakdown by applicants' district of residence and age group (in ten-year bands from the age of 15 onward) and the number of persons who passed away while waiting for admission to RCHDs in each of the past 5 years; v) the number of service places to be put into service for various types of RCHDs in each of the next 5 years, with a breakdown by district and; vi) the number of persons who have left RCHDs and their reasons for doing so in each of the past 5 years, with a breakdown by type of RCHDs in tabular form.
2. Please provide the number of persons waiting for admission to sheltered workshops (SWs) and day activity centres (DACs), the average waiting time and the number of service users in each of the past 5 years, with a breakdown by district and age.
3. Please provide the number of persons who have used the services of various day care service units and the number of service places available for application in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

1. i) The planned and actual number of additional service places for various types of residential rehabilitation services in each of the past 5 years are set out at Annex 1. The average waiting time and the number of persons waitlisted for residential rehabilitation services in each of the past 5 years are set out at Annexes 2 and 3 respectively.
- ii) The average monthly cost per place for residential rehabilitation services in each of the past 5 years is set out at Annex 4.

- iii) The age distribution of service users of various types of residential rehabilitation services in each of the past 5 years is set out in Tables 1 to 5 of Annex 5.
 - iv) The number of applicants for admission to various types of residential rehabilitation services, with a breakdown by the administrative district of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and age group, is set out in Tables 1 to 45 of Annex 6. The number of persons who passed away while waiting for residential rehabilitation services in each of the past 5 years is set out at Annex 7.
 - v) The estimated number of additional service places for various residential rehabilitation services for the next 5 years, with a breakdown by SWD's administrative district, is set out at Annex 8.
 - vi) The number of persons who left RCHDs in each of the past 5 years and their reasons for leaving, with a breakdown by type of residential rehabilitation services, is set out in Tables 1 to 5 of Annex 9.
2. The number of persons waitlisted for SWs and DACs, with a breakdown by SWD's administrative district and age group, is set out in Tables 1 to 10 of Annex 10. The average waiting time is set out at Annex 11. The number of service users in each of the past 5 years, with a breakdown by age group, is set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 12. SWD does not have information on the number of service users of SWs or DACs by district.
3. Day care service for persons with severe disabilities is provided at 11 Care-and-Attention Homes for Severely Disabled Persons (C&A/SDs), 15 District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities (DSCs) and 4 Community Rehabilitation Day Centres (CRDCs). The number of day care service places in each of the past 5 years is set out at Annex 13. SWD does not have information on the number of service users at various day care service units.

**Planned and actual number of additional service places for
various types of residential rehabilitation services from 2019-20 to 2023-24**

| Service type | 2019-20 | | 2020-21 | | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | Planned number of additional service places | Actual number of additional service places | Planned number of additional service places | Actual number of additional service places | Planned number of additional service places | Actual number of additional service places | Planned number of additional service places | Actual number of additional service places | Planned number of additional service places | Actual number of additional service places |
| HSMH | 52 | 50 | 131 | 131 | 0 | 0 | 52 | 52 | 411 | 11 |
| HMMH | 100 | 100 | 142 | 142 | 0 | 0 | 51 | 51 | 75 | 75 |
| HSPH | 100 | 100 | 50 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 75 |
| C&A/SD | 51 | 51 | 90 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 240 | 0 |
| SHOS | 36 | 36 | 60 | 40 Note 1 | 50 | 20 Note 1 | 62 | 62 Note 1 | 0 | 0 |
| SGH(MMHC) Note 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| C&A/AB | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LSCH | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 400 | 400 |
| HWH | 85 | 85 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Private RCHD under BPS | 300 | 158 | 300 | 0 Note 3 | 300 | 246 | 100 | 115 | 196 | 0 |

Note 1 Due to the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on the progress of the fitting-out works, 1 SHOS with 20 service places and another with 30 service places had to postpone their commencement of services until 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively.

Note 2 SGHs(MMHC) include integrated small group homes (ISGHs).

Note 3 The COVID-19 epidemic has affected the plans of some private RCHDs to improve their manpower, equipment, and space. It has also made it difficult for them to vacate places that were scheduled to be bought under the Bought Place Scheme (BPS). As a result, the progress of the BPS has been affected.

Legend

HMMH - Hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons

HSMH - Hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons

HSPH - Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons

C&A/SD – Care-and-attention home for severely disabled persons

SHOS - Supported hostel

SGH(MMHC) - Small group home for mildly mentally handicapped children

C&A/AB – Care-and-attention home for the aged blind

LSCH - Long stay care home

HWH - Halfway house

Private RCHD under BPS - Private residential care home for persons with disabilities under the Bought Place Scheme

**Average waiting time for various types of residential rehabilitation services
from 2019-20 to 2023-24**

| Service type | Average waiting time (in months) | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 ^{Note 1} |
| HMMH | 144.3 | 127.6 | 144.8 | 154.1 | Not yet available ^{Note 3} |
| HSMH | 160.5 | 156.1 | 150.8 | 171.1 | |
| HSPH | 123.6 | 77.8 | 80.9 | 73.0 | |
| C&A/SD | 68.4 | 64.3 | 65.6 | 60.6 | |
| C&A/AB | 9.9 | 13.8 | 10.7 | 5.1 | |
| SGH(MMHC) ^{Note 2} | 8.7 | 13.1 | 15.1 | 17.5 | |
| SHOS | 47.3 | 71.8 | 63.5 | 78.8 | |
| HWH | 5.4 | 4.7 | 4.2 | 4.2 | |
| LSCH | 57.8 | 64.9 | 57.8 | 72.3 | |
| Private RCHD under BPS ^{Note 3} | N.A. | | | | |

N.A. – Not Applicable

Note 1 As the average waiting time is compiled on a financial-year basis covering the 1st day of April of a year to the 31st day of March of the next year, the figures for 2023-24 are not yet available.

Note 2 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 3 There is no central waiting list or statistical information on the waiting time under BPS. For applicants on the waiting list for LSCHs, HMMHs, HWHs, SHOSs under the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services, BPS places are allocated by SWD according to the preference of the applicants who have indicated acceptance of BPS.

**Number of persons waitlisted for various types of residential rehabilitation services
from 2019-20 to 2023-24**

| Service type | Number of waiting persons | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
| HMMH | 2 516 | 2 535 | 2 661 | 2 798 | 2 757 |
| HSMH | 2 427 | 2 416 | 2 400 | 2 417 | 2 294 |
| HSPH | 545 | 375 | 339 | 329 | 270 |
| C&A/SD | 581 | 506 | 509 | 438 | 363 |
| C&A/AB | 148 | 118 | 57 | 31 | 36 |
| SGH(MMHC) ^{Note} | 50 | 79 | 104 | 108 | 111 |
| SHOS | 2 203 | 2 247 | 2 353 | 2 370 | 2 326 |
| HWH | 617 | 506 | 616 | 517 | 598 |
| LSCH | 2 627 | 2 664 | 2 651 | 2 450 | 2 206 |

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

**Average monthly cost per place for residential rehabilitation services
from 2019-20 to 2023-24**

| Year | Average monthly cost per place for residential rehabilitation services (\$) | Average monthly cost per place for private RCHDs under BPS (\$) |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 18,221 | 10,547 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 18,033 | 11,773 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 18,011 | 13,131 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 18,531 | 13,287 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 19,338 | 14,464 |

Table 1: Age distribution of service users of various types of residential rehabilitation services in 2019-20

| Service type | Number of service users | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 6 to 8 | Aged 9 to 11 | Aged 12 to 14 | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| HMMH | N.A. | | | 11 | 145 | 514 | 670 | 780 | 391 | 69 | 0 |
| HSMH | N.A. | | | 13 | 346 | 974 | 990 | 899 | 531 | 90 | 11 |
| HSPH | N.A. | | | 0 | 32 | 128 | 167 | 153 | 89 | 13 | 0 |
| C&A/SD | N.A. | | | 0 | 232 | 213 | 158 | 177 | 163 | 53 | 14 |
| C&A/AB | N.A. | | | | | | | | 62 | 94 | 635 |
| SGH(MMHC) Note | 7 | 29 | 43 | 48 | N.A. | | | | | | |
| SHOS | N.A. | | | 4 | 70 | 150 | 207 | 209 | 64 | 5 | 0 |
| HWH | N.A. | | | 4 | 211 | 352 | 404 | 357 | 92 | 2 | 0 |
| LSCH | N.A. | | | 0 | 3 | 27 | 119 | 397 | 639 | 288 | 89 |
| Private RCHD under BPS | N.A. | | | 1 | 24 | 79 | 206 | 267 | 190 | 29 | 2 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs. The service targets are mildly mentally handicapped children aged 6 to 18.

Table 2: Age distribution of service users of various types of residential rehabilitation services in 2020-21

| Service type | Number of service users | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|--|
| | Aged 6 to 8 | Aged 9 to 11 | Aged 12 to 14 | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above | |
| HMMH | N.A. | | | 10 | 156 | 540 | 702 | 785 | 436 | 86 | 0 | |
| HSMH | N.A. | | | 10 | 338 | 982 | 1 006 | 904 | 588 | 122 | 10 | |
| HSPH | N.A. | | | 0 | 55 | 120 | 191 | 172 | 101 | 22 | 0 | |
| C&A/SD | N.A. | | | 3 | 243 | 220 | 176 | 183 | 166 | 63 | 19 | |
| C&A/AB | N.A. | | | | | | | | 64 | 110 | 609 | |
| SGH(MMHC) Note | 8 | 19 | 40 | 61 | N.A. | | | | | | | |
| SHOS | N.A. | | | 1 | 66 | 167 | 206 | 224 | 74 | 5 | 0 | |
| HWH | N.A. | | | 13 | 195 | 393 | 408 | 367 | 100 | 2 | 0 | |
| LSCH | N.A. | | | 0 | 5 | 21 | 128 | 374 | 635 | 321 | 78 | |
| Private RCHD under BPS | N.A. | | | 0 | 33 | 93 | 228 | 328 | 242 | 38 | 0 | |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs. The service targets are mildly mentally handicapped children aged 6 to 18.

Table 3: Age distribution of service users of various types of residential rehabilitation services in 2021-22

| Service type | Number of service users | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 6 to 8 | Aged 9 to 11 | Aged 12 to 14 | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| HMMH | N.A. | | | 17 | 159 | 513 | 702 | 789 | 487 | 99 | 2 |
| HSMH | N.A. | | | 11 | 321 | 959 | 1 043 | 930 | 606 | 143 | 10 |
| HSPH | N.A. | | | 1 | 59 | 120 | 200 | 185 | 104 | 21 | 0 |
| C&A/SD | N.A. | | | 2 | 240 | 229 | 184 | 192 | 161 | 76 | 16 |
| C&A/AB | N.A. | | | | | | | | 64 | 124 | 531 |
| SGH(MMHC) Note | 5 | 19 | 36 | 67 | N.A. | | | | | | |
| SHOS | N.A. | | | 4 | 59 | 178 | 220 | 231 | 78 | 5 | 0 |
| HWH | N.A. | | | 13 | 192 | 405 | 380 | 358 | 108 | 2 | 0 |
| LSCH | N.A. | | | 0 | 2 | 23 | 112 | 353 | 626 | 343 | 75 |
| Private RCHD under BPS | N.A. | | | 2 | 31 | 104 | 273 | 390 | 281 | 49 | 1 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs. The service targets are mildly mentally handicapped children aged 6 to 18.

Table 4: Age distribution of service users of various types of residential rehabilitation services in 2022-23

| Service type | Number of service users | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 6 to 8 | Aged 9 to 11 | Aged 12 to 14 | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| HMMH | N.A. | | | 11 | 139 | 490 | 729 | 752 | 543 | 117 | 1 |
| HSMH | N.A. | | | 9 | 295 | 901 | 1 084 | 930 | 643 | 172 | 10 |
| HSPH | N.A. | | | 0 | 58 | 104 | 207 | 191 | 117 | 24 | 1 |
| C&A/SD | N.A. | | | 9 | 222 | 244 | 177 | 202 | 168 | 81 | 17 |
| C&A/AB | N.A. | | | | | | | | 69 | 128 | 524 |
| SGH(MMHC) Note | 7 | 18 | 49 | 52 | N.A. | | | | | | |
| SHOS | N.A. | | | 5 | 58 | 197 | 223 | 237 | 90 | 9 | 0 |
| HWH | N.A. | | | 7 | 189 | 414 | 392 | 356 | 127 | 2 | 0 |
| LSCH | N.A. | | | 0 | 2 | 24 | 112 | 366 | 640 | 351 | 76 |
| Private RCHD under BPS | N.A. | | | 2 | 28 | 106 | 290 | 410 | 320 | 60 | 2 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs. The service targets are mildly mentally handicapped children aged 6 to 18.

Table 5: Age distribution of service users of various types of residential rehabilitation services in 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023)

| Service type | Number of service users | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 6 to 8 | Aged 9 to 11 | Aged 12 to 14 | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| HMMH | N.A. | | | 9 | 136 | 480 | 751 | 744 | 554 | 135 | 1 |
| HSMH | N.A. | | | 7 | 282 | 890 | 1 109 | 943 | 665 | 197 | 11 |
| HSPH | N.A. | | | 0 | 57 | 101 | 214 | 182 | 131 | 22 | 1 |
| C&A/SD | N.A. | | | 9 | 215 | 248 | 171 | 207 | 169 | 84 | 17 |
| C&A/AB | N.A. | | | | | | | | 71 | 146 | 523 |
| SGH(MMHC) Note | 9 | 21 | 51 | 42 | N.A. | | | | | | |
| SHOS | N.A. | | | 7 | 52 | 199 | 226 | 232 | 108 | 10 | 0 |
| HWH | N.A. | | | 12 | 204 | 415 | 404 | 365 | 123 | 1 | 0 |
| LSCH | N.A. | | | 0 | 2 | 24 | 107 | 348 | 647 | 373 | 72 |
| Private RCHD under BPS | N.A. | | | 2 | 29 | 93 | 302 | 430 | 351 | 66 | 4 |

N.A. - Not applicable

^{Note} SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs. The service targets are mildly mentally handicapped children aged 6 to 18.

**Table 1: Number of applicants for HSMHs in 2019-20
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 28 | 69 | 39 | 14 | 20 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 30 | 88 | 44 | 20 | 22 | 12 | 7 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 45 | 86 | 57 | 19 | 19 | 14 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 47 | 129 | 55 | 23 | 22 | 19 | 2 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 46 | 82 | 44 | 24 | 16 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 31 | 53 | 39 | 11 | 19 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 25 | 69 | 36 | 14 | 13 | 10 | 3 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 38 | 99 | 32 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 42 | 105 | 33 | 25 | 25 | 12 | 2 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 41 | 97 | 61 | 35 | 25 | 17 | 2 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 22 | 61 | 64 | 27 | 30 | 20 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 395 | 938 | 504 | 220 | 217 | 125 | 28 | 0 |

**Table 2: Number of applicants for HSMHs in 2020-21
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 37 | 57 | 40 | 16 | 18 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 29 | 85 | 52 | 20 | 17 | 10 | 7 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 38 | 87 | 57 | 20 | 20 | 13 | 3 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 45 | 136 | 59 | 18 | 21 | 21 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 36 | 83 | 36 | 22 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 36 | 56 | 32 | 16 | 19 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 29 | 63 | 38 | 11 | 12 | 10 | 3 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 40 | 97 | 32 | 6 | 11 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 53 | 105 | 39 | 25 | 21 | 17 | 1 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 39 | 92 | 57 | 31 | 27 | 19 | 2 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 24 | 57 | 62 | 35 | 23 | 25 | 3 | 0 |
| Total | 406 | 918 | 504 | 220 | 201 | 139 | 27 | 1 |

**Table 3: Number of applicants for HSMHs in 2021-22
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 34 | 57 | 37 | 18 | 18 | 14 | 1 | 1 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 28 | 90 | 48 | 18 | 16 | 10 | 7 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 37 | 90 | 56 | 21 | 20 | 12 | 3 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 49 | 130 | 59 | 20 | 19 | 21 | 2 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 37 | 85 | 36 | 19 | 17 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 27 | 59 | 30 | 20 | 14 | 11 | 1 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 30 | 60 | 40 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 4 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 38 | 97 | 42 | 8 | 13 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 43 | 108 | 44 | 21 | 22 | 18 | 2 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 37 | 86 | 50 | 33 | 29 | 15 | 6 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 26 | 53 | 53 | 34 | 21 | 27 | 4 | 0 |
| Total | 386 | 915 | 495 | 221 | 199 | 146 | 37 | 1 |

**Table 4: Number of applicants for HSMHs in 2022-23
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 36 | 54 | 38 | 15 | 16 | 19 | 2 | 1 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 30 | 90 | 46 | 17 | 18 | 12 | 6 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 33 | 91 | 55 | 27 | 20 | 11 | 3 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 52 | 127 | 59 | 20 | 22 | 19 | 2 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 41 | 88 | 36 | 26 | 15 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 29 | 52 | 31 | 25 | 12 | 11 | 1 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 35 | 62 | 35 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 7 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 36 | 90 | 45 | 10 | 14 | 4 | 5 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 42 | 107 | 44 | 22 | 21 | 18 | 3 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 35 | 92 | 46 | 33 | 31 | 15 | 4 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 28 | 50 | 53 | 35 | 20 | 24 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 397 | 903 | 488 | 242 | 201 | 146 | 39 | 1 |

**Table 5: Number of applicants for HSMHs in 2023-24
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 34 | 57 | 33 | 12 | 13 | 20 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 38 | 83 | 50 | 17 | 19 | 10 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 32 | 89 | 53 | 20 | 20 | 13 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 57 | 111 | 52 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 4 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 43 | 78 | 31 | 20 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 25 | 55 | 27 | 19 | 12 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 42 | 56 | 36 | 11 | 14 | 14 | 6 | 1 |
| Tai Po and North | 39 | 86 | 44 | 11 | 13 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 46 | 97 | 45 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 4 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 41 | 88 | 42 | 29 | 29 | 14 | 3 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 27 | 50 | 46 | 29 | 16 | 20 | 4 | 0 |
| Total | 424 | 850 | 459 | 203 | 186 | 138 | 33 | 1 |

**Table 6: Number of applicants for HMMHs in 2019-20
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 30 | 71 | 37 | 19 | 20 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 25 | 69 | 68 | 40 | 14 | 14 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 32 | 94 | 47 | 44 | 31 | 16 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 64 | 119 | 62 | 29 | 28 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 54 | 51 | 42 | 28 | 20 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 34 | 56 | 40 | 25 | 22 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 23 | 71 | 65 | 33 | 20 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 32 | 72 | 44 | 27 | 21 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 47 | 79 | 43 | 15 | 22 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 34 | 101 | 72 | 32 | 31 | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 40 | 80 | 57 | 30 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 415 | 863 | 577 | 322 | 238 | 92 | 9 | 0 |

**Table 7: Number of applicants for HMMHs in 2020-21
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 30 | 73 | 30 | 22 | 17 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 21 | 68 | 62 | 37 | 21 | 12 | 2 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 45 | 93 | 51 | 30 | 32 | 12 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 69 | 125 | 56 | 33 | 23 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 52 | 57 | 47 | 28 | 16 | 13 | 0 | 1 |
| Sham Shui Po | 35 | 56 | 35 | 26 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 30 | 70 | 62 | 31 | 17 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 34 | 67 | 54 | 28 | 20 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 45 | 86 | 50 | 16 | 19 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 37 | 107 | 66 | 32 | 34 | 16 | 1 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 47 | 85 | 57 | 30 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 445 | 887 | 570 | 313 | 217 | 92 | 10 | 1 |

**Table 8: Number of applicants for HMMHs in 2021-22
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 23 | 73 | 34 | 19 | 19 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 22 | 61 | 63 | 36 | 26 | 12 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 48 | 106 | 53 | 31 | 30 | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 64 | 120 | 65 | 30 | 23 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 49 | 64 | 49 | 27 | 20 | 9 | 1 | 1 |
| Sham Shui Po | 43 | 59 | 36 | 25 | 12 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 38 | 70 | 65 | 39 | 19 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 42 | 76 | 58 | 26 | 21 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 49 | 96 | 54 | 25 | 18 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 44 | 101 | 78 | 35 | 29 | 18 | 1 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 47 | 94 | 53 | 36 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 469 | 920 | 608 | 329 | 225 | 98 | 11 | 1 |

**Table 9: Number of applicants for HMMHs in 2022-23
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 18 | 75 | 39 | 22 | 17 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 18 | 69 | 64 | 35 | 26 | 10 | 3 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 49 | 115 | 46 | 36 | 25 | 16 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 65 | 132 | 68 | 32 | 25 | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 37 | 77 | 52 | 23 | 21 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 47 | 67 | 36 | 24 | 15 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 50 | 77 | 71 | 41 | 19 | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 47 | 83 | 62 | 28 | 22 | 10 | 1 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 56 | 102 | 62 | 28 | 16 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 45 | 93 | 86 | 30 | 32 | 18 | 2 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 47 | 92 | 59 | 41 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 479 | 982 | 645 | 340 | 225 | 110 | 17 | 0 |

**Table 10: Number of applicants for HMMHs in 2023-24
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 22 | 75 | 34 | 19 | 13 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 19 | 59 | 72 | 34 | 25 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 53 | 104 | 45 | 26 | 26 | 14 | 1 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 76 | 122 | 72 | 28 | 25 | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 49 | 75 | 50 | 18 | 18 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 44 | 69 | 42 | 26 | 15 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 58 | 77 | 74 | 40 | 17 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 46 | 87 | 62 | 27 | 23 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 61 | 107 | 64 | 27 | 18 | 7 | 2 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 47 | 79 | 83 | 23 | 29 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 44 | 93 | 59 | 37 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 519 | 947 | 657 | 305 | 217 | 102 | 10 | 0 |

**Table 11: Number of applicants for HSPHs in 2019-20
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 4 | 13 | 9 | 8 | 18 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 5 | 14 | 9 | 11 | 17 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 1 | 9 | 2 | 10 | 23 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 5 | 13 | 4 | 14 | 14 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 3 | 4 | 9 | 11 | 24 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 2 | 11 | 3 | 9 | 15 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 3 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 3 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 7 | 8 | 7 | 18 | 28 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 4 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 15 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 39 | 102 | 66 | 105 | 188 | 45 | 0 | 0 |

**Table 12: Number of applicants for HSPHs in 2020-21
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 3 | 12 | 5 | 5 | 16 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 4 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 2 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 3 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 16 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 1 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 1 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 1 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 19 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 5 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 33 | 70 | 48 | 63 | 131 | 27 | 3 | 0 |

**Table 13: Number of applicants for HSPHs in 2021-22
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 4 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 4 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 1 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 2 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 16 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 3 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 4 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 19 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 4 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 26 | 56 | 36 | 64 | 122 | 33 | 2 | 0 |

**Table 14: Number of applicants for HSPHs in 2022-23
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 3 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 1 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 2 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 4 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 2 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 21 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 3 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 26 | 50 | 37 | 63 | 121 | 29 | 3 | 0 |

**Table 15: Number of applicants for HSPHs in 2023-24
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 2 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 1 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 4 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 1 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 1 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 23 | 41 | 28 | 51 | 96 | 29 | 2 | 0 |

**Table 16: Number of applicants for C&A/SDs in 2019-20
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 5 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 29 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 8 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 15 | 7 | 2 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 6 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 14 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 15 | 14 | 2 | 8 | 19 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 5 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 25 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 8 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 8 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 22 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 17 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 22 | 7 | 5 | 1 |
| Yuen Long | 10 | 17 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 13 | 10 | 4 | 9 | 19 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 6 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 9 | 3 | 0 |
| Total | 101 | 88 | 40 | 83 | 195 | 57 | 16 | 1 |

**Table 17: Number of applicants for C&A/SDs in 2020-21
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 3 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 23 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 8 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 16 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 17 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 5 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 18 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 7 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 10 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 17 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 16 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 12 | 11 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 14 | 5 | 3 | 14 | 22 | 11 | 2 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| Total | 103 | 61 | 35 | 75 | 166 | 54 | 12 | 0 |

**Table 18: Number of applicants for C&A/SDs in 2021-22
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 5 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 22 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 9 | 4 | 0 | 12 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 18 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 14 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 14 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 9 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 14 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 9 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 10 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 15 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 17 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Yuen Long | 12 | 11 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 11 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 25 | 8 | 5 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 6 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 110 | 61 | 34 | 68 | 165 | 60 | 10 | 1 |

**Table 19: Number of applicants for C&A/SDs in 2022-23
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 18 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 8 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 7 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 10 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 11 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 10 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 6 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 13 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 10 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 9 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 23 | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 6 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 94 | 55 | 38 | 52 | 136 | 49 | 14 | 0 |

**Table 20: Number of applicants for C&A/SDs in 2023-24
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 4 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 6 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 9 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 9 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 11 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 10 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 12 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 7 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 16 | 4 | 5 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 87 | 37 | 28 | 39 | 113 | 45 | 13 | 1 |

**Table 21: Number of applicants for C&A/ABs in 2019-20
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| Kwun Tong | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 10 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 9 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 11 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 14 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 32 | 93 |

**Table 22: Number of applicants for C&A/ABs in 2020-21
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| Kwun Tong | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 6 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 11 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 12 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 34 | 68 |

**Table 23: Number of applicants for C&A/ABs in 2021-22
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Kwun Tong | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 9 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 14 | 57 |

**Table 24: Number of applicants for C&A/ABs in 2022-23
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Kwun Tong | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 22 |

**Table 25: Number of applicants for C&A/ABs in 2023-24
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 12 | 14 |

**Table 26: Number of applicants for SHOSs in 2019-20
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 8 | 32 | 43 | 34 | 32 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 5 | 31 | 37 | 39 | 36 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 27 | 53 | 48 | 49 | 37 | 11 | 1 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 24 | 69 | 96 | 66 | 66 | 17 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 9 | 18 | 22 | 21 | 23 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 10 | 28 | 42 | 27 | 38 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 14 | 36 | 60 | 51 | 22 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 21 | 71 | 64 | 28 | 27 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 16 | 55 | 51 | 34 | 26 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 31 | 60 | 73 | 56 | 39 | 10 | 1 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 17 | 52 | 66 | 38 | 30 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 182 | 505 | 602 | 443 | 376 | 90 | 5 | 0 |

**Table 27: Number of applicants for SHOSs in 2020-21
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 7 | 38 | 55 | 39 | 35 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 3 | 26 | 36 | 39 | 27 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 26 | 55 | 54 | 36 | 34 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 24 | 65 | 87 | 66 | 56 | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 7 | 23 | 21 | 16 | 24 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 10 | 30 | 39 | 29 | 32 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 7 | 44 | 58 | 63 | 20 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 17 | 76 | 66 | 36 | 26 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 19 | 57 | 57 | 39 | 28 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 31 | 56 | 83 | 58 | 38 | 14 | 1 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 19 | 58 | 68 | 44 | 31 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 170 | 528 | 624 | 465 | 351 | 104 | 5 | 0 |

**Table 28: Number of applicants for SHOSs in 2021-22
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 10 | 43 | 60 | 45 | 49 | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 4 | 33 | 32 | 45 | 27 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 34 | 63 | 55 | 35 | 34 | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 28 | 66 | 89 | 63 | 49 | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 10 | 27 | 21 | 18 | 18 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 13 | 28 | 43 | 21 | 27 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 18 | 42 | 62 | 62 | 22 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 17 | 76 | 78 | 44 | 28 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 27 | 51 | 62 | 35 | 30 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 26 | 61 | 85 | 52 | 42 | 14 | 1 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 26 | 50 | 65 | 52 | 26 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 213 | 540 | 652 | 472 | 352 | 117 | 7 | 0 |

**Table 29: Number of applicants for SHOSs in 2022-23
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 10 | 46 | 57 | 48 | 41 | 20 | 2 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 3 | 35 | 36 | 41 | 27 | 11 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 38 | 65 | 54 | 39 | 36 | 14 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 25 | 71 | 93 | 57 | 34 | 26 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 11 | 31 | 24 | 18 | 14 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 19 | 34 | 43 | 29 | 26 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 16 | 43 | 67 | 57 | 30 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 12 | 87 | 66 | 50 | 25 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 19 | 51 | 62 | 41 | 31 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 25 | 60 | 81 | 51 | 41 | 17 | 1 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 20 | 51 | 59 | 53 | 26 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 198 | 574 | 642 | 484 | 331 | 130 | 11 | 0 |

**Table 30: Number of applicants for SHOSs in 2023-24
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 8 | 41 | 57 | 53 | 45 | 19 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 5 | 36 | 40 | 35 | 25 | 14 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 40 | 68 | 50 | 39 | 31 | 13 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 30 | 61 | 91 | 54 | 31 | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 11 | 31 | 22 | 13 | 14 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 21 | 39 | 38 | 32 | 27 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 12 | 44 | 63 | 51 | 35 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 18 | 74 | 69 | 51 | 24 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 21 | 55 | 58 | 45 | 28 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 27 | 63 | 78 | 54 | 43 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 21 | 50 | 51 | 50 | 23 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 214 | 562 | 617 | 477 | 326 | 122 | 8 | 0 |

**Table 31: Number of applicants for LSCHs in 2019-20
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 5 | 15 | 64 | 110 | 86 | 14 | 7 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 3 | 5 | 20 | 78 | 81 | 11 | 4 |
| Kwun Tong | 0 | 3 | 12 | 34 | 69 | 44 | 3 | 1 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 1 | 1 | 13 | 33 | 91 | 54 | 11 | 1 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 2 | 14 | 62 | 86 | 53 | 4 | 2 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 3 | 10 | 36 | 74 | 41 | 7 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 9 | 22 | 61 | 107 | 89 | 16 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 2 | 19 | 36 | 77 | 70 | 10 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 8 | 17 | 41 | 56 | 32 | 6 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 1 | 6 | 26 | 79 | 126 | 83 | 12 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 11 | 26 | 70 | 123 | 106 | 10 | 2 |
| Total | 2 | 53 | 179 | 536 | 997 | 739 | 104 | 17 |

**Table 32: Number of applicants for LSCHs in 2020-21
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 4 | 8 | 59 | 114 | 88 | 17 | 7 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 3 | 10 | 24 | 79 | 74 | 14 | 3 |
| Kwun Tong | 0 | 3 | 13 | 32 | 69 | 48 | 5 | 1 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 1 | 2 | 11 | 36 | 82 | 58 | 11 | 1 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 1 | 13 | 52 | 87 | 50 | 10 | 2 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 3 | 7 | 38 | 71 | 42 | 9 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 10 | 23 | 66 | 112 | 97 | 20 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 0 | 21 | 38 | 79 | 69 | 12 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 8 | 13 | 39 | 52 | 44 | 5 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 0 | 8 | 28 | 76 | 135 | 75 | 11 | 1 |
| Tuen Mun | 2 | 13 | 20 | 78 | 119 | 117 | 10 | 1 |
| Total | 3 | 55 | 167 | 538 | 999 | 762 | 124 | 16 |

**Table 33: Number of applicants for LSCHs in 2021-22
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 5 | 6 | 50 | 104 | 86 | 20 | 6 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 3 | 7 | 22 | 83 | 72 | 19 | 3 |
| Kwun Tong | 0 | 5 | 10 | 31 | 76 | 55 | 5 | 2 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 1 | 3 | 14 | 39 | 78 | 59 | 13 | 1 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 1 | 1 | 12 | 52 | 85 | 51 | 13 | 3 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 3 | 9 | 32 | 63 | 50 | 7 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 4 | 31 | 64 | 112 | 107 | 24 | 1 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 0 | 17 | 32 | 78 | 75 | 13 | 1 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 5 | 13 | 30 | 59 | 41 | 8 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 0 | 10 | 31 | 68 | 142 | 76 | 13 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 2 | 10 | 18 | 66 | 115 | 112 | 12 | 1 |
| Total | 4 | 49 | 168 | 486 | 995 | 784 | 147 | 18 |

**Table 34: Number of applicants for LSCHs in 2022-23
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 6 | 11 | 43 | 94 | 82 | 23 | 5 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 4 | 5 | 17 | 70 | 76 | 17 | 2 |
| Kwun Tong | 0 | 4 | 7 | 28 | 81 | 58 | 7 | 1 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 0 | 1 | 12 | 33 | 63 | 57 | 11 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 2 | 10 | 39 | 81 | 50 | 13 | 2 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 4 | 7 | 34 | 58 | 51 | 6 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 5 | 25 | 61 | 110 | 121 | 19 | 1 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 1 | 19 | 25 | 65 | 68 | 11 | 1 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 4 | 10 | 26 | 50 | 28 | 9 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 0 | 6 | 28 | 64 | 117 | 79 | 10 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 1 | 9 | 18 | 50 | 113 | 107 | 13 | 1 |
| Total | 1 | 46 | 152 | 420 | 902 | 777 | 139 | 13 |

**Table 35: Number of applicants for LSCHs in 2023-24
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 6 | 9 | 39 | 86 | 71 | 22 | 3 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 2 | 6 | 13 | 66 | 73 | 15 | 3 |
| Kwun Tong | 0 | 3 | 8 | 25 | 74 | 58 | 9 | 2 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 0 | 3 | 11 | 30 | 60 | 59 | 11 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 1 | 8 | 36 | 88 | 53 | 13 | 1 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 4 | 8 | 23 | 53 | 45 | 9 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 3 | 18 | 56 | 90 | 97 | 17 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 0 | 12 | 29 | 58 | 63 | 4 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 3 | 11 | 23 | 40 | 23 | 7 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 0 | 6 | 19 | 63 | 124 | 61 | 9 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 1 | 4 | 18 | 40 | 96 | 91 | 11 | 0 |
| Total | 1 | 35 | 128 | 377 | 835 | 694 | 127 | 9 |

**Table 36: Number of applicants for HWHs in 2019-20
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 2 | 11 | 12 | 10 | 21 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 1 | 20 | 24 | 27 | 26 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 4 | 8 | 12 | 14 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 0 | 12 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 3 | 9 | 14 | 12 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 12 | 16 | 16 | 13 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 1 | 12 | 19 | 13 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 2 | 8 | 16 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 2 | 13 | 27 | 16 | 17 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 3 | 5 | 12 | 14 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 18 | 117 | 170 | 147 | 136 | 27 | 2 | 0 |

**Table 37: Number of applicants for HWHs in 2020-21
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 1 | 12 | 19 | 16 | 16 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 3 | 7 | 10 | 13 | 14 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 4 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 1 | 8 | 12 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 2 | 9 | 14 | 5 | 15 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 5 | 14 | 17 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 1 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 1 | 16 | 23 | 22 | 13 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 9 | 13 | 12 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 13 | 97 | 136 | 120 | 107 | 32 | 1 | 0 |

**Table 38: Number of applicants for HWHs in 2021-22
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 1 | 14 | 7 | 12 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 2 | 9 | 17 | 18 | 20 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 1 | 12 | 11 | 15 | 15 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 4 | 5 | 13 | 5 | 15 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 3 | 13 | 8 | 12 | 18 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 3 | 9 | 8 | 12 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 1 | 16 | 12 | 23 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 2 | 10 | 13 | 22 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 2 | 7 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 1 | 14 | 19 | 20 | 17 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 12 | 13 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 20 | 121 | 133 | 154 | 134 | 51 | 3 | 0 |

**Table 39: Number of applicants for HWHs in 2022-23
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 1 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 1 | 12 | 12 | 15 | 15 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 2 | 11 | 11 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 2 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 2 | 5 | 10 | 18 | 13 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 3 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 1 | 5 | 12 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 1 | 5 | 8 | 16 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 1 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 0 | 17 | 25 | 30 | 14 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 2 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 16 | 103 | 125 | 132 | 99 | 37 | 5 | 0 |

**Table 40: Number of applicants for HWHs in 2023-24
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 1 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 16 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 2 | 12 | 8 | 7 | 15 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 4 | 7 | 15 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 4 | 20 | 21 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 1 | 10 | 10 | 17 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 3 | 2 | 16 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 4 | 13 | 28 | 12 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 0 | 8 | 18 | 19 | 13 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 6 | 14 | 10 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 4 | 20 | 22 | 25 | 28 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 7 | 5 | 13 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 19 | 102 | 149 | 158 | 121 | 49 | 0 | 0 |

**Table 41: Number of applicants for SGHs(MMHC) ^{Note} in 2019-20
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 6 to 8 | Aged 9 to 11 | Aged 12 to 15 | Aged 16 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Kwun Tong | 1 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 9 | 11 | 26 | 4 |

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

**Table 42: Number of applicants for SGHs(MMHC) ^{Note} in 2020-21
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 6 to 8 | Aged 9 to 11 | Aged 12 to 15 | Aged 16 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Kwun Tong | 1 | 2 | 14 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 3 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 3 | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 10 | 19 | 45 | 5 |

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

**Table 43: Number of applicants for SGHs(MMHC) ^{Note} in 2021-22
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 6 to 8 | Aged 9 to 11 | Aged 12 to 15 | Aged 16 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Kwun Tong | 1 | 5 | 15 | 1 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 4 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| Sham Shui Po | 3 | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 1 | 6 | 8 | 2 |
| Tai Po and North | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Yuen Long | 1 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 17 | 29 | 47 | 11 |

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

**Table 44: Number of applicants for SGHs(MMHC) ^{Note} in 2022-23
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 6 to 8 | Aged 9 to 11 | Aged 12 to 15 | Aged 16 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 1 | 5 | 11 | 4 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 4 | 7 | 2 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 2 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| Sham Shui Po | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| Sha Tin | 1 | 6 | 8 | 2 |
| Tai Po and North | 3 | 7 | 4 | 1 |
| Yuen Long | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 20 | 38 | 38 | 12 |

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

**Table 45: Number of applicants for SGHs(MMHC) ^{Note} in 2023-24
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | |
|--|----------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 6 to 8 | Aged 9 to 11 | Aged 12 to 15 | Aged 16 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 0 | 3 | 10 | 6 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 2 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| Sham Shui Po | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Sha Tin | 4 | 4 | 8 | 1 |
| Tai Po and North | 3 | 8 | 7 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| Tuen Mun | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 21 | 29 | 48 | 13 |

^{Note} SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Number of persons who passed away while waiting for residential rehabilitation services

| Service type | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| HMMH | 6 | 9 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| HSMH | 29 | 9 | 25 | 24 | 22 |
| HSPH | 28 | 18 | 8 | 13 | 16 |
| C&A/SD | 40 | 33 | 33 | 35 | 39 |
| C&A/AB | 20 | 15 | 6 | 15 | 6 |
| SGH(MMHC) ^{Note 1} | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SHOS | 10 | 1 | 6 | 13 | 9 |
| HWH | 7 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| LSCH | 8 | 14 | 18 | 22 | 33 |
| Private RCHD under BPS ^{Note 2} | N.A. | | | | |

N.A. – Not Applicable

Note 1 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 2 There is no central waiting list or statistical information on the number of persons who passed away while waiting for the service under BPS.

**Estimated number of additional service places of various residential rehabilitation services in the next 5 years
(by SWD's administrative district)**

| Service type | Total number of additional service places | Number of additional service places in each district |
|------------------------|--|---|
| HMMH | 240 | 40 (Sham Shui Po), 50 (North), 50 (South), 100 (Kowloon City) |
| HSMH | 890 | 30 (Wong Tai Sin), 50 (Kowloon City), 50 (Kwun Tong), 60 (Tai Po), 100 (North), 150 (South), 450 (Tuen Mun) |
| HSPH | 100 | 50 (Sham Shui Po), 50 (South) |
| C&A/SD | 240 | 40 (North), 200 (Tuen Mun) |
| SHOS | 410 | 30 (Sai Kung), 30 (Sha Tin), 40 (Eastern), 60 (South), 70 (Kowloon City), 70 (North), 110 (Tuen Mun) |
| LSCH | 200 | 200 (North) |
| Private RCHD under BPS | 274 | 274 (locations to be determined) |

Table 1: Number of persons having left RCHDs and reasons for leaving in 2019-20

| Reason for leaving | Number of persons having left RCHDs | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|
| | HMMH | HSMH | HSPH | C&A/SD | C&A/AB | SHOS | SGH (MMHC) ^{Note} | HWH | LSCH | Private RCHD under BPS |
| Transfer to other residential services because of significant changes in health condition or care needs | 33 | 19 | 2 | 4 | 30 | 7 | 0 | 96 | 2 | 27 |
| Admission to hospital for treatment for no less than 3 months | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Residential service no longer needed according to the resident | 0 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 47 | 2 | 4 |
| Compassionate rehousing/ independent living | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 86 | 0 | 3 |
| Family reunion | 6 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 7 | 109 | 2 | 17 |
| Emigration | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Death | 28 | 34 | 10 | 47 | 113 | 6 | 0 | 9 | 53 | 11 |
| Age limit of the service reached | N.A. | | | | | | 3 | N.A. | | |
| Breaching house rules or other reasons | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 0 | 7 |
| Total | 70 | 71 | 14 | 54 | 145 | 41 | 11 | 391 | 60 | 69 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 2: Number of persons having left RCHDs and reasons for leaving in 2020-21

| Reason for leaving | Number of persons having left RCHDs | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|
| | HMMH | HSMH | HSPH | C&A/SD | C&A/AB | SHOS | SGH (MMHC) ^{Note} | HWH | LSCH | Private RCHD under BPS |
| Transfer to other residential services because of significant changes in health condition or care needs | 32 | 29 | 4 | 3 | 17 | 26 | 0 | 128 | 2 | 51 |
| Admission to hospital for treatment for no less than 3 months | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Residential service no longer needed according to the resident | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 60 | 3 | 14 |
| Compassionate rehousing/ independent living | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 81 | 1 | 7 |
| Family reunion | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 96 | 2 | 56 |
| Emigration | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Death | 21 | 41 | 11 | 38 | 120 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 74 | 10 |
| Age limit of the service reached | N.A. | | | | | | 0 | N.A. | | |
| Breaching house rules or other reasons | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 43 | 0 | 20 |
| Total | 62 | 78 | 16 | 43 | 145 | 41 | 3 | 413 | 82 | 158 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 3: Number of persons having left RCHDs and reasons for leaving in 2021-22

| Reason for leaving | Number of persons having left RCHDs | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------------------|
| | HMMH | HSMH | HSPH | C&A/SD | C&A/AB | SHOS | SGH (MMHC) ^{Note} | HWH | LSCH | Private RCHD under BPS |
| Transfer to other residential services because of significant changes in health condition or care needs | 40 | 30 | 6 | 4 | 35 | 27 | 4 | 304 | 14 | 44 |
| Admission to hospital for treatment for no less than 3 months | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Residential service no longer needed according to the resident | 4 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 72 | 3 | 26 |
| Compassionate rehousing/ independent living | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 89 | 0 | 5 |
| Family reunion | 16 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 114 | 5 | 29 |
| Emigration | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Death | 27 | 125 | 31 | 56 | 140 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 76 | 28 |
| Age limit of the service reached | N.A. | | | | | | 5 | N.A. | | |
| Breaching house rules or other reasons | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 64 | 3 | 11 |
| Total | 96 | 169 | 41 | 63 | 188 | 50 | 14 | 650 | 101 | 143 |

N.A. - Not applicable

^{Note} SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 4: Number of persons having left RCHDs and reasons for leaving in 2022-23

| Reason for leaving | Number of persons having left RCHDs | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------------------|
| | HMMH | HSMH | HSPH | C&A/SD | C&A/AB | SHOS | SGH (MMHC) ^{Note} | HWH | LSCH | Private RCHD under BPS |
| Transfer to other residential services because of significant changes in health condition or care needs | 31 | 23 | 5 | 4 | 19 | 16 | 6 | 270 | 12 | 38 |
| Admission to hospital for treatment for no less than 3 months | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Residential service no longer needed according to the resident | 0 | 7 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 75 | 1 | 29 |
| Compassionate rehousing/ independent living | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 98 | 0 | 12 |
| Family reunion | 7 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 160 | 2 | 37 |
| Emigration | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Death | 17 | 62 | 4 | 45 | 135 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 78 | 21 |
| Age limit of the service reached | N.A. | | | | | | 0 | N.A. | | |
| Breaching house rules or other reasons | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 85 | 7 | 13 |
| Total | 56 | 97 | 12 | 56 | 168 | 44 | 22 | 696 | 100 | 150 |

N.A. - Not applicable

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 5: Number of persons having left RCHDs and reasons for leaving in 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023)

| Reason for leaving | Number of persons having left RCHDs | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|
| | HMMH | HSMH | HSPH | C&A/SD | C&A/AB | SHOS | SGH (MMHC) ^{Note} | HWH | LSCH | Private RCHD under BPS |
| Transfer to other residential services because of significant changes in health condition or care needs | 44 | 18 | 3 | 6 | 17 | 14 | 8 | 215 | 9 | 30 |
| Admission to hospital for treatment for no less than 3 months | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Residential service no longer needed according to the resident | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 44 | 1 | 19 |
| Compassionate rehousing/ independent living | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 80 | 0 | 9 |
| Family reunion | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 132 | 1 | 17 |
| Emigration | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Death | 17 | 51 | 8 | 37 | 72 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 43 | 16 |
| Age limit of the service reached | N.A. | | | | | | 0 | N.A. | | |
| Breaching house rules or other reasons | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 75 | 2 | 56 |
| Total | 69 | 73 | 12 | 45 | 98 | 25 | 25 | 549 | 56 | 148 |

N.A. - Not applicable

^{Note} SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

**Table 1: Number of applicants for SWs in 2019-20
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 39 | 57 | 31 | 17 | 44 | 12 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 48 | 40 | 29 | 27 | 30 | 16 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 52 | 80 | 25 | 47 | 52 | 13 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 99 | 93 | 39 | 41 | 58 | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 58 | 33 | 21 | 27 | 37 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 44 | 32 | 14 | 19 | 29 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 38 | 49 | 28 | 36 | 35 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 53 | 73 | 38 | 27 | 33 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 76 | 48 | 29 | 18 | 37 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 50 | 66 | 34 | 42 | 45 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 46 | 47 | 34 | 30 | 26 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 603 | 618 | 322 | 331 | 426 | 111 | 5 | 0 |

**Table 2: Number of applicants for SWs in 2020-21
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 32 | 50 | 19 | 21 | 38 | 12 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 42 | 40 | 23 | 24 | 37 | 16 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 56 | 66 | 21 | 30 | 29 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 87 | 63 | 33 | 29 | 45 | 12 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 26 | 19 | 23 | 26 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 40 | 24 | 10 | 17 | 17 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 42 | 42 | 26 | 30 | 22 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 46 | 77 | 30 | 28 | 27 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 70 | 49 | 23 | 19 | 35 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 45 | 59 | 29 | 27 | 41 | 12 | 2 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 61 | 58 | 32 | 35 | 23 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 574 | 554 | 265 | 283 | 340 | 94 | 6 | 0 |

**Table 3: Number of applicants for SWs in 2021-22
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 34 | 42 | 21 | 14 | 30 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 32 | 33 | 21 | 18 | 32 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 59 | 71 | 14 | 24 | 27 | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 85 | 69 | 36 | 31 | 42 | 10 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 35 | 23 | 20 | 29 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 49 | 25 | 16 | 12 | 23 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 52 | 40 | 34 | 37 | 29 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 54 | 76 | 32 | 28 | 31 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 76 | 60 | 28 | 24 | 32 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 52 | 57 | 33 | 24 | 40 | 14 | 2 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 65 | 57 | 32 | 41 | 20 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 611 | 565 | 290 | 273 | 335 | 96 | 6 | 0 |

**Table 4: Number of applicants for SWs in 2022-23
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 24 | 45 | 25 | 17 | 23 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 29 | 33 | 22 | 11 | 34 | 11 | 2 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 67 | 73 | 16 | 25 | 27 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 85 | 92 | 39 | 33 | 30 | 12 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 43 | 46 | 25 | 19 | 22 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 58 | 24 | 17 | 12 | 18 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 63 | 49 | 31 | 34 | 30 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 60 | 87 | 31 | 27 | 31 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 83 | 67 | 32 | 22 | 33 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 51 | 54 | 38 | 20 | 42 | 13 | 2 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 58 | 50 | 32 | 46 | 24 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 621 | 620 | 308 | 266 | 314 | 99 | 11 | 0 |

**Table 5: Number of applicants for SWs in 2023-24
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 26 | 41 | 22 | 16 | 16 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 23 | 35 | 19 | 14 | 29 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 63 | 75 | 14 | 22 | 26 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 93 | 77 | 40 | 20 | 23 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 53 | 39 | 17 | 14 | 23 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 54 | 34 | 20 | 18 | 12 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 68 | 44 | 24 | 36 | 23 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 57 | 84 | 39 | 34 | 22 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 87 | 68 | 26 | 27 | 26 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 50 | 47 | 34 | 21 | 35 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 54 | 50 | 21 | 37 | 19 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 628 | 594 | 276 | 259 | 254 | 95 | 4 | 0 |

**Table 6: Number of applicants for DACs in 2019-20
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 24 | 17 | 13 | 6 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 30 | 26 | 14 | 11 | 14 | 8 | 6 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 44 | 35 | 15 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 1 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 49 | 47 | 14 | 16 | 15 | 16 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 49 | 33 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 34 | 16 | 12 | 8 | 14 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 26 | 22 | 12 | 10 | 11 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 35 | 31 | 12 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 42 | 40 | 12 | 19 | 18 | 10 | 1 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 29 | 24 | 21 | 27 | 13 | 12 | 1 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 22 | 29 | 29 | 17 | 23 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 384 | 320 | 164 | 139 | 145 | 89 | 18 | 0 |

**Table 7: Number of applicants for DACs in 2020-21
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 31 | 9 | 11 | 8 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 26 | 19 | 16 | 12 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 38 | 31 | 22 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 3 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 47 | 42 | 13 | 12 | 13 | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 37 | 29 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 37 | 19 | 10 | 9 | 13 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 28 | 21 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 39 | 32 | 15 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 54 | 41 | 14 | 17 | 15 | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 30 | 26 | 20 | 21 | 17 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 26 | 24 | 31 | 20 | 17 | 15 | 3 | 0 |
| Total | 393 | 293 | 172 | 128 | 129 | 101 | 21 | 1 |

**Table 8: Number of applicants for DACs in 2021-22
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 27 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 12 | 10 | 1 | 1 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 27 | 19 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 34 | 34 | 20 | 10 | 7 | 12 | 3 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 49 | 37 | 18 | 11 | 13 | 17 | 1 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 34 | 24 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 27 | 17 | 10 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 25 | 20 | 11 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 37 | 32 | 15 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 44 | 44 | 13 | 17 | 17 | 16 | 1 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 26 | 23 | 16 | 23 | 20 | 10 | 4 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 22 | 22 | 24 | 14 | 17 | 16 | 3 | 0 |
| Total | 352 | 279 | 156 | 122 | 133 | 110 | 28 | 1 |

**Table 9: Number of applicants for DACs in 2022-23
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 31 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 2 | 1 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 30 | 18 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 5 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 30 | 33 | 19 | 11 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 50 | 43 | 19 | 8 | 15 | 13 | 2 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 39 | 25 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 28 | 12 | 7 | 14 | 6 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 33 | 18 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 0 |
| Tai Po and North | 32 | 28 | 15 | 4 | 10 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 43 | 40 | 16 | 18 | 16 | 17 | 2 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 28 | 25 | 17 | 20 | 21 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 26 | 18 | 27 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 370 | 270 | 159 | 124 | 130 | 109 | 32 | 1 |

**Table 10: Number of applicants for DACs in 2023-24
(by SWD's administrative district and age group)
(as at 31 December 2023)**

| District | Number of applicants | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| Central Western, Southern and Islands | 29 | 12 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| Eastern and Wan Chai | 34 | 19 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 28 | 23 | 21 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung | 52 | 33 | 19 | 5 | 11 | 11 | 3 | 0 |
| Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong | 38 | 20 | 8 | 7 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 22 | 13 | 6 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| Sha Tin | 41 | 12 | 14 | 4 | 12 | 11 | 6 | 1 |
| Tai Po and North | 38 | 27 | 12 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Yuen Long | 43 | 35 | 18 | 15 | 14 | 16 | 3 | 0 |
| Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing | 35 | 23 | 17 | 18 | 18 | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| Tuen Mun | 23 | 17 | 24 | 14 | 11 | 16 | 3 | 0 |
| Total | 383 | 234 | 151 | 105 | 121 | 108 | 26 | 1 |

Average waiting time for SWs and DACs

| Service type | Average waiting time in 2019-20 (in months) Note 1 | Average waiting time in 2020-21 (in months) Note 1 | Average waiting time in 2021-22 (in months) Note 1 | Average waiting time in 2022-23 (in months) Note 1 | Average waiting time in 2023-24 (in months) Note 1 |
|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| SW | 18.8 | 20.6 | 12.6 | 14.0 | Not yet available ^{Note 2} |
| DAC | 57.3 | 58.1 | 53.8 | 55.6 | |

Note 1 The waiting time is affected by multiple factors, such as whether the applicant has any preference on the location of the service units, whether he/she has selected any particular service units, the turnover rate of individual service units, etc.

Note 2 The figure for 2023-24 is not yet available as the average waiting time is compiled on a financial-year basis covering the 1st day of April of a year to the 31st day of March of the next year.

Table 1: Age distribution of SW service users from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | Number of service users | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| 2019-20 | 26 | 742 | 1 116 | 1 293 | 1 353 | 676 | 96 | 1 |
| 2020-21 | 22 | 711 | 1 097 | 1 304 | 1 288 | 710 | 129 | 4 |
| 2021-22 | 25 | 678 | 1 065 | 1 295 | 1 299 | 769 | 137 | 5 |
| 2022-23 | 17 | 668 | 1 030 | 1 287 | 1 262 | 844 | 161 | 4 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 30 | 629 | 1 037 | 1 310 | 1 246 | 867 | 165 | 5 |

Table 2: Age distribution of DAC service users from 2019-20 to 2023-24

| Year | Number of service users | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Aged 15 to 19 | Aged 20 to 29 | Aged 30 to 39 | Aged 40 to 49 | Aged 50 to 59 | Aged 60 to 69 | Aged 70 to 79 | Aged 80 or above |
| 2019-20 | 53 | 1 047 | 1 450 | 1 173 | 1 011 | 599 | 103 | 11 |
| 2020-21 | 48 | 1 042 | 1 448 | 1 213 | 1 013 | 659 | 135 | 10 |
| 2021-22 | 70 | 1 019 | 1 413 | 1 266 | 1 037 | 672 | 162 | 10 |
| 2022-23 | 56 | 987 | 1 334 | 1 333 | 1 044 | 712 | 186 | 10 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 53 | 994 | 1 305 | 1 364 | 1 057 | 726 | 210 | 11 |

**Number of places for
day care service for persons with severe disabilities
each year from 2019-20 to 2023-24**

| Year | Number of service places |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2019-20 | 234 |
| 2020-21 | 239 |
| 2021-22 | 245 |
| 2022-23 | 245 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 December 2023) | 245 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)215

(Question Serial No. 1107)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

- i) Please provide the information on cases of successful prosecution under the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance and Code of Practice in the past 5 years, including the names and addresses of the residential care homes involved, the offenses committed, the dates of conviction, and the penalties imposed.
- ii) Please provide the records and reasons for refusal of renewal or cancellation of licence under the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance and Code of Practice in the past 5 years.
- iii) How many surprise inspections have been conducted at private and subsidised residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) by the Licensing Office of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 57)

Reply:

- i) Information on residential care homes that have been convicted of contravening the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance or Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Regulation from 2019-20 to 2023-24 (as at the end of December 2023) is provided in Table 1 of Annex.
- ii) There have been no records of refusal of renewal or cancellation of licence due to non-compliance by RCHDs from 2019-20 to 2023-24 (as at the end of December 2023).
- iii) All inspections conducted by the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities (LORCHD) under SWD are surprise inspections. The number of inspections of RCHDs conducted by SWD in the past 5 years is set out in Table 2 of Annex. SWD does not have a breakdown of the number of inspections by type of residential care homes.

Table 1: Residential care homes convicted of contravening the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance or Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Regulation from 2019-20 to 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023)

| | Name | Address | Offence | Date of conviction | Penalty |
|----|---------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Ming Sum Home for the SEN | Section A, B and C of Lot No. 480 in DD No. 115, Yuen Long, New Territories (also known as No. 175-177, Wong Uk Tsuen, Yuen Long, New Territories) | Failure to comply with Section 11(2)(d)(i) of the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Regulation: Employing an unregistered person as a health worker | 2 June 2023 | \$5,000 fine |
| 2. | Note | Note | Failure to comply with Section 22(6)(c) of the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance: Giving any information which is false in a material particular and which the person knows or reasonably ought to know is false in the material particular | 2 June 2023 | \$20,000 fine |

Note As the convicted person is not the operator as defined by the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance, the above record does not display the name or address of the RCHD concerned.

Table 2: Number of inspections conducted by LORCHD

| Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Number of inspections | 2 157 | 1 910 | 1 824 | 2 096 | 1 441 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)216

(Question Serial No. 1108)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

- i) Please provide the latest number of private and subvented Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities (RCHDs) in Hong Kong.
- ii) Please provide the number of licensed RCHDs and RCHDs operating with certificate of exemption (CoE) at present, broken down by care level and type of RCHD.
- iii) Please provide a list of RCHDs that are currently still operating with CoEs.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 58)

Reply:

- i) There are a total of 61 private RCHDs and 261 subvented RCHDs in Hong Kong as at 31 December 2023.
- ii) & iii) There are a total of 339 subvented, self-financing and private RCHDs in Hong Kong as at 31 December 2023. The number of residential care homes, broken down by type and care level, is provided at Annex. All RCHDs are licensed, and none of them are operating with CoE.

**Number of residential care homes for persons with disabilities broken down by type
and care level
as at 31 December 2023**

| Care level | Type of residential care home | | | Total |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | Subvented RCHD | Self-financing RCHD | Private RCHD | |
| High care level | 132 | 3 | 12 | 147 |
| Medium care level | 88 | 9 | 48 | 145 |
| Low care level | 41 | 5 | 1 | 47 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)217

(Question Serial No. 1109)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the Multi-disciplinary Outreaching Support Teams for the Elderly (MOSTE) and the Professional Outreaching Teams for Private Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities (POT) in February and March 2019, respectively, for a period of 4 years. Please provide the expected and actual number of cases handled by MOSTE and POT, the average length of service per case, and the related expenditure in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 59)

Reply:

SWD launched pilot schemes on MOSTE and POT in February and March 2019, respectively, for a period of 4 years. The 2 schemes were respectively converted into regular programmes in February and March 2023, providing residents of private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and residential care homes for persons with disabilities (PWDs) with free multi-disciplinary outreach services to support their social and rehabilitation needs. In addition, MOSTE provides speech therapy service for elderly persons with swallowing difficulties or speech impairment residing in contract RCHEs (including the Day Care Units attached to them) and self-financing RCHEs/nursing homes.

During the pilot phase, MOSTE and POT incurred an expenditure of about \$952 million and \$228 million, respectively, and collectively served a cumulative total of 62 583 elderly persons and 4 531 PWDs.

The number of beneficiaries after MOSTE has been converted into regular programme is set out in the below table. Over 45 000 elderly persons are expected to benefit from MOSTE annually.

| Year | No. of beneficiaries |
|---|------------------------|
| 2022-23 (from mid-February to end-March 2023) | 16 950 ^{Note} |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 45 566 |

^{Note} The figure represents the number of beneficiaries after MOSTE has been converted into regular programme.

The number of beneficiaries after POT has been converted into regular programme is set out in the below table. Over 3 700 PWDs are expected to benefit from POT annually.

| Year | No. of beneficiaries |
|--|----------------------|
| 2022-23 (from 25 March to 31 March 2023) | 73 ^{Note} |
| 2023-24 (as at end-December 2023) | 3 782 |

^{Note} The figure represents the number of beneficiaries after POT has been converted into regular programme.

The revised estimates for MOSTE and POT in 2023-24, after they have been converted into regular programmes, amounted to about \$299.6 million and \$72 million, respectively. The average monthly costs per beneficiary for these 2 services are as follows:

| Year | Average monthly cost per beneficiary of MOSTE (\$) |
|----------------------------|--|
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 489 ^{Note} |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 466 |

^{Note} The figure represents the average monthly cost per beneficiary after MOSTE has been converted into regular programme.

| Year | Average monthly cost per beneficiary of POT (\$) |
|----------------------------|--|
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 1 460 ^{Note} |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 1 532 |

^{Note} The figure represents the average monthly cost per beneficiary after POT has been converted into regular programme.

SWD does not have information on the average length of service per case for MOSTE or POT.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)218

(Question Serial No. 3067)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

How many Special Needs Trust (SNT) accounts have been set up since December 2018? What was the expenditure incurred by the SNT Office in the past 5 years? What are the estimated total expenditure and the number of new SNT accounts to be set up in the next 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)

Reply:

The Special Needs Trust Office (the SNT Office) has set up a total of 18 SNT accounts as at 31 December 2023. The annual total expenditure of the SNT Office in the past 5 years is set out at Annex.

As SNT accounts are set up by parents based on their needs, the SNT Office has not made any estimates on the total expenditure and the number of new SNT accounts to be set up in the next 5 years.

Annual total expenditure of the SNT Office in the past 5 years

| Year | Total expenditure (\$ million) |
|--|---|
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 5.9 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 6.0 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 6.4 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 7.3 |
| 2023-24 (Actual) (as at 31 December 2023) | 4.4 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)219

(Question Serial No. 3068)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low-income Families (Pilot Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons) and Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) (Pilot Scheme for Carers of PWDs) were regularised in October 2023. Please provide the total number of applicants and the number of recipients of these allowances since regularisation, as well as the reasons for unsuccessful applications.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 61)

Reply:

The Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low-income Families (Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons) and the Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of PWDs (Scheme for Carers of PWDs) have been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes in October 2023. As at the end of December 2023, 4 375 carers applied for the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons, and 3 489 of them have been assessed as eligible and granted the allowance. As for the Scheme for Carers of PWDs, 3 479 carers applied and 2 896 of them have been assessed as eligible and granted the allowance. The main reasons for ineligibility under the 2 regularised schemes include applicants currently receiving the Old Age Living Allowance/Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, voluntary withdrawal of applications, incapability of taking up the care-giving role, or exceeding the household income limits, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)220

(Question Serial No. 3271)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of children enrolled in the Strive and Rise Programme (the Programme) who reside in subdivided units, as well as the number of children who do not.

| Number of children residing or not residing in subdivided units | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| | Children residing in subdivided units | Children not residing in subdivided units |
| 2022-2023 | | |
| 2023-2024 | | |

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 69)

Reply:

As at end-February 2024, a total of 3 855 mentees have participated in the second cohort of the Programme. Based on the information provided by mentees, 1 107 of them reside in subdivided units and inadequate housing (such as rooftop structures and squatters), while 2 748 of them reside in other types of housing (such as public housing and transitional housing). The Social Welfare Department does not have statistics on the types of housing that the mentees from the first cohort reside in.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**LWB(W)221****(Question Serial No. 0799)**Head: (170) Social Welfare DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Social SecurityControlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and WelfareQuestion:

Paragraph 227 of the Budget Speech mentioned that relevant bureaux have been requested to review the mode of operation of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) and the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme (PTFSS), considering that the expenditure of both schemes are high and growing rapidly. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee:

- of the annual expenditure and year-on-year growth rates of the following 3 schemes over the past 5 years: (a) Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme; (b) Old Age Allowance (OAA); and (c) Old Age Living Allowance (OALA); and
- whether the Government will also request the relevant bureaux to review items (a) to (c) above, which also have high expenditure, rapid expenditure growth rates, and, allegedly, more cases of abuse; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)Reply:

- The expenditure on the CSSA Scheme, OAA (including the Guangdong (GD) Scheme and the Fujian (FJ) Scheme) and OALA (including the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme) from 2019-20 to 2023-24, along with the year-on-year percentage (yoy%) changes, is as follows:

| Year | CSSA Scheme | | OAA ^[Note 1] | | OALA ^[Note 1] ^[Note 2] | |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|
| | Expenditure ^[Note 3] ^[Note 4] (\$ million) | yoy% change | Expenditure ^[Note 3] (\$ million) | yoy% change | Expenditure ^[Note 3] (\$ million) | yoy% change |
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 22,667 | +1.5 | 5,275 | +1.1 | 26,988 | -9.8 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 22,853 | +0.8 | 5,352 | +1.5 | 28,345 | +5.0 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 22,909 | +0.2 | 5,678 | +6.1 | 29,469 | +4.0 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 23,196 | +1.3 | 6,175 | +8.8 | 32,664 | +10.8 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 22,625 | -2.5 | 6,766 | +9.6 | 37,256 | +14.1 |

^[Note 1] Including the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme.

[Note 2] OALA under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme has been in effect since 1 January 2020. In September 2022, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) merged the Normal and Higher OALAs. The merged OALA adopts the more lenient asset limits of the Normal OALA and the payment rate of the Higher OALA.

[Note 3] The actual expenditure for 2019-20 includes the payment of 1 additional month of CSSA standard rates or the allowances in the year, and an extra 1 month of CSSA standard rates or the allowances announced by the Financial Secretary in August 2019. The actual expenditure for 2020-21 includes the payment of 1 additional month of CSSA standard rates or the allowances in the year. The actual expenditures for 2021-22 and 2022-23, and the revised estimated expenditure for 2023-24 include the payment of an additional half-month of CSSA standard rates or the allowances in the year.

[Note 4] The actual expenditure for 2019-20 includes the payment of a one-off grant of \$2,500 to each needy CSSA student in the year.

2. To ensure proper use of public monies, SWD has been sparing no effort in combating social security fraud all along. With respect to suspected fraud cases substantiated upon in-depth investigation, SWD will recover overpayment from the relevant applicants/recipients. SWD will issue written warnings to those concerned or refer serious suspected fraud cases to the Police for investigation. Persons convicted of fraud by the court may be imprisoned, bound over, sentenced to community service order or fined.

The Government implements a non-contributory social security system to provide suitable cash assistance for needy individuals. This system comprises the CSSA Scheme and the Social Security Allowance Scheme (which includes OALA, OAA and Disability Allowance). With an ageing population, Hong Kong has seen a continuous rise in the number of recipients under the social security system. The Government will closely monitor the situation and conduct reviews as necessary to ensure financial sustainability.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)222

(Question Serial No. 1060)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Government will make an additional injection of \$1 billion into the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (the I&T Fund) and expand its scope to allow eligible service units to procure gerontechnology products suitable for household use by elderly persons, persons with disabilities and their carers. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

1. whether the implementation of the expanded uses brought about by the injection has begun;
2. of the estimated increase in the number of beneficiaries after the injection; and
3. of the number of eligible service units, broken down by their location and service target.

Asked by: Hon WONG Kam-fai, William (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

In 2024-25, the Government will inject an additional \$1 billion into the I&T Fund to enhance subsidies for eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent or trial technology product, as well as expanding the scope of the I&T Fund to cover gerontechnology products suitable for household use. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is currently conducting preparatory work to formulate the implementation details and further information will be announced in due course. As this new initiative will be implemented in 2024-25, SWD currently does not have any information regarding the number of beneficiaries. However, the eligibility criteria for service units will not be affected.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)223

(Question Serial No. 1415)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP), please provide the following information:

1. How many of the 2 048 staff members in the Social Welfare Department (SWD) responsible for family and child welfare are assigned to implement NSCCP? What are their establishment, ranks and payroll costs?
2. What is the estimated additional number of home-based child carers in each district (broken down by District Council (DC) district)?
3. What is the expenditure for subsidising home-based child carers, the number of subsidised home-based child carers, and the number and ages of children under the care of home-based child carers for the past 5 years?
4. How many staff members have been involved in monitoring the implementation of NSCCP? What are their establishment, ranks and payroll costs?
5. How many staff members have been involved in training home-based child carers? What are their establishment, ranks and payroll costs?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. The Family and Child Welfare Branch of SWD is responsible for planning, developing and implementing comprehensive family and child welfare services and programmes. As staff members are required to assist in planning and implementing 1 or more services as needed, SWD does not have information on the manpower dedicated to implementing NSCCP and the related expenditure involved.
2. Starting from April 2024, SWD will increase the incentive payment for home-based child carers under NSCCP and the number of places of home-based child care service (HCCS) under NSCCP starting from the fourth quarter of 2024. According to the Service Agreement (SA) signed between SWD and service operators, the operators are required to recruit suitable individuals to serve as

home-based child carers, and provide them with regular and appropriate training. The number of home-based child carers varies each year depending on factors such as the recruitment situation of service operators and the service demand in districts. Therefore, it is difficult to estimate the number of new home-based child carers in each district.

- 3 to 5. The number of home-based child carers, number of children using HCCS and their age distribution under NSCCP for the past 5 financial years are set out at Annex. SWD allocates funding to service operators based on their expenditure in operating NSCCP, which includes staff salaries, costs for recruiting and training home-based child carers, incentive payments, service promotion costs and subsidies for service fee waivers/reductions, etc. At the same time, service operators are required to provide a minimum number of service places and employ staff in accordance with the staffing establishment including at least 2 registered social workers, 1 Child Care Worker and 2 supporting staff, for operating NSCCP. They must also meet the service output and outcome standards specified in the SA. Subject to their compliance with these requirements, service operators may flexibly deploy the funding to operate NSCCP. Therefore, SWD does not have the breakdown of the expenditure for monitoring NSCCP, or various expenses related to subsidising and training home-based child carers as requested in the question.

Table 1: Numbers of home-based child carers and children using HCCS under NSCCP (2019-20)

| District | Number of home-based child carers (December 2019) | Number of children using HCCS | | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Aged below 3 | Aged 3 to below 6 | Aged above 6 | Total |
| Central & Western | 40 | 94 | 47 | 32 | 173 |
| Wan Chai | 161 | 8 | 48 | 66 | 122 |
| Eastern | 176 | 166 | 124 | 92 | 382 |
| Southern | 29 | 64 | 66 | 28 | 158 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 267 | 307 | 257 | 44 | 608 |
| Sham Shui Po | 74 | 251 | 220 | 75 | 546 |
| Kowloon City | 473 | 170 | 194 | 129 | 493 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 59 | 165 | 134 | 48 | 347 |
| Kwun Tong | 52 | 230 | 125 | 66 | 421 |
| Kwai Tsing | 88 | 214 | 144 | 34 | 392 |
| Tsuen Wan | 56 | 169 | 173 | 225 | 567 |
| Tuen Mun | 42 | 257 | 318 | 178 | 753 |
| Yuen Long | 58 | 399 | 403 | 198 | 1 000 |
| North | 58 | 91 | 125 | 40 | 256 |
| Tai Po | 64 | 264 | 196 | 66 | 526 |
| Sha Tin | 87 | 264 | 169 | 149 | 582 |
| Sai Kung | 114 | 279 | 317 | 147 | 743 |
| Islands | 16 | 64 | 122 | 53 | 239 |
| Total | 1 914 | 3 456 | 3 182 | 1 670 | 8 308 |

Table 2: Numbers of home-based child carers and children using HCCS under NSCCP (2020-21)

| District | Number of home-based child carers (December 2020) | Number of children using HCCS | | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Aged below 3 | Aged 3 to below 6 | Aged above 6 | Total |
| Central & Western | 46 | 71 | 27 | 46 | 144 |
| Wan Chai | 114 | 28 | 26 | 62 | 116 |
| Eastern | 183 | 143 | 46 | 50 | 239 |
| Southern | 28 | 46 | 57 | 12 | 115 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 299 | 250 | 162 | 46 | 458 |
| Sham Shui Po | 38 | 229 | 212 | 85 | 526 |
| Kowloon City | 489 | 95 | 107 | 41 | 243 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 22 | 121 | 111 | 37 | 269 |
| Kwun Tong | 51 | 91 | 72 | 64 | 227 |
| Kwai Tsing | 41 | 235 | 108 | 30 | 373 |
| Tsuen Wan | 43 | 79 | 67 | 112 | 258 |
| Tuen Mun | 36 | 225 | 250 | 174 | 649 |
| Yuen Long | 32 | 276 | 438 | 197 | 911 |
| North | 54 | 66 | 80 | 53 | 199 |
| Tai Po | 69 | 189 | 162 | 70 | 421 |
| Sha Tin | 49 | 174 | 159 | 127 | 460 |
| Sai Kung | 130 | 162 | 207 | 105 | 474 |
| Islands | 80 | 64 | 70 | 62 | 196 |
| Total | 1 804 | 2 544 | 2 361 | 1 373 | 6 278 |

Table 3: Numbers of home-based child carers and children using HCCS under NSCCP (2021-22)

| District | Number of home-based child carers (December 2021) | Number of children using HCCS | | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Aged below 3 | Aged 3 to below 6 | Aged above 6 | Total |
| Central & Western | 32 | 61 | 29 | 14 | 104 |
| Wan Chai | 98 | 58 | 33 | 66 | 157 |
| Eastern | 58 | 146 | 101 | 35 | 282 |
| Southern | 26 | 40 | 72 | 35 | 147 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 314 | 293 | 180 | 40 | 513 |
| Sham Shui Po | 49 | 369 | 250 | 101 | 720 |
| Kowloon City | 515 | 167 | 105 | 104 | 376 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 45 | 113 | 89 | 55 | 257 |
| Kwun Tong | 56 | 92 | 82 | 50 | 224 |
| Kwai Tsing | 55 | 283 | 154 | 85 | 522 |
| Tsuen Wan | 56 | 151 | 118 | 128 | 397 |
| Tuen Mun | 31 | 214 | 234 | 257 | 705 |
| Yuen Long | 72 | 388 | 369 | 278 | 1 035 |
| North | 70 | 99 | 118 | 99 | 316 |
| Tai Po | 73 | 133 | 192 | 68 | 393 |
| Sha Tin | 42 | 190 | 233 | 164 | 587 |
| Sai Kung | 135 | 176 | 199 | 110 | 485 |
| Islands | 88 | 112 | 145 | 131 | 388 |
| Total | 1 815 | 3 085 | 2 703 | 1 820 | 7 608 |

Table 4: Numbers of home-based child carers and children using HCCS under NSCCP (2022-23)

| District | Number of home-based child carers (December 2022) | Number of children using HCCS | | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Aged below 3 | Aged 3 to below 6 | Aged above 6 | Total |
| Central & Western | 29 | 55 | 59 | 22 | 136 |
| Wan Chai | 73 | 32 | 23 | 79 | 134 |
| Eastern | 59 | 134 | 98 | 15 | 247 |
| Southern | 27 | 5 | 38 | 33 | 76 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 278 | 218 | 188 | 49 | 455 |
| Sham Shui Po | 57 | 328 | 147 | 97 | 572 |
| Kowloon City | 521 | 125 | 85 | 80 | 290 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 45 | 61 | 58 | 84 | 203 |
| Kwun Tong | 44 | 115 | 75 | 30 | 220 |
| Kwai Tsing | 72 | 296 | 145 | 83 | 524 |
| Tsuen Wan | 63 | 121 | 167 | 228 | 516 |
| Tuen Mun | 33 | 198 | 227 | 268 | 693 |
| Yuen Long | 65 | 344 | 257 | 308 | 909 |
| North | 61 | 60 | 80 | 116 | 256 |
| Tai Po | 69 | 120 | 163 | 103 | 386 |
| Sha Tin | 41 | 160 | 182 | 195 | 537 |
| Sai Kung | 139 | 148 | 184 | 178 | 510 |
| Islands | 83 | 57 | 141 | 178 | 376 |
| Total | 1 759 | 2 577 | 2 317 | 2 146 | 7 040 |

**Table 5: Numbers of home-based child carers and children using HCCS under NSCCP
(April to December 2023)**

| District | Number of home-based child carers (December 2023) | Number of children using HCCS | | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Aged below 3 | Aged 3 to below 6 | Aged above 6 | Total |
| Central & Western | 59 | 81 | 28 | 16 | 125 |
| Wan Chai | 67 | 24 | 44 | 42 | 110 |
| Eastern | 103 | 151 | 80 | 9 | 240 |
| Southern | 30 | 7 | 27 | 43 | 77 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 126 | 160 | 107 | 44 | 311 |
| Sham Shui Po | 59 | 315 | 111 | 66 | 492 |
| Kowloon City | 525 | 64 | 78 | 59 | 201 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 112 | 77 | 48 | 45 | 170 |
| Kwun Tong | 46 | 111 | 90 | 41 | 242 |
| Kwai Tsing | 82 | 232 | 69 | 60 | 361 |
| Tsuen Wan | 77 | 88 | 85 | 89 | 262 |
| Tuen Mun | 37 | 215 | 209 | 169 | 593 |
| Yuen Long | 67 | 234 | 241 | 227 | 702 |
| North | 78 | 45 | 72 | 93 | 210 |
| Tai Po | 77 | 93 | 96 | 86 | 275 |
| Sha Tin | 42 | 98 | 123 | 117 | 338 |
| Sai Kung | 83 | 145 | 97 | 77 | 319 |
| Islands | 100 | 54 | 147 | 110 | 311 |
| Total | 1 770 | 2 194 | 1 752 | 1 393 | 5 339 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)224

(Question Serial No. 1416)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding aided standalone child care centres (CCCs), please provide the following information:

1. How many of the 2 048 staff members in the Social Welfare Department (SWD) responsible for family and child welfare are assigned to handle matters related to aided standalone CCCs? What are their establishment, ranks and payroll costs?
2. Why does SWD expect the utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs to remain unchanged in 2024-25 compared to 2023-24, despite an increase in the number of places?
3. Further to the question above, does SWD have a plan to boost the utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs? If so, please provide details. If not, what are the reasons?
4. Which districts will be covered by the 900 additional places to be provided by the 10 additional aided standalone CCCs?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

1. The Family and Child Welfare Branch of SWD is responsible for the planning, development and implementation of comprehensive family and child welfare services and programmes. As staff members are responsible for assisting in planning and implementing 1 or more social welfare services as required, SWD is unable to provide information on the manpower solely responsible for aided standalone CCCs and the relevant expenditure involved.
2. In 2024-25, the number of places for aided standalone CCCs will increase by 188 compared to the revised estimate in 2023-24. It takes time for the non-governmental organisations operating the service to handle enrolment applications and complete the relevant procedures. Therefore, the utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs in 2024-25 is expected to be similar to that of the revised estimate in 2023-24.

3. SWD regularly produces publicity materials to promote day child care services. Service operators will also organise promotional activities in various districts, including setting up street booths, distributing leaflets and hanging up banners to promote their services and recruit service users.
4. SWD will set up 10 more aided standalone CCCs in phases within a 3-year period starting from 2024. These aided standalone CCCs will be located in districts such as Fanling, Sham Shui Po, Kwun Tong, Kwai Chung and Kowloon City.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)225

(Question Serial No. 1417)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding family and child protective services, please provide the following information:

1. How many of the 2 048 staff members in the Social Welfare Department (SWD) responsible for family and child welfare are assigned to family and child protective services? What are their establishment, ranks and payroll costs?
2. Why does the Government anticipate a lower percentage target for making first contact with the service user/related person within 10 working days upon receiving request for family casework service in 2024-25 compared to the past 2 years?
3. How many calls for assistance related to child abuse and spouse/cohabitant battering has SWD received in the past 5 years?
4. How many cases related to child abuse and spouse/cohabitant battering has SWD uncovered in the past 5 years?
5. How many cases related to child abuse and spouse/cohabitant battering has SWD handled in the past 5 years?
6. Please provide details about the adoption of innovative technology in child protection, including the expenditure incurred over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure for 2024-25.

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. The revised estimate of expenditure for the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) of SWD in 2023-24 was \$313 million. The staffing establishment of FCPSUs, broken down by rank, is tabulated below:

| Rank | Staffing establishment |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Senior Social Work Officer | 14 |
| Social Work Officer | 155 |
| Assistant Social Work Officer | 51 |

2. It is mentioned in the Controlling Officer’s Report that first contact should be made with the service user/related person of 95% of cases within 10 working days upon receiving request for family casework service. This is the performance target set by SWD. The target for 2024-25 continues to remain unchanged.

3 to 5. The numbers of child protection cases and spouse/cohabitant battering cases received and handled by SWD in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

| Case type | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Number of spouse/cohabitant battering cases | 2 920 | 2 601 | 2 715 | 2 077 | 1 938 |
| Number of child protection cases | 1 006 | 940 | 1 367 | 1 439 | 1 457 |

SWD does not have information on the uncovering of such cases.

6. SWD has been collaborating with the Smart Government Innovation LAB of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer to introduce new technology into the closed-circuit television surveillance system of residential child care centres and residential special child care centres. The aim is to screen for common improper behaviours in the child care process, so as to provide training data for developing the artificial intelligence (AI) system. Technology companies and tertiary institutions with relevant experience have also been invited to submit proposals and conduct the proof-of-concept testing. It is hoped that, by balancing personal privacy, operational needs and regulatory requirements, a validated and feasible AI system can be introduced, thus enabling more effective and comprehensive monitoring of child care situations. The AI system is expected to be introduced in the relevant child care centres in 2024-25.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)226

(Question Serial No. 2880)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare
Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding support for working families, please provide this Committee with the following information:

1. Please tabulate the distribution of the 10 new aided standalone child care centres (CCCs) to be established in the coming year by district, along with the number of places in each centre.
2. Please tabulate the distribution of the 1 200 places for the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children (ASCP(PC)) by district.
3. For both aided standalone CCCs and ASCP(PC), please provide the population of eligible children in each district in Hong Kong and the number of applications received in the past year.
4. Does the ratio of eligible children to available places in the future align with the Government's policy objectives? Are there any plans or measures in place to further increase the number of places in the long run?

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up 10 more aided standalone CCCs in phases within 3 years starting from 2024, providing about 900 additional places. Among them, 100 places in Queens Hill Estate and 56 places in Wah Ming Estate in Fanling have commenced service in January and March 2024 respectively. The 88 places in Shun Lee Estate in Kwun Tong and 100 places at the Treasury Building in Sham Shui Po are scheduled for commencing operation in 2024-25, whereas the 100 places at Cheung Shun Street in Sham Shui Po and 60 places in Kwai Fong Estate in Kwai Chung will be put into service in 2025-26. The remaining 4 aided standalone CCCs, proposed to be set up in districts such as Kowloon City and Kwun Tong, will collectively provide about 400 additional places, and are scheduled to commence service in 2026-27.

2. SWD will extend ASCP(PC) to cover all districts in Hong Kong in phases within a period of 3 years starting from 2024. The number of centres participating in ASCP(PC) will increase from 16 to 28, and the number of places will increase from 672 to 1 176. The estimated number of places available in various districts upon the full extension of ASCP(PC) is set out at Annex.
3. SWD does not have information on the population of eligible children in each district in Hong Kong for the past year. As parents can directly apply for the aforementioned child care services from the service operators according to their needs, without the need to waitlist the services under a central system and the applications are handled by respective service operators, SWD does not have information on the number of applications received for these services.
4. According to the population-based planning ratio incorporated into the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (i.e. 100 aided CCC places for children aged below 3 for every 25 000 persons), SWD has been reserving suitable premises for operating CCCs in different new development areas. For developed areas, SWD will take into account the characteristics of individual districts, including the available CCC places, service utilisation, ratio of subsidised to private child care services, land supply situation, and service demand as a result of demographic changes, etc. when conducting service planning.

Number of places available in various districts upon the full extension of ASCP(PC)

| District | Number of places | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | By the end of 2023-24 | Additional places | Total |
| Central & Western | 42 | - | 42 |
| Southern | 84 | - | 84 |
| Islands | - | 42 | 42 |
| Eastern | - | 42 | 42 |
| Wan Chai | - | 42 | 42 |
| Kwun Tong | 84 | - | 84 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 42 | - | 42 |
| Sai Kung | - | 42 | 42 |
| Kowloon City | - | 42 | 42 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | - | 42 | 42 |
| Sham Shui Po | 126 | - | 126 |
| Sha Tin | - | 42 | 42 |
| Tai Po | - | 42 | 42 |
| North | 42 | - | 42 |
| Yuen Long | 126 | - | 126 |
| Tsuen Wan | - | 42 | 42 |
| Kwai Tsing | 126 | - | 126 |
| Tuen Mun | - | 42 | 42 |
| 2 other centres will be located in districts with greater service demand | | 84 | 84 |
| Total | 672 | 504 | 1 176 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)227

(Question Serial No. 2903)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Charmaine LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What resources/staffing establishment has the Government devoted to support street sleepers, including but not limited to the numbers of psychiatric nurses, counselling staff, outreach vehicles, and short-term hostel places, in the past 5 years?
2. Please provide the number of street sleepers who have successfully applied for an extension of their stay in hostels, along with the length of extension granted, total length of their stay, their whereabouts after leaving the hostels, and the percentage of them resuming street sleeping.

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) subsidises non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide integrated services for street sleepers under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements, NGOs may determine their staffing establishment in accordance with their human resources policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service output and outcomes required. The expenditure of subvented integrated services for street sleepers for the past 5 financial years is set out in the table below:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2019-20 (Actual) | 23.6 |
| 2020-21 (Actual) | 27.5 |
| 2021-22 (Actual) | 29.9 |
| 2022-23 (Actual) | 32.6 |
| 2023-24 (Revised estimate) | 36.2 |

SWD has enhanced the welfare support services for street sleepers since 2020-21, including strengthening professional and supervisory support for 3 Integrated Services Teams for Street Sleepers (ISTs). Each IST is provided with an additional psychiatric nurse and 1 additional outreach vehicle. In addition, 6 additional short-term hostel places for male street sleepers

have been provided, increasing the number of subvented places from 222 to 228. SWD does not have information on the actual number of NGO staff involved in providing services for street sleepers and the information requested in Question 2.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)228

(Question Serial No. 0879)

Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Working Family Allowance

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Mr Andrew TSANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme, please inform this Committee of the following in the past 3 years:

- (1) the manpower and expenditure involved each year in administering the WFA Scheme; the percentage of the related expenditure in the overall expenditure of the Agency; the average number of cases handled by each staff member;
- (2) the number of applications for the WFA Scheme in each year with a breakdown by the 18 districts in Hong Kong;
- (3) the number of applications in receipt of full-rate allowance and the amount of the allowance granted in each year, with a breakdown by gender, age, family size, industry, occupation, employment earnings and working hours of the applicants;
- (4) the number of applications in receipt of half-rate allowance and the amount of the allowance granted in each year, with a breakdown by gender, age, family size, industry, occupation, employment earnings and working hours of the applicants;
- (5) the number of applications from single-parent families in receipt of full-rate allowance and half-rate allowance in each year, with a breakdown by gender, age, family size, industry, occupation, employment earnings and working hours of the applicants;
- (6) the number of applications requiring self-declared statement or statutory declaration for working hours/income from work in each year;
- (7) a breakdown of the number of applications by race;
- (8) the number of cases withdrawn from the WFA Scheme in each year; and
- (9) the manpower and estimated expenditure involved in the WFA Scheme in 2024-25.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

- (1) The number of staff in the Working Family Allowance Office (WFAO) of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (the Agency) was about 760 in 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24. The staff costs of the WFAO in 2021-22

and 2022-23 were about \$267.7 million and \$279.7 million respectively, while the revised estimate of staff cost for 2023-24 is about \$301.2 million. The staff cost accounted for about 4% of the overall expenditure of the Agency (including the operational expenses of the Agency as well as the recurrent and general non-recurrent expenditures on administering the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme and various student financial assistance schemes) in these 3 years. As at end of February 2024, the WFAO has received a total of about 369 000 WFA applications in the past 3 years, representing an application-to-staff ratio of about 160:1 per year.

- (2) The number of approved WFA applications by district from 2021-22 to 2023-24 is set out in Table 1 of the Annex.
- (3) & (4) A breakdown of the number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances from 2021-22 to 2023-24 is set out in Tables 2 to 13 of the Annex.
- (5) A breakdown of the number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances from 2021-22 to 2023-24 is set out in Tables 14 to 19 of the Annex.
- (6) The number of approved applications with applicants submitting self-declared statements as proof of their working hours or income from work from 2021-22 to 2023-24 is set out in Table 20 of the Annex.
- (7) The number of applications received from non-Chinese households from 2021-22 to 2023-24 is set out in Table 21 of the Annex. The WFAO does not maintain further statistics on ethnicity.
- (8) The number of applications withdrawn from 2021-22 to 2023-24 is set out in Table 22 of the Annex.
- (9) The number of staff in the WFAO is estimated to be around 710 in 2024-25, involving estimated staff costs of about \$316.2 million.

Table 1

A breakdown of the number of approved WFA applications by year and by district is as follows:

| District | Number of approved WFA applications | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| Kwun Tong | 18 374 | 16 915 | 12 644 |
| Sham Shui Po | 13 955 | 13 207 | 9 893 |
| Yuen Long | 11 975 | 10 679 | 7 831 |
| Kwai Tsing | 10 902 | 9 966 | 7 670 |
| Sha Tin | 10 810 | 10 152 | 7 726 |
| Tuen Mun | 9 728 | 9 434 | 8 067 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 7 484 | 7 219 | 5 598 |
| North | 6 546 | 7 309 | 6 030 |
| Kowloon City | 6 319 | 5 765 | 4 311 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 4 936 | 4 377 | 3 121 |
| Eastern | 4 761 | 4 475 | 3 463 |
| Tsuen Wan | 4 323 | 4 025 | 3 059 |
| Islands | 3 984 | 3 627 | 2 604 |
| Sai Kung | 3 701 | 3 326 | 2 456 |
| Tai Po | 3 629 | 3 283 | 2 444 |
| Southern | 2 293 | 2 146 | 1 654 |
| Central & Western | 1 197 | 1 078 | 788 |
| Wan Chai | 655 | 614 | 440 |
| Total | 125 572 | 117 597 | 89 799 |

Table 2

A breakdown of the number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances by year and by gender of the applicant is as follows:

| Gender of applicant | Number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | |
| | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate |
| Male | 47 210 | 8 808 | 41 290 | 9 564 | 30 876 | 7 812 |
| Female | 37 527 | 6 521 | 33 610 | 7 171 | 25 039 | 5 485 |
| Total | 84 737 | 15 329 | 74 900 | 16 735 | 55 915 | 13 297 |

Table 3

A breakdown of the amount of full-rate and half-rate allowances granted by year and by gender of the applicant is as follows:

(i)

| Gender of applicant | Amount of full-rate allowance granted | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| Male | \$958,791,750 | \$829,075,750 | \$633,513,000 |
| Female | \$618,930,150 | \$549,079,850 | \$428,087,900 |
| Total | \$1,577,721,900 | \$1,378,155,600 | \$1,061,600,900 |

(ii)

| Gender of applicant | Amount of half-rate allowance granted | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| Male | \$92,035,400 | \$99,828,550 | \$81,537,350 |
| Female | \$56,569,900 | \$61,569,500 | \$48,439,550 |
| Total | \$148,605,300 | \$161,398,050 | \$129,976,900 |

Table 4

A breakdown of the number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances by year and by age of the applicant is as follows:

| Age of applicant | Number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances | | | | | |
|------------------|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | |
| | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate |
| 15 to below 20 | 13 | 2 | 13 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| 20 to below 30 | 3 207 | 748 | 2 314 | 674 | 1 464 | 463 |
| 30 to below 40 | 24 120 | 4 597 | 20 624 | 4 837 | 14 920 | 3 844 |
| 40 to below 50 | 32 004 | 5 866 | 28 885 | 6 483 | 21 941 | 5 392 |
| 50 to below 60 | 16 738 | 3 038 | 14 739 | 3 466 | 10 976 | 2 624 |
| 60 or above | 8 655 | 1 078 | 8 325 | 1 270 | 6 611 | 971 |
| Total | 84 737 | 15 329 | 74 900 | 16 735 | 55 915 | 13 297 |

Table 5

A breakdown of the amount of full-rate and half-rate allowances granted by year and by age of the applicant is as follows:

(i)

| Age of applicant | Amount of full-rate allowance granted | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| 15 to below 20 | \$103,550 | \$109,400 | \$15,050 |
| 20 to below 30 | \$54,587,500 | \$39,800,250 | \$26,166,800 |
| 30 to below 40 | \$527,578,850 | \$442,158,700 | \$330,268,250 |
| 40 to below 50 | \$647,476,600 | \$584,972,150 | \$459,132,050 |
| 50 to below 60 | \$254,163,700 | \$222,946,600 | \$174,295,350 |
| 60 or above | \$93,811,700 | \$88,168,500 | \$71,723,400 |
| Total | \$1,577,721,900 | \$1,378,155,600 | \$1,061,600,900 |

(ii)

| Age of applicant | Amount of half-rate allowance granted | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| 15 to below 20 | \$9,800 | \$16,850 | \$10,950 |
| 20 to below 30 | \$5,910,350 | \$5,772,750 | \$3,826,150 |
| 30 to below 40 | \$51,190,000 | \$53,415,300 | \$42,576,100 |
| 40 to below 50 | \$62,483,500 | \$68,573,900 | \$57,589,450 |
| 50 to below 60 | \$22,891,900 | \$26,290,850 | \$20,588,250 |
| 60 or above | \$6,119,750 | \$7,328,400 | \$5,386,000 |
| Total | \$148,605,300 | \$161,398,050 | \$129,976,900 |

Table 6

A breakdown of the number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances by year and by household size is as follows:

| Household size | Number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | |
| | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate |
| 1 person | 4 774 | 1 871 | 4 225 | 2 013 | 3 062 | 1 305 |
| 2 persons | 15 802 | 2 551 | 13 556 | 2 796 | 9 701 | 2 251 |
| 3 persons | 21 422 | 4 263 | 18 458 | 4 480 | 13 651 | 3 417 |
| 4 persons | 30 974 | 4 727 | 27 870 | 5 442 | 21 334 | 4 573 |
| 5 persons | 9 150 | 1 445 | 8 399 | 1 526 | 6 335 | 1 374 |
| 6 persons or above | 2 615 | 472 | 2 392 | 478 | 1 832 | 377 |
| Total | 84 737 | 15 329 | 74 900 | 16 735 | 55 915 | 13 297 |

Table 7

A breakdown of the amount of full-rate and half-rate allowances granted by year and by household size is as follows:

(i)

| Household size | Amount of full-rate allowance granted | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| 1 person | \$33,420,000 | \$28,020,050 | \$21,390,950 |
| 2 persons | \$177,095,000 | \$145,968,850 | \$107,438,000 |
| 3 persons | \$342,013,650 | \$290,128,100 | \$222,272,200 |
| 4 persons | \$691,076,850 | \$612,234,800 | \$476,052,350 |
| 5 persons | \$253,086,150 | \$228,387,400 | \$176,883,400 |
| 6 persons or above | \$81,030,250 | \$73,416,400 | \$57,564,000 |
| Total | \$1,577,721,900 | \$1,378,155,600 | \$1,061,600,900 |

(ii)

| Household size | Amount of half-rate allowance granted | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| 1 person | \$7,821,100 | \$8,141,750 | \$5,219,950 |
| 2 persons | \$16,749,000 | \$18,191,650 | \$14,748,750 |
| 3 persons | \$36,741,050 | \$38,575,650 | \$29,102,150 |
| 4 persons | \$58,762,500 | \$66,463,650 | \$55,047,800 |
| 5 persons | \$21,122,800 | \$22,493,400 | \$19,831,150 |
| 6 persons or above | \$7,408,850 | \$7,531,950 | \$6,027,100 |
| Total | \$148,605,300 | \$161,398,050 | \$129,976,900 |

Table 8

A breakdown of the number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances by year and by industry of the applicant is as follows:

| Industry of applicant | Number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | |
| | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate |
| Financing, insurance, real estate, professional and business services | 25 364 | 4 692 | 22 503 | 5 270 | 16 583 | 4 022 |
| Construction | 13 936 | 3 111 | 12 584 | 3 339 | 9 447 | 2 552 |
| Transportation, storage, postal and courier services, information and communications | 13 161 | 1 759 | 11 744 | 1 924 | 9 043 | 1 714 |
| Accommodation and food services | 11 758 | 2 121 | 9 984 | 2 227 | 7 302 | 1 975 |
| Import/export, wholesale and retail trades | 10 087 | 1 360 | 8 767 | 1 438 | 6 480 | 1 140 |
| Public administration, social and personal services | 5 154 | 1 371 | 4 614 | 1 547 | 3 625 | 1 163 |
| Manufacturing | 1 430 | 196 | 1 313 | 242 | 960 | 170 |
| Others | 3 847 | 719 | 3 391 | 748 | 2 475 | 561 |
| Total | 84 737 | 15 329 | 74 900 | 16 735 | 55 915 | 13 297 |

Table 9

A breakdown of the amount of full-rate and half-rate allowances granted by industry of the applicant and by year is as follows:

(i)

| Industry of applicant | Amount of full-rate allowance granted | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| Financing, insurance, real estate, professional and business services | \$405,796,400 | \$358,837,700 | \$271,217,750 |
| Construction | \$302,509,200 | \$268,601,600 | \$208,866,950 |
| Transportation, storage, postal and courier services, information and communications | \$268,811,800 | \$237,905,150 | \$185,524,450 |
| Accommodation and food services | \$225,860,650 | \$187,862,400 | \$143,396,300 |
| Import/export, wholesale and retail trades | \$183,465,850 | \$158,380,800 | \$121,353,800 |
| Public administration, social and personal services | \$92,204,200 | \$80,277,550 | \$66,779,750 |
| Manufacturing | \$24,919,450 | \$22,709,150 | \$17,045,200 |
| Others | \$74,154,350 | \$63,581,250 | \$47,416,700 |
| Total | \$1,577,721,900 | \$1,378,155,600 | \$1,061,600,900 |

(ii)

| Industry of applicant | Amount of half-rate allowance granted | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| Financing, insurance, real estate, professional and business services | \$38,460,700 | \$43,532,700 | \$33,867,750 |
| Construction | \$35,991,350 | \$38,423,850 | \$29,248,050 |
| Transportation, storage, postal and courier services, information and communications | \$18,641,200 | \$20,355,900 | \$17,698,550 |
| Accommodation and food services | \$21,357,100 | \$22,522,950 | \$20,240,200 |
| Import/export, wholesale and retail trades | \$12,746,350 | \$13,062,200 | \$10,698,250 |
| Public administration, social and personal services | \$12,228,100 | \$13,541,700 | \$10,722,600 |
| Manufacturing | \$1,946,950 | \$2,372,050 | \$1,730,600 |
| Others | \$7,233,550 | \$7,586,700 | \$5,770,900 |
| Total | \$148,605,300 | \$161,398,050 | \$129,976,900 |

Table 10

A breakdown of the number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances by year and by occupation of the applicant is as follows:

| Occupation of applicant | Number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | |
| | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate |
| Elementary occupations | 33 610 | 4 947 | 30 265 | 5 452 | 22 493 | 4 169 |
| Service and sales workers | 22 290 | 3 609 | 19 276 | 3 825 | 14 440 | 3 201 |
| Craft and related workers | 8 185 | 1 747 | 7 123 | 1 870 | 5 312 | 1 471 |
| Associate professionals | 6 847 | 2 202 | 6 015 | 2 603 | 4 602 | 2 193 |
| Clerical support workers | 7 734 | 1 287 | 6 914 | 1 437 | 5 163 | 1 051 |
| Professionals | 1 318 | 424 | 1 104 | 392 | 819 | 334 |
| Plant and machine operators and assemblers | 476 | 198 | 433 | 190 | 301 | 146 |
| Others | 4 277 | 915 | 3 770 | 966 | 2 785 | 732 |
| Total | 84 737 | 15 329 | 74 900 | 16 735 | 55 915 | 13 297 |

Table 11

A breakdown of the amount of full-rate and half-rate allowances granted by year and by occupation of the applicant is as follows:

(i)

| Occupation of applicant | Amount of full-rate allowance granted | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| Elementary occupations | \$599,561,900 | \$535,562,400 | \$410,806,500 |
| Service and sales workers | \$415,031,400 | \$351,478,350 | \$274,221,700 |
| Craft and related workers | \$176,100,900 | \$150,628,350 | \$114,349,500 |
| Associate professionals | \$138,757,050 | \$122,167,900 | \$96,733,050 |
| Clerical support workers | \$131,684,450 | \$118,291,550 | \$89,990,750 |
| Professionals | \$25,288,450 | \$21,086,900 | \$16,305,950 |
| Plant and machine operators and assemblers | \$9,549,150 | \$8,819,150 | \$6,214,900 |
| Others | \$81,748,600 | \$70,121,000 | \$52,978,550 |
| Total | \$1,577,721,900 | \$1,378,155,600 | \$1,061,600,900 |

(ii)

| Occupation of applicant | Amount of half-rate allowance granted | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| Elementary occupations | \$45,921,750 | \$50,384,900 | \$38,898,900 |
| Service and sales workers | \$34,005,800 | \$36,103,600 | \$31,102,400 |
| Craft and related workers | \$19,699,100 | \$21,166,750 | \$16,541,200 |
| Associate professionals | \$22,699,200 | \$26,566,900 | \$22,174,550 |
| Clerical support workers | \$10,795,100 | \$11,524,450 | \$8,780,300 |
| Professionals | \$4,159,400 | \$3,762,500 | \$3,406,500 |
| Plant and machine operators and assemblers | \$2,102,250 | \$2,112,100 | \$1,595,500 |
| Others | \$9,222,700 | \$9,776,850 | \$7,477,550 |
| Total | \$148,605,300 | \$161,398,050 | \$129,976,900 |

Table 12

A breakdown of the number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances by year, by household income level and by working hours is as follows:

| | Number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | |
| | Full-rate ¹ | Half-rate ² | Full-rate ¹ | Half-rate ² | Full-rate ¹ | Half-rate ² |
| Basic Allowance ³ | 3 521 | 71 | 4 744 | 158 | 2 794 | 169 |
| Medium Allowance ³ | 9 403 | 893 | 8 113 | 1 090 | 4 894 | 739 |
| Higher Allowance ³ | 71 813 | 14 365 | 62 043 | 15 487 | 48 227 | 12 389 |
| Total | 84 737 | 15 329 | 74 900 | 16 735 | 55 915 | 13 297 |

Note 1: The income limits for a full-rate allowance is set at a level not exceeding 50% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income of economically active households (MMDHIEA).

Note 2: The income limits for a half-rate allowance is set at a level exceeding 60% but not higher than 70% of MMDHIEA.

Note 3: Under the WFA Scheme, non-single-parent households that work at least 144 hours per month and single-parent households that work at least 36 hours per month can meet the working hour requirements for a Basic Allowance; non-single-parent households that work at least 168 hours per month and single-parent households that work at least 54 hours per month can meet the working hour requirements for a Medium Allowance; non-single-parent households that work at least 192 hours per month and single-parent households that work at least 72 hours per month can meet the working hour requirements for a Higher Allowance. Owing to the epidemic, the Government implemented a time-limited special arrangement for the claim months from June 2021 to May 2022 to reduce the working hour requirements for non-single-parent households under the WFA Scheme, including lowering the working hour requirements to 72 hours for a Basic Allowance and to 132 hours for a Medium Allowance; while the lenient working hour requirements of single-parent households remain unchanged.

Table 13

A breakdown of the amount of full-rate and half-rate allowances granted by year and by working hours is as follows:

(i)

| | Amount of full-rate allowance granted | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| Basic Allowance | \$41,986,250 | \$55,625,900 | \$34,792,450 |
| Medium Allowance | \$145,596,500 | \$126,012,000 | \$75,741,950 |
| Higher Allowance | \$1,390,139,150 | \$1,196,517,700 | \$951,066,500 |
| Total | \$1,577,721,900 | \$1,378,155,600 | \$1,061,600,900 |

(ii)

| | Amount of half-rate allowance granted | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| Basic Allowance | \$391,400 | \$1,073,700 | \$1,095,150 |
| Medium Allowance | \$7,477,500 | \$9,215,650 | \$5,963,150 |
| Higher Allowance | \$140,736,400 | \$151,108,700 | \$122,918,600 |
| Total | \$148,605,300 | \$161,398,050 | \$129,976,900 |

Table 14

A breakdown of the number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances by year and by gender of the applicant is as follows:

| Gender of applicant | Number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | |
| | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate |
| Male | 1 773 | 393 | 1 494 | 380 | 1 097 | 265 |
| Female | 8 390 | 922 | 7 501 | 1 161 | 6 024 | 1 020 |
| Total | 10 163 | 1 315 | 8 995 | 1 541 | 7 121 | 1 285 |

Table 15

A breakdown of the number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances by year and by age of the applicant is as follows:

| Age of applicant | Number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances | | | | | |
|------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | |
| | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate |
| 15 to below 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 20 to below 30 | 460 | 64 | 325 | 82 | 179 | 65 |
| 30 to below 40 | 4 015 | 575 | 3 471 | 644 | 2 706 | 525 |
| 40 to below 50 | 4 694 | 566 | 4 221 | 661 | 3 484 | 557 |
| 50 to below 60 | 878 | 103 | 866 | 144 | 669 | 126 |
| 60 or above | 116 | 7 | 112 | 10 | 82 | 12 |
| Total | 10 163 | 1 315 | 8 995 | 1 541 | 7 121 | 1 285 |

Table 16

A breakdown of the number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances by year and by household size is as follows:

| Household size | Number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | |
| | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate |
| 2 persons | 4 191 | 703 | 3 572 | 843 | 2 748 | 686 |
| 3 persons | 4 398 | 479 | 3 894 | 536 | 3 141 | 469 |
| 4 persons | 1 287 | 99 | 1 255 | 136 | 1 028 | 105 |
| 5 persons | 253 | 27 | 241 | 20 | 174 | 22 |
| 6 persons or above | 34 | 7 | 33 | 6 | 30 | 3 |
| Total | 10 163 | 1 315 | 8 995 | 1 541 | 7 121 | 1 285 |

Table 17

A breakdown of the number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances by year and by industry of the applicant is as follows:

| Industry of applicant | Number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | |
| | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate |
| Financing, insurance, real estate, professional and business services | 3 451 | 424 | 3 045 | 541 | 2 313 | 480 |
| Construction | 789 | 145 | 661 | 147 | 518 | 103 |
| Transportation, storage, postal and courier services, information and communications | 587 | 93 | 551 | 99 | 450 | 77 |
| Accommodation and food services | 1 631 | 193 | 1 430 | 215 | 1 217 | 186 |
| Import/export, wholesale and retail trades | 1 905 | 183 | 1 695 | 203 | 1 336 | 173 |
| Public administration, social and personal services | 1 168 | 212 | 1 065 | 256 | 843 | 206 |
| Manufacturing | 191 | 16 | 148 | 16 | 123 | 10 |
| Others | 441 | 49 | 400 | 64 | 321 | 50 |
| Total | 10 163 | 1 315 | 8 995 | 1 541 | 7 121 | 1 285 |

Table 18

A breakdown of the number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances by year and by occupation of the applicant is as follows:

| Occupation of applicant | Number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | |
| | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate | Full-rate | Half-rate |
| Elementary occupations | 2 372 | 226 | 2 069 | 251 | 1 602 | 198 |
| Service and sales workers | 3 950 | 462 | 3 507 | 536 | 2 838 | 453 |
| Craft and related workers | 449 | 80 | 358 | 72 | 274 | 41 |
| Associate professionals | 838 | 254 | 727 | 313 | 598 | 298 |
| Clerical support workers | 1 815 | 170 | 1 649 | 221 | 1 289 | 185 |
| Professionals | 244 | 56 | 225 | 60 | 166 | 45 |
| Plant and machine operators and assemblers | 28 | 7 | 31 | 8 | 20 | 6 |
| Others | 467 | 60 | 429 | 80 | 334 | 59 |
| Total | 10 163 | 1 315 | 8 995 | 1 541 | 7 121 | 1 285 |

Table 19

A breakdown of the number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances by year, by household income level and by working hours is as follows:

| | Number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | | 2022-23 | | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | |
| | Full-rate ¹ | Half-rate ² | Full-rate ¹ | Half-rate ² | Full-rate ¹ | Half-rate ² |
| Basic Allowance ³ | 209 | 4 | 228 | 1 | 164 | 4 |
| Medium Allowance ³ | 251 | 4 | 287 | 3 | 203 | 2 |
| Higher Allowance ³ | 9 703 | 1 307 | 8 480 | 1 537 | 6 754 | 1 279 |
| Total | 10 163 | 1 315 | 8 995 | 1 541 | 7 121 | 1 285 |

Note 1: The income limits for a full-rate allowance is set at a level not exceeding 50% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income of economically active households (MMDHIEA).

Note 2: The income limits for a half-rate allowance is set at a level exceeding 60% but not higher than 70% of MMDHIEA.

Note 3: Under the WFA Scheme, single-parent households that work at least 36 hours per month can meet the working hour requirements for a Basic Allowance; that work at least 54 hours per month can meet the working hour requirements for a Medium Allowance; and that work at least 72 hours per month can meet the working hour requirements for a Higher Allowance.

Table 20

The annual number of approved applications with applicants submitting self-declared statements as a proof of their working hours or income from work by year is as follows:

| Number of approved applications with applicants submitting a self-declared statement as proof of their working hours or income from work | | |
|--|---------|-------------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| 25 973 | 24 257 | 18 327 |

Table 21

The annual number of applications from non-Chinese households by year is as follows:

| Number of applications from non-Chinese households | | |
|--|---------|-------------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| 3 269 | 3 100 | 2 654 |

Table 22

The annual number of applications withdrawn by year is as follows:

| Number of applications withdrawn | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| 2 759 | 3 416 | 3 043 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)229

(Question Serial No. 0197)

Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Working Family Allowance

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Mr Andrew TSANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in the Programme that the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (WFSFAA) administers efficiently and cost-effectively the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme, which seeks to encourage self-reliance and ease inter-generational poverty. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of:

- (a) the expenditure on the development and continuous maintenance of the chatbot launched by the WFSFAA to enhance enquiry services on the WFA Scheme;
- (b) further to the above question, whether the WFSFAA has assessed the effectiveness of the chatbot in reducing the manual workload; if so, the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (c) whether the chatbot can achieve cost-saving; if so, the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (d) the expenditure involved in implementing and developing the centralised e-service portal; and
- (e) further to the above question, the estimated expenditure on publicising and promoting the service portal.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

- (a) The Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (WFSFAA) has launched a chatbot in phases since May 2022. The costs for the development and continuous maintenance of the chatbot in the past 2 years are tabulated below:

| 2022-23 (\$ million) | 2023-24 (as at 29 February 2024) (\$ million) |
|---|--|
| 0.912 (costs for development) | 0.160 (costs for continuous maintenance) |

- (b) and (c) The WFSFAA has launched the chatbot as an additional channel to provide round-the-clock online public enquiry services. The main aims are to bring greater convenience to the public and enhance service quality and efficiency. Any manpower saved has been redeployed to other tasks for service improvement and is difficult to quantify.
- (d) and (e) The WFSFAA commenced the project of centralised e-service portal in 2022. The costs for developing the centralised e-service portal in the past 2 years are tabulated below:

| 2022-23 (\$ million) | 2023-24 (as at 29 February 2024) (\$ million) |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1.331 | 3.840 |

The centralised e-service portal is expected to be launched in 2025. Since the publicity and promotion work is still under planning, the estimated expenditure in the connection is not yet available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)230

(Question Serial No. 2941)

Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Working Family Allowance

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Mr Andrew TSANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme, please advise on the following:

1. What are the respective numbers of single-parent and non-single-parent households in the past 3 years?
2. What are the total numbers of WFA Scheme recipients and the numbers of children eligible for the Child Allowance in the past 3 years?
3. The WFA Scheme aims to encourage self-reliance and ease inter-generational poverty. Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of the Scheme since its launch, and what are the results achieved in the two areas mentioned above (i.e. encouraging self-reliance and easing inter-generational poverty)?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

1. and 2. From 2021-22 to 2023-24, the breakdown of the numbers of single-parent and non-single-parent households granted the Working Family Allowance (WFA) are set out in Table 1 in Annex, whereas the breakdowns of the numbers of beneficiaries granted the WFA and children granted Child Allowance are set out in Tables 2 and 3 respectively in Annex.
3. The WFA Scheme aims to support lower-income working households with longer working hours which are not receiving the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, and to encourage continuous full-time employment. Since the launch in 2018 and up to end-February this year, the WFA Scheme had received around 707 000 applications. Of these, around 646 000 (i.e. more than 90%) have been approved, and some are still being processed. The total amount of allowance disbursed is approximately \$9.78 billion. As at end-February 2024, the WFA Scheme had more than 51 000 “active households” (i.e. households which have been approved with WFA and submitted the latest application in the past 6

months), which involved around 173 000 persons, including around 71 000 children. The WFA Scheme encourages self-reliance and adopts the principle of rewarding hard work by providing different rates of allowance based on working hours. At present, almost 90% of WFA-receiving households are granted Higher Allowance (i.e. meeting the highest working hour requirement under the Scheme). Besides, every eligible child can apply for Child Allowance. The Government will continue to encourage eligible households to apply for WFA with a view to providing appropriate support for more grassroots working families in need.

Table 1

A breakdown of the number of single-parent and non-single-parent households granted the WFA by year is as follows:

| Households | Number of households of granted the WFA | | |
|------------------------------|---|---------|----------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| Single-parent households | 7 522 | 7 145 | 6 549 |
| Non-single-parent households | 63 884 | 59 326 | 50 594 |

Table 2

A breakdown of the number of beneficiaries granted the WFA by year is as follows:

| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
|---|---------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Number of beneficiaries granted the WFA | 234 133 | 219 805 | 191 684 |

Table 3

A breakdown of the number of children granted Child Allowance by year is as follows:

| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
|--|---------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Number of children granted Child Allowance ^{Note} | 90 765 | 86 369 | 77 460 |

Note: As the Child Allowance of the WFA Scheme is disbursed together with the household allowance every 6 months, each child in the above table may be granted allowance once or twice in the same year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)231

(Question Serial No. 2628)

Head: (173) Working Family And Student Financial Assistance Agency

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Working Family Allowance

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Mr Andrew TSANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Low-income Working Family Allowance, please advise the following since the launch of the scheme: (provide the yearly breakdowns in table form)

1. the number of applications in each year, with breakdown by (1) household size and (2) working hours of applicants;
2. please list (i) the occupation categories of the applicants; and (ii) the respective proportions of applicants who were (a) full-time employees, (b) part-time employees, (c) casual workers and (d) self-employed persons in the past 3 years;
3. the respective numbers of applications with self-declaration statement in lieu of proof on income/working hours in the past 3 years;
4. the number of beneficiaries from single-parent households and non-single-parent households in each year, with breakdown by type of allowance granted (full-rate/ 3/4-rate/ half-rate);
5. the amount of allowance involved in the scheme in each year and the administrative expenditure incurred; and
6. the number of children benefitted in each year since the launch of the scheme, with breakdown by type of allowance granted.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

1. The numbers of applications received under the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme from 2019-20 to 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024), broken down by household size and monthly working hours, are set out in Table 1 and Table 2 of the Annex.
2. Regarding applicants who were granted the WFA from 2021-22 to 2023-24, their occupations, and the numbers and proportions of self-employed persons, are set out in Table 3 and Table 4 of the Annex. The Working Family Allowance Office

under the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency does not maintain information on whether the applicants are full-time employees, part-time employees or casual workers.

3. The numbers of approved WFA applications with applicants submitting self-declared statements as proof of their working hours or income from work from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are set out in Table 5 of the Annex.
- 4 to 6. The numbers of beneficiaries granted the WFA which were from single-parent households and non-single-parent households, the amounts of allowance granted, the administrative expenditure, the numbers of children granted the Child Allowance and the amounts of Child Allowance are set out in Tables 6 to 9 of the Annex.

Table 1

A breakdown of the number of WFA applications from 2019-20 to 2023-24 by household size is as follows:

| Year | | Number of applications | | | | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|
| | | Household size | | | | | | |
| | | 1 person | 2 persons | 3 persons | 4 persons | 5 persons | 6 persons or more | Total |
| WFA Scheme | 2019-20 | 6 488 | 20 186 | 29 320 | 38 660 | 10 968 | 3 386 | 109 008 |
| | 2020-21 | 9 170 | 25 246 | 36 563 | 46 824 | 13 398 | 4 028 | 135 229 |
| | 2021-22 | 10 759 | 25 177 | 35 427 | 46 110 | 13 415 | 4 054 | 134 942 |
| | 2022-23 | 10 141 | 23 247 | 33 007 | 44 538 | 13 180 | 4 014 | 128 127 |
| | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | 7 732 | 18 756 | 26 939 | 38 082 | 11 374 | 3 531 | 106 414 |

Table 2

A breakdown of the number of WFA applications from 2019-20 to 2023-24 by monthly working hours is as follows:

| Monthly working hours Note | | Number of applications | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| | | Single-parent household | Less than 36 hours | 36 hours - less than 54 hours | 54 hours - less than 72 hours | 72 hours or more | Information not provided by applicant | Total |
| | | Non-single-parent household | Less than 144 hours | 144 hours - less than 168 hours | 168 hours - less than 192 hours | 192 hours or more | | |
| WFA Scheme | 2019-20 | 1 730 | 2 412 | 7 818 | 96 761 | 287 | 109 008 | |
| | 2020-21 | 2 714 | 3 718 | 11 937 | 116 396 | 464 | 135 229 | |
| | 2021-22 | 3 586 | 3 854 | 11 092 | 116 124 | 286 | 134 942 | |
| | 2022-23 | 4 472 | 4 408 | 11 318 | 107 737 | 192 | 128 127 | |
| | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | 2 567 | 3 152 | 8 994 | 90 339 | 1 362 | 106 414 | |

Note: Under the WFA Scheme, non-single-parent households that work at least 144 hours per month and single-parent households that work at least 36 hours per month can meet the working hour requirements for a Basic Allowance; non-single-parent households that work at least 168 hours per month and single-parent households that work at least 54 hours per month can meet the working hour requirements for a Medium Allowance; non-single-parent households that work at least 192 hours per month and single-parent households that work at least 72 hours per month can meet the working hour requirements for a Higher Allowance. Owing to the epidemic, the Government implemented a time-limited special arrangement for the claim months from June 2021 to May 2022 to reduce the working hour requirements for non-single-parent households under the WFA Scheme, including lowering the working hour requirements to 72 hours for a Basic Allowance and to 132 hours for a Medium Allowance; while the lenient working hour requirements of single-parent households remain unchanged.

Applicants who fail to provide the information on working hours will not be granted the WFA.

Table 3

A breakdown of the number of approved WFA applications from 2021-22 to 2023-24 by year and by occupation of the applicant is as follows:

| Occupation category of applicant | Number of approved WFA applications | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| Elementary occupations | 47 153 | 44 672 | 33 701 |
| Service and sales workers | 32 386 | 29 649 | 22 852 |
| Craft and related workers | 12 726 | 11 767 | 8 960 |
| Associate professionals | 12 486 | 11 922 | 9 611 |
| Clerical support workers | 11 084 | 10 531 | 7 977 |
| Professionals | 2 284 | 2 065 | 1 561 |
| Plant and machine operators and assemblers | 892 | 862 | 617 |
| Others | 6 561 | 6 129 | 4 520 |
| Total | 125 572 | 117 597 | 89 799 |

Table 4

The numbers and proportions of approved WFA applications from self-employed applicants from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are as follows:

| Employment nature of applicant | Number of approved WFA applications (percentage of the total number of cases granted the allowance) | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| Self-employment | 7 635 (about 6.1%) | 7 235 (about 6.2%) | 5 719 (about 6.4%) |

Table 5

The numbers of approved WFA applications with applicants submitting self-declared statements as proof of their working hours or income from work from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are as follows:

| Number of approved WFA applications with applicants submitting a self-declared statement as proof of their working hours or income from work | | |
|--|---------|-------------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) |
| 25 973 | 24 257 | 18 327 |

Table 6

A breakdown of the number of beneficiaries granted the WFA which were non-single-parent households and single-parent households from 2019-20 to 2023-24 by type of allowance is as follows:

| Year | Number of household members granted the allowance | | | | | | Total |
|--|---|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | Single-parent household | | | Non-single-parent household | | | |
| | Full-rate allowance | 3/4-rate allowance | Half-rate allowance | Full-rate allowance | 3/4-rate allowance | Half-rate allowance | |
| 2019-20 | 15 194 | 2 784 | 1 314 | 125 990 | 34 315 | 18 119 | 197 716 |
| 2020-21 | 17 307 | 3 220 | 1 637 | 151 978 | 38 477 | 22 464 | 235 083 |
| 2021-22 | 15 030 | 3 361 | 2 074 | 141 812 | 42 754 | 29 102 | 234 133 |
| 2022-23 | 13 356 | 3 757 | 2 480 | 122 976 | 45 026 | 32 210 | 219 805 |
| 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | 12 468 | 3 339 | 2 266 | 105 700 | 39 683 | 28 228 | 191 684 |

Table 7

The amounts of the WFA granted from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows:

| Year | | Amount of allowance granted |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| WFA Scheme | 2019-20 | \$1,351,989,250 |
| | 2020-21 | \$1,797,458,250 |
| | 2021-22 | \$2,075,241,150 |
| | 2022-23 | \$1,891,968,450 |
| | 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | \$1,475,840,500 |

Table 8

The administrative expenditure incurred in implementing the WFA Scheme from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows:

| Year | Administrative expenditure |
|---|----------------------------|
| Actual expenditure for 2019-20 (WFA and I-WITS) ^{Note} | About \$304.0 million |
| Actual expenditure for 2020-21 (WFA and I-WITS) ^{Note} | About \$329.2 million |
| Actual expenditure for 2021-22 (WFA and I-WITS) ^{Note} | About \$355.5 million |
| Actual expenditure for 2022-23 (WFA) | About \$374.6 million |
| Revised estimate for 2023-24 (WFA) | About \$401.9 million |

Note: The Working Family Allowance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency also processed the applications for Individual-based Work Incentive Transport Subsidy (I-WITS) (which was abolished starting from June 2021) in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22. Therefore, the administrative expenditure for these 3 years covered WFA Scheme and I-WITS Scheme.

Table 9

The numbers of children granted the Child Allowance and amounts of the Child Allowance from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows:

| | Number of children granted the Child Allowance ^{Note} | Amount of the Child Allowance |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| WFA Scheme | | |
| 2019-20 | 79 654 | \$734,637,750 |
| 2020-21 | 91 946 | \$1,005,757,300 |
| 2021-22 | 90 765 | \$1,200,386,250 |
| 2022-23 | 86 369 | \$1,102,685,850 |
| 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | 77 460 | \$869,184,750 |

Note: As the Child Allowance of the WFA Scheme is disbursed together with the household allowance every 6 months, each child in the above table may be granted allowance once or twice in the same year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3214)

Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Working Family Allowance

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Mr Andrew TSANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

At present, there are 24 government staff in the Labour and Welfare Bureau responsible for the work relating to Programme (3) Manpower Development. In this connection, please advise this Committee on:

- (a) the number of government staff responsible for vetting applications under the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme in the past 3 years;
- (b) the government staff expenditure for the WFA Scheme in the past 3 years; and
- (c) the manpower-related expenditure incurred for the WFA Scheme in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

- (a) In 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24, the Working Family Allowance Office (WFAO) of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency had about 550 vetting staff, including about 320 civil servants, who were responsible for processing and vetting applications under the WFA Scheme (Note: The Work Incentive Transport Subsidy was abolished since June 2021, thus the vetting staff of the WFAO had to process applications received under that scheme at the same time in 2021-22).
- (b)&(c) The annual total staff costs of the WFAO and the annual total manpower-related expenditure incurred from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of the Annex.

Table 1

A breakdown of the total staff costs of the WFAO by year is as follows:

| Year | Staff Cost |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2021-22 | About \$267.7 million |
| 2022-23 | About \$279.7 million |
| 2023-24 (Revised Estimates) | About \$301.2 million |

Table 2

A breakdown of the total manpower-related expenditure[#] of the WFAO by year is as follows:

| Year | Manpower-related Expenditure |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | About \$48.9 million |
| 2022-23 | About \$55.0 million |
| 2023-24 (Revised Estimates) | About \$54.4 million |

[#] Manpower-related expenditure includes electricity charges, computer equipment for staff and office rent and management fees, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)233

(Question Serial No. 1094)

Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Working Family Allowance

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Mr Andrew TSANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of children receiving Child Allowance under the Working Family Allowance Scheme in the past 10 years.

Number of Children Receiving Child Allowance

Full-rate Child Allowance 3/4-rate Child Allowance Half-rate Child Allowance

2023-2024

2022-2023

2021-2022

2020-2021

2019-2020

2018-2019

2017-2018

2016-2017

2015-2016

2014-2015

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

From 2019-20 to 2023-24, the number of children granted Child Allowance under the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme is as follows:

| | Number of Children Granted Child Allowance ^{Note} | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| | Full-rate Allowance | 3/4-rate Allowance | Half-rate Allowance |
| 2019-20 | 57 854 | 14 331 | 7 469 |
| 2020-21 | 67 715 | 15 474 | 8 757 |
| 2021-22 | 62 116 | 17 163 | 11 486 |
| 2022-23 | 54 578 | 18 667 | 13 124 |
| 2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024) | 48 490 | 16 878 | 12 092 |

Note : As the Child Allowance of the WFA Scheme is disbursed together with the household allowance every 6 months, each child in the above table may be granted allowance once or twice in the same year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)234

(Question Serial No. 1099)

Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Working Family Allowance

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Mr Andrew TSANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Working Family Allowance (WFA), please provide breakdowns by District Council district on:

1. the numbers of applications and approved applications in the past 3 years;

| | 1-person family | 2-person family | 3-person family | 4-person family | 5-person family | 6-person or more family |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Central and Western | | | | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | | | | |
| Eastern | | | | | | |
| Southern | | | | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | | | | |
| Tsuen Wan | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Tuen Mun | | | | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | | | | |
| North | | | | | | |
| Tai Po | | | | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | | | | |
| Islands | | | | | | |

2. among the approved applications in the past 3 years, how many of them were granted with Child Allowance at the same time?

| | 1-person family | 2-person family | 3-person family | 4-person family | 5-person family | 6-person or more family |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Central and Western | | | | | | |
| Wan Chai | | | | | | |
| Eastern | | | | | | |
| Southern | | | | | | |
| Sham Shui Po | | | | | | |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | | | | |
| Kowloon City | | | | | | |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | | | | |
| Kwun Tong | | | | | | |
| Kwai Tsing | | | | | | |
| Tsuen Wan | | | | | | |
| Tuen Mun | | | | | | |
| Yuen Long | | | | | | |
| North | | | | | | |
| Tai Po | | | | | | |
| Sha Tin | | | | | | |
| Sai Kung | | | | | | |
| Islands | | | | | | |

3. apart from the WFA, what measures are currently in place to support grassroots families in childcare?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

1. and 2. In 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 (up to the end of February 2024), a total of 369 483 applications were received under the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme, of which 332 968 applications were approved, while some applications are still being processed. Among the approved applications, 260 719 applications were granted Child Allowance. The numbers of applications approved and granted Child Allowance as mentioned above, broken down by district and household size, is set out in Tables 1 and 2 of the Annex.
3. The Government has implemented various measures to support grassroots families to take care of their children, such as child care centres which provide day care services for children aged below 3. To alleviate parents' financial burden in meeting the service fees of child care centres, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has implemented the "Child Care Centre Parent Subsidy" in February 2020 to provide parents with direct subsidies to pay the service fees of full-day aided child care centres to ease their economic burden. The monthly ceiling of the subsidy per child will be increased from \$600 to \$1,000 starting from April 2024. Financially needy households with children receiving whole-day care services in the child care centres (i.e. day crèches, day nurseries or kindergarten-cum-child care centres) registered with the SWD can make application under the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme (KCFRS).

Meanwhile, the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme provides a safety net of last resort for families who cannot support themselves financially to help them meet their basic needs. Households with children are entitled to higher standard rates and a wide range of special grants to meet their special needs, including educational expenses. Non-CSSA families with financial needs can also make application under various student financial assistance schemes, such as the KCFRS and the Grant for School-related Expenses for Kindergarten Students for pre-primary students; and the School Textbook Assistance Scheme, the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme and the Subsidy Scheme for Internet Access Charges for primary and secondary students.

Table 1

A breakdown of the number of approved WFA applications by district and household size from 2021-22 to 2023-24 is as follows:

| District | Number of approved WFA applications (Household size) | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| | 1 person | 2 persons | 3 persons | 4 persons | 5 persons | 6 persons or more |
| Kwun Tong | 3 354 | 8 913 | 11 622 | 16 715 | 5 642 | 1 687 |
| Sham Shui Po | 3 491 | 6 936 | 9 519 | 12 604 | 3 585 | 920 |
| Yuen Long | 2 284 | 5 113 | 8 049 | 10 921 | 2 999 | 1 119 |
| Sha Tin | 1 411 | 4 984 | 7 613 | 10 940 | 3 038 | 702 |
| Kwai Tsing | 2 185 | 4 699 | 6 257 | 10 642 | 3 420 | 1 335 |
| Tuen Mun | 2 402 | 5 754 | 7 435 | 8 885 | 2 280 | 473 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 1 537 | 3 364 | 4 825 | 7 173 | 2 530 | 872 |
| North | 1 282 | 3 688 | 5 668 | 7 144 | 1 692 | 411 |
| Kowloon City | 1 397 | 3 401 | 4 378 | 5 432 | 1 383 | 404 |
| Eastern | 879 | 2 256 | 3 015 | 4 699 | 1 367 | 483 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 1 925 | 2 660 | 3 330 | 3 499 | 830 | 190 |
| Tsuen Wan | 708 | 1 980 | 2 857 | 4 416 | 1 167 | 279 |
| Islands | 415 | 1 179 | 2 578 | 4 238 | 1 361 | 444 |
| Sai Kung | 591 | 1 554 | 2 441 | 3 465 | 1 055 | 377 |
| Tai Po | 516 | 1 729 | 2 548 | 3 428 | 969 | 166 |
| Southern | 302 | 1 036 | 1 577 | 2 238 | 790 | 150 |
| Central and Western | 252 | 464 | 732 | 1 156 | 343 | 116 |
| Wan Chai | 205 | 367 | 487 | 531 | 82 | 37 |
| Total | 25 136 | 60 077 | 84 931 | 118 126 | 34 533 | 10 165 |

Table 2

A breakdown of the number of applications granted Child Allowance by district and household size from 2021-22 to 2023-24 is as follows:

| District | Number of applications granted Child Allowance (Household size) | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| | 1 person | 2 persons | 3 persons | 4 persons | 5 persons | 6 persons or more |
| Kwun Tong | 1 | 3 640 | 9 677 | 16 249 | 5 592 | 1 677 |
| Sham Shui Po | 0 | 3 231 | 8 198 | 12 327 | 3 543 | 916 |
| Yuen Long | 0 | 2 574 | 6 918 | 10 576 | 2 975 | 1 115 |
| Sha Tin | 0 | 2 384 | 6 664 | 10 756 | 3 026 | 701 |
| Kwai Tsing | 0 | 1 993 | 5 164 | 10 290 | 3 376 | 1 333 |
| Tuen Mun | 0 | 2 682 | 6 397 | 8 700 | 2 272 | 469 |
| North | 0 | 1 859 | 5 065 | 6 988 | 1 678 | 410 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 0 | 1 342 | 3 993 | 6 926 | 2 510 | 868 |
| Kowloon City | 0 | 1 677 | 3 882 | 5 308 | 1 375 | 402 |
| Eastern | 0 | 1 039 | 2 645 | 4 560 | 1 364 | 483 |
| Tsuen Wan | 0 | 1 104 | 2 512 | 4 341 | 1 165 | 279 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 0 | 1 489 | 2 986 | 3 453 | 828 | 190 |
| Islands | 0 | 679 | 2 221 | 4 136 | 1 349 | 444 |
| Tai Po | 0 | 848 | 2 266 | 3 363 | 966 | 166 |
| Sai Kung | 0 | 725 | 2 045 | 3 349 | 1 048 | 377 |
| Southern | 0 | 455 | 1 333 | 2 187 | 776 | 150 |
| Central and Western | 0 | 217 | 643 | 1 110 | 337 | 116 |
| Wan Chai | 0 | 206 | 437 | 514 | 82 | 37 |
| Total | 1 | 28 144 | 73 046 | 115 133 | 34 262 | 10 133 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)235

(Question Serial No. 3004)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (166) Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The revised estimate of the Programme for 2023-24 is about 40% lower than the original estimate. Please state the reasons for the substantial reduction in the revised estimate as compared with the original estimate and advise on the 3 posts to be deleted and the total amount of savings to be achieved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The revised estimate of Programme (5), Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities, for 2023-24 is about \$2.78 billion or 39.4% lower than the original approved estimate. This is mainly due to lower-than-expected number of passenger trips under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) and fares of various public transport operators during the post-epidemic recovery phase, as well as lower-than-expected numbers of red minibus routes, kaito services and residents' services joining the \$2 Scheme in the year.

The net decrease of 3 posts of the Transport Officer rank under Programme (5) in 2024-25 can achieve savings of about \$2 million in expenditure.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)236

(Question Serial No. 2490)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme), will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What is the average monthly transport expense per elderly person? (calculated on the basis of full fare without concession)
2. What is the number of abuse cases of the \$2 Scheme? What is the number of prosecution cases?
3. What is the number of elderly persons who have yet to switch to the JoyYou Card? What measures are there to encourage them to switch to the JoyYou Card as soon as possible?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1. The Transport Department (TD) does not maintain the statistics required.
2. TD has all along been requesting public transport operators (PTOs) to strengthen ticket inspection and passenger identity verification work and to strictly enforce the relevant legislation and penalty under the relevant by-laws to prevent abuses. TD also conducts surveys and monitors the situation.

During site monitoring surveys jointly conducted by TD and PTOs in the past 3 years on MTR, buses, ferries, kaitos, minibuses, trams and residents' service, a total of 1 214 suspected abuse cases were found.

To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the \$2 Scheme by ineligible persons, TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at end February this year, a total of around 350 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 650 routes with about 2 360 persons inspected for suspected abuse of \$2 Scheme, and two suspected abuse cases were found and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearing of one of the cases has been completed and the passenger involved was fined appropriately \$14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around \$2,000). The other case is currently under the Police's investigation. TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases to the Police for follow-up and criminal investigation where there is sufficient evidence so as to ensure that the resources of the \$2 Scheme are spent properly. During the same period, the MTR Corporation Limited, in its enforcement actions, imposed surcharges to around 4 260 ineligible persons for abusing the \$2 Scheme.

3. From 27 February 2022, the Government has lowered the eligible age of the \$2 Scheme from 65 to 60, and required Hong Kong residents aged 60 to 64 to use a JoyYou Card to enjoy the concessionary fare. JoyYou Card applications from Hong Kong residents aged 65 or above (i.e. born in 1956 or before) were accepted in batches from 1 June 2022.

The Government has stepped up publicity to remind eligible persons to apply for a JoyYou Card as soon as possible, and made good use of district and service networks to provide facilitation and assistance to eligible persons with disabilities and elderly persons to make an application. 106 community support service units for persons with disabilities subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will distribute JoyYou Card promotional leaflets and application forms, process related enquiries and assist members/persons with disabilities to apply. The SWD will also invite the self-help organisations of persons with disabilities/patients under financial support scheme subsidised by SWD to reach out to their members aged 60 or above through different channels, with a view to encouraging and assisting them to apply for a JoyYou Card. In addition, over 210 District Elderly Community Centres, Neighbourhood Elderly Centres and Social Centres for the Elderly subvented by the SWD will continue to distribute JoyYou Card paper application forms, while the 99 Day Care Centres/Units for the Elderly, 92 Home Care Services Teams and all residential care homes for the elderly will also assist service users in need to make an application.

As at the end of February 2024, about 1.26 million of eligible persons aged 65 or above have applied for a JoyYou Card, representing about 90% of the population concerned.

The Government announced on 28 December 2023 that, from 25 August 2024, all Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card to enjoy the \$2 Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)237

(Question Serial No. 0987)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the \$2 Scheme, please advise on the following:

1. the statistics of additional government subsidy received by public transport in the past 3 years;
2. the statistics of JoyYou Card users taking bus trips at a fare exceeding \$20, and their monthly changes in the past 3 years; and
3. in terms of expenditure, whether the Government will oblige bus companies to provide section fares so as to reduce cases of taking long-haul routes for short journeys.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

1. The amounts of Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) for 2021-22 and 2022-23 were about \$1.4 billion and \$3.08 billion respectively. For 2023-24, the relevant revised estimated expenditure is about \$4 billion.
2. The Transport Department (TD) does not have the statistics requested.
3. TD has all along been encouraging franchised bus operators (FBOs) to offer fare concessions as far as possible to help reduce passengers' travelling expenses, taking into account the operators' respective commercial considerations including operating and

financial conditions, overall economic environment, passenger needs, competition factor, implications on bus resources, etc. In respect of section fares, one-way or two-way section fares, they are currently available on about 80 per cent of franchised bus routes. The remaining 20 per cent are mostly short-haul routes. According to FBOs, as the fares of these routes are already relatively low due to short journey distance, it is difficult to further offer section fares.

Regarding whether to request the bus companies to provide section fares, TD needs to give due consideration to the overall transport service provision and planning, including how to address and balance different travel needs of short-haul and long-haul passengers; and the feasibility and specific arrangements on individual routes are subject to actual situation of the routes. Full implementation of section fares may result in more short-haul passengers travelling on long-haul routes, taking up the capacity of long-haul routes and affecting long-haul passengers. If FBOs resultantly have to increase the trip frequencies of their long-haul routes, it would aggravate the burden on road traffic. Moreover, when short-haul passengers alight midway, the occupancy rates of long-haul routes may become too low to make effective use of public transport resources. Introducing more section fares may also lead to duplication of resources with existing short-haul routes or other public transport services, upsetting the delicate balance among various public transport services. Therefore, TD will carefully assess whether it is suitable to apply section fares to individual routes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)238

(Question Serial No. 0311)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 227 of the Budget Speech that the review of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (i.e. "the \$2 Scheme") will be completed within this year. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the estimated expenditure and staff establishment involved in the review of the \$2 Scheme; and
2. the amounts of subsidies for various modes of public transport under the Scheme in the past 3 years (set out in table form); and
3. the respective numbers of prosecutions and convictions instituted by law enforcement departments in the past 3 years with regard to abuses of the \$2 Scheme; and
4. whether there is any preliminary estimate on when the results of the review will be announced?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

1. and 4.

The Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Transport Department (TD) will deploy existing resources to conduct the review of the \$2 Scheme, which is expected to be completed within this year. Since the participating staff have to take up other work as well, there is no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved.

2. The Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) in the past 3 financial years is tabulated below:

| PTO | 2021-22^(Note1) Actual (\$'000) | 2022-23^(Note2) Actual (\$'000) | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
| MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) | 368,927 | 1,165,741 | 1,525,018 |
| Franchised bus operators | 576,020 | 1,187,781 | 1,536,225 |
| Ferry operators | 38,362 | 78,745 | 89,958 |
| Green minibus operators | 407,401 | 564,345 | 706,606 |
| Red minibus operators | 3,742 | 61,424 | 103,879 |
| Kaito operators | 683 | 7,941 | 6,675 |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited | 188 | 2,259 | 2,745 |
| Residents' service operators | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | 10,587 | 28,606 |
| Total | 1,395,323 | 3,078,823 | 3,999,712 |

(Note 1) From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the \$2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60, with extension to cover red minibuses, kaitos and trams.

(Note 2) From 25 September 2022, the \$2 Scheme has been extended to cover residents' services.

3. TD has all along been requesting PTOs to strengthen ticket inspection and passenger identity verification work and to strictly enforce the penalty as set out in relevant legislation and by-laws to prevent abuses. TD also conducts surveys and monitors the situation.

During site monitoring surveys jointly conducted by TD and PTOs in the past 3 years on MTR, buses, ferries, kaito, minibuses, trams and residents' service, a total of 1 214 suspected abuse cases were found.

To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the \$2 Scheme by ineligible persons, TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at end February this year, a total of around 350 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 650 routes with about 2 360 persons inspected for suspected abuse of \$2 Scheme, and two suspected abuse cases were found and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearing of one of the cases has been completed and the passenger involved was fined about \$14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around \$2,000). The other case is currently under the Police's investigation. TD will continue to conduct joint inspection and enforcement actions with PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases to the Police for follow-up and criminal investigation where there is sufficient evidence so as to ensure that the resources of the \$2 Scheme are spent properly. During the same period, MTRCL, in

its enforcement actions, imposed surcharges to around 4 260 ineligible persons for abusing the \$2 Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)239

(Question Serial No. 2400)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) incurred an expenditure of about \$4 billion in 2023-24, which is more than double the \$1.3 billion in 2019-20. Programme (5) shows that the estimate for 2024-25 will increase substantially by 48.5% from \$4,275.9 million to \$6,343.5 million. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the basis of estimation involved and the reasons for the large difference of about \$3.7 billion between the approved estimate for 2023-24 being about \$6.7 billion and the revised estimate for 2023-24 being about \$4 billion according to Subhead 166;
2. of the basis of estimation for Subhead 166 which indicates an estimate for the \$2 Scheme of about \$6 billion;
3. of the respective amounts of subsidies disbursed by the Government to various public transport operators under the \$2 Scheme, as well as the recurrent and administrative expenditures incurred in the past 5 financial years; and whether it has estimated the respective amounts of subsidies, recurrent and administrative expenditures for the coming 5 financial years;
4. of the respective numbers of the \$2 Scheme beneficiaries in respect of persons aged between 60 and 64 and persons aged 65 or above in the past 2 financial years and the respective amounts of subsidies involved;
5. as it is mentioned in paragraph 227 of the Budget that the Government will review the continued provision of the scheme in a financially sustainable manner and will complete the review within this year, whether the direction of the review will include examining the linking of the subsidy to travelling expenses and exploring the use of the original fare as the basis for calculating the travelling expenses, for example, setting the upper

limit of travelling expenses subsidy at \$500, \$1,000 or \$1,500 so as to ensure proper use of public funds; if not, of the reasons for that; and

6. of the number of cases of abuse of the \$2 Scheme found and the number of prosecutions in the past 5 financial years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

1. The revised estimated expenditure of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) for 2023-24 is about \$2.73 billion lower than the original approved estimated expenditure. This is mainly due to lower-than-expected number of passenger trips under the \$2 Scheme and fares of various public transport operators during the post-epidemic recovery phase, as well as lower-than-expected numbers of red minibus routes, kaito services and residents' services joining the \$2 Scheme in the year.

2. & 3.

In 2024-25, the estimated recurrent expenditure of the \$2 Scheme is about \$6.12 billion, of which the estimated Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators is about \$6.01 billion. Future expenditure of the \$2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible persons, fare adjustments, changes in public transport operators participating in the \$2 Scheme and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures, etc. The Government will closely monitor the operation of the \$2 Scheme, prepare for the estimates of expenditure and reflect in the estimates of the corresponding years.

The recurrent expenditure of the \$2 Scheme, including the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators under the \$2 Scheme and the operational expenses, in the past 5 financial years is tabulated below:

| | 2019-20 Actual (\$' 000) | 2020-21 Actual (\$' 000) | 2021-22 Actual (\$' 000) | 2022-23 Actual (\$' 000) | 2023-24 Revised Estimate (\$' 000) |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| (a) The Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators under the \$2 Scheme^(Note 1): | | | | | |
| MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) | 341,669 | 266,742 | 368,927 | 1,165,741 | 1,525,018 |
| Franchised bus operators | 541,167 | 408,013 | 576,020 | 1,187,781 | 1,536,225 |
| Ferry operators | 29,601 | 27,004 | 38,362 | 78,745 | 89,958 |
| Green minibus operators | 362,551 | 314,917 | 407,401 | 564,345 | 706,606 |

| | 2019-20 Actual (\$' 000) | 2020-21 Actual (\$' 000) | 2021-22 Actual (\$' 000) | 2022-23 Actual (\$' 000) | 2023-24 Revised Estimate (\$' 000) |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Red minibus operators | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport modes concerned | | 3,742 | 61,424 | 103,879 |
| Kaito operators | | | 683 | 7,941 | 6,675 |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited | | | 188 | 2,259 | 2,745 |
| Residents' service operators | | | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | 10,587 | 28,606 |
| Sub-total | 1,274,988 | 1,016,676 | 1,395,323 | 3,078,823 | 3,999,712 |
| (b) Operational expenses (Note 1) | 20,844 | 22,513 | 37,961 | 51,527 | 54,516 |
| Total recurrent expenditure | 1,295,832 | 1,039,189 | 1,433,284 | 3,130,350 | 4,054,228 |

(Note 1) From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the \$2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60, with extension to cover red minibuses, kaitos and trams; and from 25 September 2022, the \$2 Scheme has been extended to cover residents' services. The relevant operational expenses have also increased as a result.

4. The numbers of eligible beneficiaries aged between 60 and 64 and aged 65 or above for the \$2 Scheme and the amounts of Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators for these two groups of persons in the past 2 financial years are as follows:

The numbers of eligible beneficiaries:

| | Persons aged 65 or above | Persons aged between 60 and 64 |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2022 | 1 528 900 | 589 544 |
| 2023 | 1 641 900 | 607 479 |

The amounts of Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators:

| | Persons aged 65 or above | Persons aged between 60 and 64 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2022-23 Actual amount (\$' 000) | 1,130,777 | 1,710,429 |

| | Persons aged 65 or above | Persons aged between 60 and 64 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2023-24 Revised estimate amount (\$' 000) | 1,511,598 | 2,204,516 |

5. The Government would take into account the effectiveness of different options in containing the growth of expenditure and factors including the practicability of these options in the review.
6. The Transport Department (TD) has all along been requesting PTOs to strengthen ticket inspection and passenger identity verification work, and strictly enforce the penalty as set out in relevant legislation and by-laws to prevent abuses of the \$2 Scheme. The TD also conducts surveys and monitors the situation.

During site monitoring surveys jointly conducted by the TD and PTOs in the past 5 years on MTR, buses, ferries, kaitos, minibuses, trams and residents' buses, 1 419 suspected abuse cases were found.

To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the \$2 Scheme by ineligible persons, the TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at end-February this year, a total of around 350 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 650 routes with about 2 360 persons inspected for suspected abuse of \$2 Scheme, and 2 suspected abuse cases were found and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearing of one of the cases has been completed and the passenger involved was fined approximately \$14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around \$2,000). The other case is currently under the Police's investigation. The TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases to the Police for follow-up and criminal investigation where there is sufficient evidence so as to ensure that the resources of the \$2 Scheme are spent properly. During the same period, the MTR Corporation Limited, in its enforcement actions, imposed surcharges to around 4 260 ineligible persons for abusing the \$2 Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)240

(Question Serial No. 1863)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (commonly known as the \$2 Scheme), will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The average daily passenger trips taken by (i) persons aged between 60 and 64, (ii) persons aged 65 or above and (iii) eligible persons with disabilities under the \$2 Scheme in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by mode of public transport.
2. The amounts of subsidy disbursed to various public transport operators under the \$2 Scheme in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by mode of public transport.
3. Since end February 2022, the Transport Department (TD) has implemented enhancement and anti-illegal use measures for the \$2 Scheme. Has the Government assessed the actual effectiveness of the measures in combating illegal use? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
4. As regards TD's territory-wide joint enforcement actions with public transport operators to combat illegal use of the \$2 Scheme since June 2022, what are the (i) number of inspections conducted; (ii) number of such cases found; and (iii) number of prosecutions and convictions relating to the such cases.

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

1. The numbers of average daily passenger trips taken by the beneficiaries under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible

Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by public transport operator (PTO), are set out below:

| PTO | Year | Persons aged 65 or above | Eligible persons with disabilities | Persons aged 60 to 64 ^{Note 1} |
|---|-------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) | 2021 | 459 000 | 60 000 | - |
| | 2022 | 430 000 | 55 000 | 318 000 |
| | 2023 | 585 000 | 69 000 | 369 000 |
| Franchised bus operators | 2021 | 530 000 | 68 000 | - |
| | 2022 | 500 000 | 60 000 | 286 000 |
| | 2023 | 631 000 | 68 000 | 335 000 |
| Ferry operators | 2021 | 8 100 | 1 100 | - |
| | 2022 | 7 500 | 1 000 | 6 000 |
| | 2023 | 10 100 | 1 100 | 6 000 |
| Green minibus operators | 2021 | 250 000 | 30 000 | - |
| | 2022 | 233 000 | 26 000 | 121 000 |
| | 2023 | 279 000 | 28 000 | 136 000 |
| Red minibus operators ^{Note 1} | 2021 | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | | |
| | 2022 | 11 400 | 1 300 | 8 500 |
| | 2023 | 20 900 | 2 100 | 13 200 |
| Kaito operators ^{Note 1} | 2021 | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | | |
| | 2022 | 1 500 | 100 | 1 000 |
| | 2023 | 1 500 | 100 | 900 |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited ^{Note 1} | 2021 | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | | |
| | 2022 | - | 800 | 6 400 |
| | 2023 | - | 800 | 6 800 |
| Residents' services operators ^{Note 1} | 2021 | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | | |
| | 2022 | 6 000 | 400 | 3 400 |
| | 2023 | 8 100 | 400 | 4 600 |
| Total | 2021 | 1 247 100 | 159 100 | - |
| | 2022 | 1 190 300 | 145 300 | 750 000 |
| | 2023 | 1 536 300 | 169 600 | 871 800 |

^{Note 1} From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the \$2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60, with extension to cover red minibuses, kaitos and trams; and from 25 September 2022, the \$2 Scheme has been extended to cover residents' services.

- The Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the \$2 Scheme in the past 3 financial years are tabulated below:

| PTO | 2021-22 ^{Note 2} Actual (\$'000) | 2022-23 ^{Note 3} Actual (\$'000) | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|
| MTRCL | 368,927 | 1,165,741 | 1,525,018 |
| Franchised bus operators | 576,020 | 1,187,781 | 1,536,225 |
| Ferry operators | 38,362 | 78,745 | 89,958 |
| Green minibus operators | 407,401 | 564,345 | 706,606 |
| Red minibus operators | 3,742 | 61,424 | 103,879 |
| Kaito operators | 683 | 7,941 | 6,675 |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited | 188 | 2,259 | 2,745 |
| Residents' service operators | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | 10,587 | 28,606 |
| Total | 1,395,323 | 3,078,823 | 3,999,712 |

Note 2 From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the \$2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60, with extension to cover red minibuses, kaitos and trams.

Note 3 From 25 September 2022, the \$2 Scheme has been extended to cover residents' services.

3. & 4.

From 27 February 2022, the Government has lowered the eligible age of the \$2 Scheme from 65 to 60, and required Hong Kong residents aged 60 to 64 to use a JoyYou Card to enjoy the concessionary fare. All Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above are required to use a JoyYou Card to enjoy the concessionary fare from 25 August 2024. Existing Anonymous Elder Octopus and ordinary Personalised Octopus card will cease to be applicable for the \$2 Scheme from that day. A JoyYou Card carries a personal photo and the name of the eligible beneficiary as proof of eligibility for enjoying the \$2 concessionary fare. Each eligible person will be issued with one card only.

The Transport Department (TD) has all along been requesting PTOs to strengthen ticket inspection and passenger identity verification work and to strictly enforce the penalty as set out in relevant legislation and by-laws to prevent abuses. TD also conducts surveys and monitors the situation.

During site monitoring surveys jointly conducted by TD and PTOs in the past 5 years on MTR, buses, ferries, kaitos, minibuses, trams and residents' services, 1 419 suspected abuse cases were found.

To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the \$2 Scheme by ineligible persons, the TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at end-February this year, a total of around 350 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 650 routes with about 2 360 persons inspected for suspected abuse of \$2 Scheme, and 2 suspected abuse cases were found

and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearing of one of the cases has been completed and the passenger involved was fined approximately \$14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around \$2,000). The other case is currently under the Police's investigation. The TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases to the Police for follow-up and criminal investigation where there is sufficient evidence so as to ensure that the resources of the \$2 Scheme are spent properly. During the same period, the MTR Corporation Limited, in its enforcement actions, imposed surcharges to around 4 260 ineligible persons for abusing the \$2 Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)241

(Question Serial No. 2722)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the launch of the \$2 Scheme by the Government in 2012, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the total amount of subsidy provided by the Bureau each year;
2. the total number of members of the public benefited each year; and
3. the total amount and percentage of subsidies for each mode of transport such as MTR, franchised bus, ferry, green minibus, red minibus, kaito and tram each year.

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

The amounts of Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) and their percentages in the past 5 financial years are tabulated below^{Note:}

| Public transport operator | 2019-20 Actual (\$'000) | 2020-21 Actual (\$'000) | 2021-22 Actual (\$'000) | 2022-23 Actual (\$'000) | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) | 341,669 (26.8%) | 266,742 (26.2%) | 368,927 (26.5%) | 1,165,741 (37.9%) | 1,525,018 (38.1%) |

| Public transport operator | 2019-20 Actual (\$'000) | 2020-21 Actual (\$'000) | 2021-22 Actual (\$'000) | 2022-23 Actual (\$'000) | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Franchised bus operators | 541,167 (42.5%) | 408,013 (40.1%) | 576,020 (41.3%) | 1,187,781 (38.6%) | 1,536,225 (38.4%) |
| Ferry operators | 29,601 (2.3%) | 27,004 (2.7%) | 38,362 (2.7%) | 78,745 (2.5%) | 89,958 (2.2%) |
| Green minibus operators | 362,551 (28.4%) | 314,917 (31.0%) | 407,401 (29.2%) | 564,345 (18.3%) | 706,606 (17.7%) |
| Red minibus operators | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport modes concerned | | 3,742 (0.3%) | 61,424 (2.0%) | 103,879 (2.6%) |
| Kaito operators | | | 683 (0.0%) | 7,941 (0.3%) | 6,675 (0.2%) |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited | | | 188 (0.0%) | 2,259 (0.1%) | 2,745 (0.1%) |
| Residents' service operators | | | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | 10,587 (0.3%) | 28,606 (0.7%) |
| Total | | | 1,274,988 (100%) | 1,016,676 (100%) | 1,395,323 (100%) |

The numbers of average daily passenger trips taken by the beneficiaries under the \$2 Scheme in the past 5 years are tabulated below^{Note:}

| Calendar year | Average daily passenger trips taken by the beneficiaries |
|----------------------|---|
| 2019 | 1 424 200 |
| 2020 | 1 113 500 |
| 2021 | 1 406 200 |
| 2022 | 2 085 600 |
| 2023 | 2 577 700 |

^{Note} From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the \$2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60, with extension to cover red minibuses, kaitos and trams. And from 25 September 2022, the \$2 Scheme has been extended to cover residents' service.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)242

(Question Serial No. 1152)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

To combat abuse of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme), the Government launched a large-scale two-month operation with the transport trades on 26 June 2023. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of inspections conducted during the operation with a breakdown by mode of public transport;
2. the number of suspected cases of illegally use detected by the operation, referred to the Police for investigation and ended in successful prosecution;
3. a detailed breakdown of the respective expenditure and manpower establishment involved in the operation;
4. details of the relevant work plan, the manpower involved and the estimated expenditure for 2024-25; and
5. a detailed breakdown by year since the launch of the \$2 Scheme of the types of public transport covered by the \$2 Scheme with the list of operators, the total amount of and percentage of subsidies for each operator?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1. - 4.

To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the \$2 Scheme by ineligible persons, the TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at end-February this year, a total of around 350 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 650 routes with about 2 360 persons inspected for suspected abuse of \$2 Scheme, and 2 suspected abuse cases were found and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearing of one of the cases has been completed and the passenger involved was fined approximately \$14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around \$2,000). The other case is currently under the Police’s investigation. The numbers of inspections conducted in various public transport are tabulated as follows:

| Public Transport Operator | Number of Inspection (From June 2023 to 29 February 2024) |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Franchised buses | 209 |
| Green minibuses | 92 |
| Ferries | 17 |
| Red minibuses | 24 |
| Residents’ services | 8 |
| Total | 350 |

The TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases to the Police for follow-up and criminal investigation where there is sufficient evidence so as to ensure that the resources of the \$2 Scheme are spent on target beneficiaries. During the same period, the MTR Corporation Limited, in its enforcement actions, imposed surcharges to around 4 260 ineligible persons for abusing the \$2 Scheme.

The expenditure and additional workload arising from combating abuses of the \$2 Scheme will mainly be absorbed by TD with existing resources and no separate breakdown of expenditure and manpower establishment can be provided.

5. The amounts and percentages of the Government’s reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs in the past 5 financial years are tabulated below ^(Note 1):

| Public transport operator | 2019-20 Actual (\$’000) | 2020-21 Actual (\$’000) | 2021-22 Actual (\$’000) | 2022-23 Actual (\$’000) | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$’000) |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) | 341,669 (26.8%) | 266,742 (26.2%) | 368,927 (26.5%) | 1,165,741 (37.9%) | 1,525,018 (38.1%) |

| Public transport operator | 2019-20 Actual (\$'000) | 2020-21 Actual (\$'000) | 2021-22 Actual (\$'000) | 2022-23 Actual (\$'000) | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited | 382,813 (30.0%) | 289,658 (28.5%) | 409,137 (29.4%) | 828,615 (26.9%) | 1,053,996 (26.4%) |
| Citybus Limited | 79,801 (6.3%) | 57,969 (5.7%) | 81,227 (5.8%) | 174,906 (5.7%) | 348,578 (8.7%) |
| New World First Bus Services Limited ^(Note 2) | 57,919 (4.6%) | 45,693 (4.5%) | 67,287 (4.8%) | 138,862 (4.5%) | 69,424 (1.7%) |
| Long Win Bus Company Limited | 12,992 (1.0%) | 9,765 (0.9%) | 11,303 (0.8%) | 29,066 (1.0%) | 39,729 (1.0%) |
| New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited | 7,642 (0.6%) | 4,928 (0.5%) | 7,066 (0.5%) | 16,332 (0.5%) | 24,498 (0.6%) |
| Sun Ferry Services Company Limited | 12,156 (1.0%) | 11,152 (1.1%) | 16,587 (1.2%) | 35,062 (1.1%) | 38,902 (1.0%) |
| Fortune Ferry Company Limited | 679 (0.0%) | 968 (0.1%) | 908 (0.1%) | 1,728 (0.1%) | 1,546 (0.0%) |
| The "Star" Ferry Company, Limited | 5 (0.0%) | 6 (0.0%) | 51 (0.0%) | 467 (0.0%) | 2,101 (0.0%) |
| Coral Sea Ferry Service Company Limited | 140 (0.0%) | 151 (0.0%) | 198 (0.0%) | 435 (0.0%) | 441 (0.0%) |
| Hong Kong & Kowloon Ferry Limited | 3,393 (0.3%) | 3,159 (0.3%) | 8,398 (0.6%) | 17,808 (0.6%) | 19,763 (0.5%) |
| Park Island Transport Company Limited | 1,524 (0.1%) | 1,364 (0.2%) | 1,687 (0.1%) | 2,557 (0.1%) | 3,269 (0.1%) |
| Other ferry operators ^(Note 3) | 11,704 (0.9%) | 10,204 (1.0%) | 10,533 (0.7%) | 20,688 (0.6%) | 23,936 (0.6%) |
| Green minibus operators | 362,551 (28.4%) | 314,917 (31.0%) | 407,401 (29.2%) | 564,345 (18.3%) | 706,606 (17.7%) |
| Red minibus operators | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public | 3,742 (0.3%) | 61,424 (2.0%) | 103,879 (2.6%) |
| Kaito operators | | | 683 (0.0%) | 7,941 (0.3%) | 6,675 (0.2%) |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited | | | 188 (0.0%) | 2,259 (0.1%) | 2,745 (0.1%) |

| Public transport operator | 2019-20 Actual (\$'000) | 2020-21 Actual (\$'000) | 2021-22 Actual (\$'000) | 2022-23 Actual (\$'000) | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Residents' service operators | modes concerned | transport modes concerned | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | 10,587 (0.3%) | 28,606 (0.7%) |
| Total | 1,274,988 (100%) | 1,016,676 (100%) | 1,395,323 (100%) | 3,078,823 (100%) | 3,999,712 (100%) |

(Note 1) From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the \$2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60, with extension to cover red minibuses, kaitos and trams; and from 25 September 2022, the \$2 Scheme has been extended to cover residents' services.

(Note 2) The franchise of New World First Bus Services Limited merged with Citybus Limited (Franchise 1) on 1 July 2023 to form a new Citybus Limited (Franchise for the Urban and New Territories bus network).

(Note 3) Other ferry operators include Winnertex Limited, Maris Ferry Service Limited, Islands Ferry Company Limited, Discovery Bay Transportation Services Limited, Tsui Wah Ferry Service (H.K.) Limited, Chuen Kee Ferry Limited and Peng Chau Kai To Limited. Maris Ferry Service Limited ceased to operate their ferry services from 1 January 2021, while Winnertex Limited and Islands Ferry Company Limited ceased to operate their ferry services from 1 April 2021.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)243

(Question Serial No. 2245)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme), persons aged 60 or above and eligible persons with disabilities can travel on public transport modes covered by the Scheme at a concessionary fare of \$2 per trip. It is mentioned in paragraph 227 of the Budget Speech that the annual expenditure of the Scheme has increased by more than double from \$1.3 billion in 2019-20 to about \$4 billion in 2023-24, with the relevant review expected to be completed within 2024. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. the amounts of subsidies disbursed to respective public transport operators under the \$2 Scheme in the past 5 years;
2. the numbers of suspected abuse cases of the \$2 Scheme and the amounts involved in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by public transport mode covered by the Scheme;
3. the respective numbers of persons prosecuted and convicted for abuse of the \$2 Scheme in the past 5 years and, among them, the number of those who committed the offence repeatedly;
4. in the face of abuse of the \$2 Scheme, whether the Government has considered increasing the manpower and estimated expenditure in order to step up efforts to eliminate the problem; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons; and
5. whether the Government will consider raising the eligible age or the fare of the \$2 Scheme in order to alleviate the onerous financial burden on the Government; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

1. The Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) in the past 5 financial years is tabulated below:

| Public transport operator | 2019-20 Actual (\$'000) | 2020-21 Actual (\$'000) | 2021-22 (Note 1) Actual (\$'000) | 2022-23 (Note 2) Actual (\$'000) | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|
| MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) | 341,669 | 266,742 | 368,927 | 1,165,741 | 1,525,018 |
| Franchised bus operators | 541,167 | 408,013 | 576,020 | 1,187,781 | 1,536,225 |
| Ferry operators | 29,601 | 27,004 | 38,362 | 78,745 | 89,958 |
| Green minibus operators | 362,551 | 314,917 | 407,401 | 564,345 | 706,606 |
| Red minibus operators | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport modes concerned | | 3,742 | 61,424 | 103,879 |
| Kaito operators | | | 683 | 7,941 | 6,675 |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited | | | 188 | 2,259 | 2,745 |
| Residents' service operators | | | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | 10,587 | 28,606 |
| Total | | | 1,274,988 | 1,016,676 | 1,395,323 |

(Note 1) From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the \$2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60, with extension to cover red minibuses, kaitos and trams.

(Note 2) From 25 September 2022, the \$2 Scheme has been extended to cover residents' services.

2. - 4.

The Transport Department (TD) has all along been requesting PTOs to strengthen ticket inspection and passenger identity verification work, and strictly enforce the penalty as set out in relevant legislation and by-laws to prevent abuses. The TD also conducts surveys and monitors the situation.

During site monitoring surveys jointly conducted by the TD and PTOs in the past 5 years on the Mass Transit Railway (MTR), buses, ferries, kaitos, minibuses, trams and residents' buses, 1 419 suspected abuse cases were found. The numbers of suspected abuse cases with a breakdown by year and PTO are tabulated below:

| Public transport operator | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Total |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| MTRCL | - | 156 | 464 | 314 | 295 | 1 229 |
| Franchised bus operators | 4 | 12 | 38 | 11 | - | 65 |
| Ferry operators | 2 | - | 34 | 16 | 1 | 53 |
| Green minibus operators | 5 | 26 | 17 | 14 | 3 | 65 |
| Red minibus operators | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport modes concerned | | | 3 | - | 3 |
| Kaito operators | | | | - | 1 | 1 |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited | | | | - | - | - |
| Residents' service operators | | | | 3 | - | 3 |
| Total | 11 | 194 | 553 | 361 | 300 | 1 419 |

To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the \$2 Scheme by ineligible persons, the TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at end-February this year, a total of around 350 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 650 routes with about 2 360 persons inspected for suspected abuse of \$2 Scheme, and 2 suspected abuse cases were found and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearing of one of the cases has been completed and the passenger involved was fined approximately \$14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around \$2,000). The other case is currently under the Police's investigation. The TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases to the Police for follow-up and criminal investigation where there is sufficient evidence so as to ensure that the resources of the \$2 Scheme are spent properly. During the same period, the MTR Corporation Limited, in its enforcement actions, imposed surcharges to around 4 260 ineligible persons for abusing the \$2 Scheme.

The work against abuse of the \$2 Scheme is mainly conducted by the existing staff, currently there is no plan to increase the manpower and estimated expenditure.

5. The Financial Secretary announced in the 2024-25 Budget that the mode of operation of the \$2 Scheme would be reviewed in order to enable the continued provision of subsidies of the scheme in a financially sustainable manner. The Government has stated clearly that it will maintain the policy intent of the \$2 Scheme to build a caring and inclusive society by encouraging the beneficiaries to participate more in community activities, and has no intention to cancel the Scheme or change the existing beneficiary groups. The Government would take into account the effectiveness of different options in

containing the growth of expenditure and factors including the practicability of these options in the review.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)244

(Question Serial No. 0307)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under this Programme that the Government will continue to monitor the operation of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) and strengthen anti-abuse measures under the Scheme. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please set out in tabular form, with breakdown by age group, the numbers of applications for JoyYou Cards from persons aged 60 or above since the extension of the \$2 Scheme to cover those aged between 60 to 64, and the corresponding estimated numbers for 2024:

| | 2022 (since 27 February) | 2023 | 2024 (Estimates) |
|------------------|--------------------------|------|------------------|
| Aged 60-64 | | | |
| Aged 65-69 | | | |
| Aged 70-74 | | | |
| Aged 75-79 | | | |
| Aged 80-84 | | | |
| Aged 85 or above | | | |

2. Please set out in tabular form, with breakdown by major mode of transport in Hong Kong, the average numbers of daily passenger trips taken under the \$2 Scheme since its extension to cover those aged between 60 and 64, and the corresponding estimated numbers for 2024:

| | 2022 (since 27 February) | 2023 | 2024 (Estimates) |
|-----------|--------------------------|------|------------------|
| Railway | | | |
| Buses | | | |
| Minibuses | | | |
| Ferries | | | |

3. Starting from 25 August 2024, all Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use JoyYou Cards to enjoy the \$2 Scheme. Regarding the Government's publicity and promotion efforts on the switch to the use of JoyYou Cards by eligible elderly persons, please provide information on the relevant (i) staff establishment, (ii) expenditure, (iii) details of activities; and (iv) numbers of participants in the past 3 years;
4. Regarding the Government's efforts in combating abuses of the \$2 Scheme, please provide information on the relevant (i) staff establishment, (ii) expenditure, (iii) law enforcement actions; and (iv) amount of money involved in the abuse cases in the past 3 years; and
5. To combat abuse of the \$2 Scheme, will the Government initiate publicity and enforcement efforts targeting those public transport modes with higher numbers of passenger trips taken under the \$2 Scheme?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

1. Starting from 27 February 2022, persons aged 60 to 64 are required to use JoyYou Card to enjoy the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme), while eligible persons aged 65 or above are required, with effect from 1 June 2022, to apply for JoyYou Card in 12 batches according to their years of birth in order to continue to enjoy the \$2 fare concession starting from 25 August this year. The numbers of eligible persons who have applied for JoyYou Card by batches are tabulated below:

| | As at 31 December 2022 (Note 2) | As at 31 December 2023 | As at 29 February December 2024 |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Persons Aged 60-64 (Note 1) | 593 343 | 915 688 | 927 089 |
| Persons born in 1956 | 100 193 | 114 104 | 115 239 |
| Persons born in 1955 | 90 764 | 106 759 | 107 885 |
| Persons born in 1954 | 85 098 | 101 934 | 103 108 |
| Persons born in 1953 | 76 426 | 92 564 | 93 549 |
| Persons born in 1952 | 71 821 | 88 904 | 89 861 |
| Persons born in 1951 | 65 031 | 83 587 | 84 526 |
| Persons born in 1950 | 25 372 | 80 191 | 81 095 |

| | As at 31 December 2022 (Note 2) | As at 31 December 2023 | As at 29 February December 2024 |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Persons born between 1948 and 1949 | N/A | 146 044 | 147 711 |
| Persons born between 1946 and 1947 | N/A | 110 359 | 111 756 |
| Persons born between 1943 and 1945 | N/A | 101 383 | 103 182 |
| Persons born between 1939 and 1942 | N/A | 91 175 | 93 550 |
| Persons born in 1938 or before | N/A | 118 215 | 124 254 |

(Note 1) The Government accepted applications for JoyYou Card from eligible Hong Kong residents born between 1957 and 1961 in batches from August 2021 to December 2021, and accepted applications from persons reaching the age of 60 in three months since 1 January 2022.

(Note 2) As at 31 December 2022, the Government has commenced the first 7 batches to accept applications for JoyYou Card from eligible Hong Kong residents aged 65 or above and born between 1950 and 1956.

2. The numbers of average daily passenger trips taken by beneficiaries under the \$2 Scheme in 2022-2023, with a breakdown by major public transport operator (PTO), are set out below:

| | 2022 (Note 3) | 2023 |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Railway | 804 000 | 1 023 000 |
| Franchised bus | 847 000 | 1 038 000 |
| Public light bus | 401 200 | 480 300 |
| Ferry | 14 400 | 17 200 |

(Note 3) From 27 February 2022, the \$2 Scheme has been extended to cover persons aged 60 to 64.

3. From 2021 to 2023, the Government reminded the target beneficiaries to apply for and use JoyYou Card to enjoy the \$2 Scheme through various publicity activities, including TV and radio announcements in the public interest, promotional leaflets and posters, and advertisements on buses, MTR and trams. The Government also organised briefings for frontline staff at the distribution points of application forms and set up temporary service centres to assist those in need in applying for JoyYou Card. The Transport Department (TD) does not have records of the number of participants involved. In the 2021-22 to 2023-24 financial years, the total expenditure incurred by TD on the above

publicity programmes is about \$9.8 million. The publicity work is mainly undertaken by the existing staff of TD and there is no separate breakdown of the manpower involved.

4. & 5.

TD has all along been requesting PTOs to strengthen ticket inspection and passenger identity verification work and to strictly enforce the penalty as set out in relevant legislation and by-laws to prevent abuses. TD also conducts surveys and monitors the situation.

During site monitoring surveys jointly conducted by TD and PTOs in the past 3 years on MTR, buses, ferries, kaito, minibuses, trams and residents' service, 1 214 suspected abuse cases were found. The passengers involved would normally be required to pay the shortfall on the spot, and thus no Government's reimbursement had been involved. TD does not maintain records of the amount involved in the above suspected cases.

To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the \$2 Scheme by ineligible persons, TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at end February this year, a total of around 350 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 650 routes with about 2 360 persons inspected for suspected abuse of \$2 Scheme, and 2 suspected abuse cases were found and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearing of one of the cases has been completed and the passenger involved was fined about \$14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling \$2,000). The other case is currently under the Police's investigation. TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases to the Police for follow-up and criminal investigation where there is sufficient evidence so as to ensure that the resources of the \$2 Scheme are spent properly. During the same period, the MTR Corporation Limited, in its enforcement actions, imposed surcharges to around 4 260 ineligible persons for abusing the \$2 Scheme.

On public education and publicity, the Government has reminded persons aged 60 to 64 that they must use JoyYou Cards to benefit from the \$2 Scheme through a new round of TV and radio announcements in the public interest and posters since March 2023. The Government has also stressed that it is an offence for an ineligible person to abuse the \$2 Scheme. Any person who is convicted is liable to imprisonment.

As the work of TD against abuses of the \$2 Scheme is mainly conducted by the existing staff, there is no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)245

(Question Serial No. 0310)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (166) Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The estimated provision of \$6,006.288 million under this Subhead for 2024-25 is for reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme). In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide in tabular form the amounts of Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the local major public transport operators in the past 3 financial years and the coming financial year;

| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 (Estimate) |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| Railway | | | | |
| Buses | | | | |
| Minibuses | | | | |
| Ferries | | | | |

2. The estimated provision for 2024-25 for the \$2 Scheme is \$2,006.576 million more than the revised estimate for 2023-24, representing an increase of 50.2%. What are the specific justifications and reasons for such an estimate?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

1. The Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the major participating public transport operators under the \$2 Scheme in the past 3 financial years is tabulated below:

| | 2021-22 ^(Note) Actual (\$'000) | 2022-23 Actual (\$'000) | 2023-24 Revised Estimate (\$'000) |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| MTR Corporation Limited | 368,927 | 1,165,741 | 1,525,018 |
| Franchised bus operators | 576,020 | 1,187,781 | 1,536,225 |
| Ferry operators | 38,362 | 78,745 | 89,958 |
| Green minibus operators | 407,401 | 564,345 | 706,606 |

^(Note) From 27 February 2022, the \$2 Scheme has been extended to cover persons aged 60 to 64.

The estimated expenditure of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators under the \$2 Scheme for 2024-25 is about \$6.01 billion.

- 2023-24 is the first financial year during which the Hong Kong society has returned to normalcy after the epidemic. The revised estimate has reflected the gradual pick up of passenger trips. In drawing up the estimate for 2024-25, apart from reflecting the resumption of average daily passenger trips of the elderly and eligible persons with disabilities to the pre-epidemic normal level, the Government has taken into account changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, transport fare adjustments, changes in public transport operators participating in the \$2 Scheme, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)246

(Question Serial No. 1615)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 227 of the Budget Speech that the review of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (i.e. "the \$2 Scheme") will be completed within this year. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the review timetable and detailed plan; and
2. the annual expenditure of the \$2 Scheme since its extension to cover persons aged 60 to 64?

Asked by: Hon LEE Hoey Simon (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

1. The Financial Secretary announced in the 2024-25 Budget that the mode of operation of the \$2 Scheme would be reviewed with the aim of maintaining its financial sustainability. The Government would take into account the effectiveness of different options in containing the growth of expenditure and factors including the practicability of different options in the review, which is expected to be completed within this year.
2. From 27 February 2022, the \$2 Scheme has been extended to cover persons aged 60 to 64. The amounts of Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators under the \$2 Scheme for 2021-22 and 2022-23 are about \$1.4 billion and \$3.08 billion respectively. For 2023-24, the relevant revised estimated expenditure is about \$4 billion.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)247

(Question Serial No. 1127)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that the \$2 Scheme will be reviewed. Please list the following for the past five years:

1. the total amounts of government subsidy under the Scheme and the amounts of the subsidy for respective public transport operators respectively each year, including the amounts of subsidy for holders of Elder Octopus, JoyYou Cards and Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status";
2. the respective numbers of passengers benefitted with a breakdown by transport operator each year, including the respective numbers of elderly and eligible persons with disabilities;
3. the numbers of suspected cases of abuse or fraudulent use received so far, including the number of successfully prosecuted cases and the types of public transport modes involved;
4. the details and timetable of the work plan for the review of the \$2 Scheme; and
5. whether the review will take into account the significant benefits brought about by the Scheme to the community, including encouraging the elderly to keep working, alleviating the manpower shortage in Hong Kong, helping the elderly to establish an active lifestyle and reducing the huge expenditure on public healthcare.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

1. The Transport Department (TD) does not maintain the statistics on the different types of cards used by eligible persons to enjoy the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme). The Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the \$2 Scheme in the past 5 years by type of beneficiary is tabulated below:

| PTO | Financial year | Elderly persons ^(Note 1) | Eligible persons with disabilities |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) | 2019-20 Actual (\$'000) | 287,411 | 54,258 |
| | 2020-21 Actual (\$'000) | 226,136 | 40,606 |
| | 2021-22 Actual (\$'000) | 312,475 | 56,452 |
| | 2022-23 Actual (\$'000) | 1,110,982 | 54,759 |
| | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) | 1,457,533 | 67,485 |
| Franchised bus operators | 2019-20 Actual (\$'000) | 393,235 | 147,932 |
| | 2020-21 Actual (\$'000) | 293,215 | 114,798 |
| | 2021-22 Actual (\$'000) | 423,991 | 152,029 |
| | 2022-23 Actual (\$'000) | 1,051,027 | 136,754 |
| | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) | 1,376,273 | 159,952 |
| Ferry operators | 2019-20 Actual (\$'000) | 26,237 | 3,364 |
| | 2020-21 Actual (\$'000) | 23,818 | 3,186 |
| | 2021-22 Actual (\$'000) | 34,271 | 4,091 |
| | 2022-23 Actual (\$'000) | 74,942 | 3,803 |
| | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) | 85,907 | 4,051 |
| Green minibus operators | 2019-20 Actual (\$'000) | 323,126 | 39,425 |
| | 2020-21 Actual (\$'000) | 281,045 | 33,872 |

| PTO | Financial year | Elderly persons ^(Note 1) | Eligible persons with disabilities |
|--|---|--|---|
| | 2021-22 Actual (\$'000) | 366,146 | 41,255 |
| | 2022-23 Actual (\$'000) | 526,798 | 37,547 |
| | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) | 662,493 | 44,113 |
| Red minibus operators ^(Note 1) | 2019-20 Actual (\$'000) | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | |
| | 2020-21 Actual (\$'000) | | |
| | 2021-22 Actual (\$'000) | 3,478 | 264 |
| | 2022-23 Actual (\$'000) | 57,631 | 3,793 |
| | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) | 97,595 | 6,284 |
| Kaito operators ^(Note 1) | 2019-20 Actual (\$'000) | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | |
| | 2020-21 Actual (\$'000) | | |
| | 2021-22 Actual (\$'000) | 651 | 32 |
| | 2022-23 Actual (\$'000) | 7,648 | 293 |
| | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) | 6,455 | 220 |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited ^(Note 1) | 2019-20 Actual (\$'000) | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | |
| | 2020-21 Actual (\$'000) | | |
| | 2021-22 Actual (\$'000) | 170 ^(Note 2) | 18 |
| | 2022-23 Actual (\$'000) | 2,017 ^(Note 2) | 242 |
| | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) | 2,458 ^(Note 2) | 287 |
| Residents' service operators ^(Note 1) | 2019-20 Actual (\$'000) | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | |
| | 2020-21 Actual (\$'000) | | |
| | 2021-22 | | |

| PTO | Financial year | Elderly persons ^(Note 1) | Eligible persons with disabilities |
|--------------|--|--|---|
| | Actual (\$'000) | | |
| | 2022-23 Actual (\$'000) | 10,161 | 426 |
| | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) | 27,400 | 1,206 |
| Total | 2019-20 Actual (\$'000) | 1,030,009 | 244,979 |
| | 2020-21 Actual (\$'000) | 824,214 | 192,462 |
| | 2021-22 Actual (\$'000) | 1,141,182 | 254,141 |
| | 2022-23 Actual (\$'000) | 2,841,206 | 237,617 |
| | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) | 3,716,114 | 283,598 |

(Note 1) From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the \$2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60, with extension to cover red minibuses, kaitos and trams; and from 25 September 2022, the \$2 Scheme has been extended to cover residents' services.

(Note 2) Hong Kong Tramways Limited offers a concessionary fare of \$1.3 for elderly persons aged 65 or above, which is lower than the flat fare of \$2 under the \$2 Scheme. Therefore, the \$2 Scheme is not applicable to elderly persons aged 65 or above travelling on trams.

2. The numbers of average daily passenger trips taken by the beneficiaries under the \$2 Scheme in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by PTO, are set out below:

| PTO | Calendar Year | Elderly persons ^(Note 3) | Eligible persons with disabilities |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| MTRCL | 2019 | 454 000 | 64 000 |
| | 2020 | 362 000 | 47 000 |
| | 2021 | 459 000 | 60 000 |
| | 2022 | 748 000 | 55 000 |
| | 2023 | 954 000 | 69 000 |
| Franchised bus operators | 2019 | 537 000 | 72 000 |
| | 2020 | 406 000 | 56 000 |
| | 2021 | 530 000 | 68 000 |
| | 2022 | 786 000 | 60 000 |
| | 2023 | 966 000 | 68 000 |
| Ferry operators | 2019 | 7 200 | 1 000 |
| | 2020 | 6 600 | 900 |

| PTO | Calendar Year | Elderly persons ^(Note 3) | Eligible persons with disabilities |
|--|---------------|---|------------------------------------|
| | 2021 | 8 100 | 1 100 |
| | 2022 | 13 500 | 1 000 |
| | 2023 | 16 100 | 1 100 |
| Green minibus operators | 2019 | 258 000 | 31 000 |
| | 2020 | 210 000 | 25 000 |
| | 2021 | 250 000 | 30 000 |
| | 2022 | 354 000 | 26 000 |
| | 2023 | 415 000 | 28 000 |
| Red minibus operators ^(Note 3) | 2019 | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | |
| | 2020 | | |
| | 2021 | | |
| | 2022 | 19 900 | 1 300 |
| | 2023 | 34 100 | 2 100 |
| Kaito operators ^(Note 3) | 2019 | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | |
| | 2020 | | |
| | 2021 | | |
| | 2022 | 2 500 | 100 |
| | 2023 | 2 400 | 100 |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited ^(Note 3) | 2019 | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | |
| | 2020 | | |
| | 2021 | | |
| | 2022 | 6 400 ^(Note 4) | 800 |
| | 2023 | 6 800 ^(Note 4) | 800 |
| Residents' service operators ^(Note 3) | 2019 | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | |
| | 2020 | | |
| | 2021 | | |
| | 2022 | 9 400 | 400 |
| | 2023 | 12 700 | 400 |
| Total ^(Note 5) | 2019 | 1 256 200 | 168 000 |
| | 2020 | 984 600 | 128 900 |
| | 2021 | 1 247 100 | 159 100 |
| | 2022 | 1 940 300 | 145 300 |
| | 2023 | 2 408 100 | 169 600 |

^(Note 3) From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the \$2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60, with extension to cover red minibuses, kaitos and trams; and from 25 September 2022, the \$2 Scheme has been extended to cover residents' services.

^(Note 4) Hong Kong Tramways Limited offers a concessionary fare of \$1.3 for elderly persons aged 65 or above, which is lower than the flat fare of \$2 under the \$2 Scheme. Therefore, the \$2 Scheme is not applicable to elderly persons aged 65 or above travelling on trams.

^(Note 5) Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

3. The TD has all along been requesting PTOs to strengthen ticket inspection and passenger identity verification work, and strictly enforce the penalty as set out in relevant legislation and by-laws to prevent abuses of the \$2 Scheme. The TD also conducts surveys and monitors the situation.

To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the \$2 Scheme by ineligible persons, the TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at end-February this year, a total of around 350 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 650 routes with about 2 360 persons inspected for suspected abuse of \$2 Scheme, and 2 suspected abuse cases were found and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearing of one of the cases has been completed and the passenger involved was fined approximately \$14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around \$2,000). The other case is currently under the Police's investigation. The TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases to the Police for follow-up and criminal investigation where there is sufficient evidence so as to ensure that the resources of the \$2 Scheme are spent properly. During the same period, the MTR Corporation Limited, in its enforcement actions, imposed surcharges to around 4 260 ineligible persons for abusing the \$2 Scheme.

4. and 5.

The Financial Secretary has announced in the 2024-25 Budget that the mode of operation of the \$2 Scheme would be reviewed in order to enable the continued provision of subsidies of the scheme in a financially sustainable manner. The Government has stated clearly that it will maintain the policy intent of the \$2 Scheme to build a caring and inclusive society by encouraging the beneficiaries to participate more in community activities. The Government will take into account the effectiveness of different options in containing the growth of expenditure and factors including the practicability of these options in the review, which is expected to be completed within this year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)248

(Question Serial No. 1653)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in Paragraph 227 of the Budget Speech that the Government will complete the review of the \$2 Scheme within this year to enable the continued provision of subsidies of the Scheme in a financially sustainable manner. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. whether the Government will consider setting up a refined mechanism, such as restricting the number of trips taken or the amount of payments per day, to avoid the abuse of the \$2 Scheme; and
2. whether there is a plan to step up inspection and enforcement efforts to curb fraudulent claim for concession, and whether the Government will consider raising the penalties as a deterrent to plug the loophole in the social welfare system?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-wang, Robert (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

1. The Financial Secretary announced in the 2024-25 Budget that the mode of operation of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) would be reviewed in order to enable the continued provision of subsidies of the scheme in a financially sustainable manner. The Government would take into account the effectiveness of different options in containing the growth of expenditure and factors including the practicability of these options in the review.
2. The Transport Department (TD) has all along been requesting public transport operators (PTOs) to strengthen ticket inspection and passenger identity verification work and to

strictly enforce the penalty as set out in relevant legislation and by-laws to prevent any abuse. TD also conducts surveys and monitors the situation.

To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the \$2 Scheme by ineligible persons, the TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at end-February this year, a total of around 350 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 650 routes with about 2 360 persons inspected for suspected abuse of \$2 Scheme, and two suspected abuse cases were found and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearing of one of the cases has been completed and the passenger involved was fined approximately \$14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around \$2,000). The other case is currently under the Police's investigation. The TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases to the Police for follow-up and criminal investigation where there is sufficient evidence so as to ensure that the resources of the \$2 Scheme are spent properly. During the same period, the MTR Corporation Limited, in its enforcement actions, imposed surcharges to around 4 260 ineligible persons for abusing the \$2 Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)249

(Question Serial No. 3184)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators under the Scheme, as well as the total numbers of patronage and the percentages of the beneficiaries of the respective public transports in the past 3 years;
2. the manpower and percentage of the expenditure involved in combating the abuse of the Scheme since last year, and the estimated manpower and expenditure this year;
3. the number of inspections conducted, the kind of public transport involved, the number of people inspected and the number of illegal use cases since last year, and whether the cases were referred to the Police for further investigation;
4. whether the public transport operators are required to employ staff to combat the abuse of the Scheme, and whether the Government has details of the relevant staffing establishment; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons;
5. with reference to the establishment of MTR's Customer Service and Revenue Protection Officers which has clear and openly stipulated working hours, and are required to wear uniforms while enforcing the law, hence affecting effectiveness in combating the abuse of the Scheme, whether the Government has considered allowing relevant officers to perform duties in plain clothes at irregular hours to enhance effectiveness; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons; and

6. whether the Government has analysed transport data with big data to narrow the scope of law enforcement and conduct targeted ambush operation; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 93)

Reply:

1. The amounts of Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) for 2021-22 and 2022-23 are about \$1.4 billion and \$3.08 billion respectively. The relevant revised estimated expenditure for 2023-24 is about \$4 billion.

The numbers of average daily passenger trips taken by the beneficiaries under the \$2 Scheme and their percentages in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

| Calendar year | Elderly persons^(Note) | Eligible persons with disabilities | Total |
|----------------------|---|---|---------------------|
| 2021 | 1 247 100 (88.7%) | 159 100 (11.3%) | 1 406 200 (100%) |
| 2022 | 1 190 300 (57.0%) | 145 300 (7.0%) | 2 085 600 (100%) |
| 2023 | 1 536 300 (59.6%) | 169 600 (6.6%) | 2 577 700 (100%) |

^(Note) From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the \$2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60.

2. As the work against abuse of the \$2 Scheme is mainly conducted by the existing staff of the Transport Department (TD), there is no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved.
- 3., 4., 5. and 6.

The TD has all along been requesting PTOs to strengthen ticket inspection and passenger identity verification work, and strictly enforce the penalty as set out in relevant legislation and by-laws to prevent abuses of the \$2 Scheme. The TD also conducts surveys and monitors the situation.

During site monitoring surveys jointly conducted by the TD and PTOs in the past 5 years on the Mass Transit Railway (MTR), buses, ferries, kaitos, minibuses, trams and residents' buses, 1 419 suspected abuse cases were found.

To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the \$2 Scheme by ineligible persons, the TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at end-February this year, a total of around 350 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 650 routes with about 2 360 persons inspected for suspected abuse of \$2 Scheme, and 2 suspected abuse cases were found and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearing of one of the cases has been

completed and the passenger involved was fined approximately \$14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around \$2,000). The other case is currently under the Police's investigation. The TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases to the Police for follow-up and criminal investigation where there is sufficient evidence so as to ensure that the resources of the \$2 Scheme are spent properly. During the same period, the MTR Corporation Limited, in its enforcement actions, imposed surcharges to around 4 260 ineligible persons for abusing the \$2 Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)250

(Question Serial No. 2179)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Concerning the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme), will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the amounts of funding for subsidising the fares of the beneficiaries and the number of beneficiaries in each of the past 3 years;
2. the amounts of subsidies disbursed to various public transport operators in each of the past 3 years; and
3. the numbers of beneficiaries and the respective amounts involved in respect of fare subsidy per trip in the past 3 years, broken down into \$0-\$4.9, \$5-\$9.9, \$10-\$14.9 and \$15 or above?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

1. & 2.

The Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) from 2021-22 to 2023-24 is tabulated below:

| Public transport operator | 2021-22 ^{Note 1} Actual (\$'000) | 2022-23 ^{Note 2} Actual (\$'000) | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) | 368,927 | 1,165,741 | 1,525,018 |
| Franchised bus operators | 576,020 | 1,187,781 | 1,536,225 |
| Ferry operators | 38,362 | 78,745 | 89,958 |
| Green minibus operators | 407,401 | 564,345 | 706,606 |
| Red minibus operators | 3,742 | 61,424 | 103,879 |
| Kaito operators | 683 | 7,941 | 6,675 |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited | 188 | 2,259 | 2,745 |
| Residents' service operators | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | 10,587 | 28,606 |
| Total | 1,395,323 | 3,078,823 | 3,999,712 |

Note 1 From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the \$2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60, with extension to cover red minibuses, kaitos and trams.

Note 2 From 25 September 2022, the \$2 Scheme has been extended to cover residents' services.

The numbers of average daily passenger trips taken by the beneficiaries under the \$2 Scheme in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

| Year | Elderly persons ^{Note 3} | Eligible persons with disabilities |
|-------------|--|---|
| 2021 | 1 247 100 | 159 000 |
| 2022 | 1 940 300 | 145 000 |
| 2023 | 2 408 100 | 169 600 |

Note 3 From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the \$2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60.

3. The Transport Department does not maintain the statistics required.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)251

(Question Serial No. 2068)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned under Programme (5) in 2024-25 that the Government will continue to oversee the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. based on the known data relating to the \$2 ride, the number and percentage of JoyYou Card users;
2. separately, a breakdown of users, the amounts involved and modes of transport by age group (5-year group); and
3. whether the Government can provide detailed information on the data of short rides on long bus routes?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

1. As at the end of February 2024, a total of about 2.18 million eligible persons aged 60 or above have applied for the JoyYou Card, accounting for around 96% of the relevant population.
2. The numbers of average daily passenger trips taken by the beneficiaries under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) in 2023, with a breakdown by public transport operator, are set out below:

| Public transport operator | Elderly persons ^(Note 1) | Eligible persons with disabilities |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) | 954 000 | 69 000 |
| Franchised bus operators | 966 000 | 68 000 |
| Ferry operators | 16 100 | 1 100 |
| Green minibus operators | 415 000 | 28 000 |
| Red minibus operators | 34 100 | 2 100 |
| Kaito operators | 2 400 | 100 |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited | 6 800 ^(Note 2) | 800 |
| Residents' service operators | 12 700 | 400 |
| Total ^(Note 3) | 2 408 100 | 169 600 |

The Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators under the \$2 Scheme for 2023-24 is tabulated below:

| Public transport operator | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) | |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| | Elderly persons ^(Note 1) | Eligible persons with disabilities |
| MTRCL | 1,457,533 | 67,485 |
| Franchised bus operators | 1,367,273 | 159,952 |
| Ferry operators | 85,907 | 4,051 |
| Green minibus operators | 662,493 | 44,113 |
| Red minibus operators | 97,595 | 6,284 |
| Kaito operators | 6,455 | 220 |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited | 2,458 ^(Note 2) | 287 |
| Residents' service operators | 27,400 | 1,206 |
| Total | 3,716,114 | 283,598 |

^(Note 1) From 27 February 2022, the eligible age for the \$2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60.

(Note 2) Hong Kong Tramways Limited offers a concessionary fare of \$1.3 for elderly persons aged 65 or above, which is lower than the flat fare of \$2 under the \$2 Scheme. Therefore, the \$2 Scheme is not applicable to elderly persons aged 65 or above travelling on trams.

(Note 3) Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

3. The Transport Department does not maintain information on rides of the beneficiaries.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)252

(Question Serial No. 1200)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (166) Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme), will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Expenditure in the past 3 financial years.
- (b) Please set out in tabular form the numbers of illegal use cases of the \$2 Scheme in the past 3 financial years, broken down by public transport operator.
- (c) Will the Government consider replacing the \$2 fare under the Scheme with a fare at 20% of the full fare so as to combat the abuse of the Scheme and the “short rides on long bus routes” situation? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (d) It is understood that to combat the abuse of the Scheme and the “short rides on long bus routes” situation, some bus companies installed an additional Octopus machine before the exit door of the bus to facilitate the charging of section fare. Has the Government enquired the bus companies about the relevant arrangement? If yes, what are the effectiveness and expenditure involved and has there been any problem of abuse? If no, what are the reasons?
- (e) It is understood that to combat the abuse of the Scheme and the “short rides on long bus routes” situation, some bus companies installed additional Octopus machines at bus stops to facilitate the charging of section fare. In this regard –
 - (i) What is the number of bus stops across the territory as at 29 February 2024?
 - (ii) Has the Government considered the feasibility of the aforesaid arrangement? If yes, how many bus stops across the territory can be installed with an additional

Octopus machine and what will be the expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

- (a) The Government's reimbursements of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities for 2021-22 and 2022-23 are around \$1.4 billion and \$3.08 billion respectively. For 2023-24, the relevant revised estimated expenditure is around \$4 billion.
- (b) The Transport Department (TD) has all along been requesting PTOs to strengthen ticket inspection and passenger identity verification work and to strictly enforce the penalty as set out in relevant legislation and by-laws to prevent abuses. TD also conducts surveys and monitors the situation.

During site monitoring surveys jointly conducted by TD and PTOs on the Mass Transit Railway (MTR), buses, ferries, kaitos, minibuses, trams and residents' buses, 1 214 suspected abuse cases were found. The numbers of the suspected abuse cases with a breakdown by year and by PTO are set out below:

| Public Transport Operator | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Total |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| MTR Corporation Limited | 464 | 314 | 295 | 1 073 |
| Franchised bus operators | 38 | 11 | - | 49 |
| Ferry operators | 34 | 16 | 1 | 51 |
| Green minibus operators | 17 | 14 | 3 | 34 |
| Red minibus operators | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | 3 | - | 3 |
| Kaito operators | | - | 1 | 1 |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited | | - | - | - |
| Residents' service operators | | 3 | - | 3 |
| Total | 553 | 361 | 300 | 1 214 |

To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the \$2 Scheme by ineligible persons, TD has enhanced enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at -February this year, a total of around 350 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 650 routes with about 2 360 people inspected for suspected abuse of \$2 Scheme, and two suspected cases were found and

referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearing of one of the cases has been completed and the passenger involved was fined approximately \$14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totaling around \$2,000). The other case is currently under the Police's investigation. TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases to the Police for follow-up and criminal investigation if there is sufficient evidence so as to ensure that the resources of the \$2 Scheme are spent properly. During the same period, the MTR Corporation Limited, in its enforcement actions, imposed surcharges to around 4 260 ineligible persons for abusing the \$2 Scheme.

- (c) The Financial Secretary announced in the 2024-25 Budget that the mode of operation of the \$2 Scheme would be reviewed in order to enable the continued provision of subsidies of the scheme in a financially sustainable manner. The Government would take into account the effectiveness of different options in containing the growth of expenditure and factors including the practicability of these options in the review.

(d)&(e)

The Government has all along been encouraging bus companies to offer fare concessions wherever feasible. One-way or two-way section fares are currently available on about 80 per cent of franchised bus routes. Most of the remaining 20 per cent are short-haul routes. Regarding whether to request the bus companies to provide more section fares, TD needs to give due regard to the overall transport services and planning considerations, including how to address and balance different travel needs of short-haul and long-haul passengers. The feasibility and specific arrangements for individual routes are also subject to the actual situation of the routes. Full implementation of section fares may result in more short-haul passengers travelling on long-haul routes, taking up the capacity of long-haul routes and affecting long-haul passengers. If franchised bus operators have to increase the trip frequencies of their long-haul routes, it would aggravate the burden on road traffic. Moreover, when short-haul passengers alight midway, the occupancy rates of long-haul routes may become too low to make effective use of public transport resources. Introducing more section fares may also lead to duplication of resources with existing short-haul routes or other public transport services, upsetting the delicate balance among various public transport services. Hence, TD will carefully assess whether it is suitable to apply section fares to individual routes.

At present, no bus company has installed an additional card tapping device in front of the exit door for section fare collection. The main reason is that the location is relatively far away from the bus captain's seat, and it is harder for the bus captain to monitor whether there is any abuse by passengers who do not alight at that particular bus stop after tapping their card. Having said that, some bus companies have installed card tapping systems at bus stops for passengers to tap their cards after alighting, thereby enjoying the two-way section fare concessions. Besides, some individual routes require alighting passengers to go to the front of the bus to tap their card again for fare rebate at the automatic fare adjustment device of the bus system or the fare collection device with section fare set up by bus captain. However, both of the above arrangements are subject to various factors. The former arrangement is constrained by the physical environment of the bus stops, such as whether there is sufficient space and whether electricity supply is available in the vicinity, rendering it not applicable to every

bus stop; while the latter arrangement is not suitable for bus routes which are busy and have high patronage as it would be difficult for passengers to go to the front of the bus to tap their card again in a crowded compartment before alighting. TD will continue to explore with the franchised bus companies the different modes of operation of two-way section fares.

As at 29 February 2024, there are 9 085 bus stops in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)253

(Question Serial No. 2878)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the implementation of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme), please advise the Committee:

1. of the total amount of subsidies reimbursed to public transport operators (PTOs), the total number of trips with reimbursement and the average amount of subsidies reimbursed per trip in the past 3 years in the following table; and

| 2021/2022/2023 | Total amount of reimbursement | Total number of trips with reimbursement | Average amount of subsidies reimbursed per trip |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Franchised bus operator | | | |
| Trams | | | |
| Ferries | | | |
| MTR | | | |
| Green minibuses | | | |
| Red minibuses | | | |
| Kaitos | | | |
| Residents' services | | | |

2. of the average fares of various franchised bus operators before/after the exclusion of the beneficiaries under the \$2 Scheme (annual farebox revenue/annual patronage) in the past 3 years in the following table.

| 2021/2022/2023 | Annual patronage (excluding beneficiaries under the \$2 Scheme) | Annual farebox revenue (excluding reimbursement) | Total number of trips benefited from the \$2 Scheme | Total amount of reimbursement under the \$2 Scheme |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Franchised bus operator | | | | |

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

1. The Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) from 2021-22 to 2023-24 is tabulated below:

| | 2021-22 ^(Note 1) Actual (\$'000) | 2022-23 ^(Note 2) Actual (\$'000) | 2023-24 Revised estimate (\$'000) |
|--|---|--|--|
| MTR Corporation Limited | 368,927 | 1,165,741 | 1,525,018 |
| The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited | 409,137 | 828,615 | 1,053,996 |
| Citybus Limited ^(Note 3) | 81,227 | 174,906 | 348,578 |
| New World First Bus Services Limited ^(Note 3) | 67,287 | 138,862 | 69,424 |
| Long Win Bus Company Limited | 11,303 | 29,066 | 39,729 |
| New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited | 7,066 | 16,332 | 24,498 |
| Ferry operators | 38,362 | 78,745 | 89,958 |
| Green minibus operators | 407,401 | 564,345 | 706,606 |
| Red minibus operators | 3,742 | 61,424 | 103,879 |
| Kaito operators | 683 | 7,941 | 6,675 |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited | 188 | 2,259 | 2,745 |
| Residents' service operators | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | 10,587 | 28,606 |
| Total | 1,395,323 | 3,078,823 | 3,999,712 |

^(Note 1) From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the \$2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60, with extension to cover red minibuses, kaitos and trams.

(Note 2) From 25 September 2022, the \$2 Scheme has been extended to cover residents' services.

(Note 3) The franchise of New World First Bus Services Limited merged with Citybus Limited (Franchise 1) on 1 July 2023 to form a new Citybus Limited (Franchise for the Urban and New Territories bus network).

The numbers of average daily passenger trips taken by the beneficiaries under the \$2 Scheme in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by PTO, are set out in the following table:

| PTO | Calendar Year | Persons aged 65 or above | Eligible persons with disabilities | Persons aged 60 to 64 (Note 4) |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| MTRCL | 2021 | 459 000 | 60 000 | - |
| | 2022 | 430 000 | 55 000 | 318 000 |
| | 2023 | 585 000 | 69 000 | 369 000 |
| Franchised bus operators | 2021 | 530 000 | 68 000 | - |
| | 2022 | 500 000 | 60 000 | 286 000 |
| | 2023 | 631 000 | 68 000 | 335 000 |
| Ferry operators | 2021 | 8 100 | 1 100 | - |
| | 2022 | 7 500 | 1 000 | 6 000 |
| | 2023 | 10 100 | 1 100 | 6 000 |
| Green minibus operators | 2021 | 250 000 | 30 000 | - |
| | 2022 | 233 000 | 26 000 | 121 000 |
| | 2023 | 279 000 | 28 000 | 136 000 |
| Red minibus operators (Note 4) | 2021 | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | | |
| | 2022 | 11 400 | 1 300 | 8 500 |
| | 2023 | 20 900 | 2 100 | 13 200 |
| Kaito operators (Note 4) | 2021 | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | | |
| | 2022 | 1 500 | 100 | 1 000 |
| | 2023 | 1 500 | 100 | 900 |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited (Note 4) | 2021 | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | | |
| | 2022 | -(Note 5) | 800 | 6 400 |
| | 2023 | -(Note 5) | 800 | 6 800 |
| Residents' service operators (Note 4) | 2021 | The \$2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned | | |
| | 2022 | 6 000 | 400 | 3 400 |
| | 2023 | 8 100 | 400 | 4 600 |
| Total (Note 6) | 2021 | 1 247 100 | 159 100 | - |
| | 2022 | 1 190 300 | 145 300 | 750 000 |
| | 2023 | 1 536 300 | 169 600 | 871 800 |

(Note 4) The \$2 Scheme has lowered the eligible age from 65 to 60, and has been extended to cover red minibuses, kaitos and trams from 27 February 2022; with further extension to cover residents' services from 25 September 2022.

(Note 5) Hong Kong Tramways Limited offers a concessionary fare of \$1.3 for elderly persons aged 65 or above, which is lower than the flat \$2 fare under the \$2 Scheme. Therefore, the \$2 Scheme is not applicable to elderly persons aged 65 or above travelling on trams.

(Note 6) Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

The Transport Department does not have the information on the average amount of subsidies per trip under the \$2 Scheme.

- The annual patronage and annual farebox revenue of various franchised bus operators in the past 3 years are set out in the following table. As the financial year dates of franchised bus operators vary, the periods covered by the relevant data are different. It is inappropriate to put side by side the data on the reimbursement of the revenue forgone and the average daily passenger trips taken by the beneficiaries by financial year of the operators.

Year of 2021/Financial year of 2020-21

| Franchised bus operator (Note 7) | Annual patronage (Note 8) (million) | Annual farebox revenue (Note 9) (\$ billion) |
|--|--|--|
| KMB | 891 | 6.28 |
| LW | 29 | 0.32 |
| NWFB (Note 10) | 211 | 1.52 |
| CTB(F1) (Note 10) | 222 | 1.69 |
| CTB(F2) (Note 10) | 30 | 0.37 |
| NLB (Note 11) | 22 | 0.11 |

Year of 2022/Financial year of 2021-22

| Franchised bus operator (Note 7) | Annual patronage (Note 8) (million) | Annual farebox revenue (Note 9) (\$ billion) |
|--|--|--|
| KMB | 805 | 5.77 |
| LW | 29 | 0.32 |
| NWFB | 129 | 0.97 |
| CTB(F1) | 129 | 1.08 |
| CTB(F2) | 18 | 0.23 |
| NLB (Note 11) | 25 | 0.12 |

Year of 2023/Financial year of 2022-23

| Franchised bus operator (Note 7) | Annual patronage (Note 8) (million) | Annual farebox revenue (Note 9) (\$ billion) |
|--|--|--|
| KMB | 924 | Data not available |
| LW | 43 | |
| NWFB (Note 12) | 308 | |
| CTB(F1) (Note 12) | | |
| CTB(F2) | 31 | |
| NLB (Note 11) | 27 | 0.14 |

(Note 7) KMB: The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited

LW: Long Win Bus Company Limited

NWFB: New World First Bus Services Limited

CTB(F1): Citybus Limited (Franchise for Hong Kong Island and Cross-Harbour bus network). The new franchise took effect on 1 July 2023, which operates both CTB's and NWFB's routes under the name of Citybus Limited (Franchise for the Urban and New Territories bus network).

CTB(F2): Citybus Limited (Franchise for Airport and North Lantau bus network)

NLB: New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited

Unless specified otherwise, the end date of financial year of the franchised bus operators is 31 December of that year.

(Note 8) The information, which included the patronage of the beneficiaries of the \$2 Scheme, was provided by the bus operators.

(Note 9) The information, which included the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the operators under the \$2 Scheme, was provided by the bus operators.

(Note 10) The financial year of 2020-21 of NWFB, CTB(F1) and CTB(F2) covered a period of 18 months, i.e. from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2021. The relevant figures of patronage and farebox revenue also covered a period of 18 months.

(Note 11) The financial year of NLB is from 1 April of each year to 31 March of the following year.

(Note 12) NWFB and CTB(F1) merged on 1 July 2023. The relevant figures of NWFB have been included in the calculation for CTB(F1).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)254

(Question Serial No. 2887)

Head: (186) Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title): (166) Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Programme: (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Transport (Ms Angela LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Subhead 166 shows that the approved estimate for 2023-24 in respect of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities is \$6.725 billion while its revised estimate is substantially reduced to \$3.999 billion. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

The revised estimate of Subhead 166 for the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme) for 2023-24 is about \$2.73 billion lower than the original approved estimate. This is mainly due to lower-than-expected number of passenger trips and fares of various public transport operators during the post-epidemic recovery phase, as well as lower-than-expected numbers of red minibus routes, kaito services and residents' services joining the \$2 Scheme in the year.

- End -