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Replies to initial written questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26

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LWB(W)236	2639	TIK Chi-yuen	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	3271	TSE Wai-chuen, Tony	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	2675	WONG Chun-sek, Edmund	186	(5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for

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LWB(W)240	3379	CHAN Hak-kan	141	(2) Social Welfare
LWB(W)241	3840	KAN Wai-mun, Carmen	141	
LWB(W)242	3377	KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen	141	(2) Social Welfare
LWB(W)243	3737	LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth	141	(2) Social Welfare
LWB(W)244	3704	TIK Chi-yuen	141	(5) Subvention: Shine Skills Centres
LWB(W)245	3705	TIK Chi-yuen	141	(2) Social Welfare
LWB(W)246	3708	TIK Chi-yuen	141	(2) Social Welfare
LWB(W)247	3713	TIK Chi-yuen	141	(2) Social Welfare
LWB(W)248	3714	TIK Chi-yuen	141	(2) Social Welfare
LWB(W)249	3715	TIK Chi-yuen	141	(2) Social Welfare
LWB(W)250	3855	TIK Chi-yuen	141	
LWB(W)251	4018	TIK Chi-yuen	141	(2) Social Welfare
LWB(W)252	3315	CHAN Pui-leung	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)253	3333	CHAN Pui-leung	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)254	3885	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)255	3361	HO King-hong, Adrian Pedro	170	(7) Young People
LWB(W)256	3841	KAN Wai-mun, Carmen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)257	3842	KAN Wai-mun, Carmen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)258	3843	KAN Wai-mun, Carmen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)259	3926	KWOK Wai-keung	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)260	3461	LEUNG Hei, Edward	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)261	3462	LEUNG Hei, Edward	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)262	3493	LEUNG Hei, Edward	170	(3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)263	3494	LEUNG Hei, Edward	170	(3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)264	3731	LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)265	3732	LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)266	3733	LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth	170	(7) Young People
LWB(W)267	3734	LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth	170	(7) Young People

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LWB(W)270	3544	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)271	3545	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)272	3546	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)273	3547	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)274	3548	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)275	3549	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)276	3550	TIK Chi-yuen	170	
LWB(W)277	3551	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)278	3552	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)279	3553	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)280	3554	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)281	3555	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)282	3556	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)283	3557	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)284	3558	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)285	3559	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)286	3560	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)287	3561	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)288	3562	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)289	3563	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)290	3564	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)291	3565	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)292	3566	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)293	3567	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)294	3568	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)295	3569	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)296	3570	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)297	3571	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)298	3572	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)299	3573	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)300	3574	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)301	3575	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)302	3576	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)303	3577	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)304	3578	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)305	3579	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)306	3580	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)307	3581	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)308	3582	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)309	3583	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)310	3584	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

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LWB(W)312	3586	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)313	3587	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)314	3588	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)315	3589	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)316	3590	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)317	3591	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)318	3592	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)319	3593	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)320	3594	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)321	3595	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)322	3596	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)323	3597	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)324	3598	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)325	3599	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)326	3600	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)327	3601	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)328	3602	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)329	3603	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)330	3604	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)331	3605	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)332	3606	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)333	3607	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)334	3608	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)335	3609	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)336	3610	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)337	3611	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)338	3612	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)339	3613	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)340	3614	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)341	3615	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)342	3616	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)343	3617	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)344	3618	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)345	3619	TIK Chi-yuen	170	
LWB(W)346	3655	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)347	3658	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)348	3659	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)349	3678	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)350	3679	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)351	3680	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)352	3681	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)353	3682	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)354	3684	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)355	3685	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)356	3686	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)357	3687	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)358	3693	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)359	3694	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

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LWB(W)361	3696	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)362	3697	TIK Chi-yuen	170	
LWB(W)363	3698	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)364	3699	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)365	3700	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly
LWB(W)366	3701	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)367	3702	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)368	3703	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare (3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)369	3707	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)370	3709	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)371	3710	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
LWB(W)372	3712	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)373	3717	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(2) Social Security
LWB(W)374	3854	TIK Chi-yuen	170	
LWB(W)375	3857	TIK Chi-yuen	170	(3) Services for The Elderly (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(W)376	3965	TIK Chi-yuen	170	
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LWB(W)378	3381	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)379	3915	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)380	3683	TIK Chi-yuen	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)381	3805	TIK Chi-yuen	186	(5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for

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Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)001

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1721)

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 Community Living Room (CLR) service, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:
1. Please advise on the number of subdivided unit households benefitted, number of registered members, average daily attendance, cumulative attendance, number of mutual aid groups, talks/activities on health and community resources organised, and number of cases referred to community services as at 6 March 2025 for each CLR.
2. What is the respective amount of funding allocated to each CLR?
3. The Government expects to review the effectiveness of the CLR project 1 year after its trial operation. What are the relevant criteria and indicators? What are the progress and outcome of the review so far?
4. What are the Government's plan for the future development of the Pilot Programme on CLR, which is set to operate for only 3 years? Will the current mode of operation be continued or adjusted? If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)

Reply:

1. The Government launched the Pilot Programme on Community Living Room (the Pilot Programme) in 2023 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 non-governmental organisations commissioned by the Government through funding from the Community Care Fund (CCF). The Pilot Programme is implemented to provide subdivided unit (SDU) households with additional living space and help them expand social networks, thereby enhancing their living standard and sense of belonging to the community. As at end-February 2025, 4 Community Living Rooms (CLRs) projects located in Sham Shui Po, To Kwa Wan, Hung Hom and Nam Cheong respectively have commenced operation for a period of 3 years each. In particular, the Sham Shui Po CLR, being the first project under the Pilot Programme, was expected to benefit 500 SDU households with an annual

attendance of about 80 000 at the time of its launch in December 2023. The key service statistics of the Sham Shui Po CLR as at November 2024 are as follows:

Key service statistics	Total (as at November 2024)
Number of SDU households benefitted	607 households
Number of registered members	1 699 persons
Average daily attendance	Approximately 483 attendances per day
Cumulative attendance	176 279 attendances
Number of mutual aid groups, talks/activities on health and community resources organised	158 activities
Number of cases referred to community services	195 cases

As the To Kwa Wan, Hung Hom and Nam Cheong CLRs only commenced operation in the third quarter of 2024, the relevant statistics are not available at this juncture given their relatively short operation periods.

2. As at end-February 2025, the estimated operational expenditures of the 4 CLRs already in operation are as follows:

	Total estimated operational expenditures for 3 years (funded by the CCF) ($ million)
Sham Shui Po CLR Project	26.75
To Kwa Wan CLR Project	31.31
Hung Hom CLR Project	24.70
Nam Cheong CLR Project	17.32

3 & 4. The Government has set a key performance indicator for projects under the Pilot Programme, i.e. enabling no less than 70% of members to experience an enhancement in their living space, sense of belonging to the community and interpersonal networks after using the facilities in the CLRs. The Government plans to complete the evaluation of the Pilot Programme within 2025-26, including charting the way forward.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)002

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0388)

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: Not Specified

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.: 14)

Reply:

The Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients (IDSP), funded by the Labour and Welfare Bureau and operated by the Hospital Authority (HA), provides discharged patients aged 60 or above who are at a higher risk of emergency re-admission with transitional and integrated support services for 6 to 8 weeks. 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 and refer discharged elderly patients in need to nursing care and rehabilitation services provided by the HA (e.g. the HA's geriatric day hospitals) and/or Home Support Team (HST) services. HSTs, which are operated by community service providers commissioned by the HA, comprise mainly social workers and care workers. The services

they provide include basic nursing care, personal care, meal service and household cleaning, etc.

The Government has expanded the IDSP since the third quarter of 2023. Compared with the 3 years prior to the IDSP expansion, the number of beneficiaries per annum increased by 12 000, from 33 000 to about 45 000, of which the number of referrals to home care services upon discharge increased by 2 000, from 9 000 to 11 000; and the number of attendees of carer trainings increased by 3 000, from 12 000 to 15 000. The annual total expenditure of the IDSP (including the service fees paid by the HA to community service providers) is as follows:

Year	Total expenditure ($ million)
2022-23	231.5
2023-24	274.1
2024-25 (revised estimate)	323.4

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 2024-25, 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

(Question Serial No. 1906)

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:

Regarding the financial provision for the "Guardianship Board and Environmental Advisory Service" under Programme (6), please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide the circumstances of the cases handled by the Guardianship Board (GB) in the past 5 years, with a yearly breakdown of the total number of cases handled by type and the number of guardianship applications which the GB refused to accept. How do the relevant statistics reflect the workload and handling efficiency of the GB?

2. Have key performance indicators been set for the GB and the Environmental Advisory Service (EAS)? For example, reduction in waiting time for case handling, increase in workload in providing advice to enterprises on improving environmental accessibility, and increase in publicity coverage. What are the specific details of the relevant indicators and to what extent have they been achieved?

3. How does the Government assess the effectiveness of the work of the GB and the EAS? Please provide the specific data, including the average case handling time, the implementation rate of improvement recommendations for enterprises, the number of participants in publicity activities and the results of satisfaction surveys? Have these figures met the expected targets?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

The Guardianship Board

The Guardianship Board (GB) is a statutory tribunal established under the Mental Health Ordinance (Cap. 136). Its main statutory function is to conduct hearings in order to make guardianship orders and appoint guardians for persons aged 18 or above with decision-making incapacities. The numbers of applications handled by the GB in the past 5 years are set out below:

Case type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Guardianship applications	218	297	246	286	267
Review of guardianship orders	260	229	277	272	255
Emergency guardianship orders and others	5	9	9	12	13
Total	**483**	**535**	**532**	**570**	**535**

The GB arranges hearings for all guardianship applications that meet the requirements stipulated under the Mental Health Ordinance (Cap. 136). The GB does not maintain statistics on rejected applications for guardianship orders. In general, applications may be rejected due to withdrawal by the applicant or a change in circumstances that renders a guardianship order unnecessary (e.g. a change in financial circumstances that eliminates the need to use the subject person's funds to meet his/her living expenses).

The GB has set performance pledges for processing guardianship applications, i.e. no more than 150 days from receipt of a completed social enquiry report to the hearing date for non-complicated cases, and no more than 270 days for complicated cases. In 2024, the actual processing times were 116 days and 129 days respectively, demonstrating performance that exceeds the targets pledged above. The GB submits annual reports to the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB). The LWB will continue to review the relevant services as appropriate.

The Environmental Advisory Service

With the subvention from the Government, the Rehabaid Society provides environmental advisory services (EAS), which mainly include providing advisory services on environmental design for persons with special needs, as well as conducting training courses and seminars to promote accessible environment. The Rehabaid Society is required to submit an annual plan to the Government each year, setting performance indicators for each service area, and to submit quarterly reports on its service performance. The performance indicators and actual performance in 2023-24 are set out below:

Performance indicator	2023-24	
	Target	**Actual**
Accessibility audit - Number of accessibility audit reports issued	40	40
Consultation and advice - Number of consultation and advisory services provided on environmental design	200	245
Enhancement of community accessibility and provision of skill training and education - Number of community accessibility-related committee meetings and/or forums attended - Number of accessibility-related training courses/workshops organised	39	44

The LWB will continue to monitor the EAS to ensure that its service performance is in line with the expected target.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1131)

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 adjustments to the transport fare concession scheme for the elderly

It is announced in the Budget Speech that the $2 concessionary fare scheme for the elderly will be adjusted. The number of concessionary trips per month for beneficiaries of the scheme will be limited, and the charge will be 80% of the full fare for trips with fare above $10. While these adjustments are meant to improve the situation of excessive use of the scheme, it is feared that they may cause inconvenience to some elderly people in their travel. Has the Government given sufficient and thorough consideration to the actual travel needs and financial conditions of the elderly when working out these adjustments? Will the Government further optimise the concessionary scheme in the future based on the feedback of the elderly and the actual travel information, with a view to striking a better balance between financial sustainability and elderly welfare protection?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The $2 concessionary fare has not been adjusted since the implementation of the $2 Scheme in 2012. With Hong Kong's ageing population and the continuous adjustment of public transport fares, the concessionary fare will not be financially sustainable if it remains unchanged. At present, about 60% of the public transport routes charge a fare of $10 or below. In the first 3 months after the full implementation of the real-name registration system for $2 Scheme, about 76% of the beneficiary trips involved routes with a fare of $10 or below. With $10 as the threshold for the fine-tuned proposal of the "$2 flat rate cum 80% discount", more than three-quarters of the beneficiaries will not be affected, and the fare borne by these passengers remains at $2. If beneficiaries need to travel on long-haul routes, they will only be required to pay a fare calculated at 20% of the adult fare, which is still a strong incentive for them to travel. There is a consensus in the community that the issue of "taking long-haul routes for short journeys" must be addressed. It is worth noting that although the number of trips taken on routes with a fare above $10 (mostly long-haul routes) accounts for less than a quarter of the beneficiary trips, the amount reimbursed to PTOs by the Government for the relevant trips has exceeded half of the total reimbursement amount. The "$2 flat rate

cum 80% discount" proposal can offer incentives to encourage beneficiaries to choose suitable routes for their journeys and minimise the occurrence of "taking long-haul routes for short journeys", thereby saving their money while reducing unnecessary expenses from the Government.

Implementation of the "concessionary trip limit" is intended to respond to another consensus in the community that the number of concessionary trips should not be unlimited. According to the data in the first 3 months upon the full implementation of the real-name registration system for $2 Scheme, the average daily numbers of concessionary trips per person for those aged 60-64, 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities are 1.4, 1.0 and 1.3 respectively. Only some 360 out of the 2.5 million beneficiaries travelled more than the monthly limit of 240 trips. On the assumption that the beneficiaries travel twice a day, even if interchange is involved for each journey, 8 trips are still sufficient to cover the expenses. Moreover, the calculation of trip limit on a monthly basis provides beneficiaries with flexibility to cater for the need to take more than 8 trips occasionally.

The implementation of the two fine-tuned proposals, namely the "$2 flat rate cum 80% discount" and the "concessionary trip limit", aims to preserve the policy intent of the Scheme while striking a balance between enhancing the sustainability of the Scheme and minimising the impacts to the beneficiaries.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)005

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1576)

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:

1. Welfare-related expenditure accounts for the largest share of the Government's recurrent expenditure. While the average growth rate of recurrent welfare expenditure was 8% per annum in the past 5 years, this year's recurrent expenditure on welfare has been growing at a rate of 9.8%. Has the Government made any projection on the growth trend of welfare expenditure within the next 10 years?
2. At present, elderly care is highly dependent on elderly-related subsidies under the Social Security Allowance (SSA), which has increased by 58% within 5 years and is estimated to exceed $60 billion in 2025-26. Will the Bureau, based on the current trend of demographic changes, project the trend of changes in SSA expenditure over the next 10 years?
3. Please provide a projection on the trend of changes in the expenditure of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance over the next 10 years.

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

Social welfare expenditure is affected by a number of factors, including demographic changes, economic growth and social needs, etc. In light of actual situation and needs, the Government will take into account relevant factors holistically to ensure that the allocation of public resources meets social needs, and will continue to closely monitor relevant trends to ensure that resources are adequately utilised.

The estimated recurrent expenditure on social welfare in 2025-26 is about $130.4 billion, of which about $81 billion (62%) is spent on the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme. At present, the majority of cash assistance recipients are elderly: as at end December 2024, the Social Welfare Department disbursed cash assistance to about 1.3 million persons aged 65 or above, accounting for nearly 75% of the number of elderly persons in the same age group in Hong Kong. In 2025-26, the total estimated recurrent expenditure of the two schemes for old age cases or elderly persons aged 65 or above will be about $66.3 billion, about 51% of the estimated recurrent expenditure on social welfare.

Various cash assistance measures are designed for groups with different actual needs: the CSSA Scheme provides a safety net of last resort for those who are unable to support themselves financially because of old age, illness, disability, single parenthood, unemployment, low earnings or other reasons to help them meet their basic needs; the Old Age Living Allowance aims to supplement the living expenses of elderly persons aged 65 or above who are in need of financial support; the Old Age Allowance aims to help elderly persons aged 70 or above meet special needs arising from old age; and the Disability Allowance aims to help persons assessed as being severely disabled meet their special needs arising from disability. A considerable number of elderly persons make use of the above cash assistance to meet their daily expenses.

In accordance with the established mechanism, the Government seeks the approval of the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) to adjust the standard payment rates of the CSSA Scheme and the rates of allowances of the SSA Scheme annually according to the movement of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices. The Government's proposals to adjust the relevant rates in accordance with the mechanism have been approved by FC throughout the current LegCo term.

With an ageing population in Hong Kong, the number of elderly recipients of the above cash assistance measures and the related expenditure will continue to rise. The Government will continue to monitor the implementation of the relevant measures, and take into account the long-term financial sustainability and the impact on the recipients.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1264)

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 provision for 2025-26 is $3.2 million (2.4%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024-25. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

(1) What are the reasons for the reduction in the provision for 2025-26 as compared to the revised estimate for 2024-25? In view of the average increase in funding over the past 5 years, is such provision sufficient to meet the evolving training needs of persons with disabilities? How can the Government ensure that the introduction of new courses and the enhancement of existing courses will not be affected by the funding reduction?

(2) What are the number of persons with disabilities trained by the SSCs and their employment rate in each of the past 3 years? What are the numbers of trainees employed in various bureaux/departments through the SSCs in the past 3 years?

(3) According to the statistics, the number of full-time trainees enrolled in the 2023/24 academic year was 562, of whom 265 completed their training. In the 2024/25 academic year, the number of full-time trainees enrolled was 608, of whom 270 completed their training. How does the Government account for the discrepancy between the number of enrolled trainees and the number of trainees who completed their training? Has the Government compiled statistics on the main reasons for the dropout? Have any follow-up measures been taken to improve the completion rate? Are there any regular surveys on trainees' satisfaction or feedback mechanism in place?

(4) It is mentioned in the Estimates that during 2025-26, the SSCs will continue to implement an enhanced integrated vocational and skills training programme, develop new courses and modify existing ones. How can the Government ensure that these courses are closely aligned with market demand? Has the Government collaborated with enterprises or trade associations in designing courses or arranging internships?

(5) Does the Government have any plans to increase the service places of the SSCs and establish additional centres in the next 5 years? Has it considered expanding the scale of the SSCs or increasing funding to meet the growing demand for vocational training for persons with disabilities?

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

(1) The reduction in the provision for 2025-26 as compared to the revised estimate for 2024-25 is mainly due to the Government's adjustment of the recurrent subvention to the Shine Skills Centres (SSCs) under the Vocational Training Council (VTC) in accordance with the Productivity Enhancement Programme. The SSCs will continue to optimise the use of resources and enhance cost-effectiveness to ensure that their existing programmes and service quality are not affected. The SSCs will also continue to review and enhance existing programmes and examine the need to develop new programmes as appropriate.

(2) The numbers of trainees enrolled in full-time and part-time programmes of the SSCs in the past 3 academic years (AYs) are as follows:

Programme	**Number of trainees enrolled**		
	2022/23 AY	**2023/24 AY**	**2024/25 AY (Revised Estimate)**
Full-time (Note 1)	619	562	608
Part-time	295	373	400

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

The 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 the SSCs in the past 3 AYs are as follows:

Employment situation	**Number of persons and percentage**		
	2021/22 AY	**2022/23 AY**	**2023/24 AY**
Open employment (Note 2)	97 (28.6%)	83 (25.2%)	Information not available as the related employment survey has not been completed.
Seeking employment	27 (8.0%)	19 (5.8%)	
Supported employment	24 (7.1%)	47 (14.3%)	
Training at sheltered workshops	24 (7.1%)	18 (5.5%)	
Planning for/pursuing further study	95 (28.0%)	109 (33.1%)	
Others or no response to the survey	72 (21.2%)	53 (16.1%)	
Total	**339 (100%)**	**329 (100%)**	

Note 2: In the 2021/22 AY, 1 graduate was employed by a Government department. In the 2022/23 AY, no graduates were employed by Government departments.

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

(3) Full-time programmes of the SSCs are normally of two-year duration. The number of trainees enrolled includes those undergoing both the first and second years of training, with each year accounting for about half of the total number of trainees. In the 2023/24 and 2024/25 AYs, the number of trainees who have completed training (i.e. completed the second year of the programmes) accounted for about half of the number of trainees enrolled (i.e. the total number of trainees undergoing both the first and second years of training). In general, all trainees of the SSCs can graduate. Individual trainees may delay graduation or drop out due to personal reasons such as health. In case a trainee expresses the intention to drop out, the Class Master and social workers will provide suitable support and follow-up to help the trainee adapt to his/her study life. The SSCs conduct student opinion surveys every year to understand their learning experience and gather feedback. These surveys help the SSCs enhance their programmes and teaching materials and improve campus facilities to meet the needs of trainees.

(4) The 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 industries, including seeking advice from practitioners of relevant industries and modifying programme contents or developing new programmes as necessary. At the same time, the SSCs also collaborate with the industries to offer various intern opportunities for the trainees to prepare them for open employment.

(5) The number of training places of full-time programmes can meet the demand and waiting is not required. The SSCs will continue to review the number of training places and training venues having regard to the needs of the market and persons with disabilities as appropriate, and flexibly deploy resources to ensure that the SSCs can effectively assist them in open employment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2886)

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 inform this Committee of the following:

(1) the 9th and 10th batches of non-governmental organisation (NGO)-led projects and school-based projects under the CDF, (i) a list of projects operated by schools; (ii) a list of projects operated by NGOs; (iii) the number of participating students and the distribution of their grade levels; (iv) the mentor-mentee ratio for each project; and (v) the number of participants who withdrew early from the projects and the main reasons for their withdrawal;

(2) the past 3 batches of projects, whether the Government has ever required participating schools or NGOs to return all or part of the allocated funding; if so, the details;

(3) the 9th batch of NGO-led projects, the average proportion of training subsidies that was used for participating children; and

(4) the 10th batch of projects, the number and percentage of participating schools and NGOs operating projects under the "three-year project" mode or the "one-plus-one-approach" respectively.

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

(1) (i)-(iii) The Child Development Fund (CDF) aims at supporting students from a disadvantaged background by providing them with suitable training and guidance in districts with which they are familiar. The students are encouraged to plan for the future, and develop saving habits, positive attitudes, personal resilience, social networks, etc., so as to foster their future development. Since its establishment in 2008, the CDF has rolled out 10 batches of 355 projects operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and schools, benefitting over 30 000 children and teenagers from a disadvantaged background. The 9th batch of projects recruited a total of 4 385 students (including 1 826 students from Primary 4 to Primary 6, and 2 559 students from Secondary 1 to Secondary 4). The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not possess more detailed data on the grade levels of participating students. Upon completion of an overall review of the CDF Programme by SWD in 2023, the 10th batch of projects

launched in 2024 have incorporated, for the first time, the relevant enhancement measures from the review, including positioning the target participants at Primary 3 to Primary 6 students, with a total enrolment of 3 467 primary school students (including 812 Primary 3 students, 941 Primary 4 students, 908 Primary 5 students and 806 Primary 6 students). The enhanced CDF Programme, together with the Strive and Rise Programme which supports students from Secondary 1 to Secondary 4, will then be able to cater to the needs of Primary 3 to Secondary 4 students from underprivileged families at different stages of development. The lists of operators for the CDF's 9th and 10th batches of projects are at Annex 1 and Annex 2 respectively.

(iv) The mentor-mentee ratio for both NGO-led and school-based projects is in compliance with the service requirement, i.e. no less than 1:3.

(v) In the 9th batch of projects, there were 40 and 46 participants withdrawn from NGO-led and school-based projects respectively, mainly due to family reasons, migration to overseas countries/the Mainland, change of schools, etc. As the 10th batch of projects were rolled out in late 2024, data on participant withdrawal are not yet available.

(2) According to the CDF agreement, if an operator has not used up the allocated funding from CDF upon completion of the project, all the unspent government subsidies should be returned. Regarding the 3 recent batches (i.e. the 8th, 9th and 10th batches), as the 9th and 10th batches of projects are still in progress and the 8th batch of school-based projects are undergoing audit check, SWD is unable to furnish any information on the return of unspent government subsidies under the relevant projects. As for the 8th batch of NGO-led projects, as at 28 February 2025, there were 6 operators involved in returning unspent subsidies, amounting to a total of $580,300.

(3) As required by the Service Specifications of the CDF, project operators have to conduct a variety of training for participating children, their parents/guardians and mentors, and spend at least 60% of the allocated training subsidies directly on the participating students, with the remainder on the provision of training to their parents/guardians and mentors. As the 9th batch of NGO-led projects are still in progress, SWD is unable to set out the proportion of training subsidies spent on the participating students under the relevant projects.

(4) In the 10th batch, the CDF rolled out a total of 33 NGO-led projects and 10 school-based projects providing services for students from Primary 3 to Primary 6. Among the NGO-led projects, 3 projects (9%) were operated under the "three-year project" mode, while the remaining 30 (91%) under the "one-plus-one approach". Of the school-based projects, 7 projects (70%) were operated under the "three-year project" mode, while the remaining 3 (30%) under the "one-plus-one approach".

Annex 1

Child Development Fund
List of Operators for the 9th Batch of Projects

District	NGO-led Projects
Hong Kong Island	- Caritas – Hong Kong - Chai Wan Baptist Church Social Service - Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union Hong Kong Limited
Tung Chung	- Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited - The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council
Kwun Tong	- Christian Action - New Home Association Limited - The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
Wong Tai Sin: (including San Po Kong and Tsz Wan Shan)	- Lok Kwan Social Service - The Urban Peacemaker Limited
Sai Kung (including Tseung Kwan O)	- Christian Action
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	- Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service - The Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong - Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
Sham Shui Po	- Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service - New Home Association Limited - Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
Sha Tin	- The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong - The Urban Peacemaker Limited
Tai Po and North District	- Christian Canaan Church Hong Kong Limited - Hong Kong Children & Youth Services - Po Leung Kuk - The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council

District	NGO-led Projects
Yuen Long (including Tin Shui Wai)	- Christian Action - New Home Association Limited
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	- Ease Education Limited - Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited - The Praise Assembly (Tsuen Wan District) Limited - Yan Chai Hospital Social Services Department
Tuen Mun	- The Urban Peacemaker Limited - Yan Oi Tong Limited

School-based Projects
- Ho Yu College and Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen) - Lingnan Hang Yee Memorial Secondary School - Yan Chai Hospital Law Chan Chor Si College - Mu Kuang English School - Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Bishop Hall Secondary School - Stewards Pooi Tun Secondary School - Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church Queen Maud Secondary School - Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Chang Ming Thien College - Sheng Kung Hui Lam Kau Mow Secondary School - CUHKFAA Chan Chun Ha Secondary School - The Church of Christ in China Fung Leung Kit Memorial Secondary School - Christian Alliance S W Chan Memorial College - Buddhist To Chi Fat She Yeung Yat Lam Memorial School - The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong Yuen Long Lutheran Secondary School - Chinese Y.M.C.A. Secondary School - Xianggang Putonghua Yanxishe Primary School of Science and Creativity - CNEC Ta Tung School - The Church of Christ in China Kei Chun Primary School - The Church of Christ in China Chuen Yuen College - Tuen Mun Catholic Secondary School - Buddhist Sum Heung Lam Memorial College - Lui Cheung Kwong Lutheran College - Hong Chi Morninghope School, Tuen Mun - Christian Alliance College

Annex 2

Child Development Fund
List of Operators for the 10th Batch of Projects

District	NGO-led Projects
Hong Kong Island	- Caritas – Hong Kong - Chai Wan Baptist Church - Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union Hong Kong Limited - The Urban Peacemaker Limited
Tung Chung	- The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council - YMCA of Hong Kong
Kwun Tong	- Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service - The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong - We Care Social Service Centre Limited
Wong Tai Sin (including San Po Kong and Tsz Wan Shan)	- Lok Kwan Social Service - The Urban Peacemaker Limited
Sai Kung (including Tseung Kwan O)	- Christian Action
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	- The Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong - Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service - Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service - Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
Sham Shui Po	- Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service - New Home Association
Sha Tin	- The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong - Evangelical Free Church of China Social Service - Shatin Baptist Church Social Service - The Urban Peacemaker Limited
Tai Po and North District	- Christian Canaan Church Hong Kong Limited - Hong Kong Children & Youth Services - Po Leung Kuk
Yuen Long (including Tin Shui Wai)	- Christian Action - New Home Association

District	NGO-led Projects
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	- Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited - The Praise Assembly (Tsuen Wan District) Limited - The Urban Peacemaker Limited - Yan Chai Hospital
Tuen Mun	- The Free Methodist Church of Hong Kong - Yan Oi Tong Limited

School-based Projects
- St. Bonaventure Catholic Primary School - Assembly of God Leung Sing Tak Primary School - Evangel College - Chi Hong Primary School - HHCKLA Buddhist Ching Kok Lin Association School - The Salvation Army Centaline Charity Fund Queen's Hill School - Tai Po Baptist Public School - Buddhist To Chi Fat She Yeung Yat Lam Memorial School - The Church of Christ in China Chuen Yuen Second Primary School - The Church of Christ in China Kei Chun Primary School

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0434)

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 the past 3 years, 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.: 13)

Reply:

The Labour and Welfare Bureau did not engage external lawyers for consultancy services from 2022-23 to 2024-25.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0900)

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 proposed in the Chief Executive's 2024 Policy Address that the Pilot Programme on Community Living Room (CLR) will be extended. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the respective numbers of beneficiary households, members, attendances, activities on provision of homework guidance and daily-life information/talks, and referrals to appropriate community resources and services for the 4 CLRs currently located in Hung Hom, To Kwa Wan, Nam Cheong and Sham Shui Po;
2. whether the Government has assessed the effectiveness of the 4 CLRs; if so, the assessment criteria and results; and
3. given the Government's plan to set up at least 3 additional CLRs this year, the relevant details, locations, estimated numbers of beneficiary households and expenditures involved for the CLRs?

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

1. The Government launched the Pilot Programme on Community Living Room (the Pilot Programme) in 2023 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 non-governmental organisations commissioned by the Government through funding from the Community Care Fund (CCF). The Pilot Programme is implemented to provide subdivided unit (SDU) households with additional living space and help them expand social networks, thereby enhancing their living standard and sense of belonging to the community. As at end-February 2025, 4 Community Living Rooms (CLRs) projects located in Sham Shui Po, To Kwa Wan, Hung Hom and Nam Cheong respectively have commenced operation for a period of 3 years each. In particular, the Sham Shui Po CLR, being the first project under the Pilot Programme, was expected to benefit 500 SDU households with an annual attendance of about 80 000 at the time of its launch in December 2023. The key service statistics of the Sham Shui Po CLR as at November 2024 are as follows:

Key service statistics	Total (as at November 2024)
Number of SDU households benefitted	607 households
Number of registered members	1 699 persons
Cumulative attendance	176 279 attendances
Number of homework guidance sessions provided	4 232 attendances
Number of mutual aid groups, talks/activities on health and community resources organised	158 activities
Number of cases referred to community services	195 cases

As the To Kwa Wan, Hung Hom and Nam Cheong CLRs only commenced operation in the third quarter of 2024, the relevant statistics are not available at this juncture given their relatively short operation periods.

2. The Government has set a key performance indicator for projects under the Pilot Programme, i.e. enabling no less than 70% of members to experience an enhancement in their living space, sense of belonging to the community and interpersonal networks after using the facilities in the CLRs. The Government plans to complete the evaluation of the Pilot Programme within 2025-26.

3. The Government plans to set up 3 additional CLRs in districts clustered with SDU households in 2025, which are expected to benefit about 1 300 target households with an annual attendance of about 200 000. The CLR projects on Ko Shan Road (Kowloon City District) and in Shau Kei Wan (Eastern District) are expected to commence operation between March and April 2025 for a period of 3 years each. Details are as follows:

	Ko Shan Road CLR	Shau Kei Wan CLR
Expected number of SDU households served	500 households	330 households
Expected annual attendance	80 000 attendances	50 000 attendances
Estimated operational expenditure (funded by the CCF)	$27.55 million	$19.98 million

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, with a view to serving more SDU households. Details will be announced in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0945)

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 July 2024, the Legislative Council passed the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance), which will be gazetted for implementation in January 2026. In the early period following the implementation of the Ordinance, it is expected that there will be a rise in the number of reported child abuse cases. In parallel, the Government will provide an additional provision of $186 million to increase emergency places for residential child care and strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. How will the additional provision of $186 million be allocated to various child protection services? Apart from increasing emergency places for residential child care, what are the details of the services to be provided under the Government's strengthened "professional support for child abuse victims and their families"?

2. There will be an 18-month transitional period upon the passage of the Ordinance. It is expected that the draft Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide) will be finalised in the middle of this year, and the second module of the training programme will be rolled out in the second half of the year. What are the progress and details of the Government's implementation of the above measures? In addition to drawing up the Guide and launching training programmes, what measures and resources will the Government provide during the 18-month transitional period to ensure and assist various stakeholders in completing the training, and to help professional organisations review and revise the codes of professional practice or guidelines? Has the Government set any detailed work targets and timetable for the transitional period?

3. The Child Protection Campaign was kick-started in January this year, marking a countdown to the commencement of the Ordinance next year. Would the Government give a detailed account of the activities that have been launched and will be launched under the Campaign, as well as the corresponding funding allocations and work indicators; and

4. The Commission on Children has set up the Funding Scheme for Children's Well-being and Development to encourage and enable non-governmental organisations, schools, child concern groups, etc. to undertake promotional and public educational projects on children-related issues. Please set out in table form the details of funded projects in the past 5 financial years by project content, expenditure and key performance indicator (KPI) (including but not limited to the number of children reached and satisfaction level of participants).

	Project content	Expenditure	KPI performance (number of children reached, satisfaction level of participants, etc.)
2024/25			
2023/24			
2022/23			
2021/22			
2020/21			

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

1. The Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance) will come into effect in January 2026, creating a wide and effective protection web for children. To cope with the possible upsurge in the number of reported child abuse cases upon the implementation of the mandatory reporting regime, the Government has, since 2025-26, allocated additional annual provisions of $29.07 million for increasing emergency places for residential child care and $157.40 million for strengthening professional support for child abuse victims and their families, totalling about $186.50 million. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has already embarked on the relevant work, and the two new residential child care centres will commence operation before the Ordinance comes into effect, providing emergency placement for an additional total of about 380 children in need each year. In addition, since March 2025, SWD has subsidised non-governmental organisations to set up 6 service teams under the Child Protection Support Service. Comprising social workers, psychologist, nurses and other supporting staff, the teams provide focused intervention and professional support to children affected by abuse and at risk of abuse and their families through offering a variety of support services, including home visitation support, therapeutic/psychosocial groups, educational/family enrichment programmes, etc.

2&3. To facilitate relevant professionals and the community to have a clear understanding of the details and implementation date of the mandatory reporting regime, and to proactively promote and publicise the message of child protection, the Government will roll out a series of activities under the Child Protection Campaign in 3 phases.

First of all, the Government held the launching ceremony of the Child Protection Campaign on 20 January 2025, marking the 1-year countdown to the commencement of the Ordinance. The Government then promptly initiated 10 talks for the management of institutions from the social welfare, education and healthcare sectors in the first quarter of 2025 to outline the key points of the new legislation. This

enables management staff to review the internal guidelines, workflow, staff training, etc. of their institutions as necessary, and formulate measures that facilitate specified professionals to fulfil their statutory duties. At the talks, management of institutions are reminded to keep abreast of the staff's training progress, remind existing staff and arrange for new recruits to complete the Child Protection Online Training within the specified timeframe, and provide necessary support for staff.

Secondly, in July 2025, the Government will organise a half-year countdown to the commencement of the Ordinance, publish the Mandated Reporter Guide, and conduct a series of briefings for mandated reporters and relevant stakeholders. At the same time, Module 2 of the Child Protection Online Training will be launched to provide stakeholders with basic knowledge on the legal and reporting matters related to the new legislation. The Government will also launch television and radio advertisements and other large-scale government publicity campaigns to enhance publicity and public education.

Thirdly, the Government will collaborate with the Commission on Children (CoC) to organise a 3-month countdown event in October 2025. A series of public engagement activities will also be held to promote the message of child protection to members of the public.

The series of activities under the Child Protection Campaign is led by a working group comprising the Labour and Welfare Bureau, the Education Bureau, the Health Bureau and the Security Bureau, with the aim to enhance the understanding of the Ordinance among relevant professionals and the community, so as to complement with the commencement of the Ordinance. The working group has set indicators for each project on the specific number of activities organised, the implementation time, the target groups and the level of stakeholder engagement, and would monitor regularly. The above work is implemented with the existing resources and no additional provision is involved.

4. Over the past 5 financial years (from 2019-2020 to 2023-24), the CoC approved 155 projects under the Funding Scheme for Children's Well-being and Development, with a total funding amount of about $45.60 million. Funded organisations are required to submit reports on their performance on the number of participants and their satisfaction level, and whether the intended objectives of the funded projects have been achieved, etc. Details of all funded projects are available on the CoC's website (https://www.coc.gov.hk/en/projects.html).

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)011

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3175)

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:

To assist bureaux and departments in reducing expenditure and ensure the proper use of public money, the relevant bureaux will review the expenditures on social welfare, healthcare and education. Would the Government inform this Committee of the measures for reducing the expenditure on social welfare and the amount to be reduced?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

The Government has all along been committed to building a caring community and looking after the underprivileged. The recurrent expenditure on social welfare has increased by 46.5% from $89 billion in 2020-21 to an estimated $130.4 billion in 2025-26, accounting for about 22.2% of the total estimated recurrent government expenditure. The Financial Secretary (FS) announced in the 2025-26 Budget that the Productivity Enhancement Programme (the Programme) would be stepped up, with the rate of reduction of recurrent government expenditure increased from the original 1% to 2% in 2025-26. This arrangement will be extended for 2 more years to 2027-28. Taking into account the 1% cut in 2024-25, the cumulative rate of reduction will be 7% in total. The cash assistance provided under the social security system (including those under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and the Social Security Allowance Scheme) will not be affected by the Programme. In the 2025-26 Budget, the FS also requested the relevant bureaux to review the expenditures on social welfare, healthcare and education and ensure the proper use of public money. It is incumbent on government bureaux and departments to optimise public resources and review the sustainability of the use of resources. As far as social welfare is concerned, the financial pressure arising from an ageing population is a challenge that the Government must address. In reviewing social welfare expenditure, the Labour and Welfare Bureau will strive to support the grassroots and the underprivileged while seeking to innovate for making better use of public resources and ensuring fiscal sustainability.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0005)

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 Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (i.e. the $2 Scheme), the Government will change the concessionary fare to "$2 flat rate cum 80% discount", which means that beneficiaries will continue to pay $2 for trips with fare below or equal to $10. For trips with fare above $10, the beneficiaries will have to pay the amount of full fare after 80% discount. Furthermore, the number of concessionary trips will also be limited to 240 per month. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the respective percentages of concessionary trips with fares above $10 in each of the years since the implementation of the Scheme?
2. What are the respective considerations, basis or criteria for setting the "$10 fare" and the "monthly limit of 240 trips"?
3. How will this adjustment balance with the original policy objective of "encouraging the elderly to travel and integrate into the community"? Will any quantitative indicators (e.g. change in the average number of trips taken by the elderly, reduction in the proportion of district activities) be set to assess the impact of the policy on the daily life of beneficiaries? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 74)

Reply:

1. The Government has implemented in full a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use a JoyYou Card, and eligible persons with disabilities (PWDs) aged below 60 to use an Octopus card encoded with the "Persons with Disabilities Status", to enjoy the $2 Scheme. The major data collected during the first 3 months (i.e. from 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) upon the full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (including the figures requested in the question) are set out below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60-64	Eligible PWDs	Total
Amount of reimbursement of revenue forgone to participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme[1] in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years				
2023-24 (Actual expenditure)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5,400 million
Data in the first 3 months upon the full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Number of beneficiaries				
Number of cardholders[2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000[3]	2 546 000
Number of persons who have enjoyed the concession at least once in the above three-month period	1 459 000 (84% of the cardholders)	651 000 (95% of the cardholders)	131 000 (100% of the cardholders)	2 241 000 (88% of the cardholders)
Percentage of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly passenger trips				
Adult fare equal to or below $10 (58% of the routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of the routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1.0 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million

Average monthly amount of reimbursement of revenue forgone to participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme[1]				
Adult fare equal to or below $10 (58% of the routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of the routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of reimbursement	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly number of beneficiary trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120-240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
More than 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other statistics				
Number of trips per capita	1.0/day 30/month	1.4/day 43/month	1.3/day 40/month	(Not applicable)
Average amount of reimbursement per capita	$3.2/day $95/month	$10.5/day $314/month	$6.3/day $188/month	
Average amount of reimbursement per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily number of trips taken by the most frequent riders	14	20	25	

[1] The Government calculates the differential fares (DF) to be reimbursed to the PTOs based on the actual applicable fare (i.e. the adult fare discounting any concessions voluntarily offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by users. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible PWDs, the DF to be reimbursed by the Government for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] Starting from 25 August 2024, all Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card while eligible PWDs aged below 60 must use a Personalised Octopus card encoded with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the $2 Scheme. The number of relevant cardholders aligns with the number of circulating Octopus cards issued but not yet refunded as at end-November 2024.

[3] Including both Personalised Octopus card and JoyYou Card that were encoded with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

The Government does not maintain the required statistics before the full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme.

2. and 3. The $2 concessionary fare has not been adjusted since the implementation of the $2 Scheme in 2012. With Hong Kong's ageing population and the continuous adjustment of public transport fares, the concessionary fare will not be financially sustainable if it remains unchanged. At present, about 60% of the public transport routes charge a fare of $10 or below. In the first 3 months after the full implementation of the real-name registration system for $2 Scheme, about 76% of the beneficiary trips involved routes with a fare of $10 or below. With $10 as the threshold for the fine-tuned proposal of the "$2 flat rate cum 80% discount", more than three-quarters of the beneficiaries will not be affected, and the fare borne by these passengers remains at $2. If beneficiaries need to travel on long-haul routes, they will only be required to pay a fare calculated at 20% of the adult fare, which is still a strong incentive for them to travel. There is a consensus in the community that the issue of "taking long-haul routes for short journeys" must be addressed. It is worth noting that although the number of trips taken on routes with a fare above $10 (mostly long-haul routes) accounts for less than a quarter of the beneficiary trips, the amount reimbursed to PTOs by the Government for the relevant trips has exceeded half of the total reimbursement amount. The "$2 flat rate cum 80% discount" proposal can offer incentives to encourage beneficiaries to choose suitable routes for their journeys and minimise the practice of "taking long-haul routes for short journeys", thereby saving their money while reducing unnecessary expenses from the Government.

Implementation of the "concessionary trip limit" is intended to respond to another consensus in the community that the number of concessionary trips should not be unlimited. According to the data in the first 3 months upon the full implementation of the real-name registration system for $2 Scheme, the average daily numbers of concessionary trips per person for those aged 60-64, 65 or above and eligible PWDs are 1.4, 1.0 and 1.3 respectively. Only some 360 out of the 2.5 million beneficiaries travelled more than the monthly limit of 240 trips. On the assumption that the beneficiaries travel twice a day, even if interchange is involved for each journey, 8 trips are still sufficient to cover the expenses. Moreover, the calculation of trip limit on a monthly basis provides beneficiaries with flexibility to cater for the need to take more than 8 trips occasionally.

The implementation of the two fine-tuned proposals, namely the "$2 flat rate cum 80% discount" and the "concessionary trip limit", aims to preserve the policy intent of the Scheme while striking a balance between enhancing the sustainability of the Scheme and minimising the impacts to the beneficiaries.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2747)

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:

It is reported that Hong Kong's birth rate remains at its lowest level. Despite the introduction of the Newborn Baby Bonus of $20,000 proposed in the 2023 Policy Address, the total number of newborns in 2024 only increased by 3 479 compared to the previous year. A survey indicates that 70% of Hong Kong residents are unwilling to have children, primarily due to financial pressure and housing conditions. Regarding subsidies to encourage childbearing, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:
The cost of raising a child in Hong Kong is said to be exceedingly high. It is estimated that the cost of raising a child to the age of 18 is as high as $6 million. In addition to the cash bonus of $20,000, will the Government consider introducing other measures, such as childrearing subsidies or child care allowances, in the new financial year to minimise the cost of childrearing and encourage childbearing? If so, what is the estimated expenditure for these subsidies?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

The issue of fertility concerns about a wide range of policy aspects and bureaux. A consolidated reply by relevant bureaux (including the Labour and Welfare Bureau, the Housing Bureau, the Health Bureau, the Civil Service Bureau and the Education Bureau) on measures to encourage childbirth is as follows:

On assisting families in childbearing, the Government has implemented the Child Care Centre Parent Subsidy in February 2020 to subsidise parents to pay part of the service fees of full-day aided child care centres (CCCs) to ease their economic burden. To strengthen support for families in childbearing, the Government has increased the Child Care Centre Parent Subsidy from a maximum of $600 to $1,000 per month starting from April 2024. The subsidy applies to all aided standalone CCCs and CCCs attached to kindergartens. In 2024-25 (up to December 2024), the expenditure for the measure was approximately $65.03 million.

The Government has regularised the Pilot Scheme on Relaxing the Household Income Limit of the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the After School Care Programme for Low-income Families and Increasing Fee-waiving Subsidy Places under the Community Care Fund, and introduced a host of enhancement measures since October 2020, including relaxing application eligibility, increasing subsidy level, providing extra subsidy for students with special educational needs, and streamlining means-test procedures. Eligible low-income families may approach participating service operators directly for application for subsidies of full fee-waiving, half fee-reduction or one-third fee-reduction. The overall expenditure in 2024-25 is estimated at about $96 million.

The Government has rolled out the School-based After School Care Service Scheme since the 2023/24 school year to allow primary students in need (particularly those from single-parent families) to stay after school to receive care and learning support, enabling their parents to go to work. In the 2024/25 school year, the Scheme is extended to all 18 districts in Hong Kong. There are currently a total of 125 primary schools participating in the Scheme, offering a total of 5 800 service places, with an estimated total expenditure of about $237 million.

Moreover, the rates of the household and child allowances under the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme have been increased by 15% across the board with effect from April 2024, benefitting all households receiving the WFA. The WFA Scheme provides additional allowances for relevant childbearing families, and increasing the rates of the WFA would help further alleviate the burden of grassroots working families. Taking a four-person household with 2 eligible children as an example, the maximum monthly WFA they may receive will increase from the original amount of $4,200 to currently $4,830. The expenditure on the WFA Scheme in 2025-26 is estimated at around $2.1 billion. The Working Family Allowance Office does not have an estimated expenditure on child allowance alone for 2025-26.

The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) has implemented the Families with Newborns Flat Selection Priority Scheme (Priority Newborns Scheme), starting from 2024 under the Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) sale exercise. Family applicants of HOS with babies born on or after 25 October 2023 would be eligible if their children are aged 3 or below on the closing day of the application of HOS. A quota of about 40% of the new flats for sale (i.e. 2 900 flats) under the Sale of HOS flats 2024 (HOS 2024) has been set aside for eligible applicants under the Priority Newborns Scheme and the Priority Scheme for Families with Elderly Members for balloting and priority flat selection. During the application period of HOS 2024, the HA received a total of around 106 000 applications, of which around 3 000 applications came under the Priority Newborns Scheme. Ballots were drawn for HOS 2024 in December 2024 and flat selections are expected to commence in the second quarter of 2025.

On the other hand, the HA has also implemented the Families with Newborns Allocation Priority Scheme since 1 April 2024. Public rental housing (PRH) family applications with babies born on or after 25 October 2023 and aged 1 or below will have their waiting time reduced by 1 year. As at end-December 2024, about 3 300 PRH family applications have had their waiting time reduced by 1 year under the scheme, of which about 210 families have been successfully housed in PRH.

The Department of Health (DH) has been providing assisted reproductive services to persons with family plans, among which the Maternal and Child Health Centres provide family planning services to women of childbearing age, whereas counselling and referrals can be arranged for those with subfertility problems. In addition, it was announced in the Chief Executuve's 2024 Policy Address that the DH would review and adjust the current scope of Government-subsidised family planning services provided the Family Planning Association, so as to tie in with the Government's policies of encouraging and promoting health fertility.

As a good employer, the Government has all along been committed to creating a family-friendly working environment for its staff. To dovetail its policy of encouraging childbirth, the Government will provide childcare leave for government employees with children aged under 3 from 1 April 2025 onwards as a new family-friendly employment measure to support families with newborns and create an environment conducive to childcare. The Government is also committed to promoting the five-day week in order to improve the quality of civil servants' family life without compromising the level and efficiency of public services or incurring additional costs to taxpayers.

The Government has launched the Kindergarten Education Scheme since the 2017/18 school year with the objectives of providing good quality and highly affordable kindergarten education, and enhancing the accessibility of students to different modes of services that suit their specific needs. About 90% of half-day kindergartens are currently free of charge, while the school fees for whole-day kindergartens are maintained at a low level. Families with financial needs may apply for fee remission under the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme (KCFRS). At present, parents can receive full level of fee remission under the KCFRS.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1800)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

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

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the local residential care services for the elderly, would the Government please provide the following information for the past 5 years:

1. the annual funding allocated to care-and-attention (C&A) homes and nursing homes (NH) by the Government, along with their respective manpower and number of places;
2. the number of practitioners currently engaged in elderly residential care services, and the projected number for the next 5 years;
3. the respective numbers of approved and rejected applications under the Special Scheme to Import Care Workers for Residential Care Homes (the Special Scheme) thus far; and
4. the average waiting time for residential care homes (RCHs) for the elderly (RCHEs), the number of waitlisted elderly persons, and the proportion of these waitlisted elderly persons relative to the overall elderly population in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. The number of places for and total expenditure on subsidised residential care services (RCS) from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are set out at Annexes 1 and 2, respectively. Subject to compliance with the requirements of the relevant Funding and Service Agreement and the statutory staffing requirements, organisations operating subvented elderly services may determine their staffing establishment in accordance with their manpower requirements and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not maintain manpower information of subsidised elderly service units.
2. The numbers of home managers, nurses, health workers, care workers and ancillary workers employed by RCHEs as at the end of December 2024 are set out at Annex 3. As services for the elderly are wide-ranging and involve different operation modes, SWD does not have an estimate of the overall number of practitioners engaged in elderly services.

3. The Government launched the Special Scheme in June 2023. As at December 2024, 4 rounds of applications, involving a total of 10 187 quotas, were completed. 6 439 and 749 quotas (including those for contract renewal) to import care workers were granted to RCHEs and RCHs for persons with disabilities, respectively.

4. From 2020-21 to 2024-25, 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.

Annex 1

Numbers of service places for subvented C&A homes and NH

Year	**C&A place** Note 1	**NH place** Note 3	**No. of residential care service vouchers (RCSVs)**	**Total**
2020-21	24 955	4 284	**3 000**	**32 239**
2021-22	26 152	4 365	**3 000**	**33 517**
2022-23	26 812	4 652	**4 000**	**35 464**
2023-24	27 687	5 048	**4 000**	**36 735**
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	27 830	5 157	**5 000**	**37 987**

Note 1 Including subsidised C&A places provided at contract homes, subvented C&A homes, and private RCHEs participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme, as well as subsidised C&A places provided under the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme).

Note 2 Including subsidised places provided at contract homes, subvented NHs, and self-financing NHs participating in the NH Place Purchase Scheme, as well as subsidised NH places provided under the GDRCS Scheme.

Annex 2

Expenditure on subsidised RCS

Year	**Expenditure ($ billion)**
2020-21 (Actual)	6.9713
2021-22 (Actual)	7.2653
2022-23 (Actual)	7.4035
2023-24 (Actual)	8.4943
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	9.1890

Annex 3

Number of staff employed in RCHEs (as at end-December 2024)

Type of RCHE	Home Manager	Nurse	Health Worker	Care Worker	Ancillary Worker	Total
Subvented home	121	1 239	972	3 648	3 464	**9 444**
Contract home	51	1 043	238	1 893	1 026	**4 251**
Self-financing home	41	235	199	629	558	**1 662**
Private home	668	1 786	2 877	6 975	4 766	**17 072**
Total	**881**	**4 303**	**4 286**	**13 145**	**9 814**	**32 429**

Annex 4

Table 1: Number of persons waitlisted for subsidised RCS and their percentage out of the total elderly population [Note 1]

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024) [Note 4]
No. of persons waitlisted for C&A places [Note 2 Note 3]	30 857	21 990	14 040	14 238	14 407
No. of persons waitlisted for C&A places and their percentage out of the total elderly population	2.2%	1.5%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%
No. of persons waitlisted for NH places [Note 3]	5 932	4 719	2 796	2 381	2 181
No. of persons waitlisted for NH places and their percentage out of the total elderly population	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	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 Currently, elderly persons using RCSVs may be admitted to RCHEs participating in the RCSV Scheme with government subsidies, without the need 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]				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
C&A place	19	18	14	8	9
NH place	22	21	18	10	9

Note 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 of the year concerned (except for 2024-25).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1725)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the proposal to enhance the services of Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness (ICCMWs) mentioned in the Programme, please provide the following information:

1 The staffing establishment of the 24 ICCMWs over the past 3 years, broken down by various professionals, including social workers, psychiatric nurses, occupational therapists, clinical psychologists, and supporting staff. What was the specific number of personnel for each profession, and what was the expenditure on subsidies for each ICCMW?

2. Please provide the respective headcounts of the following groups served by subsidised ICCMWs over the past 3 years: discharged mental patients aged 15 or above; persons with suspected mental health problems aged 15 or above; secondary school students in need of community mental health support services; their family members/carers; and local residents who wish to further understand/improve their mental health.

3. With respect to the measures provided by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to enhance social work services at ICCMWs, please provide details of the training content and frequency, the number of social workers trained, and the related expenditure in the past year.

4. Please provide the specific details of SWD's plan to enhance training for social workers, as well as the estimated expenditure involved for the coming year. How many social workers are expected to participate in the training programmes?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

1. The expenditure of the 24 ICCMWs subvented by SWD in the past 3 years is set out in Table 1 of Annex. The notional staffing establishment of ICCMWs is set out in Table 2 of Annex. Subject to compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreement, the operating organisations may flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service outputs and outcomes required.

2. The numbers of secondary school students in need of community mental health support services and their family members/carers served by ICCMWs in the past 3 years are set out in Table 3 of Annex. SWD does not keep records on the number of other service users.

3. & 4. SWD enhanced the services of ICCMW in October 2024, including strengthening the 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. These centres may arrange appropriate training/further studies for their staff based on their actual circumstances and the needs of service users. In addition, SWD commissioned the School of Professional and Continuing Education of the University of Hong Kong to organise professional training courses related to mental health for social workers in community mental health service units starting from October 2024. The course content covers common mental health disorders and severe mental illnesses, mental health issues in children and adolescents, as well as case management and crisis intervention in community mental health service units, etc. More than 1 000 social workers have been trained thus far. These training courses will continue in 2025-26, with the cumulative number of participating social workers expected to reach 2 000. The expenditure on the training courses is about $6.7 million.

Annex

Table 1: Expenditure of ICCMWs

Year	2022-23 (Actual) ($ million)	2023-24 (Actual) ($ million)	2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($ million)
ICCMW	495.7	529.7	600.8

Table 2: SE of ICCMWs [Note]

Scale: 1 notional team	
Rank/Post	**No. of staff**
Social Work Officer	2.13
Assistant Social Work Officer	12.34
Social Work Assistant	9.2
Clinical Psychologist	1.13
Registered Nurse (Psychiatric)	2
Occupational Therapist I	1.13
Occupational Therapist II	1
Occupational Therapy Assistant	2
Welfare Worker	6.13
Clerical Assistant	1
Workman II	1

Note The above SE is intended solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of subvention, and should not be regarded as the standard for staffing levels or employee composition in subvented services. Subject to compliance with the requirements of FSAs, service operators can flexibly deploy resources and arrange appropriate manpower.

Table 3: Numbers of secondary school students and family members/carers with community mental health support needs served by ICCMWs

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
Secondary school student	954	780	1 762
Family member/carer	5 188	5 088	4 799

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0379)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding day child care services, please inform this Committee of:

(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 on providing day/residential child care services and pre-school rehabilitation services in 2024-25;

(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 in the past 3 years.

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

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 successfully 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 young children aged 0 to below 2 in day CCCs is 1:8, while the manning ratio for taking care of young 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 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 required service outputs and outcomes. 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 RCCCs, aided standalone CCCs, aided CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS, NSCCP, and pre-school rehabilitation services in 2024-25 is tabulated as follows:

Service type	2024-25 Revised estimate ($ million)
RCCC	131.8
Aided standalone CCC	82.4
Aided CCC attached to KG	204.2
OCCS	62.4
EHS	97.1
NSCCP	226.6
On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services	1,311.1
Early Education and Training Centre	413.7
Integrated Programme in KG-cum-CCC	170.7
SCCC	656.0

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

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

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

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Highest monthly fee ($)	6,710	6,720	6,735
Lowest monthly fee ($)	4,385	4,385	4,485

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

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Highest monthly fee ($)	6,521	6,802	7,569
Lowest monthly fee ($)	1,831	1,831	1,831

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

Annex

Table 1: Service fee, number of places and average utilisation rate for 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 hour: 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 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	-	0.7	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 commenced service in January and March 2023, respectively.

Note 2 Figures provided by the Education Bureau (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 to meet the actual service demands.

Table 2: Service fee, number of places and average utilisation rate for standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS, MHCCCs, and NSCCP (2023-24)

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 hour: 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	56.0	2 896	23.0	14	46.0	99	36.0	-	10.9	53	494
Southern	-	N.A.	1 095	46.0	17	42.0	73	68.0	-	0.0	53	490
Islands	136	69.0	1 241	24.0	12	20.0	27	7.0	-	N.A.	53	559
Eastern	260	47.0	3 461	46.0	22	38.0	175	39.0	-	N.A.	53	449
Wan Chai	48	100.0	1 420	44.0	17	70.0	94	51.0	-	N.A.	53	282
Kwun Tong	309	67.0	1 300	62.0	48	44.0	226	50.0	-	N.A.	53	533
Wong Tai Sin	-	N.A.	555	78.0	32	61.0	210	42.0	-	N.A.	53	668
Sai Kung	-	N.A.	4 732	24.0	22	46.0	94	27.0	-	N.A.	53	670
Kowloon City	1 152	57.0	4 401	39.0	23	48.0	151	30.0	-	N.A.	53	350
Yau Tsim Mong	131	82.0	1 983	48.0	22	37.0	139	41.0	-	N.A.	53	819
Sham Shui Po	62	100.0	1 567	48.0	29	55.0	162	43.0	-	N.A.	53	930
Sha Tin	177	100.0	2 053	64.0	31	54.0	138	41.0	-	N.A.	53	763
Tai Po	92	87.0	1 508	38.0	19	64.0	111	35.0	-	N.A.	53	552
North	207	70.0	1 139	47.0	21	53.0	105	53.0	-	N.A.	53	529
Yuen Long	152	81.0	1 469	83.0	39	63.0	139	48.0	-	0.0	53	1 160
Tsuen Wan	244	52.0	1 114	68.0	19	57.0	98	41.0	-	N.A.	53	497
Kwai Tsing	60	100.0	1 138	59.0	37	41.0	138	24.0	-	8.9	53	633
Tuen Mun	172	76.0	1 677	56.0	34	39.0	173	37.0	-	N.A.	53	822
Total	**3 250**	**66.0**	**34 749**	**44.0**	**458**	**50.0**	**2 352**	**40.0**	**-**	**2.7**	**954**	**11 200**

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 1 standalone CCC in Central and Western District has ceased operation in August 2023.

Note 2 Figures provided by EDB as at September 2023.

Note 3 The re-engineering of all 18 MHCCCs was completed in February 2024 to provide after-school care service for pre-primary children.

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 to meet the actual service demands.

Table 3: Service fee, number of places and average utilisation rate for standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS, and NSCCP

(April to December 2024)

District	Standalone CCC Note 1		CCC attached to KG Note 2		OCCS		EHS		NSCCP Note 3	
	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 for HCCS: 28 Per hour for CCG: 20	
	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	Number of service users
Central & Western	48	100.0	3 111	19.0	14	48.0	99	36.0	92	284
Southern	-	N.A.	1 161	49.0	17	61.0	73	73.0	92	204
Islands	136	90.0	1 315	26.0	12	29.0	27	13.0	92	505
Eastern	260	47.0	3 730	43.0	22	48.0	175	40.0	92	317
Wan Chai	48	100.0	1 530	35.0	17	62.0	88	49.0	92	174
Kwun Tong	397	58.0	1 351	58.0	48	55.0	249	50.0	184	414
Wong Tai Sin	-	N.A.	558	71.0	32	65.0	206	49.0	92	371
Sai Kung	-	N.A.	5 066	24.0	22	57.0	94	30.0	92	360
Kowloon City	1 152	55.0	4 753	35.0	23	53.0	151	38.0	92	107
Yau Tsim Mong	131	77.0	2 128	46.0	22	34.0	139	39.0	92	518
Sham Shui Po	162	75.0	1 663	42.0	32	69.0	179	53.0	184	457
Sha Tin	177	99.0	2 163	63.0	31	66.0	149	43.0	184	515
Tai Po	92	100.0	1 601	33.0	19	72.0	111	43.0	92	370
North	207	54.0	1 203	46.0	21	63.0	105	51.0	92	275
Yuen Long	152	90.0	1 559	77.0	39	55.0	144	53.0	184	854
Tsuen Wan	244	50.0	1 190	65.0	19	60.0	98	42.0	92	291
Kwai Tsing	60	100.0	1 186	53.0	35	48.0	127	38.0	92	414
Tuen Mun	172	75.0	1 779	49.0	34	46.0	172	42.0	184	574
Total	**3 438**	**65.0**	**37 047**	**41.0**	**459**	**56.0**	**2 386**	**45.0**	**2 116**	**7 004**

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 2 standalone CCCs in Sham Shui Po and Kwun Tong commenced service in September and October 2024, respectively.

Note 2 Figures provided by EDB as at September 2024.

Note 3 Starting from September 2024, the service fees for HCCS and CCG are set at the standard rates of $28 and $20 per hour, respectively. In addition, on the basis of 1 service team in each of the 18 districts in Hong Kong, SWD has added an additional service team in districts with higher service demands, namely Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Sha Tin, Tuen Mun, and Yuen Long. As a result, the number of service teams in Hong Kong has increased from 18 to 23. Each service team is required to provide a minimum of 92 service places (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 2 116). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement to meet the actual service demands.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)017

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0380)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 who benefited from adoption services and services for street sleepers, as well as the actual or revised estimated expenditure involved;

(2) the number of persons who benefited from foster care services, as well as the actual or revised estimated expenditure involved; and

(3) the respective numbers of persons who 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 revised estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

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 received support and the expenditure of subvented integrated services for street sleepers are set out in Table 2 of Annex.

(2) The number of children received foster care services in the past 3 financial years and the expenditure involved are set out in Table 3 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 4 and 5 of Annex, respectively.

Annex

Table 1: Number of children adopted and the expenditure involved

	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)**
Number of children adopted	82	65	45
Expenditure ($ million)	19.3 (Actual)	19.6 (Actual)	20 (Revised estimate)

Table 2: Number of street sleeper cases received support and the expenditure involved

	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)**
Number of cases	556	759	632
Expenditure ($ million)	32.6 (Actual)	36.5 (Actual)	38.6 (Revised estimate)

Table 3: Number of children received foster care services and the expenditure involved

	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)**
Number of children received foster care services	892	863	883
Expenditure ($ million)	237.1 (Actual)	253.3 (Actual)	367.6 (Revised estimate)

Table 4: Number of service users and expenditure of refuge centres for women

	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)**
Total number of admissions [Note 1]	1 033	1 058	919
Expenditure ($ million)	43.4 (Actual)	45.4 (Actual)	46.1 (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 5: Headcount of service users and expenditure of MCISC

	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)**
Total number of admissions [Note 2]	273	344	287
Expenditure ($ million)	19.0 (Actual)	19.83 (Actual)	20.44 (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 -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)018

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0381)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP), please provide this Committee with:

(1) the actual annual expenditure on NSCCP for each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by expenditure item, including but not limited to incentive payments, staff salaries, training for child carers, administrative expenses, etc.

(2) the following information for the 18 districts in Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years:

  (a) the number of places and the 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 increase in the number of subvented places and funding allocation, and the estimated expenditure on NSCCP for 2025-26.

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

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 their expenditure on 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. On this basis, service operators may flexibly deploy the funding to operate NSCCP. Therefore, SWD does not have the breakdown of the expenditure on NSCCP as required in the question.

Year	Expenditure on NSCCP ($ million)
2022-23 (Actual)	28.3
2023-24 (Actual) Note 1	88.0
2024-25 (Revised estimate) Note 2	226.6

Note 1 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.

Note 2 The increase in expenditure for 2024-25 was due to the fact that the incentive payment for home-based child carers and the number of service places under NSCCP were increased.

(2) The information on NSCCP over the past 3 financial years, broken down by District Council district, is set out at Annex. The incentive payment for home-based child carers under NSCCP was set at the standard rate of $25 per hour in 2022-23 and 2023-24. Starting from April 2024, the rate has been 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 other children, the rate has been increased to $40 per hour.

(3) Since September 2024, SWD has doubled the number of NSCCP places to around 2 000. The estimated expenditure for 2025-26 is about $457.5 million, more than double that of the previous year.

Annex

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 (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		2022-23 Actual expenditure 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	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 to meet the actual service demands.

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 annual expenditure 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 (2023-24)

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		2023-24 Actual expenditure Note 3 ($ million)
			Aged below 3	Aged 3 to below 6	Aged above 6	Total	HCCS	CCG	
Central & Western	53	59	109	230	155	**494**	24	24	88.0
Wan Chai	53	67	28	146	108	**282**	22	22	
Eastern	53	103	208	170	71	**449**	22	22	
Southern	53	30	15	251	224	**490**	20	12	
Yau Tsim Mong	53	126	208	365	246	**819**	20	13	
Sham Shui Po	53	59	420	306	204	**930**	20	13	
Kowloon City	53	525	74	145	131	**350**	20	13	
Wong Tai Sin	53	112	106	268	294	**668**	18	10	
Kwun Tong	53	46	155	207	171	**533**	20	13	
Kwai Tsing	53	82	292	157	184	**633**	18	13	
Tsuen Wan	53	77	109	266	122	**497**	20	13	
Tuen Mun	53	37	278	317	227	**822**	20	13	
Yuen Long	53	67	315	460	385	**1 160**	18	13	
North	53	78	57	172	300	**529**	18	13	
Tai Po	53	77	134	235	183	**552**	20	13	
Sha Tin	53	42	146	298	319	**763**	20	13	
Sai Kung	53	83	183	280	207	**670**	20	13	
Islands	53	100	79	290	190	**559**	22	13	
Total	**954**	**1 770**	**2 916**	**4 563**	**3 721**	**11 200**	**-**	**-**	

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 to meet the actual service demands.

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 annual expenditure 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 (2024-25) (April to December 2024)

District	Number of places Note 1	Number of home-based child carers (December 2024) Note 2	Number of children served				Basic service fee per hour Note 3		2024-25 Revised estimate Note 4 ($ million)
			Aged below 3	Aged 3 to below 6	Aged above 6	Total	HCCS	CCG	
Central & Western	92	50	80	93	111	**284**	28	20	226.6
Wan Chai	92	24	15	92	67	**174**			
Eastern	92	114	140	110	67	**317**			
Southern	92	46	25	96	83	**204**			
Yau Tsim Mong	92	98	116	230	172	**518**			
Sham Shui Po	184	38	193	133	131	**457**			
Kowloon City	92	25	33	33	41	**107**			
Wong Tai Sin	92	31	59	154	158	**371**			
Kwun Tong	184	63	140	132	142	**414**			
Kwai Tsing	92	36	203	134	77	**414**			
Tsuen Wan	92	21	41	150	100	**291**			
Tuen Mun	184	86	164	222	188	**574**			
Yuen Long	184	116	274	309	271	**854**			
North	92	26	22	87	166	**275**			
Tai Po	92	86	70	160	140	**370**			
Sha Tin	184	52	124	172	219	**515**			
Sai Kung	92	29	100	133	127	**360**			
Islands	92	102	72	237	196	**505**			
Total	**2 116**	**1 043**	**1 871**	**2 677**	**2 456**	**7 004**			

Note 1 Starting from September 2024, on the basis of 1 service team in each of the 18 districts in Hong Kong, SWD has added an additional service team in districts with higher service demands, namely Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Sha Tin, Tuen Mun, and Yuen Long districts. As a result, the number of service teams in Hong Kong has increased from 18 to 23. Each service team is required to provide a minimum of 92 service places (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 2 116). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement to meet the actual service demands.

Note 2 A new SA for NSCCP commenced in September 2024. Some home-based child carers are currently undergoing training, and will start service later. Therefore, the number of home-based child carers will gradually increase.

Note 3 Starting from September 2024, the service fees for HCCS and CCG are standardised at $28 and $20 per hour respectively. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can approach service operators for fee waivers/reductions.

Note 4 The annual expenditure includes the operator's administrative expenses, training costs and incentive payments for home-based child carers, and subsidies granted to service users from low-income families.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0382)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 their 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 case referrals made by teachers, police officers, medical professionals, relatives, or others;

(4) the number of child abuse cases handled and the number of abused children each year, broken down by gender and age of the child, case type (physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence, and multiple violence), and relationship between the abuser/perpetrator and the child; and

(5) 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.: 8)

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 2024-25 was $325 million, which constituted about 0.3% of the total expenditure of SWD.

(2) to (4) The number of newly reported cases of domestic violence involving spouse/cohabitant battering, with a breakdown by reporting/referring agency, and the number of newly registered child protection cases, with a breakdown by type, source of referral, and the relationship between the abuser/perpetrator and the victim/maltreated child, from 2022 to 2024, as collected by the Central

Information System on Spouse/Cohabitant Battering and Sexual Violence Cases and the Child Protection Registry of SWD, are tabulated at Annex.

(5) 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 on these services in 2025-26 is about $5.898 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 2025-26.

Annex

Spouse/cohabitant battering cases

(1) Newly reported spouse/cohabitant battering cases

Type \ Year	2022	2023	2024
Physical violence	1 649	1 528	1 310
Sexual violence	17	9	20
Psychological violence	189	153	147
Multiple violence	222	248	189
Total	**2 077**	**1 938**	**1 666**

(2) Type of reporting agency [Note 1]

Reporting agency	2022	2023	2024
SWD	963	900	916
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	218	249	246
Hospital Authority	65	76	37
Legal Aid Department	-	-	-
Hong Kong Police Force	831	713	467
Department of Health	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-
Total	**2 077**	**1 938**	**1 666**

Note 1 If more than 1 agency reports the same case, the first agency to provide the information will be recorded as the reporting agency.

Newly registered child protection cases

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

Type \ Year	2022	2023	2024
Physical harm/abuse	652	602	595
Neglect	276	310	328
Sexual abuse	443	509	522
Psychological harm/abuse	15	7	16
Multiple abuses	53	29	43
Total	**1 439**	**1 457**	**1 504**

(4) Number of child protection cases newly received by FCPSUs with a breakdown by source of referral

Source of referral	2022	2023	2024
Medical professionals and medical social workers	225	207	206
Schools (including teachers and school social workers)	298	323	349
The Police	138	163	145
Social service units (including other service units under SWD, IFSCs, and NGOs, etc.)	498	458	508
Members of the public/media/SWD hotlines	2	2	4
Courts/other government departments	8	6	4
The person concerned	14	9	11
Others	16	6	8
Total [Note 2]	**1 199**	**1 174**	**1 235**

Note 2 As each case may involve more than 1 high-risk/maltreated child, the number of child protection cases newly received by FCPSUs does not tally with the total number of high-risk/maltreated children newly registered in the Child Protection Registry of the year.

(5) Gender of maltreated children

Gender \ Year	2022	2023	2024
Female	866	880	910
Male	573	577	594
Total	**1 439**	**1 457**	**1 504**

(6) Distribution of maltreated children by age

Age \ Year	2022	2023	2024
0-2	230	190	183
3-5	142	135	132
6-8	200	194	203
9-11	273	291	291
12-14	383	412	449
15-17	211	235	246
Total	**1 439**	**1 457**	**1 504**

(7) Relationship between the perpetrator and the maltreated child [Note 3]

Relationship with the maltreated child	**Number of perpetrators**		
	2022	**2023**	**2024**
Parent/Sibling/Step-parent/Grandparent/ Relative	993	986	1 043
Family friend/Parent of peer/Schoolmate/ Friend/Peer	193	201	191
Carer/School teacher/School personnel/ Staff of boarding section of school/Tutor/ Coach/Religious personnel	114	134	74
Co-tenant/Neighbour/Inmate of residential service	6	14	16
Unrelated person	159	142	141
Unidentified person/Other	50	62	100
Total	**1 515**	**1 539**	**1 565**

Note 3 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 -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)020

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0383)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 Department?

(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 2025-26? 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.: 9)

Reply:

(1) The number of places, the average length of stay, and the number of children waitlisted for foster care service, small group homes (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 Centres Advisory Inspectorate (CCCAI) of the Social Welfare Department (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 necessary based on the principle of 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 and/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 10 written advice to RCCCs/RSCCCs, reminding them to strengthen safety measures for children. In addition, it issued 3 written warnings in relation to child abuse incidents. After receiving written advice or warnings from CCCAI, the CCCs concerned have promptly implemented improvements and rectified the non-compliance or irregularities.

Annex 1

Number of places, average length of stay, and number of children for waitlisted 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 services	SGH	RHC
Number of places	2022-23	1 130	954	1 832
	2023-24	1 230	978	1 832
	2024-25 Note 1	1 230	978	1 850
Average length of stay in months Note 2 Note 3	2022-23	34.90	32.27	24.57
	2023-24	38.33	35.45	23.79
	2024-25 Note 4	32.78	33.60	21.30
Number of waitlisted children (monthly average)	2022-23	289	388	296
	2023-24	292	335	274
	2024-25 Note 4	256	309	237

Note 1 Statistics as at 31 December 2024.

Note 2 The figures include both ordinary and emergency services.

Note 3 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 4 Statistics from April to December 2024.

Annex 2

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 services Note 1	SGH Note 2	RHC
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
2024	Newborn to aged below 6	405	17	196
	Aged 6 to below 12	320	371	312
	Aged 12 to below 18	157	526	871
	Aged 18 or above	1	18	151

Note 1 Foster care service serves children from newborn to under 18 years of age. Under exceptional circumstances, children receiving foster care service may extend their stay with the foster families beyond 18 years of age.

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

Annex 3

Table 1: Staffing establishment and payroll costs of CCCAI

Year / Staffing establishment	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	2025-26 (Estimate)
Social worker	5	6	6	6
Registered nurse	-	1 [Note]	1	1
Total (Person)	**5**	**7**	**7**	**7**
Payroll costs ($ million)	4.06	4.46	4.09	5.45

[Note] The registered nurse reported for duty in March 2024.

Table 2: Payroll costs for employing former law enforcement officers

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	2025-26 (Estimated expenditure)
Payroll costs ($ million)	1.01	1.09	0.84	1.25

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0385)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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, the number of persons receiving services, the average waiting time for the services, the number of elderly persons who passed away while waiting for the services, the number of service units and their staffing levels, and the average monthly cost and expenditure per service place in each of the past 3 years, broken down by the 18 districts across the territory and by age.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Ka-pui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

(1) The number of persons waitlisted for DEs/DCUs at the end of December 2024 was 2 052.

(2) The full-year number of service users and number of persons receiving services from 2022-23 to 2024-25 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 2022-23 to 2024-25 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 2022-23 to 2024-25 broken down by DC district is set out at Annex 4.

Subject to compliance with the requirements of the relevant Funding and Services Agreements and statutory requirements (if applicable), service operators may flexibly deploy manpower according to operational needs and their human resource policies. 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 2022-23 to 2024-25 are set out below:

Year	**Average monthly cost per service place ($)**	**Total annual expenditure ($ million)**
2022-23 (Actual)	12,346	505.2
2023-24 (Actual)	12,965	542.3
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	13,291	569.3

Annex 1

Full-year number of DE/DCU service users

District	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (from April to December 2024)**
Central & Western	314	313	276
Eastern	574	600	517
Wan Chai	225	231	212
Southern	226	235	210
Islands	88	101	87
Kwun Tong	948	928	890
Wong Tai Sin	701	745	673
Sai Kung	462	484	442
Kowloon City	330	327	307
Sham Shui Po	578	594	563
Yau Tsim Mong	319	317	308
Sha Tin	853	886	883
Tai Po	297	343	285
North	201	308	300
Yuen Long	451	449	401
Tsuen Wan	417	389	369
Kwai Tsing	579	613	564
Tuen Mun	586	658	582
Total	**8 149**	**8 521**	**7 869**

Annex 2

Number of persons receiving services at DEs/DCUs

District	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Central & Western	204	220	217
Eastern	392	416	426
Wan Chai	162	164	169
Southern	158	171	164
Islands	66	67	67
Kwun Tong	626	661	659
Wong Tai Sin	487	539	533
Sai Kung	309	344	361
Kowloon City	241	233	245
Sham Shui Po	381	392	437
Yau Tsim Mong	221	237	232
Sha Tin	587	632	703
Tai Po	179	213	199
North	128	193	233
Yuen Long	289	300	304
Tsuen Wan	272	294	284
Kwai Tsing	378	410	426
Tuen Mun	419	460	464
Total	**5 499**	**5 946**	**6 123**

Annex 3

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**
2022-23	4	75
2023-24	4	68
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	4	50

Annex 4

Number of DEs/DCUs

District	**No. of units**		
	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
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	9	9
Yau Tsim Mong	4	4	4
Sha Tin	9	10	10
Tai Po	2	2	2
North	3	5	5
Yuen Long	6	6	6
Tsuen Wan	7	7	7
Kwai Tsing	8	8	8
Tuen Mun	6	6	6
Total	**96**	**100**	**100**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0386)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 the 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) details of the specific measures to attract more people to join the elderly service sector, and the effectiveness of such measures.

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

Reply:

(1) & (3) Subject to 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 manpower requirements and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not require NGOs to report the number of care staff at different ranks, their age, salary, the number of new recruits or turnover rate for each subvented elderly service unit.

(2) As at the end of December 2024, the Director of Social Welfare has approved 31 training institutes to organise a total of 59 health worker training courses for 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. In the past 3 years (as at the end of December 2024), SWD's Training Subsidy Scheme for Staff of Residential Care Homes has subsidised a total of 217 persons to enroll in the Advanced Training for Health Workers and 2 433 persons to enroll in Training for Care Workers.

(4) In 2022, employers in the elderly care service sector were given approval to import 3 441 elderly care workers through the Supplementary Labour Scheme (SLS).

The Government launched the Special Scheme to Import Care Workers for RCHs (Special Scheme) in June 2023. 793 care workers were approved for importation through SLS applications previously submitted by RCHE employers. A total of 2 624 and 3 815 quotas to import care workers (including those for contract renewal) were granted to various RCHEs under the Special Scheme in 2023 and 2024, respectively.

(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 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 2-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, with each cohort subsidising 427 places. Students are required to work as Enrolled Nurses (General) in NGOs 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.

In July 2023, SWD commissioned a Consultant to review the skill and qualification requirements of staff providing health and rehabilitation services in RCHs, with a view to establishing professional standards and a career progression pathway for them. In the same month, the Steering Committee on Review of Manpower for Healthcare Services in RCHs was established to offer advice and steer for the study. The relevant work was completed at the end of 2024. The consultancy report puts forth 4 key recommendations, including the establishment of a new professional rank, “Health&Care Practitioner”, specialising in the provision of care services in RCHEs, RCHDs and other elderly/rehabilitation welfare service units. This will not only attract people who aspire to pursue a career in the welfare sector, but also offer a career progression path for Health Workers, and help build up dedicated care talent for the sector. In addition, the Consultant recommended that RCH operators adopt measures to attract and retain talent, such as enhancing career development and promotion opportunities, applying information technology and gerontechnology, improving the work environment and culture, as well as establishing staff engagement and incentive mechanisms. SWD has accepted the report and will progressively implement the relevant recommendations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0387)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 2025-26 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 Ka-pui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

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 the 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 (RCHDs). The payroll cost so incurred, which accounted for approximately 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 inspectors in 2025-26 is $57.26 million.

(3) to (5) LORCHE is responsible for investigating complaints against RCHEs. In the past 3 years, LORCHE received complaints related to staffing arrangement, protection of privacy, drug management, infection control, nursing and personal care services, and fire safety, etc. The number of complaints against RCHEs is set out in Table 4 of Annex.

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.

Annex

Table 1: Staffing establishment [Note] and payroll cost of LORCHE Inspectors

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Total (persons)	72	72	72
Payroll cost ($ million)	53.14	55.59	42.95

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

Table 2: Payroll cost for recruiting retired disciplined service officers [Note]

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Payroll cost ($ million)	4.21	4.37	3.38

Note The 8 retired disciplined service officers assist in carrying out inspections at RCHEs and RCHDs.

Table 3: Number of inspections conducted by LORCHE

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
No. of times	5 902	5 956	4 624

Table 4: Number of complaints handled by LORCHE

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
No. of cases	111	126	81

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

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
No. of cases issued with advisory letters	2 229	2 238	1 575
No. of cases issued with warning letters	114	91	82

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)024

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(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 (Edward TO)

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 2025-26, 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 the non-compliances and the penalties imposed.

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

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 at 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 the 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.

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.

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 inspectors in 2025-26 is $20.44 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 of complaints or conducting inspections, LORCHD will consider issuing advisory letters, warning letters, 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.

Annex

Table 1: Number of RCHDs

Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
No. of RCHDs	334	335	339	342	346

Table 2: Staffing establishment [Note] and payroll cost for inspectors of LORCHD

Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
Staffing establishment of inspectors (persons)	24	26	27	27	27
Payroll cost ($ million)	16.77	17.47	19.08	19.84	15.33

Note Excluding retired disciplined service officers employed on contract terms.

Table 3: Payroll cost for employing retired disciplined service officers [Note]

Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
Payroll cost ($ million)	4.14	4.14	4.21	4.37	3.38

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	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
No. of inspections conducted	1 910	1 824	2 096	1 960	1 915

Table 5: Number of complaint cases received by LORCHD

Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
Subvented RCHDs	25	57	67	71	95
Self-financing RCHDs	-	-	2	3	3
Private RCHDs	16	25	29	33	35

Table 6: Number of special incident reports received by LORCHD

Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
Special incident reports	235	445	397	401	494

Table 7: Number of advisory letters and warning letters issued to non-compliant [Note] RCHDs by LORCHD

Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
Advisory letter	239	211	263	254	186
Warning letter	2	4	7	15	14

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

(Question Serial No. 0390)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding pre-school rehabilitation services, including early education and training centres (EETCs), integrated programmes in kindergarten-cum-child care centres (IP), special child care centres (SCCCs), occasional child care service (OCCS) for children with disabilities 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 service places, the actual number of additional service places, the utilisation rate, the service cost per person, the number of persons waitlisted, and their average waiting time for each service in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by 18 districts in Hong Kong;

(3) the numbers of applicants, service users and persons who applied for a freeze in service allocation in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by district of residence, age group, and gender of the applicants;

(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 numbers of service places and estimated expenditure for each service in 2025-26.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

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 2022, 2023 and 2024 was 13 984, 14 972 and 11 488 (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 the statistics 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 children with disabilities 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 across 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 children with disabilities, 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) 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. SWD does not have information on the numbers of service sessions and cases followed up through OPRS.

(5) In 2025-26, the numbers of service places and the estimated expenditure for various pre-school rehabilitation services (including OPRS, EETCs, IP, SCCCs and OCCS for children with disabilities) are set out at Annex 4.

Annex 1

Table 1a: Number of service places of EETCs

District	No. of service places of EETCs		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	473	473	473
Eastern/Wan Chai	401	401	401
Kwun Tong	390	390	390
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	604	624	624
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	231	231	231
Sham Shui Po	523	523	523
Sha Tin	381	381	473
Tai Po/North	487	487	487
Yuen Long	172	172	172
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	406	406	506
Tuen Mun	325	325	325
Total	**4 393**	**4 413**	**4 605**

Table 1b：Number of service places of IP

District	No. of service places of IP		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	138	138	138
Eastern/Wan Chai	168	168	168
Kwun Tong	228	228	228
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	240	240	240
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	216	216	216
Sham Shui Po	114	114	114
Sha Tin	168	168	168
Tai Po/North	168	168	168
Yuen Long	186	186	186
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	198	198	192
Tuen Mun	156	156	156
Total	**1 980**	**1 980**	**1 974**

Table 1c: Number of service places of SCCCs

District	No. of service places of SCCCs		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	313	313	313
Eastern/Wan Chai	216	246	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	295	357	357
Sha Tin	168	168	168
Tai Po/North	299	299	299
Yuen Long	108	108	108
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	180	180	180
Tuen Mun	144	144	204
Total	**2 364**	**2 456**	**2 516**

Table 1d: Number of service places of OCCS for children with disabilties

District	No. of service places of OCCS for children with disabilties		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
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	16	19	19
Sha Tin	13	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	**117**	**120**	**120**

Table 1e: Number of service places of OPRS

Service type	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
OPRS	10 074	10 124	10 124

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

Service type	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
OPRS	1 000	50	-
EETC	219	20	192
SCCC	90	92	60
OCCS for children with disabilities	6	3	-

Table 3a: Number of persons waitlisted for OPRS [Note 1]

District	No. of persons waitlisted for OPRS [Note 2]	
	2022-23	2023-24
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	220	287
Eastern/Wan Chai	218	294
Kwun Tong	253	370
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	334	437
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	260	388
Sham Shui Po	186	230
Sha Tin	330	431
Tai Po/North	285	446
Yuen Long	385	602
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	355	414
Tuen Mun	253	402
Total	**3 079**	**4 301**

Note 1 OPRS has achieved "zero waiting time" in 2024-25. Starting from 2024-25, the number of persons waitlisted is no longer applicable to OPRS.

Note 2 The figures do 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]		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	86	75	62
Eastern/Wan Chai	91	86	58
Kwun Tong	103	96	50
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	132	130	98
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	98	105	70
Sham Shui Po	79	61	37
Sha Tin	115	136	71
Tai Po/North	113	108	84
Yuen Long	134	117	103
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	144	138	85
Tuen Mun	102	56	80
Total	**1 197**	**1 108**	**798**

Note The figures do 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]		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	20	23	13
Eastern/Wan Chai	35	33	15
Kwun Tong	50	47	25
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	55	64	37
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	53	51	34
Sham Shui Po	31	44	15
Sha Tin	34	53	40
Tai Po/North	40	63	64
Yuen Long	68	59	47
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	38	35	33
Tuen Mun	58	39	28
Total	**482**	**511**	**351**

Note The figures do 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]		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	99	101	90
Eastern/Wan Chai	145	128	95
Kwun Tong	70	72	62
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	108	81	63
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	131	135	89
Sham Shui Po	71	69	53
Sha Tin	75	60	45
Tai Po/North	85	94	87
Yuen Long	190	197	140
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	110	124	83
Tuen Mun	107	100	59
Total	**1 191**	**1 161**	**866**

Note The figures do 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		
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
OPRS	4.3	4.2	3.4
EETC	5.4	5	5
IP	6.3	5.3	3.6
SCCC	20.2	19.3	19.2
OCCS for children with disabilities 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 2024-25 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	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
OPRS	98.8%	99.8%	99.0%
EETC	95.1%	96.4%	94.7%
IP	97.2%	96.2%	93.4%
SCCC	93.0%	97.4%	96.6%
OCCS for children with disabilities 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		
	2022-23 (Actual) ($)	2023-24 (Actual) ($)	2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($)
Pre-school rehabilitation service	9,950	10,307	10,524

Annex 2

Table 1a: 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 1b: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for OPRS in 2023-24

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	110	259	62	**431**
Eastern/Wan Chai	125	223	61	**409**
Kwun Tong	139	345	77	**561**
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	159	408	102	**669**
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	119	359	67	**545**
Sham Shui Po	75	195	54	**324**
Sha Tin	133	362	67	**562**
Tai Po/North	111	374	118	**603**
Yuen Long	142	437	87	**666**
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	103	373	92	**568**
Tuen Mun	148	275	56	**479**
Total	**1 364**	**3 610**	**843**	**5 817**

Table 1c: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for OPRS in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	97	196	32	**325**
Eastern/Wan Chai	98	158	44	**300**
Kwun Tong	97	237	71	**405**
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	140	306	81	**527**
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	87	182	44	**313**
Sham Shui Po	62	146	48	**256**
Sha Tin	107	213	58	**378**
Tai Po/North	111	285	77	**473**
Yuen Long	129	249	68	**446**
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	102	233	82	**417**
Tuen Mun	101	209	52	**362**
Total	**1 131**	**2 414**	**657**	**4 202**

Table 1d: 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 1e: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for EETCs in 2023-24

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	79	49	6	**134**
Eastern/Wan Chai	82	62	15	**159**
Kwun Tong	68	68	17	**153**
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	103	84	24	**211**
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	78	67	14	**159**
Sham Shui Po	52	45	6	**103**
Sha Tin	81	80	28	**189**
Tai Po/North	81	74	22	**177**
Yuen Long	57	62	17	**136**
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	74	88	16	**178**
Tuen Mun	34	46	14	**94**
Total	**789**	**725**	**179**	**1 693**

Table 1f: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for EETCs in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	49	32	11	**92**
Eastern/Wan Chai	47	53	10	**110**
Kwun Tong	55	42	12	**109**
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	73	69	26	**168**
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	71	42	14	**127**
Sham Shui Po	44	27	10	**81**
Sha Tin	57	55	29	**141**
Tai Po/North	53	58	25	**136**
Yuen Long	47	52	12	**111**
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	75	54	18	**147**
Tuen Mun	49	54	8	**111**
Total	**620**	**538**	**175**	**1 333**

Table 1g: 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 1h: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for IP in 2023-24

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	22	17	3	**42**
Eastern/Wan Chai	24	14	3	**41**
Kwun Tong	24	40	4	**68**
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	39	46	5	**90**
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	42	43	5	**90**
Sham Shui Po	23	24	3	**50**
Sha Tin	27	23	6	**56**
Tai Po/North	35	38	1	**74**
Yuen Long	42	35	0	**77**
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	22	33	2	**57**
Tuen Mun	28	14	0	**42**
Total	**328**	**327**	**32**	**687**

Table 1i: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for IP in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	14	11	0	**25**
Eastern/Wan Chai	8	7	3	**18**
Kwun Tong	29	28	1	**58**
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	31	28	0	**59**
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	20	23	2	**45**
Sham Shui Po	21	11	1	**33**
Sha Tin	30	15	7	**52**
Tai Po/North	33	21	2	**56**
Yuen Long	36	19	1	**56**
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	24	34	6	**64**
Tuen Mun	27	20	3	**50**
Total	**273**	**217**	**26**	**516**

Table 1j: 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 1k: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for SCCCs in 2023-24

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	61	40	4	**105**
Eastern/Wan Chai	86	37	4	**127**
Kwun Tong	37	19	0	**56**
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	32	21	3	**56**
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	48	47	6	**101**
Sham Shui Po	24	30	2	**56**
Sha Tin	27	12	0	**39**
Tai Po/North	48	22	3	**73**
Yuen Long	46	38	1	**85**
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	53	36	3	**92**
Tuen Mun	25	17	3	**45**
Total	**487**	**319**	**29**	**835**

Table 1l: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for SCCCs in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	60	20	5	**85**
Eastern/Wan Chai	55	19	2	**76**
Kwun Tong	30	20	2	**52**
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	20	20	2	**42**
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	18	28	5	**51**
Sham Shui Po	12	19	4	**35**
Sha Tin	9	11	1	**21**
Tai Po/North	38	16	3	**57**
Yuen Long	31	22	1	**54**
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	36	18	8	**62**
Tuen Mun	21	7	2	**30**
Total	**330**	**200**	**35**	**565**

Table 2a: District of residence and age distribution of service users of OPRS 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	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 2b: District of residence and age distribution of service users of OPRS in 2023-24

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	5	323	448	**776**
Eastern/Wan Chai	5	369	463	**837**
Kwun Tong	5	430	640	**1 075**
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	8	516	686	**1 210**
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	6	330	529	**865**
Sham Shui Po	0	236	367	**603**
Sha Tin	5	342	565	**912**
Tai Po/North	2	317	603	**922**
Yuen Long	2	365	663	**1 030**
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	1	421	657	**1 079**
Tuen Mun	3	310	482	**795**
Total	**42**	**3 959**	**6 103**	**10 104**

Table 2c: District of residence and age distribution of service users of OPRS in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	13	360	378	**751**
Eastern/Wan Chai	9	367	454	**830**
Kwun Tong	14	444	589	**1 047**
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	13	505	695	**1 213**
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	16	407	455	**878**
Sham Shui Po	5	265	308	**578**
Sha Tin	12	368	545	**925**
Tai Po/North	3	332	553	**888**
Yuen Long	5	406	606	**1 017**
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	8	438	638	**1 084**
Tuen Mun	6	359	444	**809**
Total	**104**	**4 251**	**5 665**	**10 020**

Table 2d: 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 2e: District of residence and age distribution of service users of EETCs in 2023-24

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	68	186	147	**401**
Eastern/Wan Chai	33	203	179	**415**
Kwun Tong	60	148	178	**386**
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	64	226	245	**535**
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	60	166	164	**390**
Sham Shui Po	49	163	127	**339**
Sha Tin	61	184	174	**419**
Tai Po/North	73	209	157	**439**
Yuen Long	35	113	117	**265**
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	50	157	193	**400**
Tuen Mun	38	115	110	**263**
Total	**591**	**1 870**	**1 791**	**4 252**

Table 2f: District of residence and age distribution of service users of EETCs in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	83	179	142	**404**
Eastern/Wan Chai	69	185	149	**403**
Kwun Tong	86	150	146	**382**
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	114	228	191	**533**
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	103	165	132	**400**
Sham Shui Po	66	137	130	**333**
Sha Tin	95	208	164	**467**
Tai Po/North	99	184	163	**446**
Yuen Long	43	141	103	**287**
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	66	214	167	**447**
Tuen Mun	30	144	85	**259**
Total	**854**	**1 935**	**1 572**	**4 361**

Table 2g: 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 2h: District of residence and age distribution of service users of IP in 2023-24

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	4	47	56	**107**
Eastern/Wan Chai	4	56	77	**137**
Kwun Tong	5	89	125	**219**
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	5	90	136	**231**
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	7	94	112	**213**
Sham Shui Po	0	49	83	**132**
Sha Tin	6	69	100	**175**
Tai Po/North	5	72	96	**173**
Yuen Long	10	95	87	**192**
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	6	81	95	**182**
Tuen Mun	5	53	85	**143**
Total	**57**	**795**	**1 052**	**1 904**

Table 2i: District of residence and age distribution of service users of IP in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	3	57	48	**108**
Eastern/Wan Chai	4	56	64	**124**
Kwun Tong	14	86	99	**199**
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	9	97	121	**227**
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	5	104	99	**208**
Sham Shui Po	2	53	69	**124**
Sha Tin	6	79	82	**167**
Tai Po/North	5	76	86	**167**
Yuen Long	9	103	77	**189**
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	9	83	91	**183**
Tuen Mun	6	77	64	**147**
Total	**72**	**871**	**900**	**1 843**

Table 2j: 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 2k: District of residence and age distribution of service users of SCCCs in 2023-24

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	6	80	141	**227**
Eastern/Wan Chai	3	83	130	**216**
Kwun Tong	2	62	166	**230**
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	4	74	221	**299**
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	5	80	155	**240**
Sham Shui Po	5	40	103	**148**
Sha Tin	3	63	145	**211**
Tai Po/North	2	76	145	**223**
Yuen Long	3	36	171	**210**
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	3	60	164	**227**
Tuen Mun	3	28	130	**161**
Total	**39**	**682**	**1 671**	**2 392**

Table 2l: District of residence and age distribution of service users of SCCCs in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/Southern & Islands	9	91	133	**233**
Eastern/Wan Chai	3	91	118	**212**
Kwun Tong	4	56	149	**209**
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	4	100	196	**300**
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	6	66	167	**239**
Sham Shui Po	3	53	112	**168**
Sha Tin	5	55	130	**190**
Tai Po/North	2	72	157	**231**
Yuen Long	3	60	163	**226**
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	3	61	165	**229**
Tuen Mun	4	51	139	**194**
Total	**46**	**756**	**1 629**	**2 431**

Annex 3

Expenditure on OPRS

Year	Expenditure ($ million)
2022-23 (Actual)	1,015.8
2023-24 (Actual)	1,207.3
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	1,311.1

Annex 4

Numbers of service places and estimated expenditure for various pre-school rehabilitation services in 2025-26

Service type	**2025-26**	
	No. of service places	**Estimated expenditure ($ million)**
OPRS	10 124	1,284.1
EETC	4 767	423.0
IP	1 974	168.1
SCCC	2 700	677.7
OCCS for children with disabilities	129	4.8
Total	**19 694**	**2,557.7**

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)026

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0391)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 5 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 who 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, salaries, number of training places and estimated expenditure for the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

(1) to (3) The numbers of admissions, graduates and dropouts under the Navigation Scheme, as well as the number of graduates pursuing further studies in nursing or medical service-related courses each year from 2020-21 to 2024-25, 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 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 the end of December 2024, the enhanced Navigation Scheme has recruited a total of 1 377 trainees, of whom 486 have graduated. According to the information provided by some trainees at the time of graduation, 283 indicated that they would continue to be employed in social welfare service units.

The final-year (i.e. 2024-25) intake of the Navigation Scheme was completed in September 2024, with a total of 141 trainees admitted. In 2024-25, trainees employed as care workers upon admission to the Navigation Scheme received a monthly salary of $15,650, and a monthly salary of $18,890 upon promotion to health workers. The estimated expenditure on the Navigation Scheme for 2025-26 is around $4.2 million.

Annex

Numbers of admissions, graduates and dropouts under the Navigation Scheme, and the number of graduates pursuing further studies in related courses from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Admission year	**2020-21**	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
No. of admissions	418	368	222	228	141
No. of graduates	224	168	94	In training and have not graduated yet	In training and have not graduated yet
No. of dropouts	194	200	121	124	31
No. of graduates pursuing further studies in nursing or medical service-related courses	26	27	23	In training and have not graduated yet	In training and have not graduated yet

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0393)

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 (Edward TO)

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.: 19)

Reply:

(1) & (2) The Government allocated $1 billion to launch the I&T Fund in 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 2022-23 to 2024-25 (as at the end of February 2025), grants totalling around $350 million have been approved under the I&T Fund to subsidise about 1 600 elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure or rent over 12 500 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 average annual expenditure of the secretariat from 2022-23 to 2024-25 is about $6.85 million. In addition, since 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) The types of technology products more commonly applied for procurement by service units include equipment, assessment tools and accessories for occupational therapy/physiotherapy/speech therapy; smart hospital bed and accessories; computer software; security equipment; and hoist/raiser/lifter/climber, etc.

Annex

Information pertaining to the approval of applications under the I&T Fund from 2022-23 to 2024-25 (as at 28 February 2025)

Year of application	No. of service units applying for the grant	No. of service units approved for the grant	No. of products approved	Amount of grant approved ($ million)
2022-23	1 082	1 049	6 553	196
2023-24	706	649	2 812	86
2024-25 [Note]	890	614	3 218	73

Note This tranche started accepting applications in March 2024 and the vetting of applications is still underway.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0662)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides family and child welfare services and programmes. It has, among other initiatives, strengthened the home-based child care service under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP) and increased the level of incentive payment for home-based child carers and the number of service places. In this regard, please inform this Committee of:

1. the estimated expenditure and staffing establishment involved in the past 3 years;
2. the numbers of home-based child carers and service users as well as utilisation rate in each district in the past 3 years; and
3. whether SWD has provided professional training for service operators and home-based child carers and set key performance indicators to ensure service quality; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1. The expenditure on NSCCP in the past 3 financial years is tabulated as follows. In 2022-23 and 2023-24, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) required the service operators to provide a minimum number of service places and employ staff in accordance with the staffing establishment, i.e. at least 2 registered social workers, 1 child care worker, and 2 support staff, for operating NSCCP. Since September 2024, SWD has been subsidising non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to operate NSCCP under Lump Sum Grant subvention mode. The staffing establishment for each service team under NSCCP comprises 2 Assistant Social Work Officers, 2 Social Work Assistants, 1 Child Care Worker, and 2 Welfare Workers. Subject to compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements, service operators may flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the required service outputs and outcomes.

Year	Expenditure on NSCCP ($ million)
2022-23 (Actual)	28.3
2023-24 (Actual) Note 1	88.0
2024-25 (Revised estimate) Note 2	226.6

Note 1 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.

Note 2 The increase in expenditure for 2024-25 was due to the fact that the Government increased the incentive payment for home-based child carers and the number of service places under NSCCP.

2. 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. Since NSCCP has no service quota limit, SWD does not have information on its average utilisation rate.

3. SWD adopts a "quality-based approach" in selecting NGOs to operate NSCCP, and requires them to meet the service output and outcome standards specified in the Service Agreement (SA). According to the SA, service operators have to provide enhanced training courses for home-based child carers. Starting from September 2024, SWD has required trainees to undergo 14 hours of basic training, the content of which is standardised and formulated by SWD. 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 related knowledge and skills. 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 arranging 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 of NSCCP to establish mechanisms for recruiting, assessing, selecting and training home-based child carers, as well as 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 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 to ensure the quality of services delivered by them. 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.

Annex

Numbers of home-based child carers and children served under NSCCP in the past 3 financial years by DC district

District	2022-23		2023-24		April to December 2024	
	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 Note	Number of children served
Central & Western	29	413	59	494	50	284
Eastern	59	326	103	449	114	317
Islands	83	468	100	559	102	505
Kowloon City	521	455	525	350	25	107
Kwun Tong	44	395	46	533	63	414
Kwai Tsing	72	679	82	633	36	414
North	61	446	78	529	26	275
Southern	27	171	30	490	46	204
Sai Kung	139	591	83	670	29	360
Sham Shui Po	57	842	59	930	38	457
Sha Tin	41	848	42	763	52	515
Tuen Mun	33	732	37	822	86	574
Tai Po	69	580	77	552	86	370
Tsuen Wan	63	645	77	497	21	291
Wan Chai	73	189	67	282	24	174
Wong Tai Sin	45	595	112	668	31	371
Yuen Long	65	1 151	67	1 160	116	854
Yau Tsim Mong	278	793	126	819	98	518
Total	**1 759**	**10 319**	**1 770**	**11 200**	**1 043**	**7 004**

Note A new SA for NSCCP commenced in September 2024. Some home-based child carers are currently undergoing training, and will start service later. Therefore, the number of home-based child carers will gradually increase.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2826)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

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

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Paragraph 201 of the Budget Speech states that the Government will provide an additional annual provision of $186 million to increase emergency places for residential child care and strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families. It is also mentioned that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will enhance training and promulgate guidelines for practitioners in the relevant professions to facilitate early identification of child abuse cases and strengthen support for child abuse victims and their families. In this regard, please advise:

1. Regarding the increase in emergency places for residential child care, how will the 18 districts be covered, what will be the average number of places per district, and what is the expenditure involved for each district?
2. To better implement the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance), has the Government established key performance indicators to enhance the training of relevant professionals? What are the staffing arrangements and work schedules planned for the next three years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

To dovetail with the operation of the Ordinance in January 2026, the Government will, starting from 2025-26, allocate an additional annual provision of $29.07 million to increase the number of emergency residential child care places, and $157.4 million to strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families, amounting to a total of approximately $186.5 million. 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) to create 41 permanent posts to enhance the Government's enforcement and support capacity, provide appropriate training for practitioners in relevant professions and strengthen promotion and public education efforts on child protection, with a view to dovetailing the commencement of the Ordinance.

In terms of emergency residential child care places, 2 new residential child care centres located in Tuen Mun and Kwun Tong districts respectively, will commence operation before the Ordinance takes effect, adding a total of 96 emergency care service places and catering for about 380 children each year.

Regarding training, the Government has set up an e-learning platform to provide training and information on child protection for relevant professionals. The Child Protection Online Training offers online self-learning courses. Module 1 was launched in February 2024 to provide training on the basic knowledge on child protection. Module 2 is scheduled for phased rollout starting in July 2025, and will cover basic knowledge on the legal and reporting matters related to the new legislation. Besides, the Government also organised 3 webinars in 2024 to provide enrichment programmes for professionals to study different topics related to child protection and to enhance cross-sectoral professional collaboration. These webinars also incorporated Q&A sessions to address training needs and encourage interactive learning. In addition, in the first quarter of 2025, the Government has commenced organising 10 seminars for management of institutions of the social welfare, education, and healthcare sectors. These seminars introduce the key aspects of the new legislation, enabling heads of different organisations to review and, where necessary, update their internal guidelines, workflows, staff training, and devise measures to facilitate specified professionals in fulfilling their legal obligations. A task force comprising the Labour and Welfare Bureau, the Education Bureau, the Health Bureau, and the Security Bureau has been established to set targets for the number of training programmes, their implementation timelines, and target groups, while conducting regular monitoring of these programmes.

The above initiatives are jointly planned and implemented by the relevant policy bureaux and government departments. SWD does not maintain a breakdown of the related staffing establishment.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)030

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2834)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Programme (1) mentions that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has continued to provide additional places of aided child care centre (CCC) for children aged below 3. In this regard, please advise:

1. For 2024, how many additional aided standalone CCCs have been established, and how many service places for children aged below 3 have been provided through these centres; and
2. For the current year, how many aided standalone CCCs will be established, and how many service places for children aged below 3 will be provided through these centres?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

SWD will set up a total of 11 more aided standalone CCCs in phases within 3 years starting from 2024. Among these, the 4 CCCs at Queens Hill Estate and Wah Ming Estate in Fanling, the Treasury Building in Sham Shui Po, and Shun Lee Estate in Kwun Tong have commenced service in 2024, providing a total of 344 service places. A total of 160 places in another 2 aided standalone CCCs, namely 100 places at Cheung Shun Street in Sham Shui Po and 60 places at Kwai Fong Estate in Kwai Tsing, will also be put into service in 2025-26.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)031

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0633)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In 2025-26, the recurrent expenditure of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) on provision under Subhead 184 Traffic Accident Victims Assistance (TAVA) Scheme is $58,267,000, which represents an increase of 20% over the revised estimate for 2024-25. In this connection, would the Government please provide this Committee with the following information:

1. The numbers of TAVA applications received and approved, and the average amount of assistance paid for the approved applications in each of the past 5 years.
2. The current accumulated surplus of the TAVA Fund.
3. The number of cases involving fraudulent claims of TAVA identified by SWD and the average amount of assistance involved in each of the past 5 years; among these cases, the respective numbers of arrests, prosecutions and convictions made by law enforcement agencies, the average penalty imposed on convicted cases, as well as whether the amount of assistance involved in convicted cases was fully recovered.
4. The Government has stated that it will conduct a review of the eligibility criteria and scope of assistance for the Scheme, with a view to ensuring that traffic accident victims with genuine needs receive timely assistance while preventing abuse and severely punishing criminals who commit fraud. What is the current progress of this review? When are the results expected to be announced? Is there a specific implementation timetable?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

1. The numbers of TAVA applications received and approved from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are set out in Table 1 of Annex. The amount of assistance paid to each victim under the Scheme varies depending on the severity of their injury and their level of disability. 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.
2. The accumulated surplus of the TAVA Fund as at 31 March 2024 was about $1,454 million.

3. The Scheme aims at providing speedy financial assistance to road traffic accident victims or the surviving dependents 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 review of 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 of the Laws of Hong Kong) and are liable, upon conviction, to a maximum sentence of 14 years' imprisonment. From 2020-21 to 2024-25, SWD referred 698 cases suspected of TAVA fraud to the Police for follow-up. During this period, the Police arrested 339 individuals on suspicion of TAVA fraud. Of these, 6 were prosecuted, while the remaining cases are still under investigation. In addition, in 2024, the Independent Commission Against Corruption prosecuted 2 individuals for defrauding the Scheme. They were sentenced to 24 months and 14 months of imprisonment, respectively. The amounts of assistance involved were about $300,000 and $150,000, respectively. SWD will continue to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in their investigations, and will seek to recover the overpaid assistance amounts from the individuals involved. This work is ongoing. SWD does not have the other information sought.

4. To enhance the integrity of the Scheme and ensure the proper use of public funds, the Government is currently reviewing the eligibility criteria and scope of assistance under the Scheme, with a view to ensuring that they align with the Scheme's original intent, while preventing abuse and imposing severe penalties on those who commit fraud. The review is expected to be completed within this year.

Annex

Table 1: Numbers of TAVA applications received and approved from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	Number of applications received (cases)	Number of applications approved (cases)
2020-21	10 371	9 013
2021-22	10 500	8 320
2022-23	10 236	8 848
2023-24	11 265	9 146
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	8 152	5 926

Table 2: Average amount of assistance paid per TAVA case from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	Average amount of assistance paid per case ($)
2020-21	46,544
2021-22	49,916
2022-23	50,554
2023-24	53,838
2024-25(as at end-December 2024)	55,484

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3274)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26, it is mentioned that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will prepare for the setting up of 4 Community Parents and Children Centres (CPCCs) on a pilot basis and increase service places of residential child care centre (RCCC) continuously. In this connection, please advise:

1. What is the current progress of preparing for the establishment of these CPCCs, when are they expected to be completed, what are the related staffing establishment and estimated expenditure, and what are these CPCCs' duties and types of services to be provided?
2. How many additional RCCC service places will be provided in 2025-26, and what is the estimated expenditure involved? After increasing the number of service places, how will the Government ensure that the service quality of RCCCs will not be affected?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

1. SWD will set up 4 CPCCs on a pilot basis by re-engineering existing children and youth centres located in the Eastern, Wong Tai Sin, Sha Tin, and Yuen Long districts. These CPCCs will adopt a play-based approach to promote parent-child interaction and educate parents on positive parenting methods, provide support to families with parenting needs, and refer families with other needs to appropriate government and community services.

   SWD will begin renovation works in the second quarter of 2025, with the 4 CPCCs scheduled to commence operations progressively starting from 2026. The provision amounts to around $96.9 million over a 5-year period, from 2025-26 to 2029-30. The staffing establishment will comprise social workers, nurses, family aide workers, and child care workers, etc.

2. SWD will set up 1 additional RCCC in Kwun Tong district in 2025-26, providing 48 emergency care service places at an estimated annual operating expenditure of about $28.28 million. Organisations operating subvented welfare services are required to comply with the relevant requirements and standards stipulated in the Service

Agreements (SAs), including service quality standards, essential service requirements, and service output and outcome standards. SWD will monitor the performance of the service units in accordance with existing mechanisms, and conduct scheduled or surprise visits by random selection to assess whether the organisations are in compliance with the terms and requirements of the SAs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2754)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

According to the Budget, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to enhance support for carers in 2025-26, including promoting the Designated Hotline for Carer Support (the Carer Hotline). In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

(1) the specific measures and the actual expenditure for promoting the Carer Hotline by SWD since its launch in September 2023; the estimated expenditure for promotion in 2025-26; whether there are any new measures for promotion; if so, the details;

(2) the number of calls received by the Carer Hotline since its launch, the types of services sought by callers, the number of cases for each type of services, and the respective numbers of cases required referrals and outreaching visits;

(3) whether SWD has information on the staffing of the Carer Hotline, and its staffing establishment during daytime and late-night hours;

(4) whether SWD has information on the average time it takes for callers to be connected and the average time for handling cases by the operators; and

(5) whether the Government has reviewed the effectiveness of the Carer Hotline; if so, the details; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

SWD has commissioned the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) to launch the 24-hour Carer Hotline in September 2023, with 30 phone lines answered by over 100 professional social workers on shift duties. The expenditure of the Carer Hotline is set out in Table 1 of Annex. TWGHs may flexibly deploy manpower during daytime and late-night hours to achieve the required service outputs and outcomes. SWD does not have information about the staffing level of the Carer Hotline at different times.

As at 31 December 2024, the Carer Hotline has received a total of about 62 800 calls with an average of about 130 calls daily, and the average duration of each call is about 20 minutes.

The Carer Hotline has referred about 1 100 cases to relevant community support service units, and provided emergency support for over 90 cases through outreach services. The nature of calls received, the types of services referred, and the types of cases that required emergency support/outreach visits are set out in Tables 2, 3 and 4 of Annex respectively.

SWD and TWGHs promote and publicise the Carer Hotline through various channels, including 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. These promotional efforts constitute part of the 3-year territory-wide "Care the Carers" publicity campaign launched in 2023, with a total expenditure of approximately $15 million over 3 years. In addition, the funding allocated to TWGHs by SWD for operating the Carer Hotline includes expenses for promotion, and TWGHs can flexibly deploy the funding. SWD does not have information on TWGHs' expenditure on promoting the Carer Hotline.

The Carer Hotline currently has sufficient capacity to meet service demands. SWD will continue to review the Carer Hotline's operations and service needs.

Annex

Table 1: Expenditure of the Carer Hotline

Year	2023-24 [Note] (Actual) ($ million)	2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($ million)
Expenditure	11.00	20.40

Note The Carer Hotline commenced operation in September 2023.

Table 2: Nature of calls received by the Carer Hotline

Nature of call	No. of calls (as at 31 December 2024)
Emotional problem	33 570
Enquiry on community support services	9 460
Care issue	6 540
Financial problem	1 880
Health problem	1 943
Mental health problem	1 596
Enquiry on residential care services	2 379
Request for respite services	1 450
Family relationship problem	815
Housing/accommodation problem	348
Others (such as enquiry on the services of the Carer Hotline)	2 818
Total	**62 799**

Table 3: Types of services referred by the Carer Hotline

Type of service referred	No. of referrals (as at 31 December 2024)
Elderly services	288
Family services	173
Rehabilitation services	159
Medical Social services	77
Day/residential respite services	91
Home care/escort services	87
Suicide Crisis Intervention Centre/999 Crisis Centre	108
Fire Services Communications Centre for dispatch of ambulances	54
Others	56
Total	**1 093**

Table 4: Types of cases that required emergency support/outreach visits

Type of case that required emergency support/outreach visits	No. of cases (as at 31 December 2024)
Respite services	52
Care issue	26
Health problem	12
Others	3
Total	**93**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2792)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Estimates states that, in 2025-26, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to to enhance support for carers by promoting the Information Gateway for Carers (the Information Gateway) and implementing the territory-wide Care the Carers Campaign. In this regard, please advise:

(1) Since the launch of the Information Gateway on 30 November 2023, what specific promotional efforts have been undertaken by SWD, and what was the expenditure involved? What is the estimated promotional expenditure for 2025-26?

(2) What is the hit rate of the Information Gateway since its launch?

(3) What are the estimated expenditure, details of activities conducted, and the expected number of people to be reached under the Care the Carers Campaign?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

(1) & (2) SWD launched the Information Gateway (carers.hk) on 30 November 2023. It provides information on services for elderly persons, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and their carers, caring skills, community activities and resources for carers, etc. As at 31 January 2025, the Information Gateway had a cumulative website traffic of about 2.40 million.

SWD will continue to promote the Information Gateway through various means. These efforts 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. Promoting the Information Gateway constitutes part of SWD's "Care the Carers Campaign" and the related expenses are not recorded separately.

(3) SWD has launched a 3-year territory-wide publicity campaign called the "Care the Carers Campaign" since 2023-24, with the total expenditure of approximately

$15 million for 3 years. Activities are held under different themes each 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 emphasised 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 has organised different publicity activities in line with the annual themes, including the kick-off ceremony for the "Care the Carers Campaign", the "Say Thank You to Carers" event, a thematic short video competition, "Walk with Carers at Palace Museum", etc. Over the past 2 years, the 11 District Social Welfare Offices of SWD, in collaboration with non-governmental and local organisations, held over 1 000 different kinds of district activities to support carers. Furthermore, SWD has also promoted the "Care the Carers Campaign" to the public in Hong Kong through various means, including television and radio announcements in the public interest.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2793)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

According to the Estimates, in 2025-26, the Social Welfare Department will extend the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) - Supporting Elderly and Carers Scheme (the Scheme) to all 18 districts to help identify households of singleton and doubleton elderly, carers of elderly persons and carers of persons with disabilities (PWDs) with welfare needs, provide them with support and make referrals to welfare units as appropriate, and assist needy households to install emergency alarm systems (EAS). In this connection, please advise:

(1) What is the estimated expenditure for implementing this initiative?

(2) Has the Government established specific key performance indicators for this initiative? If yes, please provide the details. If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

The Government launched the Scheme in March 2024. Taking Tsuen Wan and the Southern District as pilot points, Care Teams are engaged to help identify high-risk households of singleton and doubleton elderly, and carers of elderly persons and PWDs through visits and outreach. Cases requiring assistance are then referred to social welfare service units for follow-up. They also assist in referring eligible elderly persons and PWDs to install and use EAS (known as "Safety Bell") with government subsidy. The total expenditure of the Scheme for 2024-25 was about $9.20 million.

Encouraged by the positive outcomes of the Scheme during its pilot phase, the Chief Executive announced in the 2024 Policy Address that the Scheme would be extended to all 18 districts across the territory in the second quarter of 2025 to provide support to more elderly persons and carers. It is expected that in the 12-month implementation period of the Scheme, the Care Teams will contact over 60 000 households in need. The Scheme is expected to incur a total expenditure of about $107.9 million for 2025-26.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2891)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Estimates indicates that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will enhance the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme) in 2025-26. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

(1) The number of elderly persons who participated in the GDRCS Scheme over the past 3 years, and the percentage they represent of the total elderly persons waitlisted for subsidised residential care places;

(2) The expenditure involved in implementing the GDRCS Scheme over the past 3 years, along with the estimated expenditure for 2025-26; and

(3) Whether the Government plans to review the effectiveness of the GDRCS Scheme, and if so, what are the details of such a review?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

(1) The number of new elderly participants in the GDRCS Scheme and their proportion among elderly persons waitlisted for subsidised care and attention (C&A) places from 2022-23 to 2024-25 are as follows:

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
No. of elderly participants	6	78	172
No. of elderly participants as a percentage of the no. of elderly persons waitlisted for subsidised C&A places	0.04%	0.55%	1.20%

(2) The expenditures involved in implementing the GDRCS Scheme in the past 3 years and the estimated expenditure for 2025-26 are as follows:

Year	Expenditure ($ million)
2022-23 (Actual)	13.1
2023-24 (Actual)	18.9
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	32.1
2025-26 (Estimate)	162.1

(3) The response to the GDRCS Scheme from both Hong Kong elderly persons and service operators in Hong Kong and the Mainland has been very positive. The number of elderly participants in the GDRCS Scheme has been steadily increasing in recent years, rising from 124 elderly residents in 2 participating residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) as at the end of December 2022 (during the pandemic) to 316 elderly residents across 11 RCHEs at the end of December 2024. Moreover, starting from March 2025, the number of participating RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme will increase to 15, distributed across 6 Mainland cities within the Greater Bay Area, namely Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Foshan, Zhaoqing, Zhongshan and Jiangmen. SWD will continue to monitor the implementation of the GDRCS Scheme, with a view to providing an additional option for Hong Kong elderly persons interested in cross-boundary retirement.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2893)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

According to the Budget, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will increase the number of Residential Care Service Vouchers (RCSVs) from 5 000 to 6 000 in 2025-26. In this connection, please advise:

(1) The expenditure of the RCSV Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme).

(2) The respective numbers of RCSV applicants and recipients in the past 3 years, as well as the number of elderly persons who were not issued RCSVs and the reasons for this.

(3) The cumulative number of elderly persons who left the RCSV Scheme in the past 3 years, along with their reasons for leaving.

(4) The manpower and actual expenditure involved in the RCSV Scheme in the past 3 years and the estimated figures for 2025-26.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

(1) to (3) The expenditure of the RCSV Scheme, the numbers of RCSV applicants and recipients, the numbers of persons who were not issued RCSVs and those who left the RCSV Scheme, and the reasons for not being issued RCSVs or leaving for the past 3 financial years (i.e. 2022-23 to 2024-25) are set out at Annex.

(4) In the past 3 financial years (i.e. 2022-23 to 2024-25), staff from a total of 33 posts within SWD, including those from the Social Work Officer Grade, Social Security Officer Grade, Clerical and general supporting grades, were involved in the implementation of the RCSV Scheme. SWD has not separately calculated the payroll costs for staff of the RCSV Scheme alone as they also handle other duties.

Annex

Table 1: Expenditure of the RCSV Scheme

Year	Expenditure ($ million)
2022-23 (Actual)	465.2
2023-24 (Actual)	750.4
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	1,055.8

Table 2: Numbers of RCSV applicants and recipients

Year	No. of RCSV applicants	No. of RCSV recipients
2022-23	2 296	1 309
2023-24	3 408	2 007
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	3 400	1 886

Table 3: Number of RCSV applicants not being issued RCSVs and reasons

Reason for not being issued RCSVs	No. of persons		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Deceased	147	127	133
Withdrawn application	790	1 202	1 136
Ineligible	44	56	21
Total	**981**	**1 385**	**1 290**

Table 4: Cumulative number of elderly persons who left the RCSV Scheme and reasons

Reason [Note]	Cumulative No. of persons wo left		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Having no need for residential care services (e.g. being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers, etc.)	294	404	490
The preferred recognised service provider (RSP) was full/no suitable RSPs	143	185	210
Chose to wait for subsidised residential care places	90	129	166
Refused to accept the co-payment arrangement	46	56	60
Others (e.g. long-term hospitalisation, out of town, etc.)	59	78	94
Total	**632**	**852**	**1 020**

[Note] Excluding elderly persons who passed away after joining the scheme.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)038

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3005)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

According to the Budget, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to implement the Strive and Rise Programme (the Programme) to lift underprivileged students out of intergenerational poverty in 2025-26. In this regard, please inform this Committee of:

(1) the total expenditure and staffing establishment involved since the implementation of the Programme;

(2) the numbers of participating mentees and mentors, the number of activities organised, the number of participants and the attendance rates of these activities, the average number of mentor-mentee interactive sessions, and the number and percentage of mentees who have withdrawn from the Programme since its implementation; and

(3) the estimated expenditure for taking forward the Programme in 2025-26.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

(1) & (3) The expenditure of the Programme since its implementation is as follows:

Expenditure ($ million)			
2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)	2025-26 (Estimate)
23.5	61.8	113.5	131.0

SWD implements the Programme by deploying existing manpower. As the staff involved are also responsible for other youth services, a breakdown of the staffing establishment dedicated solely to implementing the Programme is not available.

(2) The numbers of mentees admitted, withdrawn and participated in the Programme since its implementation are tabulated as follows:

	The first cohort	The second cohort	The third cohort (as at February 2025)
Number of mentees admitted	2 800	3 885	4 000
Number of mentees withdrawn	21 (0.75%)	55 (1.42%)	0 (0%)
Number of mentees participated	2 779	3 830	4 000

The numbers of mentors matched with a mentee, withdrawn and participated in the Programme since its implementation are tabulated as follows:

	The first cohort	The second cohort	The third cohort (as at February 2025)
Number of mentors matched with a mentee	2 800	3 339 [Note 1]	3 434 [Note 1]
Number of mentors withdrawn	16 (0.57%)	76 (2.28%)	0 (0%)
Number of mentors participated	2 779 [Note 2]	3 263	3 434

Note 1 Some mentors are matched with 2 mentees.

Note 2 Apart from 16 mentors who withdrew from the Programme, 5 mentors did not complete the Programme due to the withdrawal of their mentees.

The number of activities organised, the number of participants, and the average attendance rates of these activities in the first and second cohorts of the Programme are tabulated as follows:

	The first cohort		
	Number of activities	Number of participants	Average attendance rate
Orientation	29	8 105	96%
Basic training for mentees	232	10 553	98%
Group activities	545	21 891	75%

	The second cohort		
	Number of activities	Number of participants	Average attendance rate
Orientation	30	10 403	96%
Basic training for mentees	119	11 794	84%
Group activities	730	31 764	86%

An array of activities for the third cohort of the Programme is still ongoing. As at end-February 2025, the number of activities organised, the number of participants and the average attendance rates of these activities are tabulated as follows:

	The third cohort (as at end-February 2025)		
	Number of activities	Number of participants	Average attendance rate
Orientation	19	6 893	88%
Basic training for mentees	33	2 717	80%
Group activities	20	931	84%

The mentees who completed the first and second cohorts of the Programme had an average of 12 and 14 interactive sessions with their mentors, respectively.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)039

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3009)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Budget mentions that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to strengthen the support and training for foster families in 2025-26. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

(1) of the number of places, the utilisation rate, the age distribution of service users, their average length of stay, the number of waitlisted children, and the average waiting time for various foster care services in the past 3 years;

(2) of the expenditure involved in providing various foster care services for the past 3 years, and the estimated expenditure for 2025-26; and

(3) whether the Government will consider introducing additional incentives to encourage more members of the public to become foster parents; if yes, of the details; if not, of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

(1) The number of places, the utilisation rate, the average length of stay, the number of waitlisted children, and the average waiting time for foster care services in the past 3 years are set out in Table 1 of Annex. The age distribution of children receiving foster care services is set out in Table 2 of Annex.

(2) The expenditure on foster care services for the past 3 financial years and the estimated expenditure for 2025-26 are set out in Table 3 of Annex.

(3) The Government has implemented a series of enhancement and improvement measures to bolster support for foster care services, including substantially increasing the incentive payment for foster parents starting from April 2024 to encourage more dedicated individuals to become foster parents. Moreover, starting from January 2025, the Government has allocated additional resources to provide extra support for foster families caring for children with special learning or care needs, arrange early assessments and appropriate professional rehabilitation therapy and training for foster children, enhance training for foster parents to strengthen their skills in caring for foster children, and continue to implement 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.

Annex

Table 1: Number of places, utilisation rate, average length of stay, number of waitlisted children, and average waiting time for foster care services

Year	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25** [Note 1]
Number of places	1 130	1 230	1 230
Utilisation rate [Note 2]	78%	72%	72%
Average length of stay (month) [Note 2]	34.90	38.33	32.78
Number of waitlisted children [Note 3]	289	292	256
Average waiting time (month) [Note 3 Note 4]	1.82	2.04	1.75

Note 1 Statistics as at 31 December 2024.

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. Therefore, SWD does not have the statistics on the number of waitlisted children and the average waiting time for foster care (emergency) service.

Note 4 The figures only refer to cases that were successfully matched within a 3-month period but not cases with matching difficulties.

Table 2: Age distribution of children receiving foster care services

Year (as at end-December)	**Age**	**Number of foster children**
2022	Newborn to below 6	403
	6 to below 12	330
	12 to below 18	147
	18 or above [Note]	-
2023	Newborn to below 6	385
	6 to below 12	319
	12 to below 18	139
	18 or above [Note]	1
2024	Newborn to below 6	405
	6 to below 12	320
	12 to below 18	157
	18 or above [Note]	1

Note Under exceptional circumstances, children receiving foster care services may extend their stay with the foster families after reaching 18 years old.

Table 3: Expenditure on foster care services

Year	**Expenditure ($ million)**
2022-23 (Actual)	237.1
2023-24 (Actual)	253.3
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	367.6
2025-26 (Estimate)	403.7

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2211)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the Information Gateway for Carers (Information Gateway) and the Designated Hotline for Carer Support (Carer Hotline) in 2023 to better support carers. In this connection, would the Government please provide the following information regarding carers:

(a) the number of visits to the Information Gateway and the number of calls received by the Carer Hotline since their launch, and the respective numbers of cases in which carers have been successfully assisted, presented in a table;

(b) the cost and staffing establishment for operating the Information Gateway and the Carer Hotline separately; and

(c) the publicity methods used by the Government to promote the Information Gateway and the Carer Hotline, and the respective costs involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

(a) & (b) SWD launched the Information Gateway on 30 November 2023. It provides information on services for elderly persons, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and their carers, caring skills, community activities and resources for carers, etc. As at 31 January 2025, the Information Gateway had a cumulative website traffic of about 2.40 million. 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.

SWD has commissioned the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) to launch the 24-hour Carer Hotline in September 2023, with 30 phone lines answered by over 100 professional social workers on shift duties. The expenditure of the Carer Hotline is set out in Table 1 of Annex.

As at 31 December 2024, the Carer Hotline has received a total of about 62 800 calls with an average of about 130 calls daily, and the average duration of each call is about 20 minutes. The Carer Hotline has referred about 1 100 cases to relevant community support service units, and provided emergency support for

over 90 cases through outreach services. The nature of calls received, the types of services referred, and the types of cases that required emergency support/outreach visits are set out in Tables 2, 3 and 4 of Annex respectively.

(c) SWD and TWGHs promote and publicise the Carer Hotline and the Information Gateway through various channels, including 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. These promotional efforts constitute part of the 3-year territory-wide "Care the Carers" publicity campaign launched since 2023, with a total expenditure of approximately $15 million over 3 years. In addition, the funding allocated to TWGHs by SWD for operating the Carer Hotline includes expenses for promotion, and TWGHs can flexibly deploy the funding. SWD does not have information on TWGHs' expenditure on promoting the Carer Hotline.

Annex

Table 1: Expenditure of the Carer Hotline

Year	2023-24 [Note] (Actual) ($ million)	2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($ million)
Expenditure	11.00	20.40

Note The Carer Hotline commenced operation in September 2023.

Table 2: Nature of calls received by the Carer Hotline

Nature of call	No. of calls (as at 31 December 2024)
Emotional problem	33 570
Enquiry on community support services	9 460
Care issue	6 540
Financial problem	1 880
Health problem	1 943
Mental health problem	1 596
Enquiry on residential care services	2 379
Request for respite services	1 450
Family relationship problem	815
Housing/accommodation problem	348
Others (such as enquiry on the services of the Carer Hotline)	2 818
Total	**62 799**

Table 3: Types of services referred by the Carer Hotline

Type of service referred	No. of referrals (as at 31 December 2024)
Elderly services	288
Family services	173
Rehabilitation services	159
Medical Social services	77
Day/residential respite services	91
Home care/escort services	87
Suicide Crisis Intervention Centre/ 999 Crisis Centre	108
Fire Services Communications Centre for dispatch of ambulances	54
Others	56
Total	**1 093**

Table 4: Types of cases that required emergency support/outreach visits

Type of case that required emergency support/ outreach visits	No. of cases (as at 31 December 2024)
Respite services	52
Care issue	26
Health problem	12
Others	3
Total	**93**

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)041

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2212)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Ex-offenders often find it difficult to reintegrate into society. However, those who have rehabilitated seek to gain social acceptance. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

(a) the number of persons accessing services for ex-offenders, and the types of activities provided for ex-offenders in the past 5 years (presented in tabular form);

(b) the respective numbers of ex-offenders who received employment counselling and successfully secured employment in the past 5 years, broken down by age and length of sentence (presented in tabular form); and

(c) the expenditure and staffing establishment for each service provided to ex-offenders by the Government.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

(a) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides a range of services for offenders, including probation and community service order (CSO) services, the Tuen Mun Children and Juvenile Home (TMCJH), the Post-Release Supervision of Prisoners Scheme (PRSS), and the Young Offender Assessment Panel (YOAP). SWD also subsidises non-governmental organisations (NGOs) through the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System to provide counselling, group activities, hostel services, pre-release preparation services (PRPS), employment development services, and other support at the community level. These services aim to assist ex-offenders in reintegrating into society and leading law-abiding lives.

The number of recipients of the aforementioned services for offenders in the past 5 years is set out at Annex 1.

(b) The numbers of ex-offenders who received employment counselling services provided by subvented organisations and those who successfully secured employment in the past 5 years are tabulated at Annex 2. SWD does not have information on the age or length of sentence of the service users, nor the number of those who successfully secured employment.

(c) In 2024-25, the expenditures and staffing establishment for various services for offenders provided by SWD are tabulated at Annexes 3 and 4, respectively.

Subject to compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements and the relevant statutory staffing requirements (if applicable), NGOs operating subvented welfare 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. Therefore, SWD does not have information on the number of staff employed by subvented NGOs to deliver services for offenders.

Annex 1

The number of recipients of services for offenders in the past 5 years

Service	**2020-21**	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at December 2024)**
Services for offenders provided by SWD					
Probation service (no. of cases)	2 844	2 869	2 863	2 409	1 860
CSO (no. of cases)	2 175	3 154	3 109	2 702	2 081
TMCJH • Approved institution (Probation home) • Reformatory school • Remand home/Place of refuge [Note] (no. of persons served)	 46 5 1 044	 23 11 1 237	 29 8 926	 23 10 918	 16 8 455
PRSS (no. of cases)	772	775	825	933	875
YOAP (no. of cases)	103	103	156	121	103
Services for Offenders provided by subvented NGOs					
Hostel service, integrated service centre, employment development service and PRPS (no. of persons served)	5 030	5 412	5 609	6 412	5 988

Note Remand home/place of refuge also admit children and young persons referred by various authorities under the Protection of Children and Juveniles Ordinance (Cap. 213), the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115) and the Child Abduction and Custody Ordinance (Cap. 512).

Annex 2

Numbers of ex-offenders who received employment counselling services provided by subvented organisations and those who successfully secured employment in the past 5 years

Year	No. of ex-offenders who received employment counselling services	No. of ex-offenders who successfully secured employment
2020-21	1 362	860
2021-22	1 242	779
2022-23	1 319	800
2023-24	1 250	817
2024-25 (as at December 2024)	1 006	635

Annex 3

Expenditure for various services for offenders provided by SWD in 2024-25

Service	**2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($ million)**
Probation and CSO service	201.6
TMCJH	146.5
PRSS	9.5
YOAP	1.4
Services for ex-offenders and discharged prisoners provided by subvented organisations	83.8

Annex 4

The staffing establishment for various services for offenders provided by SWD (on 31 December 2024)

Service	**Staffing establishment (no. of persons)**
Probation and CSO service	139
TMCJH	137
PRSS	9
YOAP	1

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0736)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Last year, the Bureau engaged 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, provided them with support and made referrals to welfare units as appropriate, and assisted needy households to install emergency alarm systems (EAS).

1) What were the actual manpower and expenditure involved?

2) How many elderly persons and PWDs benefited?

3) The District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) – Supporting Elderly and Carers Scheme (the Scheme) will be extended to all 18 districts in the coming year. What are the estimated manpower and expenditure involved? How many elderly persons and PWDs are expected to benefit from it?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1) The Government launched the Scheme in March 2024. Taking Tsuen Wan and the Southern District as pilot points, Care Teams are engaged to help identify high-risk households of singleton and doubleton elderly, and carers of elderly persons and PWDs through visits and contacts. Cases requiring assistance are then referred to social welfare service units for follow-up. They also assist in referring eligible elderly persons and PWDs to install and use EAS (known as "Safety Bell") with government subsidy. The total expenditure of the Scheme for 2024-25 was about $9.20 million.

2) As at end-January 2025, a total of 36 Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and the Southern District have visited or contacted over 7 000 households of singleton and doubleton elderly and carers of elderly persons and PWDs, and have made over 1 190 referrals for welfare services under the Scheme. In addition, a total of 272 elderly persons and 11 PWDs have installed Safety Bells and received related subsidies through the referral of the Care Teams.

3) Encouraged by the positive outcomes of the Scheme during its pilot phase, the Chief Executive announced in the 2024 Policy Address that the Scheme would be extended to all 18 districts across the territory in the second quarter of 2025 to provide support to more elderly persons and carers. It is expected that in the 12-month implementation period of the Scheme, the Care Teams will contact over 60 000 households in need. The Scheme is expected to incur a total expenditure of about $107.9 million for 2025-26.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)043

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0737)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide:

1) the number of cases in the past 3 years where elderly persons returned to Hong Kong and left the Guangdong (GD) Scheme and the Fujian (FJ) Scheme;

2) the main reasons for elderly persons to return to Hong Kong;

3) the number of enquiries and assistance requests made by elderly persons who returned to Hong Kong in the past 3 years under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme; and if there are no relevant statistics, whether the Government has any plans to collect such data to better follow up the Schemes; and

4) the current manpower and expenditure involved in caring for elderly persons who returned to Hong Kong under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

1) & 2) From 2022-23 to 2024-25, the number of elderly persons who left the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme to return to Hong Kong are set out in the table below:

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)
GD Scheme	937	1 745	1 003
FJ Scheme	77	133	112

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the reasons for their return to Hong Kong.

3) SWD will provide information and services to elderly persons who have returned to live in Hong Kong after leaving the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme, ensuring they receive the same level of support as other elderly persons ageing in Hong Kong. SWD does not have separate statistical breakdowns for these returnees.

4) The Social Security Branch and the 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). Handling cases involving elderly persons who have returned to Hong Kong after leaving the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme is part of the day-to-day work of the aforementioned personnel. SWD cannot separately account for the manpower and expenditure involved in these cases.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)044

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0741)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the plan to "increase the number of vouchers under the Residential Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly by 1 000" with a total annual expenditure of about $1,710 million, please provide this Committee with the following information:

1) What was the expenditure on Residential Care Service Vouchers (RCSVs) in the previous year? Were there any discrepancies between the actual expenditure and the estimate? If so, please explain the reasons.

2) Has the value of the newly added vouchers been adjusted? If so, please explain the basis for the adjustment and the expected impact on the quality of services for the elderly.

3) How will the Government ensure that the number of participating residential care homes (RCHs) is aligned with the elderly population density in different districts? What is the estimated expenditure for implementing the related demand assessment mechanism?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

1) The expenditure on RCSVs is affected by factors such as the number of applicants, the number of participants who left the scheme, and the actual amount of care subsidies approved for users. The revised estimate of expenditure for 2024-25 is $1.06 billion, which is lower than the original estimate of 1.39 billion.

2) The voucher values of RCSVs for Care & Attention and nursing home places are $16,764 per month and $21,657 per month, respectively, in 2025-26. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will adjust the voucher value of RCSVs annually with reference to changes in the Composite Consumer Price Index.

3) The numbers of recognised service providers (RSPs) and places for RCSV services have been steadily increasing, growing from 21 in 2017 to 221 by the end of December 2024, covering all districts across Hong Kong. The supply of RCSV services is mainly driven by market demand. SWD will review the service supply from time to time and encourage more RCHs for the elderly that meet the requirements to participate in the RCSV Scheme as RSPs.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)045

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2833)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme) and the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme), would the Government please inform this Committee of:

(1) the current number of RCSV holders;

(2) For the past 2 years and up to the present, the number of new applications for the RCSV Scheme, the number of persons issued with RCSVs, and the expenditure involved;

(3) For the past 2 years and up to the present, the number of first-time RCSV users who decided to withdraw from the scheme during the 6-month trial stay period, and the main reasons for their withdrawal;

(4) The current number of CCSV users, and the distribution of users across the 6 co-payment levels;

(5) For the past 2 years and up to the present, the number of new applications for the CCSV Scheme, the number of persons issued with CCSVs, and the expenditure involved;

(6) For the past 2 years and up to the present, the number of persons who were issued CCSVs but have not used them, and the reasons for this.

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

(1) As at the end of December 2024, there were a total of 5 126 RCSV holders.

(2) From 2022-23 to 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024), the numbers of RCSV applicants and recipients, and the amount of subsidy disbursed, broken down by year, are set out in Table 1 of Annex 1.

(3) From 2022-23 to 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024), the cumulative number of first-time RCSV users who left the RCSV Scheme during the 6-month trial stay period, and their reasons for leaving are set out in Table 2 of Annex 1.

(4) In 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024), the number of CCSV users, broken down by their co-payment level, is set out in Table 1 of Annex 2.

(5) From 2022-23 to 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024), the numbers of new applicants and recipients under the CCSV Scheme, and the amount of subsidy disbursed are set out in Table 2 of Annex 2.

(6) As CCSV holders have the flexibility to choose when to receive or suspend services based on their needs, the Social Welfare Department does not maintain records of the number of CCSV holders who have never used the services or their reasons for not using them.

Annex 1

Table 1: 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)
2022-23	2 296	1 309	465.2
2023-24	3 408	2 007	750.4
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	3 400	1 886	1,055.8 [Note]

[Note] Revised estimate for 2024-25.

Table 2: Cumulative number of first-time RCSV users who left the RCSV Scheme during the 6-month trial stay period and their reasons for leaving

Reason for leaving [Note]	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Having no immediate need for residential care services (RCS)	47	61	77
Being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers, etc.	230	317	387
The preferred recognised service provider (RSP) was full/no suitable RSPs	142	178	208
Chose to wait for subsidised residential care places	90	124	166
Refused to accept the co-payment arrangement	42	52	56
Others (e.g. long-term hospitalisation, out of town, choosing not to leave the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, and incapable of adapting to life in residential care homes, etc.)	48	63	78
Total	**599**	**795**	**972**

[Note] Excluding elderly persons who passed away after joining the scheme.

Annex 2

Table 1: Number of CCSV users by co-payment level in 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

Co-payment level	No. of CCSV users
I	1 418
II	6 502
III	927
IV	1 098
V	196
VI	1 261
Total	**11 402**

Table 2: Numbers of new applicants and recipients under the CCSV Scheme, and the amount of CCSV subsidy disbursed

Year	No. of CCSV applicants	No. of CCSV recipients	CCSV subsidy ($ million)
2022-23	4 375	4 396	361.7
2023-24 [Note 1]	6 546	6 478	477.4 [Note 2]
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	6 471	6 346	687.8 [Note 3]

Note 1 The CCSV Scheme was made permanent in September 2023.

Note 2 Including the amount of CCSV subsidy for the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV in the year.

Note 3 Revised estimate for 2024-25.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)046

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2843)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding various types of child care services, please advise:

(1) (i) the number of service places and (ii) service users; and (iii) the average utilisation rates for various types of day child care services (including standalone child care centres (CCCs), CCCs attached to kindergartens (KGs), Occasional Child Care Service (OCCS), Extended Hours Service (EHS), Mutual Help Child Care Centres (MHCCCs), and the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP)) for the past 2 years and the current year to date, broken down by District Council (DC) district;

(2) the locations of the aided CCCs to be established this year and in the next 2 years, and the number of service places to be provided; and

(3) the number of centres currently participating in the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children [ASCP(PC)], along with the respective numbers of service places, and the Government's estimated distribution of service places across all 18 districts in Hong Kong by the end of this financial year and the next financial year.

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

(1) The numbers of service places and service users, and the average utilisation rates for standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS, MHCCCs, and NSCCP for the past 3 years, broken down by DC district, are tabulated at Annex 1.

(2) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up a total of 11 more aided standalone CCCs in phases within 3 years starting from 2024, providing about 1 000 additional places. Among these, 4 CCCs at Queens Hill Estate and Wah Ming Estate in Fanling, the Treasury Building in Sham Shui Po, and Shun Lee Estate in Kwun Tong have commenced service in 2024, providing a total of 344 places. The 100 additional places at Cheung Shun Street in Sham Shui Po and 60 places at Kwai Fong Estate in Kwai Tsing will commence service in 2025-26, whereas the 100 additional places each at the joint-user government office building in Area 67 of Tseung Kwan O, Sai Kung and Lei Yue Mun Ancillary Facilities Block in Kwun Tong are planned to be put into service in 2026-27.

(3) SWD will extend ASCP(PC) to cover all districts in Hong Kong in phases within 3 years starting from 2024. The number of centres participating in ASCP(PC) will increase from 16 to 28. The first phase of service extension has been completed, under which the 4 centres in Eastern, Kowloon City, Sha Tin, and Tai Po districts have commenced service in February 2025. The estimated number of places available in various districts upon the full service extension is set out at Annex 2.

Annex 1

Table 1: Number of places and average utilisation rate/number of service users for 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	
	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	-	0.7	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 commenced service in January and March 2023 respectively.

Note 2 Figures provided by the Education Bureau (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 home-based child care service (HCCS) places beyond this requirement to meet the actual service demands.

Table 2: Number of places and average utilisation rate/number of service users for standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS, MHCCCs, and NSCCP (2023-24)

District	Standalone CCC Note 1		CCC attached to KG Note 2		OCCS		EHS		MHCCC		NSCCP	
	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	56.0	2 896	23.0	14	46.0	99	36.0	-	10.9	53	494
Southern	-	N.A.	1 095	46.0	17	42.0	73	68.0	-	0.0	53	490
Islands	136	69.0	1 241	24.0	12	20.0	27	7.0	-	N.A.	53	559
Eastern	260	47.0	3 461	46.0	22	38.0	175	39.0	-	N.A.	53	449
Wan Chai	48	100.0	1 420	44.0	17	70.0	94	51.0	-	N.A.	53	282
Kwun Tong	309	67.0	1 300	62.0	48	44.0	226	50.0	-	N.A.	53	533
Wong Tai Sin	-	N.A.	555	78.0	32	61.0	210	42.0	-	N.A.	53	668
Sai Kung	-	N.A.	4 732	24.0	22	46.0	94	27.0	-	N.A.	53	670
Kowloon City	1 152	57.0	4 401	39.0	23	48.0	151	30.0	-	N.A.	53	350
Yau Tsim Mong	131	82.0	1 983	48.0	22	37.0	139	41.0	-	N.A.	53	819
Sham Shui Po	62	100.0	1 567	48.0	29	55.0	162	43.0	-	N.A.	53	930
Sha Tin	177	100.0	2 053	64.0	31	54.0	138	41.0	-	N.A.	53	763
Tai Po	92	87.0	1 508	38.0	19	64.0	111	35.0	-	N.A.	53	552
North	207	70.0	1 139	47.0	21	53.0	105	53.0	-	N.A.	53	529
Yuen Long	152	81.0	1 469	83.0	39	63.0	139	48.0	-	0.0	53	1 160
Tsuen Wan	244	52.0	1 114	68.0	19	57.0	98	41.0	-	N.A.	53	497
Kwai Tsing	60	100.0	1 138	59.0	37	41.0	138	24.0	-	8.9	53	633
Tuen Mun	172	76.0	1 677	56.0	34	39.0	173	37.0	-	N.A.	53	822
Total	**3 250**	**66.0**	**34 749**	**44.0**	**458**	**50.0**	**2 352**	**40.0**	**-**	**2.7**	**954**	**11 200**

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 1 standalone CCC in Central and Western District has ceased operation in August 2023.

Note 2 Figures provided by EDB as at September 2023.

Note 3 The re-engineering of all 18 MHCCCs was completed in February 2024 to provide after-school care service for pre-primary children.

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 to meet the actual service demands.

Table 3: Number of places and average utilisation rate/number of service users for standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, EHS, and NSCCP

(April to December 2024)

District	Standalone CCC Note 1		CCC attached to KG Note 2		OCCS		EHS		NSCCP Note 3	
	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	Number of service users
Central & Western	48	100.0	3 111	19.0	14	48.0	99	36.0	92	284
Southern	-	N.A.	1 161	49.0	17	61.0	73	73.0	92	204
Islands	136	90.0	1 315	26.0	12	29.0	27	13.0	92	505
Eastern	260	47.0	3 730	43.0	22	48.0	175	40.0	92	317
Wan Chai	48	100.0	1 530	35.0	17	62.0	88	49.0	92	174
Kwun Tong	397	58.0	1 351	58.0	48	55.0	249	50.0	184	414
Wong Tai Sin	-	N.A.	558	71.0	32	65.0	206	49.0	92	371
Sai Kung	-	N.A.	5 066	24.0	22	57.0	94	30.0	92	360
Kowloon City	1 152	55.0	4 753	35.0	23	53.0	151	38.0	92	107
Yau Tsim Mong	131	77.0	2 128	46.0	22	34.0	139	39.0	92	518
Sham Shui Po	162	75.0	1 663	42.0	32	69.0	179	53.0	184	457
Sha Tin	177	99.0	2 163	63.0	31	66.0	149	43.0	184	515
Tai Po	92	100.0	1 601	33.0	19	72.0	111	43.0	92	370
North	207	54.0	1 203	46.0	21	63.0	105	51.0	92	275
Yuen Long	152	90.0	1 559	77.0	39	55.0	144	53.0	184	854
Tsuen Wan	244	50.0	1 190	65.0	19	60.0	98	42.0	92	291
Kwai Tsing	60	100.0	1 186	53.0	35	48.0	127	38.0	92	414
Tuen Mun	172	75.0	1 779	49.0	34	46.0	172	42.0	184	574
Total	**3 438**	**65.0**	**37 047**	**41.0**	**459**	**56.0**	**2 386**	**45.0**	**2 116**	**7 004**

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 2 standalone CCCs in Sham Shui Po and Kwun Tong commenced service in September and October 2024 respectively.

Note 2 Figures provided by EDB as at September 2024.

Note 3 Starting from September 2024, on the basis of 1 service team in each of the 18 districts in Hong Kong, SWD has added an additional service team in districts with higher service demands, namely Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Sha Tin, Tuen Mun, and Yuen Long districts. As a result, the number of service teams in Hong Kong has increased from 18 to 23. Each service team is required to provide a minimum of 92 service places (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 2 116). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement to meet the actual service demands.

Annex 2

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

District	**Number of places**	
	2024-25	**Upon full service extension**
Central & Western	42	42
Southern	84	84
Islands	-	42
Eastern	42	42
Wan Chai	-	42
Kwun Tong	84	84
Wong Tai Sin	42	42
Sai Kung	-	42
Kowloon City	42	42
Yau Tsim Mong	-	42
Sham Shui Po	126	126
Sha Tin	42	84
Tai Po	42	84
North	42	42
Yuen Long	126	126
Tsuen Wan	-	42
Kwai Tsing	126	126
Tuen Mun	-	42
Total	**840**	**1 176**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2845)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding subsidised care services for persons with disabilities (PWDs), would the Government please inform this Council of the following:

(1) For various residential services for persons with intellectual or physical disabilities (including hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons (HSMH), hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons (HMMH), hostels for severely physically handicapped persons (HSPH), care and attention homes for severely disabled persons (C&A/SD), supported hostel (SHOS), and small group homes for mildly mentally handicapped children [SGH(MMHC)]) over the past 3 years, please provide: (i) the number of available places, (ii) the average occupancy rate, (iii) the number of waitlisted persons, and (iv) the average waiting time;

(2) The number of inspections conducted at residential care homes for PWDs (RCHDs), as well as the number and nature of any non-compliance cases identified during these inspections, over the past 3 years;

(3) The number of complaints received regarding RCHDs, along with the number of substantiated cases after investigation, over the past 3 years;

(4) A list of RCHDs that have received warnings or penalties on more than 1 occasion for repeated violations of the Code of Practice for RCHDs over the past 3 years; and

(5) Since the launch of the Incentive Scheme to Encourage Provision of Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities in New Private Developments (the Scheme), in December 2023, how many applications have been received, and what are the locations, types, and projected number of residential places for these RCHDs?

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

(1) The numbers of service places, the average occupancy rates, the numbers of waitlisted persons and the average waiting time for HSMH, HMMH, HSPH, C&A/SD, SHOS and SGH(MMHC) from 2022-23 to 2024-25 are set out in Tables 1 to 4 of Annex respectively.

(2) & (4) In the course of inspections or complaint handling by the Social Welfare Department's (SWD) Licensing Office of RCHDs (LORCHD), if RCHDs are found to have failed to comply with the requirements of the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance, the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Regulation or the Code of Practice for RCHDs, 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. 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, and the number and nature of advisory letters and warning letters issued to non-compliant RCHDs by LORCHD in the past 3 years are set out in Table 5 of Annex.

(3) The number of complaints received by LORCHD regarding RCHDs in the past 3 years is set out in Table 6 of Annex. As complaints generally involve different reasons and vary in nature, and their details may overlap, SWD does not maintain statistics on the investigation results.

(5) The Government launched the Incentive Scheme to Encourage Provision of Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities in New Private Developments (the Scheme) in December 2023 to allow private developers, in the course of land transactions relating to lease modification, land exchange or private treaty grant for new private developments (excluding industrial developments), to be exempted from payment of land premium, on the condition that they comply with certain lease conditions and obtain support from SWD.

Private developers' participation in the Scheme may depend on the state of the property market, commercial considerations, and other relevant factors. As at the end of December 2024, one year after the Scheme's launch, the Lands Department has yet to receive any applications. We will continue to promote the Scheme and keep its implementation under review.

Annex

Table 1: Number of service places of various residential services for PWDs

Service type	Number of service place		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
HSMH	4 112	4 523	4 573
HMMH	2 851	2 926	2 926
HSPH	715	790	790
C&A/SD	1 132	1 332	1 372
SHOS	866	866	866
SGH(MMHC) Note	128	128	128

Note SGHs(MMHC) include integrated small group homes (ISGHs).

Table 2: Average occupancy rate of residential services for PWDs

Average occupancy rate (%)		
2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)
97	91	96

Table 3: Number of waitlisted persons of various residential services for PWDs

Service type	Number of waitlisted persons		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
HSMH	2 417	2 275	2 215
HMMH	2 798	2 738	2 852
HSPH	329	259	233
C&A/SD	438	318	229
SHOS	2 370	2 319	2 426
SGH(MMHC) Note	108	115	119

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 4: Average waiting time for various residential services for PWDs

Service type	Average waiting time (in months)		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 Note 1
HSMH	171.1	166.6	Not available yet
HMMH	154.1	145.1	
HSPH	73.0	51.5	
C&A/SD	60.6	48.6	
SHOS	78.8	65.7	
SGH(MMHC) Note 2	17.5	14.7	

Note 1 As the average waiting time is calculated on a financial-year basis, spanning from 1 April of one year to 31 March of the following year, the figures for 2024-25 are not yet available.

Note 2 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 5: Number of inspections conducted at RCHDs [Note 1] and number of advisory letters and warning letters issued to non-compliant RCHDs [Note 2] by LORCHD

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Number of inspections	2 096	1 960	1 915
Number of advisory letters	263	254	186
Number of warning letters	7	15	14

Note 1 Including subsidised and non-subsidised RCHDs.

Note 2 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.

Table 6: Number of complaints received by LORCHD [Note]

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Number of complaints received	98	107	133

Note Including subsidised and non-subsidised RCHDs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2846)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the promotion and application of gerontechnology, please advise:

(1) For the 8th to 10th tranches of applications under the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund), what are the number of approved private organisations and the number of technology products they procured, rented, and trial? Please provide a breakdown by organisation type (i.e. private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS), private residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) under the Bought Place Scheme (BPS), nursing homes (NHs) under the Nursing Home Place Purchase Scheme (NHPPS), recognised service providers (RSPs) under the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme), RSPs under the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) for the Elderly (Pilot Scheme on RCSV), and other private or self-financing RCHEs and RCHDs);

(2) What were the most commonly applied-for types of technology products for procurement, rental, and trial in the past 3 tranches of applications; and

(3) Since the Government extended the scope of CCSVs to cover the rental of assistive technology products in September 2023, what is the cumulative number of elderly persons who have used such rental services?

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

(1) The requested information is set out at Annex.

(2) In the most recent 3 tranches of applications (as at the end of February 2025), the types of technology products most commonly applied for procurement or rental by service units based on approved funding amounts included equipment, assessment tools and accessories for occupational therapy/physiotherapy/speech therapy; smart hospital bed and accessories; computer software; security equipment; and hoist/raiser/lifter/climber, etc. As for applications for trial use of products, as at the end of February 2025, a total

of 7 projects were approved, including a fall prevention management system, a smart bedside intelligence management system, an interactive rehabilitation assessment and training system, a smart glasses device that can transmit instant video and audio signals, a smart transportation robot suite, the trial version of eREACH-HK and a sleep management system.

(3) As at the end of December 2024, the cumulative headcount of CCSV users renting assistive technology products was 647, and a total of 853 assistive technology products had been rented out to them.

Annex

Table 1: Information on the 8th to 10th tranches of applications under the I&T Fund (as at 28 February 2025)

Tranche no. of application	Type of organisation applying for the grant	No. of organisations approved for the grant	No. of products approved
8	Private RCHE under EBPS	69	585
	Private RCHD under BPS	8	37
	NH under NHPPS	1	17
	RSP under CCSV Scheme	12	29
	RSP under Pilot Scheme on RCSV	7	57
	Other private or self-financing RCHE	288	3 311
	Other private or self-financing RCHD	19	104
9	Private RCHE under EBPS	50	306
	Private RCHD under BPS	3	33
	NH under NHPPS	1	1
	RSP under CCSV Scheme	14	45
	RSP under Pilot Scheme on RCSV	3	8
	Other private or self-financing RCHE	111	1 091
	Other private or self-financing RCHD	10	72
10 [Note]	Private RCHE under EBPS	48	329
	Private RCHD under BPS	3	6
	NH under NHPPS	0	0
	RSP under CCSV Scheme	13	38
	RSP under Pilot Scheme on RCSV	5	17
	Other private or self-financing RCHE	120	808
	Other private or self-financing RCHD	17	105

[Note] The vetting of the 10th tranche of applications is still underway.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2848)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, would the Government please advise:

(1) In each of the past 3 years and this year up to the present, how many CSSA recipients had their approved CSSA payments terminated for themselves and their family members by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), or were required to repay overpaid CSSA amounts, due to non-compliance with the items listed in the Job Seeker's Undertaking (the Undertaking);

(2) In each of the past 3 years and this year up to the present, how many CSSA recipients participated in the Employment Support Services (EmSS), and among them, the number and percentage of those who left the CSSA net after securing employment;

(3) The expenditure involved on implementing EmSS in each of the past 3 years and this year up to the present; and

(4) Regarding the 2-year Support Programme for the Unemployed (SPU) to be launched in September this year, what are the estimated annual expenditure and number of participants?

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

(1) In general, unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 15 to 59 are required to receive EmSS unless they have justifiable reasons for not being able to work (such as pursuing studies, or having to look after young children, sick or disabled family members at home), and sign the Undertaking to indicate that they fully understand their obligations to comply with relevant requirements. Unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 60 to 64 may receive EmSS on a voluntary basis.

Among unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 15 to 59 who received EmSS, the headcounts of persons whose CSSA payments were stopped or who were required to repay overpaid CSSA payments due to failure to comply with the requirements stated in the Undertaking from 2021-22 to 2024-25 are tabulated below. SWD does not have information on the number of CSSA applications that were not processed further because applicants refused to sign the Undertaking.

Year	Headcount of persons whose CSSA payments were stopped or who were required to repay overpaid CSSA payments due to failure to comply with the requirements stated in the Undertaking
2021-22	633
2022-23	616
2023-24	584
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	409

(2) The headcounts of persons who received EmSS, the headcounts of those who left the CSSA net owing to securing employment, and their percentages out of the headcounts of persons who received EmSS in 2023-24 and 2024-25 are tabulated below. SWD does not have a breakdown of the headcounts and relevant percentages by year prior to April 2023.

Year	Headcount of persons who received EmSS	Headcount of persons who left the CSSA net owing to securing employment and their percentage out of the headcount of persons who received EmSS
2023-24	16 480	489 (3.0%)
2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)	14 022	311 (2.2%)

(3) The expenditure incurred by SWD on commissioning NGOs to provide EmSS from 2021-22 to 2024-25 is tabulated below:

Year	Expenditure ($ million)
2021-22 (Actual)	153
2022-23 (Actual)	157
2023-24 (Actual)	159
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	162

(4) SWD will replace EmSS with SPU starting from October 2025. SPU will be operated on a pilot basis for 2 years by NGOs and/or other organisations. SWD estimates that there will be about 10 000 participants during the initial implementation of SPU. The estimated expenditure on the 2-year SPU is around $98 million. SWD will commission SPU operators through invitation for proposals. NGOs operating EmSS are free to submit their proposals.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1545)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Lump Sum Grant (LSG) Subvention System (LSGSS), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide a list of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating subvented welfare services under LSGSS in 2024-25, along with the actual amounts of subvention received by them during the year, presented in tabular form.
2. Please provide a list of NGOs operating subvented welfare services under LSGSS in 2025-26, along with the provisional amounts of subvention to be received by them during the year, presented in tabular form.
3. Please provide the names of NGOs that were required to refund the Government due to their cumulative LSG reserve having exceeded 25% of operating expenditure for the respective year, along with the corresponding amounts involved for 2023-24 and 2024-25, respectively.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. & 2. The list of NGOs operating subvented welfare services under LSGSS, along with the amounts of subvention received by them, in 2024-25 and 2025-26 is set out at Annex 1.

3. Information is not available for 2024-25 as the Annual Financial Reports (AFRs) for 2024-25 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 2023-24, along with the corresponding amounts involved, are set out at Annex 2.

Annex 1

The Social Welfare Department's (SWD) subvention (revised estimate) to NGOs under LSGSS in 2024-25

S/N	Name of NGO	2024-25 Subvention [Note 1] (revised estimate) ($)
1	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	2,308,187,695
2	Caritas - Hong Kong	1,618,840,747
3	Po Leung Kuk	1,470,160,171
4	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	1,343,830,060
5	SAHK	844,257,001
6	Salvation Army (The)	774,565,812
7	Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (The)	721,188,215
8	Hong Kong Christian Service	704,538,163
9	Christian Family Service Centre	693,215,597
10	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	663,616,214
11	Yan Chai Hospital	659,631,938
12	Heep Hong Society	634,458,893
13	Hong Chi Association	610,364,258
14	St. James' Settlement	583,205,482
15	Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, the Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod Limited	564,484,258
16	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	534,311,684
17	Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (The)	514,069,613
18	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service	510,750,580
19	Fu Hong Society	493,765,525
20	Hong Kong Society for the Aged (The)	491,961,496
21	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	465,100,790
22	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong	462,717,060
23	Haven of Hope Christian Service	457,044,587
24	Pok Oi Hospital	329,505,417
25	Hong Kong Children and Youth Services	329,273,889
26	Mental Health Association of Hong Kong (The)	328,467,851
27	Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (The)	306,576,986
28	Wai Ji Christian Service	273,588,540
29	Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service	267,848,570
30	Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association	263,006,137
31	Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong	252,771,812
32	Yan Oi Tong	249,807,724
33	Sik Sik Yuen	248,167,391
34	Hong Kong Society for the Blind (The)	189,543,171
35	Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children	172,268,710
36	Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong (The)	164,771,972
37	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch	155,838,451
38	Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service (The)	152,008,780
39	Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre	139,689,044
40	Helping Hand	130,372,652
41	Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon (The)	128,907,922
42	Stewards	120,509,229
43	Hong Kong Playground Association	119,453,497
44	Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service	118,343,989
45	Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (The)	116,567,811
46	Sheng Kung Hui St. Christopher's Home Limited	105,489,764
47	Methodist Centre	101,427,772
48	Hong Kong Student Aid Society Limited (The)	91,419,731
49	Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong	90,278,953

S/N	Name of NGO	2024-25 Subvention [Note 1] (revised estimate) ($)
50	Hong Kong Society for the Deaf (The)	88,842,988
51	Hong Kong PHAB Association	87,486,887
52	Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Charity Foundation	82,784,978
53	Methodist Epworth Village Community Centre, Social Welfare	82,246,885
54	Society of Boys' Centres	78,405,302
55	Chi Lin Nunnery	75,631,561
56	Hong Kong Buddhist Association (The)	71,833,998
57	Asia Women's League Limited	69,395,748
58	Women's Welfare Club (Eastern District) Hong Kong (The)	56,791,014
59	Chung Sing Benevolent Society	56,155,504
60	Scout Association of Hong Kong	56,135,731
61	Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club	54,555,076
62	Yuen Yuen Institute (The)	53,887,780
63	Mongkok Kai-Fong Association Limited (The)	53,229,559
64	Chung Shak Hei (Cheung Chau) Home for the Aged Limited	52,624,358
65	Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council (The)	50,891,273
66	Hong Kong Council of Social Service (The)	49,627,862
67	Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong	49,566,401
68	Ching Chung Taoist Association of Hong Kong Limited	48,508,097
69	Kiangsu Chekiang and Shanghai Residents (Hong Kong) Association	46,647,499
70	Christian & Missionary Alliance Social Services Limited	45,511,094
71	Church of United Brethren in Christ Hong Kong Limited (The)	45,404,773
72	Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited	45,368,757
73	Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (The)	43,125,316
74	Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart Diseases Association (The)	41,358,918
75	Chuk Lam Ming Tong Limited	41,198,401
76	Yuen Long Town Hall Management Committee Limited	40,295,883
77	Hong Kong ABWE Social Services	38,504,166
78	Fung Kai Public School	34,874,906
79	The Mother Superior of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd of Angers at Hong Kong	30,219,592
80	Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited	30,120,975
81	Hong Kong Bodhi Siksa Society Limited (The)	30,076,536
82	Asbury Methodist Social Service	29,531,516
83	Mother's Choice Limited	29,295,209
84	Association for Engineering and Medical Volunteer Services	28,493,445
85	Evangelical Free Church of China Social Service	27,524,602
86	Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired (The)	26,844,794
87	Watchdog Limited	26,307,515
88	Hong Kong Juvenile Care Centre	25,394,553
89	Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church Social Service Limited	25,042,729
90	Free Methodist Church of Hong Kong (The)	24,508,348
91	United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service	23,613,118
92	Hong Kong-Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists	21,904,277
93	Kowloon Women's Welfare Club (The)	21,636,523
94	Chinese Evangelical Zion Church Limited	21,165,422
95	Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association (The)	20,566,957
96	Superioress of the Sisters of the Precious Blood (The)	20,245,247
97	Evangelical Free Church of China - Evangel Children's Home	17,130,011

S/N	Name of NGO	2024-25 Subvention [Note 1] (revised estimate) ($)
98	Hong Kong Mutual Encouragement Association Limited	17,041,064
99	Women's Welfare Club, Western District, Hong Kong	17,006,785
100	Christian New Being Fellowship Limited (The)	16,625,518
101	New Territories Women and Juveniles Welfare Association Limited (The)	16,621,651
102	Hong Kong and Kowloon Kaifong Women's Association	16,376,819
103	International Church of the Foursquare Gospel Hong Kong District Limited	15,988,521
104	Youth Outreach	15,855,829
105	Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong (The)	15,545,855
106	Tung Lum Nien Fah Tong Limited	15,487,301
107	ABM Hong Kong Swatow Baptist Church Community Service Association (The)	14,951,345
108	Hong Kong Christian Mutual Improvement Society	14,559,942
109	Project Care	14,545,260
110	New Life Church of Christ Hong Kong Limited	13,701,340
111	Fung Ying Seen Koon	13,065,963
112	Tung Sin Tan Home for the Aged	12,795,237
113	Harmony House Limited	12,262,287
114	Kowloon Women's Organisations Federation Limited	12,255,467
115	Hong Kong Southern District Women's Association Limited	12,252,229
116	OIWA Limited	12,161,559
117	Operation Dawn Limited	11,643,215
118	Tin Shui Wai Women Association Limited	11,031,257
119	Zion Social Service Limited	10,849,766
120	Baptist Mid-Missions	10,822,047
121	Women Service Association Limited	10,803,605
122	Child Development Centre (The)	10,779,673
123	Kwun Tong Resident Association	10,758,242
124	Lam Tin Estate Kai Fong Welfare Association Limited (The)	9,934,293
125	Barnabas Charitable Service Association Limited (The)	9,737,475
126	Tuen Mun District Women's Association Limited	9,592,788
127	Hong Kong Single Parents Association	9,495,383
128	Sai Kung District Community Centre	9,440,507
129	Lutheran Philip House Limited	8,715,768
130	Hong Kong Red Cross	8,455,248
131	Mission Covenant Church Limited (The)	8,379,877
132	Asian Outreach Hong Kong Limited	8,264,355
133	Endeavourers Hong Kong (The)	8,002,212
134	Agency for Volunteer Service	7,958,102
135	Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth	7,407,318
136	Jordan Valley Kaifong Welfare Association	7,396,809
137	Kowloon City Baptist Church Social Services	7,122,211
138	Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong (The)	7,081,588
139	Tsim Sha Tsui District Kaifong Welfare Association	7,053,590
140	Hong Kong Women Foundation Limited	7,017,988
141	Hong Kong Blind Union	7,003,378
142	International Women's League Limited	6,892,721
143	Light and Love Home Limited	6,813,707
144	Christian Nationals' Evangelism Commission Grace Light Neighbourhood Elderly Centre	6,749,745
145	Fo Guang Shan International Buddhist Progress Society (Hong Kong) Limited	6,744,611
146	China Peniel Missionary Society Incorporation	6,725,532
147	Hong Kong West Point Baptist Church	6,706,766

S/N	Name of NGO	2024-25 Subvention [Note 1] (revised estimate) ($)
148	The Church of Christ in China Hop Yat Church Social Service Department	6,326,331
149	Hong Kong and Macau Regional Centre of the World Fellowship of Buddhists Limited	6,264,937
150	Shamshuipo Kai Fong Welfare Advancement Association	6,194,773
151	Hong Kong Rehabilitation Power	5,892,588
152	Suen Mei Speech and Hearing Centre	5,562,457
153	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui St. Simon's Social Services	5,284,614
154	Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary	5,142,687
155	Hans Andersen Club	5,028,362
156	Society for Community Organization	4,701,553
157	Yuk Chi Resource Centre Limited	4,557,368
158	Lok Chi Association Limited	4,340,374
159	Hong Kong Federation of the Blind	4,265,193
160	Nesbitt Centre Limited (The)	4,256,867
161	Hong Kong, China Sports Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability	4,124,056
162	Alice Lan and Vera Shen Education Fund Limited	4,048,632
163	Cheung Chau Rural Committee Integrated Youth Centre	3,747,611
164	Tai Hang Residents' Welfare Association	3,738,602
165	Sports Association for the Physically Disabled of Hong Kong, China	3,143,307
166	Five Districts Business Welfare Association	2,962,519
167	Against Child Abuse Limited	2,819,755
168	Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited	2,798,103
169	SKH St. Matthias' Church Nursery School Limited	2,515,459
170	Cheung Sha Wan Kai Fong Welfare Association Lam Tam Yin Wah Day Nursery	2,352,870
171	Society of St. Vincent de Paul Central Council of Hong Kong	2,288,575
172	Emmanuel Church	2,277,074
173	Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims Limited	2,016,286
174	People Service Centre Limited	1,669,624
175	Yuen Long District Women's Association Limited	1,352,552
	Total [Note 2]	**25,844,836,565**

Note 1 Subvention includes LSG subvention (including subvention on provident fund (PF)) and other subvention (such as Rent and Rates, Central Items, etc.).

Note 2 Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

SWD's subvention (provisional) to NGOs under LSGSS in 2025-26

S/N	Name of NGO	2025-26 Subvention [Note 1] (provisional) ($)
1	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	2,262,030,730
2	Caritas - Hong Kong	1,587,457,121
3	Po Leung Kuk	1,425,246,914
4	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	1,254,130,712
5	SAHK	809,998,245
6	Salvation Army (The)	743,818,886
7	Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (The)	701,227,385
8	Hong Kong Christian Service	684,031,558
9	Christian Family Service Centre	682,722,440
10	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	664,972,361
11	Yan Chai Hospital	637,617,888
12	Heep Hong Society	617,452,307
13	Hong Chi Association	609,186,736
14	Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, the Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod Limited	552,899,558
15	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	550,523,805
16	St. James' Settlement	545,677,560
17	Fu Hong Society	496,719,483
18	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service	492,370,237
19	Boys' and Girls, Clubs Association of Hong Kong (The)	487,095,820
20	Hong Kong Society for the Aged (The)	481,801,181
21	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong	454,849,487
22	Haven of Hope Christian Service	449,987,887
23	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	439,874,202
24	Mental Health Association of Hong Kong (The)	330,606,652
25	Hong Kong Children and Youth Services	326,199,429
26	Pok Oi Hospital	307,313,835
27	Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (The)	294,745,136
28	Wai Ji Christian Service	276,499,495
29	Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association	261,035,414
30	Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service	253,984,042
31	Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong	245,813,029
32	Sik Sik Yuen	241,749,028
33	Yan Oi Tong	203,276,752
34	Hong Kong Society for the Blind (The)	186,752,110
35	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch	169,048,775
36	Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong (The)	163,373,813
37	Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre	135,451,504
38	Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service (The)	131,580,089
39	Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children	130,219,430
40	Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon (The)	127,508,185
41	Stewards	121,101,044
42	Hong Kong Playground Association	117,333,873
43	Helping Hand	105,362,032
44	Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (The)	105,323,333
45	Sheng Kung Hui St. Christopher's Home Limited	98,914,111
46	Methodist Centre	96,637,073
47	Hong Kong Student Aid Society Limited (The)	93,494,272
48	Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong	91,488,336
49	Hong Kong PHAB Association	86,272,405

S/N	Name of NGO	2025-26 Subvention [Note 1] (provisional) ($)
50	Hong Kong Society for the Deaf (The)	85,256,412
51	Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Charity Foundation	81,329,368
52	Methodist Epworth Village Community Centre, Social Welfare	79,983,088
53	Society of Boys' Centres	77,069,517
54	Chi Lin Nunnery	74,568,024
55	Hong Kong Buddhist Association (The)	70,755,393
56	Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service	70,317,361
57	Asia Women's League Limited	68,118,814
58	Chung Sing Benevolent Society	56,894,963
59	Women's Welfare Club (Eastern District) Hong Kong (The)	56,564,758
60	Scout Association of Hong Kong	54,616,753
61	Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club	53,299,980
62	Chung Shak Hei (Cheung Chau) Home for the Aged Limited	53,059,546
63	Mongkok Kai-Fong Association Limited (The)	52,505,165
64	Yuen Yuen Institute (The)	52,469,930
65	Hong Kong Council of Social Service (The)	49,912,856
66	Ching Chung Taoist Association of Hong Kong Limited	48,517,733
67	Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong	47,244,195
68	Church of United Brethren in Christ Hong Kong Limited (The)	47,174,654
69	Kiangsu Chekiang and Shanghai Residents (Hong Kong) Association	46,851,538
70	Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council (The)	43,840,607
71	Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (The)	43,069,319
72	Christian & Missionary Alliance Social Services Limited	41,777,124
73	Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart Diseases Association (The)	41,777,117
74	Chuk Lam Ming Tong Limited	41,337,928
75	Yuen Long Town Hall Management Committee Limited	39,848,678
76	Hong Kong ABWE Social Services	35,816,861
77	Fung Kai Public School	35,217,212
78	Mother's Choice Limited	33,745,087
79	Hong Kong Bodhi Siksa Society Limited (The)	30,586,526
80	The Mother Superior of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd of Angers at Hong Kong	30,266,442
81	Asbury Methodist Social Service	29,335,625
82	Association for Engineering and Medical Volunteer Services	28,832,280
83	Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited	28,286,301
84	Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired (The)	26,193,550
85	Watchdog Limited	25,826,124
86	Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church Social Service Limited	25,800,870
87	Hong Kong Juvenile Care Centre	25,300,323
88	Evangelical Free Church of China Social Service	25,271,258
89	United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service	23,588,509
90	Free Methodist Church of Hong Kong (The)	23,229,982
91	Kowloon Women's Welfare Club (The)	21,752,827
92	Hong Kong-Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists	21,650,392
93	Superioress of the Sisters of the Precious Blood (The)	20,871,048
94	Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association (The)	20,593,141
95	Christian New Being Fellowship Limited (The)	18,439,503

S/N	Name of NGO	2025-26 Subvention [Note 1] (provisional) ($)
96	Evangelical Free Church of China - Evangel Children's Home	17,764,037
97	Hong Kong Mutual Encouragement Association Limited	17,001,862
98	Women's Welfare Club, Western District, Hong Kong	15,988,017
99	Youth Outreach	15,939,854
100	International Church of the Foursquare Gospel Hong Kong District Limited	15,779,026
101	Tung Lum Nien Fah Tong Limited	15,585,029
102	Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong (The)	15,560,473
103	Project Care	15,296,656
104	Chinese Evangelical Zion Church Limited	15,072,811
105	ABM Hong Kong Swatow Baptist Church Community Service Association (The)	14,976,433
106	Fung Ying Seen Koon	14,535,503
107	Hong Kong Christian Mutual Improvement Society	14,494,011
108	New Territories Women and Juveniles Welfare Association Limited (The)	13,764,225
109	New Life Church of Christ Hong Kong Limited	13,705,627
110	Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited	13,595,181
111	Hong Kong and Kowloon Kaifong Women's Association	13,490,233
112	Tung Sin Tan Home for the Aged	12,729,350
113	Operation Dawn Limited	12,703,464
114	Harmony House Limited	12,286,503
115	Barnabas Charitable Service Association Limited (The)	10,591,176
116	Zion Social Service Limited	10,552,978
117	Child Development Centre (The)	10,348,383
118	Mission Covenant Church Limited (The)	9,407,562
119	Lam Tin Estate Kai Fong Welfare Association Limited (The)	9,259,031
120	Sai Kung District Community Centre	9,151,093
121	Endeavourers Hong Kong (The)	9,148,411
122	Hong Kong Red Cross	9,133,371
123	Baptist Mid-Missions	9,118,462
124	Asian Outreach Hong Kong Limited	8,263,993
125	Agency for Volunteer Service	7,995,720
126	Tsim Sha Tsui District Kaifong Welfare Association	7,767,822
127	Jordan Valley Kaifong Welfare Association	7,449,163
128	Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth	7,423,529
129	Kowloon City Baptist Church Social Services	7,112,636
130	Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong (The)	7,094,089
131	Hong Kong Women Foundation Limited	7,032,392
132	Hong Kong Blind Union	7,015,713
133	International Women's League Limited	6,900,349
134	Light and Love Home Limited	6,802,815
135	Fo Guang Shan International Buddhist Progress Society (Hong Kong) Limited	6,766,201
136	Christian Nationals' Evangelism Commission Grace Light Neighbourhood Elderly Centre	6,739,480
137	China Peniel Missionary Society Incorporation	6,714,923
138	Hong Kong West Point Baptist Church	6,682,312
139	Hong Kong Southern District Women's Association Limited	6,543,186
140	Kowloon Women's Organisations Federation Limited	6,494,171
141	The Church of Christ in China Hop Yat Church Social Service Department	6,315,648
142	Shamshuipo Kai Fong Welfare Advancement Association	6,183,826
143	Hong Kong Rehabilitation Power	5,914,028

S/N	Name of NGO	2025-26 Subvention [Note 1] (provisional) ($)
144	Suen Mei Speech and Hearing Centre	5,568,080
145	Women Service Association Limited	5,237,910
146	Tin Shui Wai Women Association Limited	5,214,746
147	Kwun Tong Resident Association	5,196,586
148	Society for Community Organization	4,530,881
149	Yuk Chi Resource Centre Limited	4,449,504
150	Lok Chi Association Limited	4,346,630
151	Hong Kong Federation of the Blind	4,271,665
152	Nesbitt Centre Limited (The)	4,262,493
153	Hong Kong and Macau Regional Centre of the World Fellowship of Buddhists Limited	4,203,196
154	Hong Kong, China Sports Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability	4,135,155
155	Hans Andersen Club	3,921,393
156	Hong Kong Single Parents Association	3,918,183
157	OIWA Limited	3,918,183
158	Tuen Mun District Women's Association Limited	3,918,183
159	Cheung Chau Rural Committee Integrated Youth Centre	3,752,953
160	Tai Hang Residents' Welfare Association	3,744,260
161	Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary	3,650,036
162	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui St. Simon's Social Services	3,643,877
163	Sports Association for the Physically Disabled of Hong Kong, China	3,153,726
164	Against Child Abuse Limited	2,822,088
165	Alice Lan and Vera Shen Education Fund Limited	2,602,350
166	Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited	2,547,118
167	SKH St. Matthias' Church Nursery School Limited	2,042,394
168	Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims Limited	2,030,593
169	Five Districts Business Welfare Association	1,946,141
170	Society of St. Vincent de Paul Central Council of Hong Kong	1,662,492
171	Cheung Sha Wan Kai Fong Welfare Association Lam Tam Yin Wah Day Nursery	1,459,789
172	Yuen Long District Women's Association Limited	1,307,559
173	People Service Centre Limited	1,274,319
174	Emmanuel Church	875,637
	Total [Note 2]	**24,953,339,260**

Note 1 Subvention includes LSG subvention (including subvention on PF) and other subvention (such as Rent and Rates, Central Items, etc.). The subvention for 2025-26 is provisional. Certain subvented items (such as the food cost for the Short-term Food Assistance Service, and the training allowance, fee waivers/reductions and incentive payments under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project, etc.) are not included as their subvention is 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 2023-24

S/N	Name of NGO	Amount of refund from LSG reserve in 2023-24 Note 1 ($)
1	Fo Guang Shan International Buddhist Progress Society (Hong Kong) Limited	1,819,012
2	Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary	1,184,459
3	Cheung Sha Wan Kai Fong Welfare Association Lam Tam Yin Wah Day Nursery	1,180,305
4	Asbury Methodist Social Service	988,301
5	Society of St. Vincent de Paul Central Council of Hong Kong	953,526
6	Shamshuipo Kai Fong Welfare Advancement Association	942,015
7	Women's Welfare Club, Western District, Hong Kong	924,190
8	New Life Church of Christ Hong Kong Limited	899,411
9	Christian Nationals' Evangelism Commission Grace Light Neighbourhood Elderly Centre	891,300
10	Yuk Chi Resource Centre Limited	805,631
11	Tai Hang Residents' Welfare Association	775,515
12	Alice Lan and Vera Shen Education Fund Limited	678,533
13	Hong Kong and Kowloon Kaifong Women's Association	509,054
14	Hong Kong – Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists	470,101
15	Agency for Volunteer Service	437,992
16	Ching Chung Taoist Association of Hong Kong Limited	437,918
17	Suen Mei Speech and Hearing Centre	408,988
18	Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims Limited	322,523
19	Zion Social Service Limited	255,115
20	Society for Community Organization	243,597
21	Chung Shak Hei (Cheung Chau) Home for the Aged Limited	115,201
22	Child Development Centre (The)	68,198
23	China Peniel Missionary Society Incorporation	45,293
24	Hong Kong Southern District Women's Association Limited	15,416
25	Five Districts Business Welfare Association	10,946
26	Lam Tin Estate Kai Fong Welfare Association Limited (The)	10,162
27	Hong Kong, China Sports Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability	9,253
28	Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong (The)	5,186
	Total Note 2	**15,407,140**

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. Besides, under the relief measures of the Productivity Enhancement Programme, NGOs with provisional LSG subvention of $50 million or more for 2024-25 might retain reserves exceeding the LSG reserve ceiling in 2023-24. The list above does not include these NGOs.

Note 2 Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1712)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

(1) On average, how many complaints were filed by service users against Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) operated by subvented and private organisations in each of the past 3 years? How many of these complaints were substantiated and resolved?

(2) Further to the question above, on average, how many complaints were filed by third parties other than service users (including but not limited to Legislative Council Members' offices and other organisations) against IFSCs operated by subvented and private organisations in each of the past 3 years? How many of these complaints were substantiated and resolved?

(3) It is understood that there is no established mechanism for handling complaints about service operations filed by individuals and organisations other than service users. What feasible approaches and measures are in place to handle such cases and ensure that subvented organisations and their staff meet the required performance standards?

Asked by: Hon CHU Kwok-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

According to the prevailing Social Welfare Services Lump Sum Grant (LSG) Subvention Manual, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating subvented welfare services are required to put in place an effective mechanism for handling LSG-related complaints pertaining to the NGOs or their subvented service units. Complaints that cannot be satisfactorily addressed at the NGO level are referred to the LSG Independent Complaints Handling Committee (the Committee), which comprises non-governmental independent members. Detailed information about the Committee's complaint handling mechanism, terms of reference, and methods for lodging complaints is uploaded on the Social Welfare Department's website (https://www.swd.gov.hk/en/ngo/subventions/comp/ichc/).

Between 2022-23 and 2024-25 (up to the end of December 2024), the Committee received 28 and 1 complaints regarding IFCS/Integrated Service Centres from service users/their family members, and other individuals respectively. The Committee handled these complaints in accordance with the established mechanism. Taking into account the scope, nature, and content of the complaints, as well as their impact, if any, on service quality, the Committee recommended appropriate follow-up actions to the relevant service units and provided responses to the complainants.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)052

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2742)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the following information using the table below:

(i) the number of cases where grants were provided by the Government, and the average and total amounts of grants provided for various items under "grants to repair or replace vessels and fishing gear" in the past 3 years (from 2022-23 to 2024-25);

(ii) the number of cases where grants were provided by the Government, and the average and total amounts of grants provided for various items under "primary producer grants" in the past 3 years (from 2022-23 to 2024-25); and

(iii) the number of cases where grants were provided by the Government, and the average and total amounts of grants provided for various items under "special grants" in the past 3 years (from 2022-23 to 2024-25).

	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		
	No. of cases	Average amount of grants per case ($)	Total amount of grants paid	No. of cases	Average amount of grants per case ($)	Total amount of grants paid	No. of cases	Average amount of grants per case ($)	Total amount of grants paid
Grants to repair or replace vessels and fishing gear									
Primary producer grants									
Special grants									

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

The information sought is tabulated below:

	2022-23			2023-24 [Note]			2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)		
	No. of cases	**Average amount of grants per case ($)**	**Total amount of grants paid ($)**	**No. of cases**	**Average amount of grants per case ($)**	**Total amount of grants paid ($)**	**No. of cases**	**Average amount of grants per case ($)**	**Total amount of grants paid ($)**
(i) Grants to repair or replace vessels and fishing gear	5	332,553	1,662,763	94	14,905	1,401,110	6	8,356	50,135
(ii) Primary producer grants	-	-	-	2 296	11,730	26,932,711	3	25,562	76,685
(iii) Special grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note The grants approved in 2023-24 addressed several natural disasters, including the fire in the fish culture zone at Sok Kwu Wan on 30 June 2023, the fire in the speed restricted zone at Sam Mun Tsai, Tai Po, on 3 August 2023, and the devastation brought by super typhoon Saola and the black rainstorms during the period from 1 to 8 September 2023.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1161)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Government's plan to set up 10 more aided standalone child care centres (CCCs) in phases starting this year, please provide this Committee with the following information:

1) Which districts will be prioritised for the new CCCs and after-school care services? How will the Government ensure the provision of balanced services across districts?

2) Will the Government provide information or resources to help parents understand these new services? Are there plans to conduct promotional activities?

3) Are these measures part of the Government's long-term planning in early childhood education and care? Does the Government have any other similar expansion plans for the future?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1) & 3) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up a total of 11 more aided standalone CCCs in phases within 3 years starting from 2024. Among these, 4 CCCs at Queens Hill Estate and Wah Ming Estate in Fanling, the Treasury Building in Sham Shui Po, and Shun Lee Estate in Kwun Tong have commenced service in 2024. In addition, the CCCs at Cheung Shun Street in Sham Shui Po and Kwai Fong Estate in Kwai Tsing will commence service in 2025-26. The CCCs at the joint-user government office building in Area 67 of Tseung Kwan O, Sai Kung and Lei Yue Mun Ancillary Facilities Block in Kwun Tong are planned to commence service in 2026-27, whereas the remaining 3 CCCs, proposed to be set up in districts such as Kowloon City and Kwun Tong, are expected to put into service by the end of 2027.

Besides, SWD will extend the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children [ASCP(PC)] to cover all districts in Hong Kong in phases within 3 years starting from 2024. The number of centres participating in ASCP(PC) will increase from 16 to 28, with 16 of them located in 8 districts (including Central and Western, Southern, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sham Shui Po, North, Yuen

Long, and Kwai Tsing districts). SWD is extending the service to cover the remaining 10 districts in phases. The first phase of service extension has been completed, under which the 4 centres in Eastern, Kowloon City, Sha Tin, and Tai Po districts have commenced service in February 2025.

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. The key of child care/education is to meet children's developmental needs. SWD will continuously review the service planning and implement different measures, such as increasing the number of service places, etc., to further address the developmental needs of children.

2) Service operators will organise promotional activities in various districts, and promote their services and recruit service users through online searches/social media/websites, setting up street booths, distributing leaflets, and hanging promotional banners, etc. SWD will also regularly produce and distribute publicity materials to promote various types of day child care services.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1163)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The financial provision for subvented/private sector organisations for 2025-26 amounts to $4.434 billion, reflecting an increase of 11%.

1. Please provide information about these subvented/private sector organisations.
2. How can it be ensured that the services provided by private sector organisations meet the required standards?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

1. Under the Programme of Family and Child Welfare, the estimated expenditure for subvented/private sectors in 2025-26 is approximately $4.433 billion, representing an increase of about $439 million (or 11%) over the revised estimate for 2024-25. The expenditure will mainly be used for strengthening support services related to day and residential child care services and child protection, and implementing service enhancement measures, including setting up 2 additional residential child care centres, strengthening foster care services and the home-based child care service under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project, and extending the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children in phases to cover all districts in Hong Kong, etc. A list of organisations subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and providing family and child welfare services is at Annex.
2. All subvented/private sector organisations are required to comply with the relevant requirements and standards stipulated in the Service Agreements (SAs), including essential service requirements, service output and outcome standards, and service quality standards. SWD will review the operation of the services and monitor the performance of the service units in accordance with existing mechanisms, and conduct scheduled or surprise visits by random selection to assess whether the organisations are in compliance with the terms and requirements of SAs.

Annex

List of subvented organisations providing family and child welfare services

S/N	Name of organisation
1	Against Child Abuse Limited
2	Alice Lan and Vera Shen Education Fund Limited
3	People Service Centre Limited
4	Hong Kong ABWE Social Services
5	Baptist Convention of Hong Kong (The)
6	Baptist Mid-Missions
7	Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service
8	Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (The)
9	Hong Kong Buddhist Association (The)
10	Caritas - Hong Kong
11	Cheung Sha Wan Kai Fong Welfare Association Lam Tam Yin Wah Day Nursery
12	Chinese Evangelical Zion Church Limited
13	Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (The)
14	Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong
15	Evangelical Free Church of China Social Service
16	Christian Family Service Centre
17	Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China (The)
18	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited
19	Evangelical Free Church of China - Evangel Children's Home
20	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong
21	Five Districts Business Welfare Association
22	Harmony House Limited
23	Heep Hong Society
24	Hong Kong and Kowloon Kaifong Women's Association
25	Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council (The)
26	Hong Kong Children and Youth Services
27	Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club
28	Hong Kong Christian Service
29	Hong Kong Council of Social Service (The)
30	Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited
31	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
32	Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (The)
33	Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, the Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod Limited
34	Hong Kong Single Parents Association
35	Tin Shui Wai Women Association Limited
36	Hong Kong Southern District Women's Association Limited
37	Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children
38	OIWA Limited
39	Hong Kong Student Aid Society Limited (The)
40	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association

S/N	Name of organisation
41	Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited
42	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
43	Haven of Hope Christian Service
44	Kowloon Women's Welfare Club (The)
45	Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service
46	Kwun Tong Resident Association
47	Kowloon Women's Organisations Federation Limited
48	Lam Tin Estate Kai Fong Welfare Association Limited (The)
49	Methodist Epworth Village Community Centre, Social Welfare
50	Mongkok Kai-Fong Association Limited (The)
51	Mother's Choice Limited
52	Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (The)
53	New Kowloon Women Association Limited
54	Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited
55	New Territories Women and Juveniles Welfare Association Limited (The)
56	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui St. Simon's Social Services
57	Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong
58	Po Leung Kuk
59	Pok Oi Hospital
60	Superioress of the Sisters of the Precious Blood (The)
61	Project Care
62	Salvation Army (The)
63	Sik Sik Yuen
64	Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
65	Society of Boys' Centres
66	Society of St. Vincent de Paul Central Council of Hong Kong
67	Sheng Kung Hui St. Christopher's Home Limited
68	St. James' Settlement
69	SKH St.Matthias' Church Nursery School Limited
70	Church of United Brethren in Christ Hong Kong Limited (The)
71	Tuen Mun District Women's Association Limited
72	Methodist Centre
73	Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong (The)
74	Hong Kong and Macau Regional Centre of the World Fellowship of Buddhists Limited
75	Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service (The)
76	Tung Sin Tan Home for the Aged
77	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
78	Women's Welfare Club (Eastern District) Hong Kong (The)
79	Women's Welfare Club, Western District, Hong Kong
80	Women Service Association Limited
81	Yan Chai Hospital
82	Yan Oi Tong

S/N	Name of organisation
83	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
84	Yuen Long Town Hall Management Committee Limited
85	Yuen Long District Women's Association Limited
86	Christian & Missionary Alliance Social Services Limited

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1164)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Paragraph 6 under Brief Description mentions that the Department increased the Child Care Centre Parent Subsidy to alleviate parents' financial burden.

What expenses does this subsidy cover?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

The Government introduced the Child Care Centre Parent Subsidy in February 2020 to alleviate the financial burden on parents by partially subsidising the service fees of full-day aided child care centres (CCCs). To strengthen support for working families in childbearing, starting from April 2024, the Child Care Centre Parent Subsidy has been increased from a maximum of $600 to $1,000 per month, which is applicable to all government-aided standalone CCCs and CCCs attached to kindergartens.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)056

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1165)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Are there eligibility requirements for placement in the following centres or subvented organisations, such as age limit for children, family means tests, etc.?

- Foster Care
- Small Group Homes (SGHs)
- Residential Homes for Children

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

Residential child care services (RCCS) subsidised by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) provide transitional residential care and protection for children and young persons under the age of 21 who temporarily cannot be adequately cared for due to sudden family crises, behavioural or emotional problems. RCCS is categorised into institutional and non-institutional services. Institutional service includes residential child care centres (including residential crèches and residential nurseries), children's homes, children's reception centres, boys'/girls' homes, and boys'/girls' hostels. Non-institutional service includes foster care service and SGHs, which provide family-like care environments for children in need of residential care. Individuals in need must have their applications submitted through the central referral system by the social workers responsible for the cases. RCCS is non-means-tested. For details about various RCCS, please visit SWD's website:

https://www.swd.gov.hk/en/pubsvc/family/cat_childcareservice/residchildcare/index.html

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)057

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1166)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

For the following subvented services, with no increase in the number of places in 2025-26 compared to 2024-25 and an unchanged estimated enrolment rate, what factors contribute to the increase in the estimated cost per place per month in 2024-25?

Foster Care (a 7% increase in estimated cost in 2024-25)

Small Group Home (SGH) (a 3% increase in estimated cost in 2024-25)

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

The Government has implemented a series of enhancement and improvement measures to bolster support for foster care services. These measures include increasing the incentive payment for foster parents starting from April 2024; and allocating additional resources from January 2025 to provide extra support for foster children with special learning or care needs, arrange early assessments and appropriate professional rehabilitation therapy and training for foster children, enhance training for foster parents, and increase manpower in foster care service agencies to facilitate the implementation of these enhancement measures. Moreover, starting from October 2024, the Government has allocated additional resources to strengthen manpower deployment in SGHs, in order to strengthen care and support for children under care and enhance service quality. As a result, the average monthly cost for both foster care services and SGHs have increased since 2024-25.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3081)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Paragraph 20 of the Estimates references the implementation of the Arts Development Fund for Persons with Disabilities (Arts Fund) to foster arts development for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

- When will it be implemented and how will it be executed?
- What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

In March 2019, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) introduced the $250 million Arts Fund to support non-profit making non-governmental organisations or groups with relevant expertise in promoting arts development projects for PWDs. It aims to facilitate PWDs to have access to the arts, unleash their potential, and support talented PWDs in pursuing a career in the arts. The subsidised arts projects encompass a wide range of artistic media and disciplines, including visual arts (e.g., watercolour, ceramics, and murals), as well as music and performing arts (e.g. drama). These projects are designed to encourage PWDs to explore artistic creation from various perspectives and to nurture their diverse talents. SWD has established a Management Committee to oversee the use of grants distributed under the Arts Fund, advise on investment strategies, review applications, and make recommendations on funding approvals. As at March 2025, the Arts Fund has approved 168 applications, benefiting 99 service units with a total subsidy of nearly $95 million.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)059

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1586)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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, the total number of recipients, and the total expenditure involved in 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 in the past 5 financial years; and
3. the number of children who were born in Hong Kong, with both parents being Mainland residents and with social workers from SWD acting as their guardians, and who have successfully received CSSA, along with the expenditure involved in the past 5 financial years.

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1. The numbers of CSSA cases and recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are set out in Table 1 of Annex. The total expenditure for the CSSA Scheme from 2020-21 to 2024-25 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 2020 to 2024 is set out in Table 3 of Annex. SWD does not have the other information sought.

Annex

Table 1 Numbers of CSSA cases and recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25

	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Number of cases	223 792	216 688	205 592	199 205	195 696
Number of recipients	319 191	302 599	285 253	271 440	263 952

Table 2 Total expenditure for the CSSA Scheme from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	**Expenditure** [Note] **($ million)**
2020-21 (Actual)	22,853
2021-22 (Actual)	22,909
2022-23 (Actual)	23,196
2023-24 (Actual)	22,484
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	22,963

Note 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 to 2023-24, and the revised estimate of expenditure for 2024-25 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 2020 to 2024

Year (as at end-December each year)	**Number of recipients**
2020	321
2021	297
2022	278
2023	236
2024	181

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1587)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme administered by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), please inform this Committee of:

1. the number of recipients, their total number, and all related expenditure associated with the Old Age Allowance (OAA), the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA), the Guangdong (GD) Scheme, and the Fujian (FJ) Scheme in each of the past 5 financial years; and
2. the trends in the number of recipients, their total number, and all related expenditure associated with OAA, OALA, the GD Scheme, and the FJ Scheme in each of the coming 10 financial years.

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

The number of recipients and expenditure for OAA, OALA, the GD Scheme, and the FJ Scheme from 2021-21 to 2024-25 are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex, respectively.

As at the end of December 2024, SWD paid the above allowances to about 1.14 million of persons aged 65 or above, representing about 65% of the elderly population in the same age group in Hong Kong. The estimated recurrent expenditure for 2025-26 is about $52.2 billion.

The above allowances are specifically provided for different groups with genuine needs. OALA aims to supplement the living expenses of elderly persons aged 65 or above who are in need of financial support; OAA aims to help elderly persons aged 70 or above meet special needs arising from old age; while the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme aim to provide OALA or OAA to eligible elderly persons in Hong Kong who choose to retire in the GD or FJ provinces. A significant number of elderly persons use the above allowances to cover their daily expenses.

According to the established mechanism, the Government seeks approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council (the Committee) each year to adjust the allowance rates under the SSA Scheme based on the movement of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices. During the current term of the Legislative Council, all Government proposals to adjust the allowance rates according to this mechanism have been approved by the Committee.

With the continued ageing of Hong Kong's population, the number of elderly recipients of the above allowances and the related expenditures are expected to keep rising. The Government will continuously review the implementation of the relevant measures, taking into account the long-term financial sustainability and the impact on the recipients.

Annex

Table 1 Number of recipients of OAA, OALA, the GD Scheme, and the FJ Scheme from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Type of allowance	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
OAA	291 228	312 218	326 456	345 727	358 408
OALA [Note 1]	605 574	637 016	687 331	729 289	757 071
GD Scheme	19 257	19 509	22 034	25 011	25 736
FJ Scheme	1 949	1 963	2 116	2 447	2 475
Total	**918 008**	**970 706**	**1 037 937**	**1 102 474**	**1 143 690**

Table 2 Expenditure on OAA, OALA, the GD Scheme, and the FJ Scheme from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Type of allowance	Expenditure [Note 2] ($ million)				
	2020-21 (Actual)	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)
OAA	5,198	5,530	6,021	6,535	7,133
OALA [Note 1]	27,741	28,857	31,999	35,718	39,457
GD Scheme	685	686	740	951	1,058
FJ Scheme	73	74	79	97	108
Total	**33,697**	**35,147**	**38,839**	**43,302**	**47,756**

Note 1 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.

Note 2 The actual expenditure for 2020-21 includes the payment of 1 additional month of the allowances in the year. The actual expenditures for 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24, and the revised estimate of expenditure for 2024-25 include the payment of an additional half-month of the allowances in the year.

Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1588)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In 2025-26, the Social Welfare Department will provide eligible social security recipients with an amount 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 (DA), while similar arrangements will apply to recipients of the Working Family Allowance. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the respective expenditures for the provision of an additional one-off payment of CSSA, OAA, OALA, and DA 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.: 13)

Reply:

The expenditure for the provision of an additional payment for recipients of CSSA, OAA, OALA and DA from 2020-21 to 2025-26, with a breakdown by type of allowance, is set out at Annex.

Annex

Expenditure for the provision of an additional payment for recipients of CSSA, OAA, OALA and DA from 2020-21 to 2025-26

Year	Expenditure on the additional payment [Note 1] ($ million)				
	CSSA	OAA [Note 2]	OALA [Note 2]	DA	Total [Note 3]
2020-21 (Actual)	1,695	398	2,113	311	4,517
2021-22 (Actual)	839	219	1,147	164	2,369
2022-23 (Actual)	586	241	1,234	172	2,232
2023-24 (Actual)	572	261	1,417	183	2,433
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	575	288	1,574	197	2,634
2025-26 (Estimate)	601	320	1,849	218	2,988

Note 1 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 to 2023-24, the revised estimated additional expenditure for 2024-25, and the estimated additional expenditure for 2025-26 are for the payment of an additional half-month of CSSA standard rates or the allowances in the year.

Note 2 Including the Guangdong Scheme and the Fujian Scheme.

Note 3 Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)062

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1589)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance, please inform this Committee of:

1. the number of participants, the respective numbers of participants who successfully secured employment or returned to mainstream education, and the expenditure involved in each of the past 5 financial years;
2. the number of unemployed Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients who had their CSSA applications that were not processed further by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), further CSSA payments to other members of their households stopped by SWD, or who were required by SWD to repay overpaid CSSA payments due to their refusal to sign the Job Seeker's Undertaking (the Undertaking) or failure to comply with any of the requirements stated in the Undertaking in the past 5 financial years; and
3. the Government's estimated annual expenditure and staffing arrangements for the newly launched Support Programme for the Unemployed (SPU), and the expected number of participants in SPU.

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

1. The headcounts of persons who received the Employment Support Services (EmSS) and those who had secured employment or returned to mainstream education for at least 1 month upon receiving EmSS in 2023-24 and 2024-25 are tabulated as follows. SWD does not have a breakdown of the headcounts by year prior to April 2023.

Year	**Headcount of persons who received EmSS**	**Headcount of persons who secured employment for at least 1 month**	**Headcount of persons who returned to mainstream education for at least 1 month**
2023-24	16 480	1 891	110
2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)	14 022	1 307	93

The expenditure incurred by SWD on commissioning non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide EmSS from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is tabulated below:

Year	**Expenditure ($ million)**
2020-21 (Actual)	152
2021-22 (Actual)	153
2022-23 (Actual)	157
2023-24 (Actual)	159
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	162

2. In general, unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 15 to 59 are required to receive EmSS, unless they have justifiable reasons for not being able to work (such as pursuing studies, or having to look after young children, sick or disabled family members at home), and sign the Undertaking to indicate that they fully understand their obligations to comply with relevant requirements. Unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 60 to 64 may receive EmSS on a voluntary basis.

   Among unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 15 to 59 who received EmSS, the headcounts of persons whose CSSA payments were stopped or who were required to repay overpaid CSSA payments due to failure to comply with the requirements stated in the Undertaking from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are tabulated as follows. SWD does not have information on the number of CSSA applications that were not processed further because applicants refused to sign the Undertaking.

Year	**Headcount of persons whose CSSA payments were stopped or who were required to repay overpaid CSSA payments due to failure to comply with the requirements stated in the Undertaking**
2020-21	514
2021-22	633
2022-23	616
2023-24	584
2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)	409

3. SWD will replace EmSS with SPU starting from October 2025. SPU will be operated on a pilot basis for 2 years by NGOs and/or other organisations. SWD estimates that there will be about 10 000 participants during the initial implementation of SPU. The estimated expenditure on the 2year SPU is around $98 million. SWD will commission SPU operators through invitation for proposals. NGOs operating EmSS are free to submit their proposals.

   The Social Security Branch (SSB) and the Social Security Field Units (SSFUs) of SWD are responsible for the work relating to SPU, which includes monitoring the operation of relevant services by operators. Since implementing SPU is part of the day-to-day work of SSB and SSFUs, SWD cannot separately account for the manpower and expenditure involved.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)063

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1590)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the prevention of misuse of social security assistance, please provide this Committee with the following information about the assessment of applicants for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA):

1. The respective numbers of CSSA fraud and abuse cases (including suspected cases reported, established fraud cases and prosecuted cases) in the past 5 financial years.
2. 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 for retirement in the Mainland. How many suspected and established fraud cases were discovered during the annual case review process conducted by these agents in each of the past 5 financial years?

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

1. SWD adopts a multifaceted approach to combat CSSA fraud. The number of fraud cases related to CSSA from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is tabulated below.

	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (up to December 2024)**
Number of suspected cases reported by members of the public	1 685	1 143	1 968	2 322	1 523
Number of established fraud cases upon SWD's in-depth investigation (the percentage out of the total CSSA cases as at end-March of the year)	370 (0.2%)	323 (0.1%)	367 (0.2%)	589 (0.3%)	344 (0.2%)
Number of prosecuted cases	45	24	21	24	17

The above figures indicate that CSSA fraud is not common as a matter of fact. SWD will conduct in-depth investigation and take follow-up action on all suspected fraud

cases, while referring more serious cases to law enforcement agencies for further investigation. SWD will require the recipients to repay the overpayments (if any) as soon as possible, regardless of their eligibilities for CSSA. Anyone who knowingly or wilfully provides false statements or withholds any information to obtain CSSA by deception commits an offence. Apart from being disqualified from CSSA, he/she may be prosecuted under the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210), liable to a maximum penalty of 14 years of imprisonment upon conviction.

2. SWD has appointed agents to assist in the implementation of the Portable CSSA (PCSSA) Scheme, and the Guangdong (GD) Scheme and the Fujian (FJ) Scheme under the Social Security Allowance Scheme in GD and FJ provinces. 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 written reviews for all cases under the PCSSA Scheme, the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme to ascertain recipients' continued eligibility for the allowances. The agents also have to provide enquiry services to recipients, report changes in their personal circumstances to SWD on their behalf, 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. Over the past 5 financial years (up to end-December 2024), 1 suspected fraud case was identified by an agent. Upon SWD's investigation, it was confirmed that the case did not involve fraudulent elements.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)064

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3297)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) under Subhead 180 Social Security Allowance Scheme, please advise:

1. the number of OALA recipients and the actual expenditure involved for each of the past 10 years;
2. the number of public rental housing (PRH) residents among OALA recipients, and the actual expenditure they incurred. Please provide the information using the following table:

Financial year	Overall number of cases (recipients)	Amount of allowance paid ($)	Number of PRH elderly cases (recipients)	Amount of allowance paid ($)
2015-16				
2016-17				
2017-18				
2018-19				
2019-20				
2020-21				
2021-22				
2022-23				
2023-24				
2024-25				

3. Has the Government estimated the increase in the number of eligible OALA recipients in the next 5 years (2025-26 to 2029-30) and the year-on-year percentage increase in funding?

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The number of OALA recipients, the related expenditure, and the number of OALA recipients residing in public housing estates from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are set out at Annex. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the expenditure of OALA paid to recipients residing in public housing estates.

OALA aims to supplement the living expenses of elderly persons aged 65 or above who are in need of financial support. As at end-December 2024, SWD paid OALA to about 780 000 elderly persons, representing about 44% of the elderly population in the same age group in Hong Kong. The estimated recurrent expenditure for 2025-26 is about $44.5 billion. A significant number of elderly persons use the above allowance to cover their daily expenses.

According to the established mechanism, the Government seeks approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council (the Committee) each year to adjust the allowance rates under the Social Security Allowance Scheme based on the movement of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices. During the current term of the Legislative Council, all Government proposals to adjust the allowance rates according to this mechanism have been approved by the Committee.

With the continued aging of Hong Kong's population, the number of elderly recipients of the above allowance and the related expenditure are expected to keep rising. The Government will continuously review the implementation of the relevant measures, taking into account the long-term financial sustainability and the impact on the recipients.

Annex

Number of OALA recipients, expenditure involved, and number of OALA recipients residing in public housing estates from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year [Note 1]	Number of recipients [Note 2]	Expenditure [Note 2 Note 3] ($ million)	Number of OALA recipients residing in public housing estates
2020-21	618 573	28,345	353 255
2021-22	650 298	29,469	375 105
2022-23	702 837	32,664	405 805
2023-24	747 752	36,594	430 004
2024-25	776 200	40,441	446 549

Note 1 The number of recipients in 2024-25 refers to the figure as at the end of December 2024. The expenditure for 2024-25 is a revised estimate.

Note 2 Including the Guangdong Scheme and the Fujian Scheme. 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.

Note 3 The actual expenditure for 2020-21 includes the payment of 1 additional month of the allowance in the year. The actual expenditures for 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24, and the revised estimate of expenditure for 2024-25 include the payment of an additional half-month of the allowance in the year.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)065

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1304)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will enhance the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (the GDRCS Scheme). In this regard, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What were the number of elderly persons receiving subsidies under the GDRCS Scheme and the amount of subsidies approved by the Government in each of the past 3 financial years?
2. What are the current number of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) participating in the GDRCS Scheme; the total numbers of home for the aged places, care-and-attention (C&A) places and nursing home (NH) places provided; the occupancy rate of each participating RCHEs; and the estimated numbers of additional participating RCHEs and places for this year?
3. Have any elderly persons opted to leave the Mainland RCHEs during the 6-month trial stay period since its introduction in October 2023? If so, how many elderly persons have left, and what are their reasons for doing so?
4. What measures does the Government have to promote the GDRCS Scheme to the elderly or their relatives? What was the publicity expenditure for last year, and what is the estimated expenditure for this year?
5. The Government is going to engage organisations to provide care services for elderly persons participating in the GDRCS Scheme. When will these services be implemented, and what is the estimated expenditure for this year?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. SWD purchases service places from RCHEs participating in the GDRCS Scheme based on the actual number of elderly persons enrolled in the scheme. The cumulative number of elderly persons receiving subsidies under the GDRCS Scheme, and the expenditure involved in each of the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Cumulative no. of elderly persons receiving subsidies	Expenditure ($ million)
2022-23	150	13.1 (Actual)
2023-24	195	18.9 (Actual)
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	343	32.1 (Revised estimate)

2. As at the end of December 2024, a total of 11 RCHEs were participating in the GDRCS Scheme, including 2 RCHEs that provided both C&A places and NH places. The number of places provided by these RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme, as well as the number of elderly persons admitted, are set out at Annex.

   Starting from March 2025, 4 additional RCHEs have joined the GDRCS Scheme as recognised service providers. This will bring the total number of participating RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme to 15, and increase the number of Mainland cities within the Greater Bay Area (GBA) with participating RCHEs to 6 (i.e., Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Foshan, Zhaoqing, Zhongshan and Jiangmen). These additions will provide more options for elderly persons interested in retiring in Mainland cities within the GBA.

   The Government has invited Hong Kong-based non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with experience in providing subsidised residential care services and a good track record to apply for participation in the GDRCS Scheme. At the same time, in accordance with the cooperation agreement outlined in the "Letter of Intent on Collaboration to Expand the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong", signed between the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Department of Civil Affairs of Guangdong Province in November 2023, the Government continues to liaise with relevant departments in Mainland cities within the GBA, with a view to identifying suitable Mainland RCHEs for inclusion in the GDRCS Scheme.

3. Starting from October 2023, a 6-month trial stay arrangement was introduced under the GDRCS Scheme. As at the end of December 2024, a total of 9 elderly persons withdrew from the scheme due to deteriorating health conditions or difficulties in adaptation. These individuals were either cared for by family and friends or admitted to local RCHEs.

4. SWD has been promoting the GDRCS Scheme to elderly persons and the general public through various channels. These include providing the latest information about the scheme on SWD's website, uploading introductory videos of participating RCHEs to SWD's YouTube channel, and holding briefing sessions to introduce the scheme to caseworkers from referring offices who handle elderly persons' applications for long-term care (LTC) services so that they can promote the scheme to eligible elderly persons and their families. In addition, in November 2024, SWD broadcast a 4-episode promotional video series titled "灣區安老知多啲" on television. The videos have been uploaded to SWD's YouTube channel for continuous viewing, and are being shown at all LTC referring offices to ensure elderly persons and their families understand the scheme's services and the conditions of participating RCHEs. SWD will continue to publicise and promote the GDRCS Scheme. SWD does not have information on the related publicity expenditure or the estimated expenditure.

5. SWD will engage a Hong Kong-based NGO experienced in Mainland social services to provide care services for elderly persons participating in the GDRCS Scheme and their families. In addition to supporting elderly persons in adapting to life in RCHEs in GD, the NGO will conduct standardised care need assessment for elderly services for elderly persons from Hong Kong who have settled in Mainland cities within GBA, and follow up on the applications of eligible elderly persons to join the GDRCS Scheme. These services are expected to be rolled out in May 2025, with an estimated expenditure of about $3.2 million in 2025-26.

Annex

Number of residential care places provided by participating RCHEs and number of elderly persons admitted (as at end-December 2024)

Name of RCHE	C&A places		NH places	
	No. of places	No. of elderly persons admitted [Note 1]	No. of places	No. of elderly persons admitted [Note 1]
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Shenzhen Society for Rehabilitation Yee Hong Heights	176	149	40	31
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Helping Hand Zhaoqing Home for the Elderly	171	25	20	8
Foshan Chang Xiang Hui Home For The Aged Co., Ltd [Note 1]	200	71	-	-
Shum Yip Yiju Elder-Care Operation (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd [Note 1]	87	19	-	-
Foshan Canopusland Co., Ltd [Note 2]	100	4	-	-
Zhongshan Torch Development Zone Yikang Senior Services Center [Note 2]	60	3	-	-
Home For The Aged Nansha (Yinian Medical Senior Citizen) [Note 2]	50	3	-	-
Yishou Enjoylife Elderly Care Guangdong Guangzhou Luhujiazhanghui Nursing Home Branch [Note 2]	50	0	-	-
Guangzhou Tianyue Hexihui Home for the Elderly [Note 2]	50	0	-	-
Guangzhou Chunxuanmao Chenchong Senior Living Service Co., Ltd [Note 2]	36	3	-	-
Hetai Center [Note 2]	291	0	-	-

Note 1 The figures represent the number of elderly residents participating in the scheme and living in the respective RCHE at the time.

Note 2 Joined the GDRCS Scheme since May 2024.

Note 3 Joined the GDRCS Scheme since November 2024.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)066

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1259)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Budget Speech mentioned that the Government would provide an additional annual provision of $186 million to increase emergency places for residential child care and strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

(1) How many additional emergency residential child care places does the Government plan to provide, and how will these additional places be allocated across different districts? How will the Government ensure that the allocation effectively addresses the actual needs of different districts, avoiding uneven distribution of resources, particularly considering the varying child population densities in different districts? Please provide detailed statistics on the number of additional places allocated to each district as well as the rationale behind the allocation.

(2) What funding is planned to provide adequate ancillary facilities (e.g. medical facilities, educational facilities, play equipment, etc.) for the additional places? How many professional staff, such as social workers, counselling staff, healthcare workers, etc., will be deployed to support the additional places?

(3) How will the additional provision of $186 million be distributed among various support programmes, such as social work, psychological counselling, medical, and legal aid services, etc.? Please provide the estimated provision for each programme and specific details of the services they offer.

(4) What indicators will the Government use to evaluate the effectiveness of the professional support services? How will the actual benefits these services provide to child abuse victims and their families be measured?

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

To dovetail with the operation of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance) in January 2026, the Government will, starting from 2025-26, allocate an additional annual provision of $29.07 million to increase the number of emergency residential child care places, and $157.4 million to strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families, amounting to a total of approximately $186.5 million.

In terms of emergency residential child care places, 2 new residential child care centres (RCCCs) located in Tuen Mun and Kwun Tong districts respectively, will commence operation before the Ordinance takes effect, adding a total of 96 emergency care service places and catering for about 380 children each year. Emergency placements for residential child care services are arranged based on the specific circumstances of individual families or children. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to encourage more families to participate in foster care services, including emergency foster care, and identify suitable locations across various districts to set up new RCCCs. With the addition of new emergency residential places, combined with the existing emergency residential care services provided by RCCCs, small group homes, foster care services, children's homes, and children's reception centres in various districts in Hong Kong, the total provision of emergency residential care places will increase from 298 to 394. The 2 new RCCCs must be equipped with ancillary facilities suitable for providing training and services to children below the age of 6 in accordance with SWD's Schedule of Accommodation. The estimated annual operating expenditure for the 2 RCCCs is about $56.84 million, with the respective professional staffing establishments tabulated below:

RCCC (Tuen Mun)	
Position/Rank	Number
Assistant Social Work Officer	1
Social Work Assistant	3
Registered Nurse	2
Enrolled Nurse	4
Clinical Psychologist	0.8

RCCC (Kwun Tong)	
Position/Rank	Number
Assistant Social Work Officer	1
Social Work Assistant	3
Registered Nurse	2
Enrolled Nurse	3
Clinical Psychologist	0.8

Regarding strengthening professional support for child abuse victims and their families, SWD has subsidised non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to set up 6 service teams under the Child Protection Support Service (the service teams) in March 2025. The service teams, comprising social workers, psychologists, nurses, and other supporting staff, will provide a range of support services, including home visitation support, therapeutic/psycho-social groups, educational and family enrichment programmes, etc., to provide targeted intervention and professional support for children who have been abused or are at risk of abuse, as well as their families. NGOs operating subvented services have to comply with the relevant requirements and standards stipulated in the Service Agreements (SAs), including essential service requirements, output and outcome standards, and service quality standards. SWD will review the operation of the service teams and monitor the performance of the service units in accordance with existing mechanisms, and will conduct scheduled or surprise visits by random selection to assess whether NGOs are in compliance with the terms and requirements of the SAs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1260)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that starting from the third quarter of this year, the Government will regularise the Pilot Project on Enhancing Vocational Rehabilitation Services (the Pilot Project) to enhance the service and training model of sheltered workshops (SWs)/integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres (IVRSCs), thereby building a better vocational rehabilitation and training ladder for persons with disabilities (PWDs). The annual expenditure involved is about $100 million. In this regard, please provide the following information:

(1) How many PWDs participated in the Pilot Project in the past 2 years? How many of them successfully secured employment? What were the employment situations for different types of PWDs (such as persons with visual impairment, hearing impairment and physical disabilities)?

(2) What was the total expenditure of the Pilot Project in the past 2 years? How will the Government assess the effectiveness of regularising the Pilot Project? What indicators will be used for the assessment?

(3) What are the differences between the Pilot Project, the Work Extension Programme (WEP) and the Supported Employment Training for Persons with Disabilities (SET) in terms of service targets, service content and service modes? How will these 3 programmes be co-ordinated and aligned with each other to provide more comprehensive vocational rehabilitation services?

(4) Please provide the number of participants for each programme and their respective employment rates upon completion in the past 3 years.

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

Reply:

(1) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the 2-year Pilot Project in July 2023, with a view to enhancing the service and training model of SWs and IVRSCs by providing training tailored to the individual interests and abilities of trainees. It also seeks to strengthen the development of relevant networks to establish different job types and enhance market promotion, thus ensuring that the content of advanced training

courses aligns with the practical requirements of open employment. The goal is to build a better vocational rehabilitation and training ladder for PWDs. The trainees participating in the Pilot Project include persons with intellectual disability, physical disability, and hearing/speech impairment, as well as those in mental recovery. The participating SWs and IVRSCs have organised over 2 000 work placement sessions for them, spanning fields such as arts and design, computer and technology applications, catering, facilities management, sales and retail, packaging and assembly, logistics and warehousing, as well as general office administration. The Pilot Project has benefited about 1 100 persons. As at January 2025, 43 trainees successfully transitioned to supported employment training or open employment after completing training under the Pilot Project. SWD does not have a breakdown of the trainees' employment situations by type of disability.

(2) The estimated expenditure for the 2-year Pilot Project is about $25 million. SWD has reviewed the effectiveness of the Pilot Project by examining service and employment data collected from the participating SWs/IVRSCs, as well as the feedback from the service units, service users and their families, job attachment providers, and employers.

(3) SET provides PWDs who are not yet able to take up open employment with individual service plans that integrate counselling, job-related training, job attachment, job trial and post-placement support. Under the Pilot Project, SWs/IVRSCs will provide advanced training courses and work placements for trainees with potential, and arrange for them to take part in SET based on their personal interest and abilities, with a view to enhancing their future employment prospects. WEP targets service users of SWs/IVRSCs who are no longer able to participate in regular work training due to old age or a decline in work abilities. Services provided under WEP include activities to sustain residual work abilities, social and developmental programmes, and caring activities to address the health and physical needs of trainees.

(4) The numbers of WEP and SET service users, as well as the number of those who successfully secured employment for more than 6 months in the past 3 years are set out at Annex.

Annex

Number of vocational rehabilitation service users

Service type/ Year	No. of service users		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
WEP	1 134	1 134	1 304
Supported Employment (SE) [Note]	1 954	1 983	-
On the Job Training Programme for PWDs (OJT) [Note]	432	430	-
Sunnyway - On the Job Training Programme for Young PWDs (Sunnyway) [Note]	319	305	-
SET [Note]	-	-	2 359

Note SE, OJT and Sunnyway were integrated as SET in April 2024.

Number of vocational rehabilitation service users who successfully secured employment for more than 6 months

Service type/ Year	No. of service users who successfully secured employment for more than 6 months		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
WEP	Not Applicable [Note 2]	Not Applicable [Note 2]	Not Applicable [Note 2]
SE [Note 1]	271	246	-
OJT [Note 1]	161	178	-
Sunnyway [Note 1]	166	157	-
SET [Note 1]	-	-	260

Note 1 SE, OJT and Sunnyway were integrated as SET in April 2024.

Note 2 WEP targets service users of SWs/IVRSCs who are no longer able to participate in regular work training due to old age or a decline in work abilities.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)068

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1268)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The provision of $57.948 billion under Subhead 180 Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme represents an increase of $6.63 billion (12.9%) compared to the revised estimate for 2024-25. The Government has stated that this is mainly due to the expected increase in Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) cases as well as an upward adjustment of 1.3% in the rates of allowances under the SSA Scheme. In this regard, would the Government inform this Committee:

(1) Over the past 3 years, what were the respective numbers of cases and the corresponding expenditures for the Old Age Allowance (OAA), Normal Disability Allowance (NDA), Higher Disability Allowance (HDA), OALA, as well as OALA and OAA provided through the Guangdong (GD) Scheme and the Fujian (FJ) Scheme?

(2) Given Hong Kong's continuously ageing population, expenditure on the SSA Scheme is expected to keep increasing. Has the Government undertaken any long-term financial sustainability analysis to evaluate the financial impact of the SSA Scheme over the next 5 years or even the coming decades? Moreover, are there any long-term financial plans in place to address this growing expenditure?

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

(1) From 2022-23 to 2024-25, the number of cases and expenditure for the SSA Scheme by type of allowance are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex, respectively.

(2) The majority of allowance recipients under the SSA Scheme are elderly persons. As at the end of December 2024, the Social Welfare Department paid social security allowances to about 1.18 million of persons aged 65 or above, representing about 67% of the elderly population in the same age group in Hong Kong. The estimated recurrent expenditure for 2025-26 is about $53.7 billion.

The allowances are specifically provided for different groups with genuine needs. OALA aims to supplement the living expenses of elderly persons aged 65 or above who are in need of financial support; OAA aims to help elderly persons aged 70 or above meet special needs arising from old age; and the Disability Allowance aims to help

persons assessed to have severe disabilities meet special needs arising from disability. A significant number of elderly persons use the above allowances to cover their daily expenses.

According to the established mechanism, the Government seeks approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council (the Committee) each year to adjust the allowance rates under the SSA Scheme based on the movement of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices. During the current term of the Legislative Council, all Government proposals to adjust the allowance rates according to this mechanism have been approved by the Committee.

With the continued ageing of Hong Kong's population, the number of elderly recipients of the above allowances and the related expenditures are expected to keep rising. The Government will continuously review the implementation of the relevant measures, taking into account the long-term financial sustainability and the impact on the recipients.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of cases under the SSA Scheme from 2022-23 to 2024-25 by type of allowance**

Type of allowance	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
OAA	326 456	345 727	358 408
OALA [Note 1]	687 331	729 289	757 071
OAA under the GD Scheme	8 008	8 314	8 415
OALA under the GD Scheme [Note 1]	14 026	16 697	17 321
OAA under the FJ Scheme	636	681	667
OALA under the FJ Scheme [Note 1]	1 480	1 766	1 808
HDA	18 545	19 280	20 011
NDA	149 839	155 339	159 519
Total	**1 206 321**	**1 277 093**	**1 323 220**

Table 2 **Expenditure on the SSA Scheme from 2022-23 to 2024-25 by type of allowance**

Type of allowance	Expenditure [Note 2] ($ million)		
	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)
OAA	6,021	6,535	7,133
OALA [Note 1]	31,999	35,718	39,457
OAA under the GD Scheme	143	159	168
OALA under the GD Scheme [Note 1]	598	791	890
OAA under the FJ Scheme	11	13	14
OALA under the FJ Scheme [Note 1]	68	84	94
HDA	920	959	1,124
NDA	3,947	4,187	4,497
Total	**43,706**	**48,447**	**53,377**

Note 1 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.

Note 2 The actual expenditures for 2022-23 and 2023-24 and the revised estimate of expenditure for 2024-25 include the payment of an additional half-month of the allowances in the year.

Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1269)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

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

(1) of the annual total funding of the I&T Fund since its launch in 2018, as well as detailed year-by-year data for the actual annual funding amounts, the number of projects approved, the average funding per project, the average processing time per project, and the respective numbers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities (PWDs) who benefited each year, broken down by type of service unit and operation mode, presented in tabular form;

(2) of the current balance of the I&T Fund;

(3) of the Government's future plans for the I&T Fund; and

(4) whether the Government has evaluated the effectiveness of using gerontechnology products in residential care homes (RCHs) operated by service units of different types and operation modes, such as the rate of continued usage of approved technology products, the number of products left idle or phased out after being used for some time, and the reasons for these products being idle or phased out, and whether the Government has considered recovering or redistributing such products.

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

(1) & (2) The requested information is set out at Annex.

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not keep records of the average amount of grant approved and the average processing time for applications. In addition, as the I&T Fund is open to applications from elderly and rehabilitation service units only, SWD does not keep records of the number of beneficiaries. As at the end of February 2025, the balance of the I&T Fund was about $1.16 billion.

(3) SWD plans to accept a new tranche of applications in March 2025, and will implement enhancement measures, which include increasing the amount of grant for each eligible elderly and rehabilitation service unit by 50%. In addition, non-governmental organisations operating subvented elderly and rehabilitation community service units will also be allowed to apply for extra funding to procure technology products suitable for elderly persons or PWDs and their carers to borrow and use at home.

(4) SWD has been continuously reviewing the operation of the I&T Fund, and collecting feedback on the I&T Fund and technology products from applicant organisations, service users and care staff through on-site visits, questionnaires and other means to evaluate the effectiveness of the I&T Fund. Respondents have provided positive feedback on the technology products funded by the I&T Fund in their service units. They considered 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.

Annex

Information pertaining to the approval of applications under the I&T Fund (as at 28 February 2025)

Tranche no.	Operation mode	Type of service unit	No. of products approved	Amount of grant approved ($ million)
1	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCH for the elderly (RCHE)	460	22
		Community care and support services	272	8
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCH for PWDs (RCHD)	66	4
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	74	5
2	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHE	829	32
		Community care and support services	550	29
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHD	357	20
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	345	22
3	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHE	624	28
		Community care and support services	335	16
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHD	155	10
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	197	9
4	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHE	1 003	34
		Community care and support services	1 164	26
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHD	230	15
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	394	16
5	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHE	1 061	33
		Community care and support services	731	24
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHD	279	13
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	576	17
6	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHE	543	20
		Community care and support services	586	17
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHD	180	10
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	154	9
7	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHE	351	12
		Community care and support services	269	11
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHD	115	4
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	252	7
8	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHE	970	28
		Community care and support services	1 145	24
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHD	431	20
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	592	20
	Non-subsidised elderly service unit	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHE	3 311	101
	Non-subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHD	104	3

Tranche no.	Operation mode	Type of service unit	No. of products approved	Amount of grant approved ($ million)
9	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHE	575	18
		Community care and support services	543	17
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHD	239	8
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	292	12
	Non-subsidised elderly service unit	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHE	1 091	29
	Non-subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHD	72	2
10 [Note]	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHE	486	15
		Community care and support services	301	7
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHD	266	10
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	1 252	10
	Non-subsidised elderly service unit	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHE	808	25
	Non-subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHD	105	5

Note The vetting of the 10th tranche of applications is still underway.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1270)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Budget Speech mentioned that the Government would increase the residential care service vouchers (RCSVs) and community care service vouchers (CCSVs) by 1 000 each in the next financial year. This will bring the totals to 6 000 RCSVs and 12 000 CCSVs, with annual expenditures of about $1,710 million and $900 million, respectively. In this connection, please provide:

(1) the number of recognised service providers (RSPs), the number of service places, the respective numbers of applicants and recipients, the amount of subsidy, the number of current voucher users, and the number of persons who left the 2 schemes, along with their reasons for leaving, under the RCSV Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme) and the CCSV Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme) over the past 3 years;

(2) the headcount of persons renting assistive technology products with CCSVs thus far; the distribution of demand among various types of assistive technology products (e.g. aids for walking or toileting, etc.) among the rented products; and whether the Government has set specific targets for the utilisation rates or the number of beneficiaries for assistive product rental services; and

(3) whether the Government will consider carrying out targeted publicity and resource allocation for different groups, particularly singleton elderly persons or elderly persons who lack family support, to ensure they receive sufficient information and are able to rent assistive technology products through the CCSV Scheme in a timely manner.

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

(1) From 2022-23 to 2024-25, the number of RSPs, the number of service places, the numbers of applicants, recipients and users, the amount of subsidy, and the number of persons who left, along with their reasons for leaving, under the RCSV Scheme and CCSV Scheme, are set out in Tables 1 to 4 of the Annex, respectively.

(2) Since September 2023, the scope of CCSVs has been extended to cover the rental of assistive technology products. As at the end of December 2024, a cumulative

headcount of 647 persons had rented such products, with 853 products rented out in total. The utilisation of assistive technology products rented with CCSVs, broken down by product category, is set out in Table 5 of Annex.

(3) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has enhanced its support for CCSV holders of singleton and doubleton elderly households by proactively reaching out to provide case management services for them. These services include introducing the rental service of assistive technology products under the CCSV Scheme. SWD will continue to promote and encourage the use of assistive technology products among the elderly and their carers, with a view to improving their quality of life and reducing the pressure on the carers.

Annex

Table 1: Service statistics [Note 1] on the RCSV Scheme

Year	No. of RSPs	No. of service places	No. of applicants	No. of RCSV recipients	No. of users	Subsidy amount ($ million)
2022-23	186	4 000	2 296	1 309	2 621	465.2
2023-24	203	4 000	3 408	2 007	3 738	750.4
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	221	5 000	3 400	1 886	4 807	1,055.8 [Note 2]

Note 1 Figures as at the end of the respective financial year (unless otherwise specified).

Note 2 Revised estimate for 2024- 25.

Table 2: Number of persons who left the RCSV Scheme and their reasons for leaving

Reason for leaving [Note]	No. of persons who left			
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Having no immediate need for residential care services (RCS) (e.g. being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers)	63	41	110	86
The preferred RSP was full/no suitable RSPs	19	23	42	25
Chose to wait for subsidised RCS	19	23	39	37
Refused to accept the co-payment arrangement	13	5	10	4
Others (e.g. long-term hospitalisation, out of town, etc.)	10	16	19	16
Total	**124**	**108**	**220**	**168**

Note Excluding elderly persons who passed away after joining the scheme.

Table 3: Service statistics [Note 1] on the CCSV Scheme

Year	No. of RSPs	No. of service places	No. of applicants	No. of CCSV recipients	No. of users	Subsidy amount ($ million)
2022-23	253	8 000	4 375	4 396	6 933	361.7
2023-24	260	10 000 [Note 2]	6 546	6 478	9 032	477.4 [Note 3]
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	297	11 000	6 471	6 346	11 402	687.8 [Note 4]

Note 1 Figures as at the end of the respective financial year (unless otherwise specified).

Note 2 The number of service places after the CCSV Scheme was made permanent in September 2023.

Note 3 Including the amount of CCSV subsidy for the year in the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV.

Note 4 Revised estimate for 2024-25.

Table 4: Number of persons who left the CCSV Scheme and their reasons for leaving

Reason for leaving [Note]	No. of persons who left the CCSV Scheme		
	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Will be/have been allocated with/ receiving subsidised community care services or subsidised/private RCS	1 523	2 002	1 141
Being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers, etc.	61	135	30
Others (e.g. hospitalisation, out of town, etc.)	48	109	53
Total	**1 632**	**2 246**	**1 224**

Note Excluding elderly persons who passed away after joining the scheme.

Table 5: Utilisation of rented assistive technology products by product category (as at end-December 2024)

Category of product	Cumulative number of rented products
Aids for daily living [Note 1]	461
Walking or transfer aids [Note 2]	273
Bath or Commode Aids [Note 3]	119

Note 1 Including nursing beds, special function mattresses, over bed tables, geriatric chairs and pressure relieving seat cushions.

Note 2 Including special function wheelchairs/walking aids, mobile hoists, handrails and ramps/inclined platforms.

Note 3 Including special function shower chairs/commode chairs, on-bed shower devices and hair washing machines.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1665)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Financial Secretary proposed an additional annual provision of $186 million to increase emergency places for residential child care services and to strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

1. the number of residential child care service (RCCS) places, the number of waitlisted children, their average waiting time, and their average length of stay in the past 3 years, as well as the projected numbers for the next year;
2. the provision for additional emergency residential child care places, the estimated number of places to be provided, and the potential reduction in waiting time; and
3. the specific measures proposed to strengthen professional family support, the staffing establishment and expenditure involved, and the implementation timetable.
4. The Government previously released the Report of the Second Phase Review of Residential Child Care and Related Services, which outlined 39 improvement measures and recommendations. However, the report does not address solutions for certain acutely undersupplied services, such as foster care, small group home (SGH), and residential home for children (RHC), where significant number of children remain on waiting lists. Does the Government have any targeted measures to address these issues, such as developing "family-based residential care homes"? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

1. The number of places for various types of RCCS in the past 3 years and the estimated number of places to be provided in 2025-26 are set out in Table 1 of Annex 1. The average number of waitlisted children, the average waiting time and the average length of stay for various types of RCCS are set out in Table 2 of Annex 1. As the number of waitlisted children, waiting time and length of stay for RCCS can be affected by various factors, including applicants' choice of district, and the specific circumstances of the children and their families, it is not possible to predict the figures for the coming year.

2. & 3. To dovetail with the operation of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance) in January 2026, the Government will, starting from 2025-26, allocate an additional annual provision of $29.07 million to increase the number of emergency residential child care places, and $157.4 million to strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families, amounting to a total of approximately $186.5 million.

In terms of emergency residential child care places, 2 new residential child care centres will commence operation before the Ordinance takes effect, adding a total of 96 emergency care service places and catering for about 380 children each year. As various types of emergency RCCS accept direct applications without a central referral system, the Social Welfare Department (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.

Regarding strengthening professional support for child abuse victims and their families, SWD has subsidised non-governmental organisations to set up 6 service teams under the Child Protection Support Service (service teams) in March 2025. The service teams, comprising social workers, psychologists, nurses, and other supporting staff, will provide a range of support services, including home visitation support, therapeutic/psycho-social groups, educational and family enrichment programmes, etc., to provide targeted intervention and professional support for children who have been abused or are at risk of abuse, as well as their families. The staffing establishment of a service team used for calculating funding allocations is set out at Annex 2.

4. In response to the recommendations in the report of the Committee on Review of Residential Child Care and Related Services to increase RCCS supply, SWD added a total of 54 SGH places and 7 emergency/short-term care places in SGHs in New Territories East and Hong Kong Island East in 2022-23 and 2023-24, with a plan to add another 30 SGH places and 4 emergency/short-term care places in SGHs in Kowloon City in 2026-27. Meanwhile, SWD added 100 foster care places in 2023-24, including 15 emergency care places, raising the total number of foster care places from 1 130 to 1 230 and emergency care places from 115 to 130. SWD will continue to monitor the demand for and utilisation of various types of RCCS, and reallocate or increase resources as necessary to meet service needs. In addition, SWD will enhance publicity efforts to promote foster care service in order to encourage and recruit suitable individuals to become foster families, thus enabling children to receive appropriate care and protection in a family-like environment.

Table 1 Number of places for various types of RCCS and estimated number of places to be provided in 2025-26

Item	Year	Foster care service	SGH	RHC	Total
Number of places	2022-23	1 130	954	1 832	3 916
	2023-24	1 230	978	1 832	4 040
	2024-25	1 230	978	1 898	4 106
Estimated number of places to be provided	2025-26	1 230	978	1 946	4 154

Table 2 Average number of waitlisted children, average waiting time and average length of stay for various types of RCCS

Item	Year	Foster care service	SGH	RHC	Total
Number of waitlisted children (average per month)	2022-23	289	388	296	973
	2023-24	292	335	274	901
	2024-25 Note 1	256	309	237	802
Average waiting time (months)	2022-23	1.82	4.74	2.75	N.A.
	2023-24	2.04	6.40	4.33	
	2024-25 Note 1	1.75	5.88	2.64	
Average length of stay (months) Note 2	2022-23	34.90	32.27	24.57	N.A.
	2023-24	38.33	35.45	23.79	
	2024-25 Note 1	32.78	33.60	21.30	

N.A. – Not applicable

Note 1 Statistics from April to December 2024.

Note 2 The figures include both ordinary and emergency services.

Annex 2

Staffing establishment of a service team under the Child Protection Support Service

Post/Rank	Number
Social Work Officer	1
Assistant Social Work Officer	8
Social Work Assistant	4
Clinical Psychologist	1
Registered Nurse	1
Workman II	2
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Assistant	1

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1666)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

According to the Budget Speech, 1 280 additional day community rehabilitation and home care service places will be provided for persons with disabilities (PWDs), involving approximately $160 million in additional annual expenditure. In this connection, please advise:

1. The number of places for day community rehabilitation services, the number of waitlisted persons, and the average waiting time over the past 3 years and the coming year, broken down by Integrated Community Rehabilitation Centre (ICRC). In addition, please provide the estimated reduction in waiting time following the introduction of the additional service places.
2. Regarding the Policy Address's proposal to establish an additional District Support Centre for PWDs (DSC) in New Territories East, what are the expected staffing establishment (SE), the expenditure involved, and the implementation timetable?
3. Given that the prevailing support services for PWDs are primarily provided during daytime hours, with very limited evening or emergency support, will the Government consider providing 24-hour emergency support services to deliver home-based support or care services for PWDs in need? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

1. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are subsidised by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to operate Home Care Service (HCS) for Persons with Severe Disabilities, Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities (ISS) and Community Rehabilitation Day Centres (CRDCs), providing 4 450 places for HCS and 330 places for day community rehabilitation. SWD launched a 2-year pilot project in the third quarter of 2023 to set up 2 ICRCs, integrating the services of CRDCs and home care service, with a view to providing PWDs requiring medium to high level care with flexible support through a case management approach. Tailored support is also offered based on the individual needs and rehabilitation progress of each PWD. As the above community support services for PWDs are session-based, PWDs can access these services through referrals or by applying directly to the centres. There are no central waiting lists for these services.

SWD will set up 14 ICRCs across the territory in phases to provide services for PWDs in all districts. This includes regularising the operation of the 2 ICRCs set up under the pilot project starting from the third quarter of 2025, while enhancing the functions of the 4 existing CRDCs and converting them into ICRCs progressively with integration of HCS for Persons with Severe Disabilities and ISS. This measure will create an additional 1 280 community rehabilitation and HCS places, bringing the expected total to 6 060 service places.

2. SWD will establish 1 additional DSC in New Territories East in the third quarter of 2026, involving an annual expenditure of about $17 million. The SE of the centre is set out at Annex.

3. SWD operates a 24-hour hotline to provide immediate support and consultation services for people in need (including PWDs). To strengthen support for carers, SWD has commissioned the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals to launch the 24-hour Designated Hotline for Carer Support 182 183 (the Carer Hotline) in September 2023. In addition to answering calls, social workers managing the Carer Hotline also provide outreach services for crisis management or emergency support.

Annex

SE of DSC [Note]

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	2

Note The above SE is used solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of recurrent subvention. Subject to compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements 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 outputs and outcomes required.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)073

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1667)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26, it is mentioned that the Labour and Welfare Bureau will oversee the purchase of premises for the provision of welfare facilities. The initial target is to acquire approximately 160 welfare facilities across 18 districts. In this regard, please advise:

1. Since obtaining funding approval by the Finance Committee, please provide details of the purchased premises including (a) the number of premises, (b) their locations, (c) types of services provided, and (d) the expenditure involved.
2. For the next financial year, what is the amount of funding earmarked for related work? Please also provide (a) the number of permises to be purchased, (b) their locations, (c) types of services to be provided, and (d) the expenditure involved.
3. Although private property prices have declined from their peak, the number of welfare facilities purchased still falls far short of the target. Have any difficulties been encountered in this process? Will additional measures be considered to address these challenges or accelerate progress towards meeting the targets? For example, could existing social services, such as youth centres, be relocated to commercial buildings, thereby allowing ground-floor or lower-floor social welfare properties to be reserved for services requiring stricter fire safety compliance, such as elderly centres or childcare services? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1. 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 28 February 2025, 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.

2. & 3. SWD and GPA are continuing their efforts to identify and purchase suitable premises, and have earmarked $250 million for related work in 2025-26. The progress of purchasing premises depends 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. 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 will continue to implement and review the scheme, including exploring the feasibility of purchasing new premises as replacements so as to free up ground-floor or lower-floor spaces in existing premises for welfare facilities. The goal is to purchase more suitable premises for welfare purposes whenever possible.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1668)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 cover all 18 districts in Hong Kong, please provide this Committee with the following information:

1. The expenditure for extending ASCP(PC), including the administrative costs and manpower involved;
2. A detailed account of the estimated number of children who have benefited from ASCP(PC) over the past 3 years, their age distribution, service utilisation rate, and the number of waitlisted children, broken down by District Council (DC) district;
3. The timetable, details and estimates for extending the service to all 18 districts in Hong Kong; and
4. Given the ongoing shortage of child care workers, and considering the aforementioned service extension, will the Government consider implementing measures to provide more training places to enhance the quality of child care services and supplement manpower supply? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

1. The extension of ASCP(PC) involves an additional annual expenditure of about $14.2 million, including administrative and salary expenses of participating centres.
2. The number of places and the average utiltisation rate of ASCP(PC) for the past 3 financial years, broken down by DC district, are set out at Annex. Parents can apply directly for the service from service operators without being waitlisted under a central system. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the numbers of children waitlisted for the service and children who have benefited from the service as well as their age distribution.
3. SWD will extend ASCP(PC) to cover all districts in Hong Kong in phases within 3 years starting from 2024. The number of centres participating in ASCP(PC) will increase from 16 to 28, and the number of service places will increase from 672 to 1 176. The

16 centres are located in 8 districts (including Central and Western, Southern, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sham Shui Po, North, Yuen Long, and Kwai Tsing districts). SWD is extending the service to cover the remaining 10 districts in phases. The first phase of service extension has been completed, under which the 4 centres in Eastern, Kowloon City, Sha Tin, and Tai Po districts have commenced service in February 2025. The estimates on ASCP(PC) for 2025-26 is about $41.6 million.

4. In accordance with the Child Care Services Regulations (Cap. 243A), any person must complete a training course approved by the Director of Social Welfare before he or she can apply for registration as a child care worker. Institutions will adjust the number of training places offered based on demand. Nevertheless, each centre of ASCP(PC) has a staffing establishment consisting of 1 Assistant Social Work Officer and 2 support staff, and there is no requirement to employ child care workers. The operating expenditure of the service is subsidised under the Lump Sum Grant subvention mode. 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 required service outputs and outcomes.

Annex

Number of places and average utilisation rate of ASCP(PC)

(2022-23, 2023-24 & April to December 2024)

District	2022-23		2023-24		April to December 2024	
	Number of places Note 1	Average utilisation rate (%)	Number of places Note 2	Average utilisation rate (%)	Number of places Note 3	Average utilisation rate Note 4 (%)
Central & Western	-	N.A.	42	9	42	16
Southern	42	23	84	32	84	53
Islands	-	N.A.	-	N.A.	-	N.A.
Eastern	-	N.A.	-	N.A.	-	N.A.
Wan Chai	-	N.A.	-	N.A.	-	N.A.
Kwun Tong	126	43	126	52	84	57
Wong Tai Sin	42	69	42	80	42	76
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	71	126	76	126	73
Sha Tin	-	N.A.	-	N.A.	-	N.A.
Tai Po	42	41	42	46	-	N.A.
North	42	28	42	77	42	115
Yuen Long	42	42	126	52	126	83
Tsuen Wan	-	N.A.	-	N.A.	-	N.A.
Kwai Tsing	84	58	126	58	126	70
Tuen Mun	-	N.A.	-	N.A.	-	N.A.
Total	**546**	**53**	**756**	**57**	**672**	**69**

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 13 centres in Southern, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sham Shui Po, Tai Po, North, Yuen Long, and Kwai Tsing districts commenced service in August 2021, February 2022, and February 2023.

Note 2 5 centres in Central and Western, Southern, Yuen Long, and Kwai Tsing districts commenced service in August 2023 and February 2024.

Note 3 All 18 centres were in operation in February 2024, but 2 of them, which commenced service in August 2021, ceased operation after March 2024. The remaining 16 centres provided a total of 672 service places (42 places per centre).

Note 4 To meet the needs of the respective districts, some centres provide additional service places at specific time slots or additional opening sessions on Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays. The average utilisation rate may exceed 100% as the headcounts for additional services are also included.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)075

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1669)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 for this Programme that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will prepare for the setting up of 4 Community Parents and Children Centres (CPCCs) on a pilot basis. In this regard, please inform this Committee of:

1. the current work progress, related expenditures, and estimates for next year;
2. the distribution of these CPCCs, additional staffing requirements, and the estimated number of persons to be served; and
3. the criteria and indicators by which the Government will measure and evaluate the effectiveness of this initiative. If the pilot programme proves successful, will the Government consider establishing CPCCs in all 18 districts of Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

SWD will set up 4 CPCCs on a pilot basis by re-engineering existing children and youth centres located in the Eastern, Wong Tai Sin, Sha Tin, and Yuen Long districts. These CPCCs will adopt a play-based approach to promote parent-child interaction and educate parents on positive parenting methods, provide support to families with parenting needs, and refer families with other needs to appropriate government and community services. SWD will begin renovation works in the second quarter of 2025, with the 4 CPCCs scheduled to commence operations progressively starting from 2026, benefiting about 10 000 persons in the first year.

The provision for these CPCCs amounts to around $96.9 million over a 5-year period, from 2025-26 to 2029-30. The staffing establishment will comprise social workers, nurses, family aide workers, and child care workers, etc. SWD will draw up service agreements for operating CPCC services, stipulating the relevant requirements and standards, including service quality standards, essential service requirements, service output and outcome standards. SWD will monitor the CPCCs' performance in accordance with existing mechanisms, and examine the way forward for the initiative.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)076

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1670)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the implementation of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance, please provide this Committee with the following information:

1. The number of child abuse cases reported in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by category.
2. The estimated additional manpower and expenditure required for implementing the Ordinance next year, and what proportion of the Department's overall expenditure will this represent.
3. The Financial Secretary has proposed an additional annual provision of $186 million to increase emergency places for residential child care and to strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families. Please provide details of the related measures and the estimated expenditure involved.
4. Will the Government consider adopting innovative technologies to enhance child protection, such as subsidising welfare organisations to install artificial intelligence (AI)-powered closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems capable of monitoring and detecting early signs of inappropriate behaviour? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

1. The number of newly registered child protection cases from 2022 to 2024, as collected by the Child Protection Registry of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) by type of abuse, is as follows:

Type \ Year	2022	2023	2024
Physical harm/abuse	652	602	595
Neglect	276	310	328
Sexual abuse	443	509	522
Psychological harm/abuse	15	7	16
Multiple abuses	53	29	43
Total	1 439	1 457	1 504

2. The Government has allocated an additional provision of $24.1 million (additional full-year provision of $24.2 million from 2024-25 onwards) to create 41 permanent posts to enhance the Government's enforcement and support capacity, provide appropriate training for practitioners in relevant professions, and strengthen promotion and public education efforts on child protection, with a view to dovetailing the implementation of the mandatory reporting regime for child abuse cases.

3. In addition, the Government will, starting from 2025-26, allocate an additional annual provision of $29.07 million to increase the number of emergency residential child care places, and $157.4 million to strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families, amounting to a total of approximately $186.5 million. In terms of emergency residential child care places, 2 new residential child care centres (RCCCs) will commence operations before the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance takes effect, adding a total of 96 emergency care service places and catering for about 380 children each year. Regarding strengthening professional support for child abuse victims and their families, SWD has subsidised non-governmental organisations to set up 6 service teams under the Child Protection Support Service (service teams) in March 2025. The service teams, comprising social workers, psychologists, nurses, and other supporting staff, will provide a range of support services, including home visitation support, therapeutic/psycho-social groups, educational and family enrichment programmes, etc., to provide targeted intervention and professional support for children who have been abused or are at risk of abuse, as well as their families.

4. In 2024, SWD was funded by the Lotteries Fund to assist 12 RCCCs and residential special child care centres in Hong Kong (including 2 that are expected to commence operations soon) in introducing the AI monitoring systems into their CCTV systems, so as to enable a more comprehensive monitoring of childcare condition and a more effective identification of staff's improper behaviour for follow-up. NGOs operating these RCCCs have engaged service providers to carry out system development, design, coding, and technical testing according to the service environments and needs of individual centres. The AI monitoring systems are expected to be applied in these centres starting from mid-2025.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1671)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 that the Government will enhance the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme) by implementing measures such as increasing the number of participating residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs). In this regard, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the estimated additional expenditure and specific plans for increasing the number of participating RCHEs;
2. a breakdown of the number of elderly persons participating in the GDRCS Scheme in each of the past 3 years, and the number of elderly persons expected to participate following the enhancement of the GDRCS Scheme; and
3. whether the Government plans to regularise the 3-year pilot scheme to subsidise elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients to reside in designated RCHEs in the Guangdong (GD) Province, as proposed by the Chief Executive in his Policy Address, in order to address the huge demand for elderly services driven by the rapidly ageing population; if so, the details; if not, whether an assessment in this regard will be conducted as soon as possible.

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

1. The Government continues to expand and enhance the GDRCS Scheme. In addition to increasing the number of participating RCHEs, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will engage a Hong Kong-based NGO experienced in Mainland social services to provide care services for elderly persons participating in the GDRCS Scheme and their families. In addition to supporting elderly persons in adapting to life in RCHEs in GD, the NGO will conduct standardised care need assessment for elderly services for elderly persons from Hong Kong who have settled in Mainland cities within the Greater Bay Area, and follow up on the applications of eligible elderly persons to join the GDRCS Scheme. These services are expected to be rolled out in May 2025. Moreover, SWD will implement a pilot scheme to share part of the medical costs incurred by elderly participants of the GDRCS Scheme in GD. The annual subsidy is

capped at RMB10,000 per person for outpatient services, and RMB30,000 per person for inpatient services. The Government is currently finalising the implementation details of the pilot scheme, which is expected to be launched in the second half of 2025 for a period of 2 years. The above enhancement measures are expected to incur an additional expenditure of about $170 million in 2025-26.

2. Since the expansion of the GDRCS Scheme in July 2023, the number of elderly participants has continued to grow. The relevant figures are tabulated as follows:

Year	Cumulative no. of participants
2023-24	195
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	343

The GDRCS Scheme offers eligible Hong Kong elderly persons interested in cross-boundary retirement a greater variety of options for Mainland cities and RCHEs. SWD will pay service fees based on the actual number of participating elderly persons residing in RCHEs.

3. The Government will launch a 3-year Pilot Scheme for Elderly CSSA Recipients to Reside in Residential Care Homes in Guangdong (Pilot Scheme) in 2025. The Pilot Scheme will subsidise non-frail elderly persons who choose to retire in GD to reside in RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme. The Pilot Scheme is expected to launch in the third or fourth quarter of 2025. SWD will review the effectiveness, subsidy amount and way forward of the Pilot Scheme before the conclusion of its trial period.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1672)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding support for foster care services, please provide this Committee with the following information:

1. The number of places, the utilisation rate, the age distribution of service users, the average length of stay, the number of waitlisted children, and the average waiting time for foster care services in the past 3 years.
2. The number of enquiries about becoming foster families and the number of registered foster families in the past 3 years.
3. Despite the number of foster care service places and the utilisation rate for subvented organisations remaining at 1 230 and 72% respectively, for 3 consecutive financial years, the average monthly cost has jumped from $22,776 to $35,022. What are the reasons for this significant increase?
4. The Chief Executive announced in his Policy Address that the incentive payment for foster families will be substantially increased. Please provide the estimated expenditure involved, the expected number of new foster families, and the anticipated reduction in the average waiting time for the coming year. Moreover, will the Government evaluate the effectiveness of this measure in achieving its intended objectives? If so, how will this evaluation be carried out?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. The number of places, the utilisation rate, the average length of stay, the number of waitlisted children, and the average waiting time for foster care services between 2022-23 and 2024-25 are set out in Table 1 of Annex. The age distribution of children receiving foster care services in the past 3 years is set out in Table 2 of Annex.
2. The number of enquiries about becoming foster families and the number of registrations between 2022-23 and 2024-25 are set out in Table 3 of Annex.

3. The Government has implemented a series of enhancement and improvement measures to bolster support for foster care services. These measures include increasing the incentive payment for foster parents starting from April 2024; and allocating additional resources from January 2025 to provide extra support for foster children with special learning or care needs, arrange early assessments and appropriate professional rehabilitation therapy and training for foster children, enhance training for foster parents, and increase manpower in foster care service agencies to facilitate the implementation of these enhancement measures. As a result, the average monthly cost of foster care services has increased since 2024-25.

4. The estimated overall expenditure on foster care services (including the incentive payment for foster parents) for 2025-26 is $403.7 million. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has provided an addition of 100 foster care places since 2023-24, and has implemented the abovementioned enhancement measures since April 2024. 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 waiting time cannot be estimated. SWD will keep in view the utilisation of foster care services and the implementation of the new measures to ensure that the services meet development needs.

Annex

Table 1: Number of places, utilisation rate, average length of stay, number of waitlisted children, and average waiting time for foster care services

Year	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25** [Note 1]
Number of places	1 130	1 230	1 230
Utilisation rate [Note 2]	78%	72%	72%
Average length of stay (month) [Note 2]	34.90	38.33	32.78
Number of waitlisted children [Note 3]	289	292	256
Average waiting time (month) [Note 3 Note 4]	1.82	2.04	1.75

Note 1 Statistics as at 31 December 2024.

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. SWD does not have the statistics on the number of waitlisted children and the average waiting time for foster care (emergency) service.

Note 4 The figures only refer to cases that were successfully matched within a 3-month period but not cases with matching difficulties.

Table 2: Age distribution of children receiving foster care services

Year (as at end-December)	**Age**	**Number of foster children**
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
2024	Newborn to below 6	405
	6 to below 12	320
	12 to below 18	157
	18 or above [Note]	1

Note Under exceptional circumstances, children receiving foster care services may extend their stay with the foster families after reaching 18 years old.

Table 3: Number of enquiries about becoming foster families and number of registrations

Year	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25** [Note]
Number of enquiries about becoming foster families	296	422	459
Number of registered foster families	952	978	1 041

Note Statistics as at 31 December 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1673)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Financial Secretary mentioned in the Budget Speech that the Government would increase the number of vouchers issued under the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme) to 12 000 and increase the number of vouchers issued under the Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme) to 6 000. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of applications, the number of approved cases, the amount of subsidy, the number of withdrawal cases, and the reasons for withdrawal under the 2 schemes in the past 3 years;
2. the number of persons waitlisted and the average waiting time for subsidised residential care services (RCS) in the past 3 years, including home for the aged (H/A) places, care-and-attention (C&A) places and nursing home (NH) places; and
3. the expected reduction in average waiting time for the 2 schemes.

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. From 2022-23 to 2024-25, 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, are set out at Annex 1.
2. From 2022-23 to 2024-25, the numbers of persons waitlisted for subsidised C&A places and NH places, as well as their average waiting time are set out at Annex 2.
3. Both CCSV and RCSV Schemes adopt the principles of "money-following-the-user" and "users pay in accordance with affordability", providing an additional choice for elderly persons applying for subsidised community care services (CCS) and residential care places (RCPs). At present, elderly persons participating in the 2 schemes do not have to wait.

Annex 1

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)
2022-23	4 375	4 396	361.7
2023-24	6 546	6 478	477.4
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	6 471	6 346	687.8 [Note]

[Note] Revised estimate for 2024-25.

Table 2: Number of elderly persons who left the CCSV Scheme and their reasons for leaving

Reason for leaving [Note]	No. of persons		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Will be/have been allocated with/receiving subsidised CCS or subsidised/private RCS	1 523	2 002	1 141
Being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers, etc.	61	135	30
Others (e.g. hospitalisation, out of town, etc.)	48	109	53
Total	**1 632**	**2 246**	**1 224**

[Note] Excluding elderly persons who passed away after joining the scheme.

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)
2022-23	2 296	1 309	465.2
2023-24	3 408	2 007	750.4
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	3 400	1 886	1,055.8 [Note]

[Note] Revised estimate for 2024-25.

Table 4: Number of elderly persons who left the RCSV Scheme and their reasons for leaving

Reason for leaving [Note]	**No. of persons**		
	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Having no immediate need for RCS (e.g. being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers, etc.)	41	110	86
The preferred recognised service provider (RSP) was full/no suitable RSPs	23	42	25
Chose to wait for subsidised RCPs	23	39	37
Refused to accept the co-payment arrangement	5	10	4
Others (e.g. long-term hospitalisation, out of town, etc.)	16	19	16
Total	**108**	**220**	**168**

Note Excluding elderly persons who passed away after joining the scheme.

Annex 2

Table 1: Number of persons waitlisted for subsidised RCS

	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
No. of persons waitlisted for C&A places [Note 1 Note 2]	14 040	14 238	14 407
No. of persons waitlisted for NH places [Note 1 Note 2]	2 796	2 381	2 181

Note 1 At present, elderly persons using RCSVs may be admitted to RCHEs participating in the RCSV Scheme with government subsidies, without the need to wait for a vacancy.

Note 2 Excluding elderly persons classified as "inactive cases" on the central waiting list.

Table 2: Average waiting time for subsidised RCS

	Average waiting time (in months) [Note 1]		
	2022-23 (as at end-March 2023)	**2023-24 (as at end-March 2024)**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
C&A place [Note 2]	14	8	9
NH place [Note 2]	18	10	9

Note 1 The figures represent the average waiting time for applications during the last 3 months.

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

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1674)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the additional injection of $1 billion into the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of applications received, their approval ratios, the amount of funding approved, the number of beneficiary service units, the number and types of technology products involved, and the average processing time for applications in the past 3 years;
2. whether the Government will consider formulating a roadmap and timetable to subsidise more service units in adopting a certain proportion of gerontechnology, thereby enabling elderly persons and their carers to benefit from its advantages.

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

1. The number of applications received by the I&T Fund, the number of service units approved for the grant, the number of products approved, and the amount of grant approved in the past 3 years are set out in Annex 1. The types of products subsidised by the I&T Fund are set out in Annex 2.

   The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the average processing time for applications.

2. SWD plans to accept a new tranche of applications in March 2025, and will implement enhancement measures, which include increasing the amount of grant for each eligible elderly and rehabilitation service unit by 50%. In addition, non-governmental organisations operating subvented elderly and rehabilitation community service units will also be allowed to apply for extra funding to procure technology products suitable for elderly persons or persons with disabilities and their carers to borrow and use at home.

Annex 1

Information pertaining to the approval of applications under the I&T Fund from 2022-23 to 2024-25 (as at 28 February 2025)

Year of application	No. of service units applying for the grant	No. of service units [Note 2] approved for the grant	No. of products approved	Amount of grant approved ($ million)
2022-23	1 082	1 049	6 553	196
2023-24	706	649	2 812	86
2024-25 [Note 1]	890	614	3 218	73

Note 1 This tranche started accepting applications in March 2024 and the vetting of applications is still underway.

Note 2 The same service unit may submit multiple applications, provided that the total amount of grants from all approved applications does not exceed the ceiling applicable to the service unit.

Annex 2

Types of products subsidised by the I&T Fund

1. Smart hospital bed and accessories
2. Chair for special purpose
3. Infection control equipment
4. Appliances for kitchen
5. Bathing accessories
6. Personal care appliance and accessories
7. Shower and bath trolley/bench/bed
8. Special feeding equipment
9. Toileting accessories
10. Equipment for psychomotor training
11. Communication aid equipment
12. Hoist/raiser/lifter/climber
13. Wheelchair
14. Bed monitoring system
15. Security equipment
16. Near-field communication device
17. Computer software
18. Equipment, assessment tools and accessories for occupational therapy/physiotherapy/ speech therapy
19. Equipment and accessories for multi-sensory therapy
20. Medical equipment and supplies
21. Smart sensor
22. Smart system

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1168)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Programme mentions promoting the well-being of the elderly through the provision of services that will enable them to remain active members of the community for as long as possible and, where necessary, provide community or residential care to suit the varying long-term care needs of frail elderly persons. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

(1) For tranches 1 to 8, what is the total amount of grants approved, the number of subsidised elderly and rehabilitation service units, the number of applications received, and the number of technology products successfully procured or rented?

(2) What are the top 5 ranked technology products most procured or rented by elderly and rehabilitation service units (according to the Reference List)? Please present this information in tabular form.

(3) Regarding procurement and rental of products, how many applications for trialling technology products has the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund) received as at 31 January 2025? What is the total amount of funding approved for trialling technology products?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

(1) The I&T Fund received applications for about 21 300 items of technology products in total for tranches 1 to 8, and approved grants totalling around $660 million to subsidise about 1 900 elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure or rent over 18 000 items of technology products.

(2) The top 5 technology products most commonly applied for procurement or rental by service units are set out at Annex.

(3) As at 31 January 2025, the I&T Fund had received a total of 10 applications for the trial use of technology products, of which 7 applications were approved, with grants totalling over $15 million.

Annex

Top 5 technology products most commonly applied for procurement or rental by service units (Based on the Reference List of Recognised Technology Application Products)

Rank	Type of technology product
1	Equipment, assessment tools and accessories for occupational therapy/ physiotherapy/speech therapy
2	Smart hospital bed and accessories
3	Computer software
4	Security equipment
5	Hoist/raiser/lifter/climber

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1170)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

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

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Programme mentions acknowledging the equal rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs) to be full members of the community by supporting them in developing their physical, mental and social capabilities to the fullest possible extent and by promoting their integration into the community; providing medical social services; and providing preventive and rehabilitative services for drug abusers. In this regard, please provide the following information:

1). the number of service places and the average waiting time for various day care and community care services for PWDs (including residential respite, day respite and home-based support services), with a breakdown by age and the 18 District Council (DC) districts over the past 5 years;

2). the per capita costs, fees and charges, and the total amount of subsidies for various day care and community care services for PWDs (including residential respite, day respite and home-based support services) over the past 5 years;

3). the numbers of users of various day care and community care services for PWDs (including residential respite, day respite and home-based support services), with a breakdown by gender, age (18-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, 71-80, 81 or above) and the 18 DC districts over the past 5 years; and

4). the numbers of persons waitlisted for various day care and community care services for PWDs (including residential respite, day respite and home-based support services), with a breakdown by gender, age (18-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, 71-80, 81 or above) and the 18 DC districts over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

1). The numbers of service places and attendances by service users of day and residential respite services for PWDs in the past 5 years are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 1 respectively. Meanwhile, the numbers of service places of integrated support service for persons with severe physical disabilities (ISS) and home care service for persons with severe disabilities (HCS) are set out

in Table 3 of Annex 1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the average waiting time for day and residential respite services, ISS or HCS by age or 18 administrative districts.

2). The charges for day and residential respite services for PWDs, HCS and ISS are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 2. The respective total amounts of subsidies for day respite services for PWDs, ISS and HCS are set out in Table 3 of Annex 2. As residential respite services for PWDs are part of the residential care services for PWDs, SWD does not independently calculate and maintain separate records regarding the total amount of subsidies for residential respite services for PWDs or per capita costs of various services.

3). & 4). SWD does not have information on the number of users of or persons waiting for various day care and community care services for PWDs (including day and residential respite services, ISS and home-based support services) by gender, age and 18 administrative districts.

Annex 1

Table 1: Numbers of places for day and residential respite services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	No. of places [Note]	
	Day respite service	Residential respite service
2020-21	160	380
2021-22	164	390
2022-23	172	403
2023-24	231	428
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	231	428

Note Including designated day/residential respite service places under the Bought Place Scheme (BPS) for private residential care homes for PWDs (RCHDs).

Table 2: Numbers of attendances of day and residential respite services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	No. of attendances [Note]	
	Day respite service	Residential respite service
2020-21	896	224
2021-22	1 324	428
2022-23	1 221	578
2023-24	2 048	1 626
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	1 832	1 552

Note 1 service user may use day or residential respite services multiple times in the same year. For example, he/she may use the designated day/residential respite service under BPS for private RCHDs.

Table 3: Numbers of service places for ISS and HCS from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	No. of service places	
	ISS	HCS
2020-21	900	3 550
2021-22	900	3 550
2022-23	900	3 550
2023-24	900	3 550
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	900	3 550

Annex 2

Charges for day and residential respite services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Day respite service	**Hourly charge ($)**	
	Service user receiving Disability Allowance (DA)	**Service user not receiving DA**
Day activity centre	5.1	
District support centre for PWDs	5.1	
Care-and-attention (C&A) home for severely disabled persons	5.1	
Private RCHD under BPS (providing medium level of care)	5.1 [Note 1]	5.1 [Note 2]
Private RCHD under BPS (providing high level of care)	5.1 [Note 3]	5.1 [Note 4]
Type of RCP	**Daily charge [Note 5] ($)**	
	Service user receiving DA	**Service user not receiving DA**
Hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons	52	49
Private RCHD under BPS (providing medium level of care)		
Hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons	62	55
Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons		
Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons with mental handicap		
C&A home for severely disabled persons		
Private RCHD under BPS (providing 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 prior approval from SWD, individual service organisations/units may charge higher rates depending on the circumstances of service provision.

Table 2: Charges for HCS and ISS from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Charge category of HCS and ISS services	Service charge
Full service package Note 1	$1,002 (monthly charge ceiling)
Individual service	
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
Other service	
Transportation service	$10/trip

Note 1 The full service package includes personal care services, escort services, home respite services, 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 3: Total amount of subsidies for various day care and community care services for PWDs

Service type	2020-21 (Actual) ($ million)	2021-22 (Actual) ($ million)	2022-23 (Actual) ($ million)	2023-24 (Actual) ($ million)	2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($ million)
Day respite service	7.8	7.8	8.2	8.9	9.2
HCS	330.5	329.7	336.5	351.8	361.7
ISS	72.5	72.6	74.4	77.5	79.4

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)083

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1172)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Programme mentions promoting the well-being of the elderly through the provision of services that will enable them to remain active members of the community for as long as possible and, where necessary, provide community or residential care to suit the varying long-term care (LTC) needs of frail elderly persons. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1). the number of carers who received home respite service, carer training, carer emotional support services and case management services in the past 2 years;

2). the respective numbers of carers of persons with disabilities (PWDs) served by District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities (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 service type; and

3). 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 KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

1) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides subsidies to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and recognised service providers to provide various services for the elderly. Among these services, home-based community care and support services for the elderly, Home Support Services (HSS), and the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme) provide services such as home respite care, etc. The headcount of users of home respite services from 2023-24 to 2024-25 is set out in Table 1 of Annex 1, while the numbers of users of support services for carers and CCSV Scheme carer training services are set out in Table 2 of Annex 1. SWD does not maintain a breakdown of carer services.

2) & 3) In 2023-24 and 2024-25, the numbers of service places for HCS and ISS were 3 550 and 900 respectively. There are no quotas set for DSCs, PRCs and ICCMWs. The numbers of service users and activities organised under these services are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 2.

Home respite services are provided through DSCs, HCS and ISS. The headcount of users of home respite services for PWDs from 2023-24 to 2024-25 is set out in Table 3 of Annex 2.

In addition, DSCs, HCS, ISS, PRCs and ICCMWs also provide case management, carer training and emotional support services to PWDs and their families/carers. The number of cases receiving case management services under the above services from 2023-24 to 2024-25 is set out in Table 4 of Annex 2. SWD does not maintain a breakdown of training and emotional support services provided for carers of PWDs.

Annex 1

Table 1: Headcount of users of home respite services under home-based community care and support services for the elderly

Service type	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)**
HCS for Frail Elderly Persons [Note 1] and HSS [Note 2]	9 564 [Note 3]	7 984
CCSV Scheme	14 879 [Note 4]	16 264 [Note 4]

Note 1 Including Integrated Home Care Services (Frail Cases) [IHCS(FC)] and Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS).

Note 2 IHCS (Ordinary Cases) [IHCS(OS)] and Home Care and Support Services for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment (HSMI) were merged into HSS in October 2024.

Note 3 SWD conducted a review of HCS for Frail Elderly Persons in 2023-24 and renamed the "on-site elder sitting service" as "home respite service".

Note 4 The figures represent the headcount of users of "on-site elder sitting service" (including home respite service) under the CCSV Scheme.

Table 2: Number of users of carer services under home-based community care and support services for the elderly

Service type	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)**
HCS for Frail Elderly Persons [Note 1] and HSS [Note 2]	4 567	4 799
Carer training service under the CCSV Scheme	399	436

Note 1 Including IHCS(FC) and EHCCS.

Note 2 IHCS(OS) and HSMI were merged into HSS in October 2024. The figures for HSS only include the number of users of support services for carers after the merger.

Annex 2

Table 1: Number of users of community care and support services for PWDs

Service type	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
DSC	8 673	8 998
HCS [Note]	5 482	5 072
ISS [Note]	1 580	1 347
PRC [Note]	13 312	13 598
ICCMW [Note]	5 088	4 799

Note Including PWDs and their families/carers

Table 2: Number of activities organised under community care and support services for PWDs

Service type	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
DSC	1 808	1 280
HCS	109	84
ISS	59	40
PRC	8 856	6 714
ICCMW	880	701

Table 3: Headcount of users of home respite services under community care and support services for PWDs

Service type	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
DSC	773	611
HCS	16 652	14 640
ISS	5 966	4 401

Table 4: Number of cases receiving case management services [Note 1] under community care and support services for PWDs

Service type	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
DSC	2 406	2 988
HCS	4 828	4 568
ISS	1 226	1 107
PRC [Note 2]	1 042	1 079
ICCMW [Note 2]	2 372	1 652

Note 1 Number of cases provided with casework services.

Note 2 Including PWDs and their families/carers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1316)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

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

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Programme states that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides support services for families, including those in disadvantaged circumstances and those lacking the means to meet their needs. In this regard, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1) Regarding integrated family service centres (IFSCs), the estimate indicates that the number of subvented IFSCs in 2025-26 is expected to be 24. What is the expenditure for each IFSC?

2) Further to the above question, do IFSCs use outsourced services to organise groups and programmes? If so, what are the costs associated with these outsourced services and administrative expenses? If not, what are the expenses incurred when IFSCs organise groups and programmes themselves?

3) Please provide the number of cases completed by family support networking teams (FSNTs), the number of staff involved, and the expenditure incurred over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1) SWD and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operate 65 IFSCs and 2 integrated services centres in Hong Kong. Among these, 24 IFSCs are operated by 10 SWD-subvented NGOs. The provisional allocation for IFSCs is $361.6 million in 2025-26.

2) Subject to compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements, the aforementioned NGOs operating the 24 IFSCs may flexibly deploy resources for service procurement and employ staff to achieve the required service outputs and outcomes. SWD does not have a breakdown of the expenditure of IFSCs on organising groups and programmes, nor whether outsourced services are used.

3) The number of vulnerable households successfully referred to welfare or mainstream services, and the overall staffing establishment and the expenditure incurred by FSNTs in the past 3 years are tabulated below.

	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)
Number of vulnerable households successfully referred to welfare or mainstream services	3,415	3,370	3,370
Overall staffing establishment	20 Social Work Assistants	20 Social Work Assistants	20 Social Work Assistants
Expenditure incurred ($ million)	9.2	9.6	9.8

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2286)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs) merit society's attention. Many PWDs aspire to join the workforce. In this connection, would the Government please provide the following information regarding the employment situation of PWDs:

Please set out in a table the number of participants in various employment training programmes for PWDs (e.g. day activity centres (DACs), supported employment training for PWDs (SET) and Enhancing Employment of PWDs through Small Enterprise Project (3E Project)) in the past 5 years, along with the number of successful job placements after training.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) implements the 3E Project, which provides seed money to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to set up small enterprises or businesses. The aim is to create employment opportunities for PWDs, and improve their employment situation through a market-driven approach. Each small enterprise or business can receive a maximum grant of $3 million. At least half of the employees hired by the funded enterprises must be PWDs. The numbers of funded projects and jobs created under the 3E Project in the past 5 years are set out at Annex 1.

SWD subvents NGOs to provide vocational rehabilitation and training services through Sheltered Workshops (SWs), Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres (IVRSCs), Integrated Vocational Training Centres (IVTCs), and SET, etc. to help PWDs who are not yet ready for open employment by offering them appropriate vocational rehabilitation services in specially designed training environments, where they can learn to fulfil basic work requirements, including developing social skills and interpersonal relationships. Among these services, SET provides PWDs who are not yet able to take up open employment with individual service plans that integrate counselling, job-related training, job attachment, job trial and post-placement support. As for DACs, they provide day care and training in daily living skills and basic work skills for persons with mental disabilities, but these are not considered vocational rehabilitation and training services. The number of service users of various vocational rehabilitation services, as well as the number of PWDs who have successfully secured employment for more than 6 months in the past 5 years, are set out at Annex 2.

Annex 1

Numbers of funded projects and jobs created under the 3E Project

Year	Funded project	Total no. of jobs (Jobs exclusively for PWDs)
2020-21	6	41 (28)
2021-22	5	33 (21)
2022-23	2	24 (16)
2023-24	1	5 (3)
2024-25 (As at 28 February 2025)	5	39 (27)

Annex 2

Number of service users of various vocational rehabilitation services

Service type/ Year	No. of service users				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
SW	5 265	5 273	5 273	5 201	5 281
IVRSC	5 609	5 327	5 778	5 732	5 894
IVTC	405	408	410	428	463
Supported Employment (SE) Note	1 987	2 033	1 954	1 983	-
On the Job Training Programme for PWDs (OJT) Note	411	427	432	430	-
Sunnyway - On the Job Training Programme for Young PWDs (Sunnyway) Note	285	304	319	305	-
SET Note	-	-	-	-	2 359

Note SE, OJT and Sunnyway were integrated as SET in April 2024.

Number of vocational rehabilitation service users who successfully secured employment for more than 6 months

Service type/ Year	No. of persons successfully secured employment for more than 6 months				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
SW	Not applicable Note 2				
IVRSC	Not applicable Note 2				
IVTC	17	62	67	73	55
SE Note 1	221	240	271	246	-
OJT Note 1	133	160	161	178	-
Sunnyway Note 1	105	139	166	157	-
SET Note 1	-	-	-	-	260

Note 1 SE, OJT and Sunnyway were integrated as SET in April 2024.

Note 2 Services users of SWs and IVRSCs generally secure employment in the open market through SE services.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2287)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been implementing the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme since 1999. SWD now plans to adopt a new approach to help unemployed Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients by launching the pilot Support Programme for the Unemployed (SPU). In this connection, would the Government please provide the following information:

(a) the number of participants, as well as the numbers of those who successfully secured sustained employment and those who were unable to re-enter the workforce under the SFS Scheme in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by age, presented in tabular form;

(b) the estimated number of persons expected to be covered by SPU; and

(c) the expenditure and staffing establishment required for implementing SPU.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

(a) The headcounts of persons who received the Employment Support Services (EmSS) and those who had secured employment for at least 1 month upon receiving EmSS in 2023-24 and 2024-25 are tabulated as follows. SWD does not have a breakdown of the headcounts by year and age prior to April 2023, or the other information sought in the question.

Year	**Headcount of persons who received EmSS**	**Headcount of persons who secured employment for at least 1 month**
2023-24	16 480	1 891
2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)	14 022	1 307

(b) & (c) SWD will replace EmSS with SPU starting from October 2025. SPU will be operated on a pilot basis for 2 years by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and/or other organisations. SWD estimates that there will be about 10 000 participants during the initial implementation of SPU. The estimated

expenditure on the 2-year SPU is around $98 million. SWD will commission SPU operators through invitation for proposals. NGOs operating EmSS are free to submit their proposals.

The Social Security Branch (SSB) and the Social Security Field Units (SSFUs) of SWD are responsible for the work relating to SPU, which includes monitoring the operation of relevant services by operators. Since implementing SPU is part of the day-to-day work of SSB and SSFUs, SWD cannot separately account for the manpower and expenditure involved.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)087

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0614)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 to meet the long-term daily needs of their children after their passing. In this regard, 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 3 years;

(2) the number of beneficiaries served by SNT in each of the past 3 years, broken down by type of disability and health condition of beneficiaries;

(3) the number of accounts activated by SNT due to the passing of parents in each of the past 3 years;

(4) the establishment of various ranks of staff related to the operation of SNT (including the respective numbers of social workers, treasury accountants and clerical staff), actual strength, payroll expenditure and total expenditure for the past 3 financial years and for 2025-26;

(5) the fund balance and interest income of SNT for each of the past 3 financial years; and

(6) future plans to enhance public awareness of and participation in SNT.

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

(1) The cumulative number of applications received and the number of active cases handled by the Special Needs Trust Office (SNTO) of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in each of the past 3 years are set out in Table 1 of Annex.

(2) The number of active cases handled by SNTO, broken down by type of disability of beneficiaries, in each of the past 3 years is set out in Table 2 of Annex.

(3) No SNT accounts were activated due to the passing of parents in the past 3 years.

(4) In the past 3 years and in 2025-26, SNTO comprises 3 social workers, 1 Treasury Accountant, 1 Accounting Officer, 2 clerical staff and 1 Workman II. The annual payroll cost and total expenditure of SNTO are set out in Table 3 of Annex.

(5) The balance and interest income of SNT in the past 3 years are set out in Table 4 of Annex.

(6) SNTO has been actively organising briefings, seminars and workshops for parents of persons with special needs and relevant stakeholders. It also proactively visits parent organisations, rehabilitation service units, special schools and relevant district organisations, etc. to introduce and promote SNT. In addition, SWD's website features a dedicated SNT webpage that uses multimedia to help relevant individuals understand the details. SNTO has also produced various publicity materials to raise public awareness of SNT.

Annex

Table 1: Cumulative number of applications received and number of active cases handled by SNTO by year

Year	Cumulative no. of applications	No. of active cases
2022-23	65	45
2023-24	81	60
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	88	66

Table 2: Number of active cases handled by SNTO by year and 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 stipulated disabilities	Others (apart from the stipulated types of disabilities)	
2022-23	18	5	8	13	1	45
2023-24	25	8	13	14	-	60
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	27	8	16	15	-	66

Table 3: Annual payroll cost and total expenditure of SNTO

Year	Payroll cost ($ million)	Total expenditure ($ million)
2022-23	6.1	7.3
2023-24	4.5	5.3
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	3.6	4.2
2025-26 (Estimate)	4.8	5.6

Table 4: SNT balance and interest income

Year	Year-end balance ($ million)	Interest income ($)
2022-23	5.055	46 000
2023-24	8.880	215 000
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	9.125	245 000

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)088

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0615)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) released the report of the consultancy study on "Skill and Qualification Requirements of Residential Care Home (RCH) Staff providing Health and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong" in January this year. The report recommended the establishment of a new professional rank of "Health&Care Practitioner" (HCP) as a dedicated professional care position for the social welfare sector, which encompasses care and health duties at RCHs for the Elderly (RCHEs), RCHs for Persons with Disabilities (RCHDs) and other elderly/rehabilitation welfare service units. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

(1) the timetable and estimated expenditure for the establishment of a new professional rank of HCPs;

(2) the Government's planned timeframe for amending the law to allow RCHs to employ Enrolled Nurses (ENs) or HCPs;

(3) ways to ensure the quality of HCP-related training courses;

(4) whether the Government has information on the current number of Health Workers (HWs) in the industry; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons; and

(5) the Government's estimated timeframe for meeting the projected demand for 220 HCPs over the next 5 years, as stated in the consultancy report.

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

(1) & (2) In July 2023, SWD commissioned a Consultant to review the skill and qualification requirements of staff providing health and rehabilitation services in RCHs, with a view to establishing professional standards and a career progression pathway for them. In the same month, the Steering Committee on Review of Manpower for Healthcare Services in RCHs was established to offer advice and steer for the study. The relevant work was completed at the end of 2024. The consultancy report puts forth 4 key recommendations, including the establishment of a new professional rank, "Health&Care Practitioner" (HCP), to specialise in providing care services in RCHEs, RCHDs and other elderly/rehabilitation welfare service

units. This will not only attract people who aspire to pursue a career in the welfare sector, but also offer a career progression path for Health Workers, and help build up dedicated care talent for the sector. SWD has accepted the report and will progressively implement the relevant recommendations.

To ensure that HCPs are competent to perform the care duties in the future, they have to complete a training course specified by the Director of Social Welfare. According to the Consultant's preliminary assessment, the training course for HCP can start enrolment in the second half of 2026, the earliest. SWD has already been communicating with training institutions regarding the course design. At the same time, the Government will amend the RCHs (Elderly Persons) Regulation and the RCHs (Persons with Disabilities) Regulation to incorporate the new HCP rank into the relevant regulations without altering the existing statutory staffing requirements, and RCHs could employ either ENs or HCPs to meet the relevant statutory staffing requirements. The Government plans to consult the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services on the proposed amendments in the first half of 2026.

Since SWD has implemented the recommendation to establish the new HCP rank through internal redeployment, there is no additional manpower or administrative costs involved.

(3) As recommended by the Consultant, to become as an HCP, trainees are required to complete the training course specified by the Director of Social Welfare and attain a professional diploma. The HCP training course is pitched at Level 4 of the Qualifications Framework, with a total of 760 learning hours, including 480 hours of face-to-face teaching and 280 hours of practicum. The entry qualification requirements for the HCP training course are identical to those of the EN (General) Training Programme, and in respect of the required health and care work in social welfare service units, its assessment standards would also be the same as those of EN (General) Training Programme. To ensure that HCPs are competent to perform the care duties in the future, trainees of the training course must pass the assessment of applying relevant nursing skills, such as intramuscular injections, insertion or replacement of indwelling urinary catheters and nasogastric tubes, in order to obtain a graduation certificate. The HCP training course will be organised by training institutes with relevant experiences and rigorous accreditation, thus ensuring the quality of the course content, instructor qualifications, training facilities and assessment standards.

(4) As at the end of December 2024, there were a total of approximately 30 000 registered HWs in Hong Kong, with around 5 400 employed in RCHEs and RCHDs.

(5) Since the supply and demand for care staff in the social welfare sector are affected by multiple factors, such as economic conditions, the labour market, and industry competition, SWD is unable to provide the relevant estimate.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)089

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2875)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the School-based After-School Care Service Scheme (the Scheme), would the Government please inform this Committee:

(1) of the following details for each participating school during each of the school years 2023/24 and 2024/25: (i) the number of service places provided; (ii) the number of applications received; (iii) the number of participating students; and (iv) the number of students who withdrew from the Scheme;

(2) whether there have been cases since the launch of the Scheme in which the service places of participating schools were merged with those of nearby schools due to insufficient student enrolment; if so, the names of the schools involved and related details; and

(3) given that the number of participating schools accounts for only about 25% of all publicly-funded primary schools in Hong Kong, whether the Government has studied other measures to encourage more primary schools to participate in the Scheme; if so, of the details; if no, of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

(1) A total of 59 primary schools participated in the Scheme in the 2023/24 school year. As at the end of the 2023/24 school year (i.e. by end-August 2024), a total of 2 935 service places were provided under the Scheme, benefiting a total of 2 664 students. 325 students withdrew from the Scheme during the school year. A breakdown of all participating schools is set out at Annex 1. The main reasons for students to withdraw from the Scheme included some parents choosing other after-school activities and interest groups that better aligned with their children's interests and developmental needs, as well as students utilising after-school care services provided by the community near their residences.

The Scheme will be extended to all 18 districts across the territory in the 2024/25 school year. There are currently a total of 125 primary schools participating in the Scheme, offering about 5 800 service places in total. The number of service places for each participating school is set out at Annex 2. The number of student beneficiaries and the

number of students who withdrew from the Scheme during the school year for each primary school are not yet available, as some schools joined the Scheme some time after the start of the school year.

The Social Welfare Department does not maintain information on the number of applications received.

(2) Since the launch of the Scheme, there have been no instances where the service places of participating schools were merged with those of nearby schools due to insufficient student enrolment.

(3) The Government launched the Scheme in the 2023/24 school year, with the initial target of engaging 50 primary schools in 7 districts with higher student populations in the first year. 59 schools were successfully recruited in the end. In the 2024/25 school year, the Scheme was expanded to cover all 18 districts in Hong Kong, with the target of recruiting about 110 primary schools. To date, 125 primary schools have joined the Scheme. We have exceeded the targets for the first 2 years, and the number of service operators has also increased. The Government will closely monitor the implementation of the Scheme, gather data, and collect views from stakeholders, and complete the evaluation of the Scheme's effectiveness in the 2025/26 school year to determine the way forward.

Annex 1

Numbers of service places, participants and withdrawals for each participating school under the Scheme in the 2023/24 school year

Participating Schools under the Scheme [Note 1]	Service Places	Number of participating students	Number of students withdrawn during the school year
Kwun Tong			
The Mission Covenant Church Holm Glad Primary School	60	60	0
HKTAYYI Chan Lui Chung Tak Memorial School	65	69	6
Sau Mau Ping Catholic Primary School	70	68	5
L.S.T. Yeung Chung Ming Primary School	82	77	1
Kwun Tong Government Primary School	35	37	5
Kwun Tong Government Primary School (Sau Ming Road)	65	69	5
Sub-total:	377	380	22
Kowloon City			
S.K.H. Holy Cross Primary School	60	68	11
Oblate Primary School	60	61	17
S.K.H. Good Shepherd Primary School	55	52	4
St. Eugene de Mazenod Oblate Primary School	45	57	15
ELCHK Hung Hom Lutheran Primary School	60	62	2
Ma Tau Chung Government Primary School (Hung Hom Bay)	35	32	18
Farm Road Government Primary School	20	17	2
Kowloon Tong Government Primary School	30	28	1
Ma Tau Chung Government Primary School	8	12	4
Sub-total:	373	389	74
Yau Tsim Mong			
T.K.D.S Fong Shu Chuen School	55	62	7
Fresh Fish Traders' School	75	79	4
Jordan Rd Government Primary School	60	61	6
CCC Wanchai Church Kei To Primary School	55	48	2
Canton Rd Government Primary School	10	9	0
TWGHs Lo Yu Chik Primary School	40	39	14
Sub-total:	295	298	33
Sham Shui Po			
S.K.H. Kei Oi Primary School	60	60	9
S.K.H. St. Andrew's Primary School	75	78	5
Good Counsel Catholic Primary School	60	56	2
S.K.H. St. Clement's Primary School	65	73	11
Shamshuipo Kaifong Welfare Association Primary School	30	32	3
Li Cheng Uk Government Primary School	40	27	7
Fuk Wing St Government Primary School	40	33	5
Sham Shui Po Government Primary School	45	35	3
S.K.H. St. Thomas' Primary School	50	56	5
S.K.H. Kei Fook Primary School	60	60	8
Sub-total:	525	510	58

Participating Schools under the Scheme [Note 1]	Service Places	Number of participating students	Number of students withdrawn during the school year
Yuen Long			
Lions Clubs International Ho Tak Sum Primary School	60	17	0
Yuen Long Public Middle School Alumni Association Tang Ying Yip Primary School	60	27	0
Cumberland Presbyterian Church Yao Dao Primary School	60	41	1
TWGHs Leo Tung-hai LEE Primary School	60	9	0
S.K.H. Tin Shui Wai Ling Oi Primary School	60	48	3
Ho Ming Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)	30	13	0
TWGHs Yiu Dak Chi Memorial Primary School (Yuen Long)	30	18	0
Chiu Yang Por Yen Primary School	60	16	2
Chinese Y.M.C.A Primary School	40	38	3
Sub-total:	460	227	9
Tsuen Wan			
Tsuen Wan Public Ho Chuen Yiu Memorial Primary School	60	64	11
Holy Cross Lutheran School	70	80	10
Tsuen Wan Chiu Chow Public School	70	68	6
Ho Shun Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)	60	70	13
C.C.C. Kei Wai Primary School	45	35	7
Hoi Pa St Government Primary School	60	64	9
IHKTA Yuen Yuen Institute Shek Wai Kok Primary School	60	63	16
Sub-total:	425	444	72
Kwai Tsing			
S.K.H. Chu Oi Primary School	20	15	1
Salesian Yip Hon Primary School	60	63	5
CNEC Ta Tung School	25	26	2
Buddhist Lam Bing Yim Memorial School (Sponsored by HKBA)	40	43	3
Yan Chai Hospital Chiu Tsang Hok Wan Primary School	55	42	7
Cho Yiu Catholic Primary School	25	29	8
Tsuen Wan Trade Association Primary School	40	37	11
TWGHs Wong See Sum Primary School	30	22	6
Asbury Methodist Primary School	50	40	0
Salesian Yip Hon Millennium Primary School	30	30	0
TWGHs Chow Yin Sum Primary School	45	48	11
TWGHs Ko Ho Ning Memorial Primary School	60	21	3
Sub-total:	480	416	57
Total:	**2 935**	**2 664**	**325**

Note 1 The participating schools in each district are listed based on their assigned serial numbers under the Scheme.

Annex 2

Number of service places for each participating school under the Scheme in the 2024/25 school year

Participating Schools under the Scheme [Note 1]	**Service Places**
Central and Western	
St. Charles School	37
Li Sing Primary School	23
Sub-total:	60
South	
SKH Chi Fu Chi Nam Primary School	34
Sub-total:	34
Islands	
Hong Kong Federation of Education Workers Wong Cho Bau School	50
Tung Chung Catholic School	41
The Church of Christ in China Cheung Chau Church Kam Kong Primary School	20
Sub-total:	111
Eastern	
Buddhist Chung Wah Kornhill Primary School	33
The Salvation Army Ann Wyllie Memorial School	30
Shau Kei Wan Government Primary School	50
Sub-total:	113
Wan Chai	
Sir Ellis Kadoorie (S) Primary School	20
Sub-total:	20
Kwun Tong	
S.K.H Kei Lok Primary School	29
Lok Wah Catholic Primary School	63
Ping Shek Estate Catholic Primary School	18
Sau Mau Ping Catholic Primary School	75
The Mission Covenant Church Holm Glad Primary School	63
L.S.T. Yeung Chung Ming Primary School	80
HKTAYYI Chan Lui Chung Tak Memorial School	64
Kwun Tong Government Primary School	40
Kwun Tong Government Primary School (Sau Ming Road)	75
Sub-total:	507
Wong Tai Sin	
S.K.H. Kei Tak Primary School	58
Po Yan Oblate Primary School	50
Bishop Ford Memorial School	63
Ng Wah Catholic Primary School	58
Wong Tai Sin Catholic Primary School	84
Confucian Tai Shing Primary School	33
Price Memorial Catholic Primary School	42
The Church of Christ In China Kei Wa Primary School	51
Wong Tai Sin Government Primary School	59
Choi Wan St Joseph's Primary School	30
Sub-total:	528

Participating Schools under the Scheme [Note 1]	Service Places
Sai Kung	
HKMLC Ming Tao Primary School	42
Sai Kung Sung Tsun Catholic School (Primary Section)	13
King Lam Catholic Primary School	50
Tseung Kwan O Government Primary School	30
Sub-total:	135
Kowloon City	
S.K.H. Holy Cross Primary School	67
Ma Tau Chung Government Primary School	25
Farm Road Government Primary School	26
Oblate Primary School	58
S.K.H. Good Shepherd Primary School	58
Kowloon Tong Government Primary School	55
Ma Tau Chung Government Primary School (Hung Hom Bay)	25
ELCHK Hung Hom Lutheran Primary School	64
St. Eugene de Mazenod Oblate Primary School	45
Sub-total:	423
Yau Tsim Mong	
Yaumati Kaifong Association School	50
CCC Wanchai Church Kei To Primary School	64
Jordan Road Government Primary School	62
Fresh Fish Traders' School	79
T.K.D.S Fong Shu Chuen School	55
TWGHs Lo Yu Chik Primary School	50
Sub-total:	360
Sham Shui Po	
S.K.H. St. Andrew's Primary School	88
S.K.H. Kei Oi Primary School	60
S.K.H. St. Clement's Primary School	65
Fuk Wing St Government Primary School	45
Sham Shui Po Government Primary School	45
Shamshuipo Kaifong Welfare Association Primary School	30
S.K.H. Kei Fook Primary School	60
Good Counsel Catholic Primary School	60
Li Cheng Uk Government Primary School	26
Sub-total:	479
Sha Tin	
LKWFSL Wong Yiu Nam Primary School	35
Ng Clan's Association Tai Pak Memorial School	50
Chi Hong Primary School	50
H.K.T.A. Shun Yeung Primary School	24
Kowloon City Baptist Church Hay Nien (Yan Ping) Primary School	32
S.K.H. Holy Spirit Primary School	20
GCCITKD Cheong Wong Wai Primary School	60
The Little Flower's Catholic Primary School	34
Sub-total:	305

Participating Schools under the Scheme [Note 1]	Service Places
Tai Po	
S.K.H. Yuen Chen Maun Chen Primary School	16
S.K.H. Yuen Chen Maun Chen Jubilee Primary School	19
NTWJWA Leung Sing Tak Primary School	71
NTWJWA Christian Remembrance of Grace Primary School	40
Tai Po Old Market Public School	50
Tai Po Government Primary School	25
Sub-total:	221
North	
F.S.F.T.F Fong Shu Chuen Primary School	45
HHCALA Buddhist Ching Kok Lin Association School	60
Ta Ku Ling Ling Ying Public School	50
The Salvation Army Centaline Charity Fund Queen's Hill School	100
Tung Koon School	59
Sha Tau Kok Central Primary School	16
Fanling Government Primary School	25
Sub-total:	355
Yuen Long	
LST Leung Kau Kui Primary School (BR)	29
Tin Shui Wai Methodist Primary School	70
Tun Yu School	30
HKFYG Lee Shau Kee Primary School	60
Yuen Long Po Kok Primary School	30
Cumberland Presbyterian Church Yao Dao Primary School	60
TWGHs Leo Tung-hai LEE Primary School	29
Yuen Long Public Middle School Alumni Association Tang Ying Yip Primary School	45
Lions Clubs International Ho Tak Sum Primary School	23
Chiu Yang Por Yen Primary School	29
Ho Ming Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)	17
TWGHs Yiu Dak Chi Memorial Primary School (Yuen Long)	30
S.K.H. Tin Shui Wai Ling Oi Primary School	31
Chinese Y.M.C.A Primary School	62
Sub-total:	545
Tsuen Wan	
CCC Chuen Yuen First Primary School	60
Lei Muk Shue Catholic Primary School	54
Chai Wan Kok Catholic Primary School	55
Tsuen Wan Chiu Chow Public School	65
Holy Cross Lutheran School	84
Hoi Pa St Government Primary School	73
HKTA Yuen Yuen Institute Shek Wai Kok Primary School	45
Ho Shun Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)	58
Tsuen Wan Public Ho Chuen Yiu Memorial Primary School	69
C.C.C. Kei Wai Primary School	32
Sub-total:	595

Participating Schools under the Scheme [Note 1]	**Service Places**
Kwai Tsing	
CNEC Lui Ming Choi Primary School	37
E.L.C.H.K Kwai Shing Lutheran Primary School	46
TWGHs Chow Yin Sum Primary School	60
TWGHs Wong See Sum Primary School	35
TWGHs Ko Ho Ning Memorial Primary School	27
Asbury Methodist Primary School	40
CCC Kei Chun Primary School	23
Salesian Yip Hon Primary School	64
Cho Yiu Catholic Primary School	38
Salesian Yip Hon Millennium Primary School	40
S.K.H. Chu Oi Primary School	20
Yan Chai Hospital Chiu Tsang Hok Wan Primary School	52
Buddhist Lam Bing Yim Memorial School (Sponsored by HKBA)	59
Tsuen Wan Trade Association Primary School	45
CNEC Ta Tung School	25
Sub-total:	611
Tuen Mun	
Toi Shan Association Primary School	69
The Yuen Yuen Institute Chan Kwok Chiu Hing Tak Primary School	50
Yan Oi Tong Madam Lau Wong Fat Primary School	42
Castle Peak Catholic Primary School	58
Yan Chai Hospital Ho Sik Nam Primary School	31
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Tang Shiu Kin Primary School	53
Taoist Ching Chung Primary School (Wu King Estate)	48
Lui Cheung Kwong Lutheran Primary School	45
Sub-total:	396
Total:	**5 798**

Note 1 The participating schools in each district are listed based on their assigned serial numbers under the Scheme.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)090

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2962)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the first and second cohorts of the Strive and Rise Programme (the Programme), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

(1) The amount of donations raised for the first and second cohorts of the Programme and their uses, as well as the expenditure incurred in implementing the Programme, with a breakdown by (i) the total expenditure on the start-up sums and scholarships awarded to mentees; (ii) the total service fees charged by social welfare organisations responsible for implementing the Programme; (iii) the total expenditure on publicising and promoting the Programme; and (iv) the estimated expenditure for activities organised by the Alumni Club (the Club) for graduates of the Programme;

(2) For both the first and second cohorts of the Programme, (i) the number of successfully recruited mentees; (ii) the number of mentees who withdrew from the Programme; (iii) the number of mentees who participated but had not yet completed the Programme; and (iv) the number of mentees who participated and completed the Programme, broken down by gender and grade level (i.e. Secondary One, Two, Three and Four); and specify the main reasons for withdrawal or non-completion for each group;

(3) For both the first and second cohorts of the Programme, (i) the number of successfully recruited mentors; (ii) the number of mentors who withdrew from the Programme; (iii) the number of mentors who failed to meet the requirements of the Programme; and (iv) the number of mentors who participated and completed the Programme, broken down by gender and industry of employment; and specify the main reasons for mentors withdrawing from or failing to meet the requirements of the Programme;

(4) The average numbers of mentor-mentee interactive sessions during the first and second cohorts of the Programme, and a breakdown of the numbers of mentees and mentors who completed 0-3, 4-7, 8-11, 12-15 and over 15 interactive sessions;

(5) (i) The number of places; (ii) the number of applicants; and (iii) the number of actual participants for each elective in basic training, which was introduced in the second cohort of the Programme, broken down by type of activity (i.e. language skills enhancement; interest development (e.g. sports, music, and arts); social skills and etiquette; guidance for further studies; and guidance and support on physical and mental health);

(6) The current number of members of the Club, as well as a breakdown of the alumni membership from the first and second cohorts of the Programme;

(7) It has been noted that members of the Club can participate in a variety of activities and programmes organised by the Club, including development activities covering 6 major aspects of whole person development and exchange activities. Please provide (i) the number of whole person development and exchange activities that have been organised or are planned; and (ii) the estimated and/or actual numbers of participants, with a breakdown by the activity theme;

(8) It has been noted that the Club offers a job internship programme to eligible Club members, providing them with opportunities to explore their career aspirations. In this regard, please provide (i) the number of organisations or groups offering internships; (ii) the industries of these organisations and groups; (iii) the sectors of these organisations and groups (such as business organisations, public organisations and professional bodies, etc.); (iv) the number of internship positions involved; (v) nature of the jobs; and (vi) the estimated and actual numbers of participants;

(9) It has been noted that the performance indicator for the Programme requires no less than 70% of mentees who complete the Programme to demonstrate improvement in personal development and positive thinking. What is the current progress towards achieving this performance indicator?

(10) It has been noted that the Programme aims to help mentees develop a positive outlook on life, set goals for their future and strive for upward mobility. Will the Government consider conducting a longitudinal evaluation study to track the development of mentees who have completed the Programme, in order to explore the long-term impact of the Programme on these individuals?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

(1) A total of about $173 million in donations has been raised for the first and second cohorts of the Programme, which was mainly used to provide each participating mentee with a start-up sum of $5,000 and a scholarship of $5,000, and to provide alumni joining the job internship programme with transportation and meal subsidy. As at 14 March 2025, the total expenditure for providing financial support (start-up sums and scholarships) to mentees of the first and second cohorts of the Programme was about $26.45 million and $36.75 million respectively, with the administrative expenses borne by the Government.

The expenditure for implementing the Programme in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 is tabulated as follows:

2022-23 Actual ($ million)	2023-24 Actual ($ million)	2024-25 Revised estimate ($ million)
23.5	61.8	113.5

The above expenditure covers the expenses for the 1-year intensive foundation programme and activities of the Club organised by non-governmental organisations, and the publicity of the Programme.

(2) 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 gender and 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	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Secondary One	442	381	2	3	16	14	424	364
Secondary Two	419	485	0	7	32	25	387	453
Secondary Three	503	570	3	6	33	29	467	535
Total	1 364	1 436	5	16	81	68	1 278	1 352
	2 800 (100%)		21 (0.75%)		149 (5.32%)		2 630 (93.93%)	

The second cohort of the Programme successfully recruited 3 885 mentees. Among them, 3 642 mentees completed the Programme, 55 withdrew and 188 failed to complete the Programme. Their numbers broken down by gender and grade level (i.e. Secondary One, Two, Three and Four) 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	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Secondary One	632	525	14	10	25	24	593	491
Secondary Two	447	467	6	5	25	26	416	436
Secondary Three	444	493	2	7	18	27	424	459
Secondary Four	406	471	5	6	20	23	381	442
Total	1 929	1 956	27	28	88	100	1 814	1 828
	3 885 (100%)		55 (1.42%)		188 (4.84%)		3 642 (93.75%)	

The main reasons for mentees in the first and second cohorts of the Programme to withdraw from or be unable to complete the Programme include busy schoolwork, scheduling conflicts with school or extra-curricular activities, the need to attend tutoring classes on weekends, and poor health.

(3) For the first cohort of the Programme, 2 800 mentors were matched with mentees. Among them, 16 mentors withdrew from the Programme, mainly due to busy work schedules, and 5 mentors did not complete the Programme due to the withdrawal of their mentees. Thus, a total of 2 779 mentors completed the Programme. For the second cohort, 3 339 mentors were matched with mentees (with some mentors matched with 2 mentees). Among them, 76 mentors withdrew from the Programme, mainly due to busy work schedules. Thus, a total of 3 263 mentors

completed the Programme. None of the mentors in both cohorts failed to meet the requirements of the Programme. The gender distribution and industries of employment for mentors who completed the Programme are set out at Annexes 1 and 2 respectively.

(4) The mentees who completed the first and second cohorts of the Programme had an average of 12 and 14 interactive sessions with their mentors, respectively. SWD does not have the subgroup analysis by number of interactive sessions.

(5) Over 800 activity sessions were organised for mentees' participation in the second cohort, including orientation, basic training for mentees and group activities, with cumulative attendances exceeding 50,000. The numbers of places, applicants and actual participants for each elective in basic training, broken down by type of activity, are tabulated as follows:

Type of activity	Number of places	Number of applicants	Number of actual participants
Development of interests (e.g. Sports, music, and arts)	564	389	356
Guidance and support on physical and mental health	280	163	161
Guidance for further studies	100	66	66
Social skills and etiquette	30	31	28
Language skills enhancement	20	22	19

(6) 2 630 and 3 642 mentees from the first and second cohorts, respectively, who completed the 1-year intensive foundation programme, have automatically become members of the Club.

(7) Mentees who have completed the Programme can participate in a variety of activities and programmes organised by the Club. As at end-February 2025, the Club has organised about 1 400 activity sessions, including orientation, whole person development activities and group activities, as well as 7 exchange tours to the Mainland, with a total attendance of over 16 000. The figures, broken down by type of activity, are tabulated as follows:

Type of activity	Number of activity sessions	Attendance
Whole person development activities	1 335	11 541
Group activities (including orientation sessions)	68	4 481
Exchange tours to the Mainland	7	266
Total	1 410	16 288

(8) The Internship Organiser under the Programme arranges relevant 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, helping them develop job-related skills and establishing life goals. As at end-February 2025, a total of 283 alumni have enrolled in the internship programme, and the rganiser has arranged internship for all of them at 115 organisations or groups. The organisations and groups span various industries, including healthcare and nursing, finance and monetary services, public services, innovative technology, design and creative industries, culture and history, catering, education, social services, construction and engineering, etc.

(9) & (10) The evaluation of the first cohort of the Programme was undertaken by a research team from the Department of Applied Social Sciences at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Published in May 2024, the evaluation results revealed that the first cohort of the Programme successfully achieved the key performance indicator, i.e. at least 70% of mentees who completed the 1-year Programme demonstrated improvement in personal development and positive thinking. Ongoing evaluations will be conducted for all mentees throughout the intensive foundation programme in the first year, while a 5-year longitudinal tracking study on selected mentees will also be conducted. This study will collect data from mentees, mentors and parents in order to attain a full understanding of the Programme's impact on the personal growth of the mentees.

Annex 1

Gender distribution and industries of employment for mentors who completed the first cohort of the Programme (2 779 mentors in total)

Gender	Number
Male	1 359
Female	1 420

Industry of employment		Number
1.	Finance and insurance	1 191
2.	Communications/Information technology	211
3.	Legal	185
4.	Entrepreneurship	160
5.	Education	158
6.	Social services	157
7.	Engineering and construction	155
8.	Government/Public administration	103
9.	Transportation and logistics	99
10.	Catering	61
11.	Hotel/Tourism	56
12.	Medical	47
13.	Environmental protection/Green industry	36
14.	Science/Research	32
15.	Creative industry	28
16.	Disciplined services	20
17.	Performing arts/Art	14
18.	Sports	12
19.	Fashion and beauty	6
20.	Others	48

Annex 2

Gender distribution and industries of employment for mentors who completed the second cohort of the Programme (3 263 mentors in total)

Gender	Number
Male	1 767
Female	1 496

	Industry of employment	Number
1.	Finance and insurance	1 165
2.	Real estate and property management	296
3.	Communications/Information technology	228
4.	Education	194
5.	Engineering and construction	184
6.	Accounting and auditing	162
7.	Commerce and retail	148
8.	Government/Public administration	125
9.	Social services	116
10.	Transportation and logistics	107
11.	Medical	67
12.	Legal	58
13.	Entrepreneurship	45
14.	Catering	35
15.	Environmental protection/Green industry	32
16.	Hotel/Tourism	30
17.	Performing arts/Art	25
18.	Disciplined services	22
19.	Science/Research	22
20.	Sports	20
21.	Creative industry	15
22.	Fashion and beauty	12
23.	Others	155

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Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)091

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2963)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the third cohort of the Strive and Rise Programme (the Programme), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

(1) The amount of donations raised for the third cohort of the Programme and their uses, the estimated expenditure for implementing the third cohort, with a breakdown by (i) the total estimated expenditure on the start-up sums and scholarships awarded to mentees; (ii) the total estimated service fees charged by social welfare organisations responsible for implementing the Programme; (iii) the total estimated expenditure on publicising and promoting the Programme; and (iv) the total estimated expenditure for activities organised by the Alumni Club (the Club) for graduates of the Programme, as well as the number and ranks of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) staff members responsible for implementing the third cohort;

(2) The number of mentees in the third cohort of the Programme, broken down by gender and grade level (i.e. Secondary One, Two, Three and Four);

(3) The number of mentors in the third cohort of the Programme, broken down by (i) gender; (ii) age; (iii) education level; (iv) occupation; (v) the sector of the organisation or group they belong to (such as business organisation, professional body, community group, public organisation, etc.); and (vi) whether they have participated in the first or second cohorts;

(4) It has been noted that, compared with the second cohort, the third cohort of the Programme will further strengthen the training for mentors through a mixed mode of online and offline training courses or programmes and half-day interactive training programmes for them. Please provide the number, nature and attendance of these courses or programmes;

(5) How many mentees in the third cohort are paired with mentors who are engaged in the mentees' ideal occupation or share similar interests? Have SWD or the social welfare organisations assisting in the implementation of the third cohort received complaints about the Programme from mentees, their parents or mentors? If yes, please provide the number and nature of the complaints received;

(6) It has been noted that the third cohort will continue the enhanced measures of the second cohort, including organising more study and exchange programmes in the Mainland to broaden the horizons of mentees. Please provide (i) the number of the planned exchange programmes; (ii) the number of places available; (iii) the cities to be visited; and (iv) the themes of the exchanges;

(7) It has been noted that the third cohort of the Programme offers mentees electives for basic training (i.e. language skills enhancement; interest development (e.g. sports, music, and arts); social skills and etiquette; guidance for further studies; and guidance and support on physical and mental health). Please provide (i) the estimated number of places available; (ii) the number of applications; and (iii) the number of participants of these electives; and

(8) Have any mentees or mentors voluntarily withdrawn from the third cohort of 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.: 31)

Reply:

(1) A total of $18.66 million in donations has been raised for the third cohort of the Programme. Including the surplus from the first and second cohorts, the total balance of the funds was $138 million as at 14 March 2025. The funds raised for the Programme are mainly used to provide each participating mentee with a start-up sum of $5,000 and a scholarship of $5,000, and to provide alumni joining the job internship programme with transportation and meal subsidy. The estimated total expenditure for providing start-up sums and scholarships to mentees of the third cohort of the Programme is $40 million, with the administrative expenses borne by the Government.

The estimated expenditure for implementing the Programme in 2025-26 is $131 million, including the expenditure for organising the 1-year intensive foundation programme and activities of the Club by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and publicity for the Programme, etc. Approximately $36.75 million of which has been set aside for organising activities of the Club. SWD implements the Programme by deploying existing manpower. As the staff involved are also responsible for other youth services, a breakdown of the staffing establishment dedicated solely to implementing the Programme is not available.

(2) The third cohort of the Programme has admitted a total of 4 000 mentees. The number of mentees broken down by gender and grade level is tabulated as follows:

Grade level	Male	Female	Total
Secondary One	688	665	1 353
Secondary Two	475	418	893
Secondary Three	452	481	933
Secondary Four	397	424	821
Total	2 012	1 988	4 000

(3) As at end-February 2025, the third cohort of the Programme has recruited a total of 3 686 mentors to support 4 000 mentees (with some mentors matched with 2 mentees). Among them, 1 156 mentors had participated in the first and/or second cohorts of the Programme. A breakdown of the mentors by gender, age, education level, industry of

employment, and the sector of the organisation or group they belong to is set out at Annex.

(4) The third cohort of the Programme enhances mentor training through a mixed mode of online and offline training. A series of thematic videos covering topics such as the growth and development of young people, special educational needs, cultural diversity, communication skills with young people and parents, etc., are available via the mobile application of the Programme. These resources allow mentors to acquire relevant knowledge and skills based on their own experience, needs and learning pace. As at end-February, over 1 100 mentors have engaged in self-learning through the mobile application. In addition, interactive training programmes are provided to help mentors consolidate their knowledge and skills, while offering opportunities to share experiences with fellow mentors and receive peer support. Specific details of these training programmes are currently being developed.

(5) The mentees of the third cohort of the Programme have been matched with mentors based on their gender, spoken language, career aspirations, interests, and other factors. Neither SWD or NGOs assisting in the implementation of the third cohort have received any complaints about the Programme from mentees, their parents or mentors.

(6) Since the launch of the third cohort of the Programme, a total of 12 supporting organisations have expressed interest in organising study and exchange programmes in the Mainland (exchange programmes). Among these, 1 exchange programme to Huizhou offering 105 places was held in March 2025. The remaining exchange programmes are scheduled to take place between end-March and August 2025, with details currently being developed. Through visits to different corporations/ professions/industries during these exchange programmes, mentees can broaden their horizons, set goals for their future and reinforce their self-confidence. They can also learn more about the history, culture, economic development and current situation of the motherland, thus fostering a stronger sense of national identity.

(7) Preparation for the electives in the third cohort of the Programme is underway, and no relevant statistics is available at this stage.

(8) The third cohort of the Programme has admitted a total of 4 000 mentees, with no mentees or mentors having withdrawn from the Programme so far.

Annex

Mentors recruited in the third cohort of the Programme by gender, age, education level, industry of employment, and the sector of the organisation or group they belong to

Gender	Number
Male	1 959
Female	1 727

Age	Number
21-25	225
26-40	1 628
41-55	1 500
56 or above	333

Education level	Number
Secondary	156
Post-secondary	302
Bachelor's degree	1 685
Master's degree or above	1 543

	Industry of employment	Number
1.	Finance and insurance	1 452
2.	Real estate and property management	259
3.	Entrepreneur	256
4.	Social services	254
5.	Engineering and construction	249
6.	Education	237
7.	Communications/Information technology	216
8.	Commerce and retail	95
9.	Medical	93
10.	Government/Public administration	75
11.	Legal	72
12.	Transportation and logistics	65
13.	Performing arts/Art	64
14.	Hotel/Tourism	52
15.	Creative industry	34
16.	Accounting and auditing	30
17.	Sports	27
18.	Environmental protection/Green industry	27
19.	Science/Research	22
20.	Fashion and beauty	20
21.	Catering	17
22.	Disciplined services	13
23.	Others	57

Sector of the organisation or group the mentors belong to	Number
Business organisation	1 893
District organisation/ community group	1 443
Public organisation	262
Professional body	88

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1754)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

To enhance welfare support services for ethnic minorities (EMs), the Government will continue to implement the Ethnic Minority District Ambassador pilot scheme (EMDA pilot scheme). How many applications for the position of EMDA were received, and how many persons were hired in each of the past 3 years? Has the effectiveness of the EMDA pilot scheme been evaluated thus far? What measures will be taken to enhance and expand EM services?

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the EMDA 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) to provide additional resources for enhancing district centres/service units, and co-ordinating communication and co-operation with relevant stakeholders. Under the EMDA pilot scheme, additional 46 EMs or designated persons have been employed as EMDAs in some service units of SWD and subvented non-governmental organisations to enhance welfare support services for EM communities. As at December 2024, a cumulative total of 150 persons have been employed as EMDAs. SWD does not have information on the number of applications for these posts.

The EMDA pilot scheme has received positive feedback and support from various stakeholders since its implementation. The Government has extended the EMDA 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 EMDA pilot scheme and examine the way forward for the services.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2475)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up an online youth-emotional-support platform. What are the estimated expenditure ratios for the platform's development, operation and maintenance? How will the Government ensure that the funds are effectively used for the provision of actual services? Will there be dedicated monitoring mechanisms (such as analysing user activity data, and tracking service response times) to assess the efficiency of funding utilisation? In addition, how will the operations of the platform be co-ordinated with the existing mental health service network in the community (such as through referral mechanisms or data interoperability standards)? Will the Government consider partnerships with social enterprises to reduce operational costs?

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

SWD launched the services of cyber youth support teams (CYSTs) in December 2018 and plans to enhance their services in the second quarter of 2025 through "Open Up", an online youth-emotional-support platform originally developed with funding from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and incorporating the services of CYSTs to provide instant online counselling service for students or young people experiencing emotional distress or facing immediate risks. The estimated expenditure for 2025-26 is about $25.88 million. Regarding service performance monitoring, subvented non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating welfare services are required to comply with the relevant requirements and standards stipulated by the service agreements, including essential service requirements, service output and outcome standards and service quality standards. SWD will review the operations of this service and monitor the performance of the service units in accordance with existing mechanisms. SWD will not collaborate with social enterprises to operate the above service at this stage, but will continue to encourage NGOs to make good use of community resources to enhance efficiency.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2483)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What proportion of funding is allocated to tuition subsidies, after-school tutoring, and career exploration activities under the Strive and Rise Programme for 2025-26? What criteria does the Government use to select students from intergenerational poverty to participate in the Programme (e.g. household income thresholds, district of residence, etc.)? How does the Government track the employment status of participating students 3 years after graduation (such as survey frequency, expenditure on data analysis, etc.)?

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

Each mentee in the Programme will be given a start-up sum of $5,000 upon completing the basic training. The amount is to be used under the mentor's guidance to achieve the mentee's personal development plan, which may include enhancing academic capabilities, career development skills, or developing personal interests. Upon successful completion of the Programme, a scholarship of $5,000 will be awarded to the mentee for his/her own use by applying the financial planning concepts acquired during the Programme. The funds for start-up sums and scholarships are donated by supporting organisations.

Regarding career exploration activities, in addition to mentors arranging visits to their workplaces for the matched mentees, many supporting organisations will organise group activities such as visits, workshops, exchanges with management, etc. Mentees who have completed the intensive foundation programme in the first year and are aged 16 or above can participate in the job internship programme organised by the Alumni Club (the Club) to gain more understanding towards industries of interest and real working environments. About $36.75 million have been set aside in 2025-26 for implementing activities of the Club, including the job internship programme.

The Programme targets Secondary One to Four students from underprivileged families (particularly those living in subdivided units). The living and financial conditions of the applicants will be considered during the recruitment process. Priority will be given to Secondary One to Four students living in subdivided units and receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance.

The evaluation of the Programme is undertaken by a research team from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. In addition to ongoing evaluations for all mentees throughout the intensive foundation programme in the first year, a 5-year longitudinal tracking study on selected mentees will also be conducted. This study will collect data from mentees, mentors and parents in order to attain a full understanding of the Programme's impact on the personal growth of the mentees, but will not cover the employment status of the participating mentees after graduation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3222)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Social Welfare Department's (SWD) enhancement measures for the After School Care Programme (ASCP) for Primary School Student, will priority be given to allocating additional service places in districts with a high concentration of subdivided flats and ethnic minority communities? How will the Government assess the service capability of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) (such as the ratio of social workers to students and the attainment rates of service targets in the past) with reference to the mechanism adopted under the Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly? What is the basis of calculating the subsidy amount for each voucher?

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

ASCP aims to provide care services for children whose parents are unable to give proper care to them during after-school hours because of work or other reasons. Operated by NGOs on a self-financing and fee-charging basis, ASCP provides a range of care and support services for primary school students, including homework guidance, parental guidance and education, skill learning and social activities, etc. The services target all primary school students in various districts across the territory, including ethnic minority students and their families and those living in subdivided units. To support low-income families in need, SWD provides financial assistance through the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under ASCP (the Scheme), which waives or reduces ASCP fees for their children.

Since October 2020, the Government has regularised the "Pilot Scheme on Relaxing the Household Income Limit of the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the After School Care Programme for Low-income Families and Increasing Fee-waiving Subsidy Places" under the Community Care Fund and implemented a host of enhancement measures, including relaxing the eligibility for application, increasing the subsidy level, providing extra subsidies for students with special educational needs, and streamlining means-test procedures, etc. Eligible low-income families can directly apply for full fee-waiving, half fee-reduction or one-third fee-reduction from participating operators. In addition to having experience and a proven track record in operating after-school care services, participating operators' mode of operation must be in compliance with the requirements in terms of the service capacity, service hours, manpower provision, fee-charging, etc. Operators are required to provide

services in accordance with the Service Specifications for the Scheme and submit relevant statistical information to SWD on a quarterly basis. SWD will conduct review visits to service units through random sampling to assess whether the ASCP services provided by the operators meet the requirements stipulated in the Service Specifications. SWD will review the demand for ASCP services in each district on a regular basis, and will provide additional places as necessary, having regard to the actual utilisation of fee-waiving places by the operators to benefit more service users.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1568)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding family and child protective services, please provide the following information:

1. the number of new cases involving enquiries on child custody dispute and the number of social enquiry reports completed by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) over the past 3 years; and
2. the number of occasions on which SWD staff were required to appear before the court to give evidence for social enquiry reports they had submitted over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LAM San-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. The number of new cases involving enquiries on child custody dispute and the number of social enquiry reports completed by the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) of SWD from 2022-23 to 2024-25 are set out below:

Item	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Number of new cases involving enquiries on child custody dispute [Note 1]	698	883	558
Number of social enquiry reports completed	652	880	585

[Note 1] More than 1 child may be involved in a social enquiry.

2. The number of cases in which FCPSU social workers were required to appear before the court to give evidence between 2022-23 and 2024-25 is set out below:

Item	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Number of cases in which SWD social workers were required to appear before the court to give evidence [Note 2]	71	70	33

[Note 2] It includes attendances in children dispute resolution hearings and trials concerning child custody dispute.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1569)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the support services for divorced families provided by Specialised Co-parenting Support Centres (SCSCs), would the Government please inform this Committee of:

1. the number of new cases and that of cumulative cases to be followed up by each SCSC in the past 3 years;
2. the amount of government subsidy received by each SCSC in the past 3 years; and
3. the expenditure incurred by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) on the internal administration of matters related to SCSCs in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LAM San-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

1. & 2. There are 5 SCSCs providing one-stop support services for separated/divorced parents and their children. The number of new cases and that of cumulative cases to be followed up by each SCSC, as well as the expenditure involved between 2022-23 and 2024-25 are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex respectively.

3. Different sections of SWD are responsible for managing various types of welfare service units, including matters related to SCSCs, which is a part of the Department's regular work. Therefore, SWD does not have a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

Annex

Table 1: Number of new cases and that of cumulative cases to be followed up by SCSCs

Name of SCSC	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	
	New cases	Cumulative cases	New cases	Cumulative cases	New cases	Cumulative cases
The Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council/ KID First Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre (Kowloon East)	84	211	97	213	76	261
The Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council/ KID First Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre (Hong Kong)	74	104	80	94	68	108
Hong Kong Family Welfare Society/ Parent-child Connect Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre	87	91	74	132	79	129
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong/ Parent Child LINK Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre	90	87	107	105	71	116
St James' Settlement/ Circle of Love Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre	71	82	85	108	73	123
Total	**406**	**575**	**443**	**652**	**367**	**737**

Cumulative cases refer to cases that were not concluded in the previous year and remaining active in the current year.

Table 2: Expenditure of SCSC

Name of SCSC	2022-23 Actual expenditure ($ million)	2023-24 Actual expenditure ($ million)	2024-25 Revised estimate ($ million)
The Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council/ KID First Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre (Kowloon East)	7.81	8.10	8.24
The Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council/ KID First Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre (Hong Kong)	8.17	8.46	8.59
Hong Kong Family Welfare Society/ Parent-child Connect Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre	7.83	8.15	8.26
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong/ Parent Child LINK Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre	7.67	7.97	8.10
St James' Settlement/ Circle of Love Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre	6.98	7.28	7.41

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)098

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0309)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

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

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Budget Speech mentioned that the number of residential care service vouchers (RCSVs) would increase to 6 000 in 2025-26, and the number of community care service vouchers (CCSVs) would increase to 12 000. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

1. the utilisation rates of RCSVs and CCSVs (with a breakdown by different service areas) since their launch; and
2. details of the current distribution of expenditure on RCSVs and CCSVs.

Asked by: Hon LAM Shun-chiu, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

The Government launched the Pilot Scheme on RCSV for the Elderly in March 2017 and made the RCSV Scheme for the Elderly permanent in April 2023. From the end of April 2023 to the end of December 2024, the number of RCSV users increased from about 2 660 to about 4 800. The number of RCSVs will be increased by 1 000 in 2025-26, bringing the total to 6 000, involving an annual expenditure of about $1.71 billion.

The Government launched the Pilot Scheme on CCSV for the Elderly in September 2013 and made the CCSV Scheme for the Elderly permanent in September 2023. From the end of September 2023 to the end of December 2024, the number of CCSV users increased from about 7 750 to about 11 400. The number of CCSVs will be increased by 1 000 in 2025-26, bringing the total to 12 000, involving an annual expenditure of about $900 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3055)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

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

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Paragraph 197 of the Budget Speech states that the Government will, in the next financial year, increase the number of vouchers under the Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme) by 1 000 to 6 000 in total and increase the number of vouchers under the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly by 1 000 to 12 000 in total, involving an annual expenditure of about $1,710 million and $900 million respectively. In this connection, please advise:

(1) What were the age and gender distributions of RCSV and CCSV users in the past year?

(2) In view of the Audit Commission's report highlighting overcharging for consumables by some residential care homes (RCHs) under the RCSV Scheme, will the Government enhance monitoring and inspection? If yes, what are the plans? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Shun-chiu, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

(1) The age and gender distributions of RCSV users and CCSV users in 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024) are set out at Annex.

(2) The service agreements signed by recognised service providers (RSPs) participating in the RCSV Scheme clearly specify the service specifications, including the principles and requirements of all fee-charging items, as well as guidelines on the implementation of individual care plans, etc. In addition, RSPs are required to strictly comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice for RCHs (Elderly Persons). The Social Welfare Department (SWD) regularly conducts surprise visits to RSPs to observe their operations, review relevant records, and interview randomly selected service users or their family members to assess whether the participating RCHs for the elderly (RCHEs) comply with the relevant requirements stipulated in their service agreements. In the event of non-compliance, SWD will require the RCHE concerned to make improvements or impose sanctions in accordance with existing mechanisms.

Annex

Table 1: Age and gender distributions of RCSV users in 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

Age	Male	Female	Total
Aged 60 to 74	384	287	671
Aged 75 to 84	619	680	1 299
Aged 85 or above	902	1 935	2 837
Total	**1 905**	**2 902**	**4 807**

Table 2: Age and gender distributions of CCSV users in 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

Age	Male	Female	Total
Aged 60 to 74	889	1 206	2 095
Aged 75 to 84	1 359	2 477	3 836
Aged 85 or above	1 832	3 639	5 471
Total	**4 080**	**7 322**	**11 402**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0362)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

With regard to ensuring that welfare expenditures by government and subvented organisations are being used for their intended purposes, please provide this Committee with the following information:

1. Over the past 5 years, what was the ratio of administrative expenses (including salary expenditures) incurred by government and subvented organisations to the total allocated funds actually spent on beneficiaries?
2. Over the past 5 years, what were the administrative expenses incurred by government and subvented organisations, and what was the average number of staff employed by each subvented organisation?

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is a government department. There are 6 Programmes under the social welfare policy area, namely Family and Child Welfare, Social Security, Services for The Elderly, Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services, Services for Offenders, and Young People. The financial provision for each Programme is detailed in the Controlling Officer's Report, which also lists out the expenditure by subheads. Majority of SWD's total estimated expenditure is to provide cash allowances to eligible persons and funding to subvented organisations operating welfare services for those in need. Taking 2025-26 as an example, SWD's total estimated expenditure is $125.17 billion, out of which $84.03 billion (about 67%) is provision for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and Social Security Allowance Scheme, and $34.79 billion (about 28%) is funding provision to subvented organisations.

The staffing establishment of SWD in the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (Revised estimate)	2025-26 (Estimate)
Staffing establishment	6 550	6 528	6 527	6 560	6 520

Under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, SWD allocates subvention to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with grants in a lump sum each year for operating welfare services. 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 own human resource policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service outputs and outcomes required. SWD does not have the requested information regarding the breakdown of the number of staff employed by subvented organisations and the related expenditure.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0365)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the strengthening of the home-based child care service (HCCS) under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP), and the increase in the level of incentive payment for home-based child carers and the number of service places, please inform this Committee of:

1. the actual annual expenditure on NSCCP for each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by expenditure item (such as incentive payments, staff salaries, training for home-based child carers, administrative expenses, etc.);
2. (a) the number of service places; (b) the number of home-based child carers; (c) the amount of subvention for each service operator; (d) the number of service users; (e) the average utilisation rate; (f) the average service fee; and (g) the average number of staff for each service operator for each of the past 3 years, broken down by District Council (DC) district; and
3. details of the plan to increase the level of incentive payment for home-based child carers and the number of service places.

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

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 their expenditure on 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. On this basis, service operators may flexibly deploy the funding to operate NSCCP. Therefore, SWD does not have the breakdown of the expenditure on NSCCP.

Year	Expenditure on NSCCP ($ million)
2022-23 (Actual)	28.3
2023-24 (Actual) [Note 1]	88.0
2024-25 (Revised estimate) [Note 2]	226.6

Note 1 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.

Note 2 The increase in expenditure for 2024-25 was due to the fact that the incentive payment for home-based child carers and the number of service places under NSCCP were increased.

2. The information on NSCCP over the past 3 financial years, broken down by DC district, is set out at Annex. In 2022-23 and 2023-24, service operators were required to provide a minimum number of service places and employ staff in accordance with the staffing establishment, which included at least 2 registered social workers, 1 child care worker, and 2 support staff, for operating NSCCP. Since September 2024, SWD has been subsidising non-governmental organisations to operate NSCCP under Lump Sum Grant subvention mode. The staffing establishment for each service team under NSCCP comprises 2 Assistant Social Work Officers, 2 Social Work Assistants, 1 Child Care Worker, and 2 Welfare Workers. Subject to compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements, service operators may flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the required service outputs and outcomes. Since NSCCP has no service quota limit, SWD does not have the information on its average utilisation rate.

3. The Government has increased the level of incentive payment for home-based child carers under NSCCP starting from April 2024. The rate has increased to $60 per hour for carers of infants and young children aged 0 to 3 or children with special learning needs, and $40 per hour for carers of other children. In addition, starting from September 2024, SWD has increased the number of NSCCP places to around 2 000.

Annex

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 (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		2022-23 Actual expenditure Note 3 ($ million)
				Home-based child care service (HCCS)	Centre-based care group (CCG)	
Central & Western	53	29	413	24	24	28.3
Wan Chai	53	73	189	22	22	
Eastern	53	59	326	22	22	
Southern	53	27	171	20	12	
Yau Tsim Mong	53	278	793	20	13	
Sham Shui Po	53	57	842	20	13	
Kowloon City	53	521	455	20	13	
Wong Tai Sin	53	45	595	18	10	
Kwun Tong	53	44	395	20	13	
Kwai Tsing	53	72	679	18	13	
Tsuen Wan	53	63	645	20	13	
Tuen Mun	53	33	732	20	13	
Yuen Long	53	65	1 151	18	13	
North	53	61	446	18	13	
Tai Po	53	69	580	20	13	
Sha Tin	53	41	848	20	13	
Sai Kung	53	139	591	20	13	
Islands	53	83	468	22	13	
Total	**954**	**1 759**	**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 to meet the actual service demands.

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 annual expenditure 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 (2023-24)

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]		2023-24 Actual expenditure [Note 3] ($ million)
				HCCS	CCG	
Central & Western	53	59	494	24	24	88.0
Wan Chai	53	67	282	22	22	
Eastern	53	103	449	22	22	
Southern	53	30	490	20	12	
Yau Tsim Mong	53	126	819	20	13	
Sham Shui Po	53	59	930	20	13	
Kowloon City	53	525	350	20	13	
Wong Tai Sin	53	112	668	18	10	
Kwun Tong	53	46	533	20	13	
Kwai Tsing	53	82	633	18	13	
Tsuen Wan	53	77	497	20	13	
Tuen Mun	53	37	822	20	13	
Yuen Long	53	67	1 160	18	13	
North	53	78	529	18	13	
Tai Po	53	77	552	20	13	
Sha Tin	53	42	763	20	13	
Sai Kung	53	83	670	20	13	
Islands	53	100	559	22	13	
Total	**954**	**1 770**	**11 200**	**-**	**-**	

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 to meet the actual service demands.

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 annual expenditure 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 (2024-25) (April to December 2024)

District	Number of places Note 1	Number of home-based child carers (December 2024) Note]	Number of children served	Basic service fee per hour Note 3		2024-25 Revised estimate Note 4 ($ million)
				HCCS	CCG	
Central & Western	92	50	284	28	20	226.6
Wan Chai	92	24	174			
Eastern	92	114	317			
Southern	92	46	204			
Yau Tsim Mong	92	98	518			
Sham Shui Po	184	38	457			
Kowloon City	92	25	107			
Wong Tai Sin	92	31	371			
Kwun Tong	184	63	414			
Kwai Tsing	92	36	414			
Tsuen Wan	92	21	291			
Tuen Mun	184	86	574			
Yuen Long	184	116	854			
North	92	26	275			
Tai Po	92	86	370			
Sha Tin	184	52	515			
Sai Kung	92	29	360			
Islands	92	102	505			
Total	**2 116**	**1 043**	**7 004**			

Note 1 Starting from September 2024, on the basis of 1 service team in each of the 18 districts in Hong Kong, SWD has added an additional service team in districts with higher service demands, namely Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Sha Tin, Tuen Mun, and Yuen Long districts. As a result, the number of service teams in Hong Kong has increased from 18 to 23. Each service team is required to provide a minimum of 92 service places (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 2 116). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement to meet the actual service demands.

Note 2 A new SA for NSCCP commenced in September 2024. Some home-based child carers are currently undergoing training, and will start service later. Therefore, the number of home-based child carers will gradually increase.

Note 3 Starting from September 2024, the service fees for HCCS and CCG are standardised at $28 and $20 per hour respectively. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can approach service operators for fee waivers/reductions.

Note 4 The annual expenditure includes the operator's administrative expenses, training costs and incentive payments for home-based child carers, and subsidies granted to service users from low-income families.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0366)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare
(2) Social Security
(3) Services for The Elderly
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
(5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Based on an overview of Programmes (1) to (7), the estimated financial provision for 2025-26 will increase by 9.2%. The analysis of staffing provision for Programmes (1) to (5) mentions the expenditure increase will be partly offset by a net reduction of 40 posts, for instance, a reduction of 16 posts under Programme (2), a net reduction of 11 posts under Programme (4), etc. In this regard, please inform this Committee of:

1. The types of posts to be reduced and the reasons for their reduction; and
2. The total amount of expenditure that can be saved from the reduction of these posts.

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

In order to optimise the use of the civil service manpower resources and maintain the sustainability of our public finance, the Government has maintained zero-growth in the overall civil service establishment since 2021-22, with the overall establishment controlled at a level not exceeding that as at end-March 2021. Bureaux and departments have, through management measures and digitalisation, re-prioritised and internally re-deployed their resources, streamlined work processes and capitalised on technology solutions to enhance efficiency. It is anticipated that by 31 March 2026, the overall civil service establishment will have reduced to about 193 000 posts, i.e. a reduction by approximately 3 000 posts on a cumulative basis.

In 2025-26, the net reduction of 40 posts in the Social Welfare Department involves the Census and Survey Officer, Social Security Assistant, Cook, Artisan, Clerical Assistant, Office Assistant, Ward Attendant and Property Attendant grades. Based on the notional annual mid-point salary value of the posts involved, it is estimated that a total of about $14.07 million can be saved this year by the reduction of these posts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0370)

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 (Edward TO)

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, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and their carers, please provide this Committee with the following information:

1. the amount of funding and the number of products applied for and approved by the I&T Fund for each type of service unit thus far;
2. the estimated expenditure on repair and maintenance or other follow-up services of gerontechnology products for each of the past 5 years, and the expected service life of the major technology products; and
3. details of the upcoming implementation of 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, PWDs and their carers, including the estimated expenditure and the number of applications received.

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

1. The number of applications for I&T Fund submitted by different types of service units, as well as the amount of grant and the number of products approved are set out at Annex.
2. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not maintain the information as requested in the question.
3. SWD plans to accept a new tranche of applications in March 2025, and will implement enhancement measures, which include increasing the amount of grant for each eligible elderly and rehabilitation service unit by 50%. In addition, non-governmental organisations operating subvented elderly and rehabilitation community service units will also be allowed to apply for extra funding to procure technology products suitable for elderly persons or PWDs and their carers to borrow and use at home.

Annex

Information on I&T Fund from 2018-19 to 2024-25
(as at 28 February 2025)

Type of service	No. of service units applying for the grant	No. of products applied for	Amount of grant applied for ($ million)	No. of service units approved for the grant	No. of products approved	Amount of grant approved ($ million)
Elderly Services	1 421	22 303	686	1 380	18 007	577
Rehabilitation Services	730	8 428	286	728	6 727	251
Total	**2 151**	**30 731**	**972**	**2 108**	**24 734**	**828**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0372)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government will regularise the Pilot Project on Enhancing Vocational Rehabilitation Services (the Pilot Project) to enhance the service and training model of sheltered workshops (SWs)/integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres (IVRSCs), thereby building a better vocational rehabilitation and training ladder for persons with disabilities (PWDs). In this regard, please provide this Committee with the following:

1. A breakdown of (a) the number of beneficiaries; (b) the number and types of courses provided; (c) the estimated expenditure; (d) the manpower; (e) the number and types of employment opportunities provided from the commencement of the project to date; and
2. A breakdown of (a) the number of beneficiaries; (b) the number and types of courses to be provided; (c) the number of centres to be included in the expansion; (d) the estimated expenditure; and (e) the manpower requirements after regularisation.

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the 2-year Pilot Project in July 2023 with an estimated expenditure of about $25 million. Under the Pilot Project, participating SWs and IVRSCs were provided with additional manpower, including social workers, workshop instructors and support staff. These SWs and IVRSCs offered 201 basic and 46 advanced training courses for trainees. Basic training courses covered areas such as life skills training, career planning, and simulated job training/internship. Advanced training courses, meanwhile, covered topics such as art or crafts creation, information technology applications, store management and sales, as well as logistics and transportation services. In addition, the service units have organised over 2 000 job attachment sessions for their trainees, spanning fields such as arts and design, computer and technology applications, catering, facilities management, sales and retail, packaging and assembly, logistics and warehousing, as well as general office administration. The Pilot Project has benefited about 1 100 persons.
2. SWD will regularise the Pilot Project in the third quarter of this year to enhance the service and training model of SWs and IVRSCs, thereby building a better vocational rehabilitation and training ladder for PWDs. The existing 34 SWs and 35 IVRSCs will

be included in the Project. They can provide appropriate training courses tailored to the abilities, interests, and learning progress of their service users. This initiative will involve an annual expenditure of about $100 million, and is expected to benefit around 10 000 persons.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0374)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

To provide support for able-bodied adult recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme to become self-reliant, the Government will launch a pilot Support Programme for the Unemployed (SPU) under the CSSA Scheme. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of able-bodied adult CSSA recipients and the expenditure involved in the past 5 years, broken down by age group;
2. the number of participants in the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance (IEAPS) and the number of participants who successfully re-entered the workforce in the past 5 years;
3. the number of able-bodied adult CSSA recipients who failed to participate in IEAPS and the reasons for this in the past 5 years;
4. the number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) providing IEAPS, the estimated expenditure, and the target percentage of the Employment Support Services (EmSS) in the past 5 years;
5. further to the question above, the reasons NGOs failed to achieve the above target percentage; and
6. details of the pilot SPU, including the estimated expenditure and its differences from IEAPS.

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

1. The number of able-bodied adult CSSA recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25, broken down by age group, is set out in Table 1 of Annex. Since CSSA applications are made on a household basis, and each case may involve household members of various age groups and categories, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will disburse different standard rates, supplements and special grants based on the number of household members and the needs of individual members in each CSSA case. SWD does not have a separate breakdown for the expenditure on able-bodied adult CSSA recipients.

2. The headcounts of persons who received EmSS and the headcounts of persons who had secured employment for at least 1 month among them in 2023-24 and 2024-25 are tabulated below. SWD does not have a breakdown of the headcounts by year prior to April 2023.

Year	**Headcount of persons who received EmSS**	**Headcount of persons who secured employment for at least 1 month**
2023-24	16 480	1 891
2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)	14 022	1 307

3. In general, unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 15 to 59 are required to receive EmSS unless they have justifiable reasons for not being able to work (such as pursuing studies, or having to look after young children, sick or disabled family members at home). Unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 60 to 64 may receive EmSS on a voluntary basis. SWD does not have the information sought.

4. SWD commissioned 26 NGOs to provide EmSS. The relevant expenditure incurred from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is tabulated below:

Year	**Expenditure ($ million)**
2020-21 (Actual)	152
2021-22 (Actual)	153
2022-23 (Actual)	157
2023-24 (Actual)	159
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	162

The performance requirements of NGOs providing EmSS during the current contract period (i.e. from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2025) and their service performance up to 31 December 2024 are set out in Table 2 of Annex.

5. The 5-and-a-half year EmSS contract period will end in September 2025. During the contract period (i.e., from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2025), NGOs are required to assist at least 25% of the unemployed able-bodied EmSS recipients to secure employment or return to mainstream education for at least 1 month, and at least 20% of these recipients to do the same for at least 3 months. Up to 31 December 2024, these percentages stood at 23.1% and 18.2% respectively, which were close to meeting the performance requirements. SWD will continue to closely monitor the NGOs' service performance in the remainder of the contract period (i.e. from January to September 2025).

6. SWD will replace EmSS with SPU starting from October 2025. SPU will be operated on a pilot basis for 2 years by NGOs and/or other organisations. All unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 15 to 59 will be mandated to participate in SPU and take up unpaid work on a weekly basis arranged by SPU operators, until they have secured gainful employment or returned to mainstream education. Incompliance with the unpaid work requirement will result in CSSA stoppage for the participant and his/her household. Compared to EmSS, SWD expects SPU to be more effective in motivating the unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients to connect with the community, develop a work habit and accumulate work experience to enhance employability, thereby reducing their reliance on CSSA in the long term. Meanwhile, SPU participants will continue to have access to a range of free employment services and training resources as well as relevant training allowances provided by the Labour Department and the Employees Retraining Board.

The estimated expenditure on the 2-year SPU is around $98 million. SWD will commission SPU operators through invitation for proposals. NGOs operating EmSS are free to submit their proposals.

Annex

Table 1: Number of able-bodied adult CSSA recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by age group

Year	Age group				
	15 to 24	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**
2020-21	2 689	12 973	18 023	14 555	5 732
2021-22	2 303	11 237	16 314	13 387	6 867
2022-23	1 932	9 740	14 465	12 080	7 876
2023-24	1 616	8 351	12 898	10 808	8 294
2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)	1 610	7 705	11 878	10 260	7 888

Table 2: Performance requirements and service performance of NGOs providing EmSS during the current contract period (i.e. from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2025) (up to 31 December 2024)

Category of service	Performance requirements (Performance requirements that NGOs are required to meet during the 66-month contract period from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2025)		Service performance (Service performance of NGOs for the 57-month period from 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2024)	
	Percentage of service recipients having secured employment or returned to mainstream education for at least 1 month	**Percentage of service recipients having secured employment or returned to mainstream education for at least 3 months**	**Percentage of assisting service recipients to secure employment or return to mainstream education for at least 1 month**	**Percentage of assisting service recipients to secure employment or return to mainstream education 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 education)*	25%	20%	23.1%	18.2%
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 employment with at least 32 working hours in a month)*	40%	30%	33.7%	27.6%

[Note 1] Unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 60 to 64 may receive EmSS 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 ($2,665 per month with effect from 1 February 2025) and working hours no less than 120 hours per month.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0747)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Paragraph 201 of the Budget Speech states that the Government will provide an additional annual provision of over $180 million to increase emergency places for residential child care and strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families. In this regard, please provide the following information:

What was the number of newly registered child protection cases in Hong Kong in 2024? Please provide a breakdown by District Council districts, along with a proportional breakdown of the types of abuse involved, such as physical harm, sexual abuse, neglect, etc.

What is the expected annual increase in emergency residential care places for children? Furthermore, regarding the strengthening of professional support for child abuse victims and their families, what resources and manpower have been allocated for training and support?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The number of newly registered child protection cases in 2024 as collected by the Child Protection Registry of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), with a breakdown by type of abuse and the district in which child abuse cases occurred, is set out at Annex.

To dovetail with the operation of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance) in January 2026, the Government will, starting from 2025-26, allocate an additional annual provision of $29.07 million to increase the number of emergency residential child care places, and $157.4 million to strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families, amounting to a total of approximately $186.5 million. In terms of emergency residential child care places, 2 new residential child care centres will commence operation before the Ordinance takes effect, adding a total of 96 emergency care service places and catering for about 380 children each year. Regarding strengthening professional support for child abuse victims and their families, SWD has subsidised non-governmental organisations to set up 6 service teams under the Child Protection Support Service (service teams) in March 2025. The service teams, comprising social workers, psychologists, nurses, and other supporting staff, will provide a range of support services, including home visitation support, therapeutic/psycho-social groups, educational and family enrichment programmes, etc., to provide targeted intervention and professional support for children who have been abused or are at risk of abuse, as well as their families.

Annex

Newly registered child protection cases in 2024

Table 1: Distribution of newly registered child protection cases by type in 2024

Type	**No. of cases (%)**
Physical harm/abuse	595 (39.6%)
Neglect	328 (21.8%)
Sexual abuse	522 (34.7%)
Psychological harm/abuse	16 (1.1%)
Multiple abuses	43 (2.9%)
Total	**1 504 (100%)**

Table 2: District of newly registered child protection cases in 2024

District	**No. of cases (%)**
Central & Western	16 (1.1%)
Southern	27 (1.8%)
Islands	47 (3.1%)
Eastern	80 (5.3%)
Wan Chai	5 (0.3%)
Kowloon City	43 (2.9%)
Yau Tsim Mong	108 (7.2%)
Sham Shui Po	105 (7.0%)
Wong Tai Sin	70 (4.7%)
Sai Kung	59 (3.9%)
Kwun Tong	142 (9.4%)
Sha Tin	103 (6.8%)
Tai Po	68 (4.5%)
North	79 (5.3%)
Yuen Long	190 (12.6%)
Tsuen Wan	37 (2.5%)
Kwai Tsing	77 (5.1%)
Tuen Mun	152 (10.1%)
Outside Hong Kong	46 (3.1%)
Unknown	50 (3.3%)
Total	**1 504 (100%)**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0748)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Paragraph 197 of the Budget Speech states that the number of Residential Care Service Vouchers (RCSVs) will be increased to 6 000. However, as at the end of 2024, more than 16 000 elderly persons are still waiting for subsidised residential care places (RCPs), with the new quota addressing only 6% of the existing waiting list. In this regard, please provide the following information:

Does the Government have specific targets for reducing waiting time (such as reducing the average waiting period from 3 years to 2 years)? How will resources be allocated to prioritise the urgent needs of elderly singleton individuals?

The recent Audit Report revealed that some residential care homes (RCHs) exhibited serious issues, such as overcharging residents and failing to change elderly persons' diapers. In addition, some applicants for RCSVs had to wait for over 7 months. In this connection, how does the Government plan to strengthen its monitoring system to ensure the proper use of RCSVs?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

The waiting time for subsidised residential care services (RCS) for the elderly is affected by various factors, such as applicants' preferences for the location, dietary options and religious background of RCHs for the Elderly (RCHEs), whether they opt for a specific RCHE, and the turnover rate of places at their chosen RCHEs, etc. These factors make it challenging to set specific targets for reducing waiting time. It is noteworthy that the average waiting time for subsidised care-and-attention places and nursing home places has decreased from 19 and 22 months, respectively, in 2020-21 to 9 months in 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024). The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to take a multi-pronged approach to increase the number of places for subsidised RCS for the elderly, with the view to adding about 6 200 subsidised places by the end of 2027.

The Government has consistently prioritised the welfare needs of singleton elderly persons, and has provided them with appropriate support, including deploying Care Teams to identify households of singleton elderly persons in need through visits and contacts, as well as subsidising the installation and use of the emergency alarm system, etc. Singleton elderly

persons in need of emergency services can be referred by social workers to apply for appropriate support services, such as residential respite care and/or emergency placement services.

The service agreements signed by recognised service providers (RSPs) participating in the RCSV Scheme for the Elderly clearly specify the service specifications, including the principles and requirements for all fee-charging items, as well as guidelines on the implementation of individual care plans, etc. In addition, RSPs are required to strictly comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice for RCHs (Elderly Persons). SWD regularly conducts surprise visits to RSPs to observe their operations, review relevant records, and interview randomly selected service users or their family members to assess whether the participating RCHEs comply with the relevant requirements stipulated in their service agreements. In the event of non-compliance, SWD will require the RCHE concerned to make improvements or impose sanctions in accordance with existing mechanisms.

In general, SWD will complete the vetting process and issue RCSVs within around 8 weeks of receiving an application.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2386)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Paragraph 202 of the Budget Speech states that the Government will set up 14 Integrated Community Rehabilitation Centres (ICRCs) across the territory in phases to provide persons with disabilities (PWDs) who require medium to high level care with flexible and integrated community support services through a case management approach. In this regard, please advise:

What is the specific timetable for the completion of these 14 ICRCs, and what is the staffing establishment for each centre?

Will the additional 1 280 places be allocated based on district demand, and will the Government prioritise the completion of centres in areas with higher demand?

Given that there are 18 districts across the territory but only 14 new centres, how will the Government avoid service gaps in district coverage?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched a 2-year pilot project in the third quarter of 2023 to set up 2 ICRCs. These centres integrate the services of Community Rehabilitation Day Centres and home care services, with a view to providing PWDs requiring medium to high level care with flexible and integrated community support services through a case management approach. Tailored support is also offered based on the individual needs and rehabilitation progress of each PWD.

SWD will set up 14 ICRCs across the territory in phases to provide services for PWDs in all districts. This includes regularising the operation of the 2 ICRCs set up under the pilot scheme starting from the third quarter of 2025, while enhancing the functions of the 4 existing Community Rehabilitation Day Centres and converting them into ICRCs progressively. SWD will also integrate the Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities and Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities. This measure will create an additional 1 280 community rehabilitation and home care service places, bringing the expected total to 6 060 service places. Since this initiative involves integrating existing resources and service units, SWD will make arrangements based on the actual circumstances of individual districts, and will review the operation of the pilot scheme to evaluate and appropriately address the manpower needs and training requirements for the 14 ICRCs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2388)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Budget mentions a cumulative reduction of government recurrent expenditure by 7% from now through 2027-28, including social welfare expenditure. It is said that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) receiving subvention exceeding $50 million will face a cumulative funding cut of 7%; while NGOs receiving subvention of $50 million or less, only a 3% reduction will be required, with the remaining 4% to be absorbed by the Social Welfare Department (SWD). Unlike last year's Budget, no exemptions will be granted. In this connection, please advise:

Given that the current manpower turnover rate in the social welfare sector has reportedly reached 20% and salary costs continue to rise, how will the Government prevent the manpower shortage in the social welfare sector from further deteriorating under the reduced funding, which may cause some small and medium-sized organisations to cease operations?

Has the Government assessed the manpower vacancy situation in the residential care home sector, particularly in residential care homes for persons with disabilities? How will the Government ensure that service users' interests will not be adversely affected as far as possible?

Will there be corresponding cuts in SWD's services?

When the fiscal situation improves, will the Government consider restoring the planned expenditure cuts?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

In the 2025-26 Budget, the Financial Secretary introduced measures to step up the Productivity Enhancement Programme (PEP), with the rate of reduction of recurrent government expenditure to be increased from the original 1% to 2% in 2025-26 and be extended for 2 years to 2027-28. Taking into account the 1% cut in 2024-25, the cumulative rate of reduction will be 7% in total.

To support NGOs operating subvented welfare services in implementing PEP, the Labour and Welfare Bureau and SWD have made concerted efforts by reallocating internal resources and adjusting priorities to alleviate some of the financial burden on NGOs, ensuring they have

adequate time to prepare for the adjusted PEP. Under PEP, 58 NGOs with provisional Lump Sum Grant (LSG) allocations of $50 million or more in 2024-25 will be required to cumulatively reduce their recurrent allocations by 2%, 5%, and 7% in 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28, respectively. For the 121 NGOs receiving provisional LSG allocations of less than $50 million in 2024-25 or subvention under the conventional subvention mode, they will be required to cumulatively reduce their recurrent allocations by 1% and 3% in 2026-27 and 2027-28, respectively.

To enable NGOs to make more effective and long-term financial plans and arrangements, all NGOs will be allowed to retain and utilise funds exceeding the cap for the LSG reserve until 2028-29. Furthermore, starting from 2025-26, SWD will allow NGOs greater flexibility to reduce their workload related to cost apportionment. Provided that service users are not affected, SWD will review and optimise the content of Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs) and streamline the requirements for reporting service data, thereby alleviating administrative work for NGOs and relieving pressure on frontline staff.

Under the LSG Subvention System, SWD allocates recurrent subvention to NGOs with grants in a lump sum each year for operating welfare services. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the FSAs and relevant statutory staffing requirements, NGOs may determine their staffing establishment in accordance with their own human resource policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service outputs and outcomes required.

Regarding residential care services (RCS), SWD will monitor the performance of service units through established mechanisms to ensure that residential care homes (RCHs) comply with relevant regulations and continue to deliver RCS that meet the needs of service users. To address the shortage of and growing demand for care workers, and to support the RCH sector in enhancing service quality, the Government, on the premise of safeguarding the employment priority for local workers, launched the Special Scheme to Import Care Workers for RCHs in June 2023 to allow RCHs for the elderly, RCHs for persons with disabilities, and nursing homes to import care workers on an appropriate scale, relax the ratio of imported care workers to local staff, and streamline the application vetting procedures.

SWD has also introduced initiatives to support social welfare organisations in 2024-25, including a $1 billion injection into the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care to enhance subsidies for eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent, or trial technological products. In addition, SWD has established a dedicated fund of $500 million to help NGOs meet their development needs, such as staff training and system enhancement, as well as encouraging and promoting the application of information technology (IT). The use of technology products and IT will help enhance NGOs' operational efficiency and alleviate manpower demands.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2389)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is responsible for providing social welfare support services to street sleepers. SWD provides subvention to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System to operate Integrated Services Teams for Street Sleepers (ISTs) and provide emergency and short-term hostel placements for street sleepers and homeless persons. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

the number of street sleepers registered on the computerised Street Sleepers Registry (Registry), and the average number of times they have reverted to street sleeping in each of the past 3 years;

the median duration of street sleeping among registered street sleepers in each of the past 3 years, and the improvement measures the Government has put in place;

the current numbers of emergency and short-term hostel placements for street sleepers, and their utilisation rates; and

the number, percentage and waiting time of street sleepers who have been allocated public rental housing in each of the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

SWD provides subvention to NGOs for operating 3 ISTs. According to data inputted by ISTs into the Registry, the number of street sleepers in the past 3 years (as at the end of December 2024) was 1 441, 795, and 672, respectively. Most street sleepers have been living on the streets for periods ranging from 1 to 5 years. SWD has been compiling statistics on relapsed street sleeping since 2023. Over the past 2 years (as at the end of December 2024), 29 and 13 street sleepers respectively, have resumed street sleeping.

ISTs conduct day and late-night outreach visits to proactively reach out to street sleepers and understand their reasons for street sleeping. ISTs render integrated services according to their actual needs and willingness to receive services. These services, including counselling, service referrals, short-term accommodation, and application for financial assistance, etc., are provided to address their urgent welfare needs, thereby helping them live off the streets and

reintegrate into the community. In addition, SWD provides subvention to NGOs to operate short-term hostels, with a view to providing transitional accommodation for street sleepers to tide them over to stable living arrangements. As at the end of December 2024, there were a total of 228 short-term hostel places subvented by SWD, with an average occupancy rate of about 73%.

In the past 3 years (as at the end of December 2024), ISTs assisted 187, 156, and 116 street sleepers, respectively, in securing accommodation. This included short-term hostels, rented private tenements, public rental housing, and other housing assistance. SWD does not maintain statistics on the number or percentage of street sleepers who are allocated public rental housing or their waiting time for it.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2405)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Provision for 2025-26 is $658 million (5.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024-25. This is mainly due to the additional provision for day and residential services as well as enhancement in community support for persons with disabilities and extension of Care Teams – Supporting Elderly and Carers Scheme to 18 districts, partly offset by a net decrease of 11 posts in 2025-26. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

What are the respective percentage shares of expenditure on the above day and residential services, the enhancement in community support for persons with disabilities (PWDs), and extension of Care Teams – Supporting Elderly and Carers Scheme?

How many cases in need of support or referral have the Care Teams identified under the Care Teams – Supporting Elderly and Carers Scheme?

Which 11 posts will be decreased, and what is the amount to be offset? Will the quality of services be affected?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

The estimated expenditure on the rehabilitation and medical social services of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for 2025-26 is about $12.6 billion. The percentage breakdown of this expenditure across various areas, including day services, residential services and community support services for PWDs, as well as the implementation of the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) – Supporting Elderly and Carers Scheme (the Scheme) in 18 districts, is set out at Annex.

As at end-January 2025, a total of 36 Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and the Southern District have visited or contacted over 7 000 households of singleton and doubleton elderly and carers of elderly persons and PWDs, and have made over 1 190 referrals for welfare services under the Scheme. In addition, a total of 272 elderly persons and 11 PWDs have installed Safety Bells and received related subsidies through the referral of the Care Teams.

SWD will see a net decrease of 11 posts in 2025-26 under Programme (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services. As these posts fall under the Clerical Assistant, Cook, Ward

Attendant and Property Attendant grades, the quality of rehabilitation services will not be directly affected. Based on the notional annual mid-point salary value of the posts involved, it is estimated that a total of about $4.22 million can be saved this year due to the reduction of these posts.

Annex

Estimated expenditure on day services, residential services and community support services for PWDs and the Scheme in 2025-26

Type of service	Percentage share of estimated expenditure
Day services	15.9%
Residential services	32.3%
Community support services	15.8%
Extension of the Scheme	0.8%
Others (including services for pre-school children/other subsidy schemes)	35.2%
Total	**100%**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2406)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government will strengthen measures to support carers. Regarding the support for carers of children with special educational needs (SEN) and persons with disabilities (PWDs), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

In each of the past 3 years, for 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), what were the application criteria, the number of carers invited to apply, the number of applications received, the number of recipients, the number of waitlisted persons, and the expenditure involved, respectively?

In each of the past 3 years, for the Special Care Subsidy Scheme for Persons with Severe Disabilities (Subsidy Scheme), what were the number of applications received, the number of recipients, and the expenditure involved?

Under the Integrated Education Policy, in the past 3 years, what were the numbers of students with SEN in public sector primary and secondary ordinary schools at each level and in total, broken down by type of SEN?

In the past 3 years, how many students with SEN in public sector primary and secondary ordinary schools received Tier 2 and Tier 3 support?

In 2024-25, what was the manning ratio of SEN Coordinators (SENCOs) to students with SEN?

Has the Government compiled statistics on the numbers of carers across Hong Kong, including carers of elderly persons, carers of PWDs, child carers (of children under 6 years old), carers of ordinary children (aged 6 to 16), and carers of children with SEN? If such statistics have been compiled, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

The Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons and the Scheme for Carers of PWDs were incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes in October 2023, with a total funding of $431.5 million in 2024-25. These two schemes aim to provide carers of elderly persons/carers of PWDs from low-income families with a living allowance to supplement their living expenses so that elderly persons/PWDs in need of long-term care may, with the help of their carers, receive proper care and remain living in the community. Applicants are not required to be waitlisted but must meet the basic eligibility requirements and income criteria. The numbers of carers invited to join, applicants and allowance recipients under the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons and the Scheme for Carers of PWDs, respectively, in 2023-24 and 2024-25 are set out in Table 1 of Annex 1.

Incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes in October 2023, the Subsidy Scheme provides persons with severe disabilities who are living in the community and not receiving the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance with a special care subsidy for assisting them to purchase care goods and services or for other purposes related to nursing care. The numbers of applicants and recipients under the Subsidy Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 are set out in Table 2 of Annex 1. The funding for the Subsidy Scheme in 2024-25 was about $90 million.

According to the information provided by the Education Bureau (EDB), the numbers of students with SEN studying in public sector ordinary primary and secondary schools by grade level and type of SEN in the 2021/22 to 2023/24 school years are set out in Table 1 of Annex 2. The numbers of students with SEN receiving Tier-2 and Tier-3 support during this period are set out in Table 2 of Annex 2.

Since the 2019/20 school year, all public sector ordinary schools have been provided with a SENCO; and for schools with a comparatively large number of students with SEN, the SENCO posts have been upgraded to promotion rank so as to enable SENCOs to perform their leadership duties more effectively. Apart from SENCOs, EDB also provides an additional Learning Support Grant (LSG) based on the number of students with SEN in a school in each school year and the tier of support they require. If the total amount of LSG reaches a specific threshold, the schools will be provided with 1 to 3 additional regular teaching post(s), titled as Special Educational Needs Support Teacher.

As carers of elderly persons and PWDs, child carers, as well as carers of ordinary children and children with SEN are not required to report to the Government, SWD does not have relevant data.

Annex 1

Table 1: Numbers of carers invited to join the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons and the Scheme for Carers of PWDs, and numbers of applicants and allowance recipients

	Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons		**Scheme for Carers of PWDs**	
	2023-24	**2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)** [Note 1]
No. of carers invited to join the Scheme [Note 2]	37 634	14 310	15 254	3 980
No. of applicants	4 228	1 608	3 319	488
No. of allowance recipients	4 194	5 373	3 213	3 697

Note 1 Applicants assessed as eligible in 2024-25 may receive the allowances by the end of December or later.

Note 2 In October 2023 and September 2024, SWD issued invitation letters in batches to elderly persons and PWDs who are currently on the waiting lists for designated services, inviting their carers to participate in the 2 schemes.

Table 2: Numbers of applicants and recipients under the Subsidy Scheme

	2023-24	**2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)** [Note]
No. of applicants	3 494	166
No. of recipients	3 379	3 538

Note Applicants assessed as eligible in 2024-25 may receive subsidies by the end of December or later.

Annex 2

Table 1: Numbers of students with SEN studying in public sector ordinary primary and secondary schools in the 2021/22 to 2023/24 school years [Note 1]

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	Total
Intellectual Disability													
2021/22	115	160	203	195	175	144	176	134	132	129	110	109	1 782
2022/23	119	160	226	225	201	163	164	169	138	118	112	103	1 898
2023/24	105	182	232	239	215	197	176	156	170	128	109	106	2 015
Autism Spectrum Disorder													
2021/22	879	1 021	1 306	1 251	1 275	1 194	1 076	1 027	1 004	921	799	629	12 382
2022/23	651	997	1 211	1 434	1 283	1 276	1 079	1 088	1 024	992	880	775	12 690
2023/24	680	908	1 230	1 345	1 488	1 317	1 207	1 142	1 112	1 045	949	852	13 275
Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder													
2021/22	134	315	842	1 332	1 531	1 678	1 693	1 736	1 699	1 486	1 308	1 073	14 827
2022/23	116	345	860	1 179	1 582	1 666	1 766	1 739	1 726	1 569	1 296	1 197	15 041
2023/24	116	262	845	1 263	1 433	1 750	1 752	1 868	1 786	1 623	1 420	1 200	15 318
Mental Illness [Note 2]													
2021/22	5	14	23	28	30	28	48	91	133	153	187	170	910
2022/23	8	11	28	40	36	40	58	101	167	197	234	257	1 177
2023/24	6	13	25	32	47	46	76	110	171	209	245	296	1 276
Specific Learning Difficulties [Note 3]													
2021/22	1	113	2 058	3 224	3 253	2 941	2 626	2 421	2 226	1 987	1 704	1 482	24 036
2022/23	1	125	2 435	2 978	3 422	3 225	2 788	2 542	2 362	1 988	1 702	1 564	25 132
2023/24	3	158	2 897	3 152	3 196	3 517	3 146	2 761	2 560	2 190	1 776	1 606	26 962
Physical Disability													
2021/22	16	14	23	20	19	19	26	20	21	18	39	30	265
2022/23	12	18	13	19	18	20	17	26	21	23	22	40	249
2023/24	10	13	13	13	18	16	22	29	23	24	21	13	215
Visual Impairment													
2021/22	2	7	7	5	8	4	9	10	8	9	4	15	88
2022/23	1	9	10	6	7	7	7	8	10	9	8	7	89
2023/24	3	4	10	9	6	7	7	8	7	12	9	7	89
Hearing Impairment													
2021/22	53	56	60	72	71	58	56	42	49	36	40	45	638
2022/23	50	54	55	56	69	70	52	57	42	42	34	36	617
2023/24	60	56	59	59	60	69	70	47	56	42	40	32	650
Speech & Language Impairment [Note 4]													
2021/22	32	1 110	930	618	376	261	181	121	117	82	67	48	3 943
2022/23	32	1 205	819	608	419	292	199	149	117	103	75	55	4 073
2023/24	22	1 261	906	632	482	342	221	135	160	97	81	68	4 407

Note 1 Figures refer to the position as at September in the respective school years.

Note 2 Given that some parents or students are reluctant for schools to submit their information to EDB, it is presumed that there is an under-reported number of students with mental illness.

Note 3 The Early Identification and Intervention Programme for Primary One Students with Learning Difficulties is implemented at Primary One in primary schools to identify students with learning difficulties. Hence, the number of Primary One students with specific learning difficulties is smaller in September of each school year.

Note 4 The number of students with speech and language impairment increases during the respective school year upon the follow-up by school-based speech therapists.

Table 2: Numbers of students with SEN receiving Tier-2 and Tier-3 support in public sector ordinary primary and secondary schools in the 2021/22 to 2023/24 school years

Tier of support required by students	School level	No. of students		
		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Tier-2 support	Primary	30 028	30 653	32 084
	Secondary	24 377	25 645	27 260
Tier-3 support	Primary	2 324	2 316	2 358
	Secondary	1 836	1 890	1 916

Note Figures refer to the position as at January in the respective school years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2407)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The current Traffic Accident Victims Assistance (TAVA) Scheme aims at providing speedy financial assistance to road traffic accident victims or the surviving dependants of deceased traffic accident victims. However, it was found in the past that some individuals were involved in staging traffic accidents or forging sick leave certificates to obtain TAVA by deception. Therefore, this Scheme has been a key focus of the Social Welfare Department's (SWD) efforts to "combat abuses". In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

How many individuals suspected of defrauding the TAVA Fund have been arrested since the implementation of the Scheme?

What is the total amount of money involved in the fraud cases under prosecution?

Among the fraud cases that have been concluded, what is the highest single amount of money involved?

What have been the court penalties for the convicted cases?

From January this year to the present, how many suspected fraud cases related to the TAVA Fund has SWD received?

The Government has mentioned a review of the TAVA Scheme; what are the latest specific details?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

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. Obtaining TAVA by deception is a criminal offence. Applicants may be prosecuted under the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210 of the Laws of Hong Kong) and are liable, upon conviction, to a maximum sentence of 14 years' imprisonment. From 2020-21 to 2024-25, SWD referred 698 cases suspected of TAVA fraud to the Police for follow-up. During this period, the Police arrested 339 individuals on suspicion of TAVA fraud. Of these, 6 were prosecuted, while the remaining cases are still

under investigation. In addition, in 2024, the Independent Commission Against Corruption prosecuted 2 individuals for defrauding the Scheme. They were sentenced to 24 months and 14 months of imprisonment, respectively. The amounts of assistance involved were about $300,000 and $150,000, respectively. SWD does not have the other information sought.

To enhance the integrity of the Scheme and ensure the proper use of public funds, the Government is currently reviewing the eligibility criteria and scope of assistance under the Scheme, with a view to ensuring that they align with the Scheme's original intent, while preventing abuse and imposing severe penalties on those who commit fraud. The review is expected to be completed within this year.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)114

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0357)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

With the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance) set to come into effect in January 2026, the Government has launched the Child Protection Online Training to offer online self-learning training and webinars for relevant professionals. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1) According to information on the website, the online self-learning training course comprises 2 modules, with only Module 1 currently available. Is there a preliminary timetable as to when Module 2 will be rolled out?

2) How many webinars have been organised to date, and what was the attendance for each webinar?

Asked by: Hon LAM Tzit-yuen, David (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1) To dovetail with the operation of the Ordinance in January 2026, the Government has set up an e-learning platform to provide training and information on child protection for the relevant professions. The Child Protection Online Training platform offers online self-learning courses. Module 1 was launched in February 2024 to provide training on the basic knowledge on child protection. Module 2 is scheduled for phased rollout starting in July 2025, and will cover basic knowledge on the legal and reporting matters related to the new legislation.

2) In 2024, the Government also organised 3 webinars on the e-learning platform to provide enrichment programmes for professionals to study different topics related to child protection and to enhance cross-sectoral professional collaboration. These webinars also incorporated Q&A sessions to address training needs and encourage interactive learning. The number of registered users who signed up for the 3 webinars was 500, 493 and 968, respectively. As multiple participants were allowed to attend the webinars simultaneously using a single registered account, the actual number of participants may have exceeded the number of registrations. Recorded videos of the webinars have also been uploaded to the Resource Corner of the e-learning platform, allowing registered users to view and revisit the sessions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1865)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. What are the current numbers and distribution of emergency residential child care places provided by the Government?

2. Regarding the uses of the allocated funding of $186 million, what percentage is designated for increasing the number of emergency residential child care places and enhancing professional support services? How many additional emergency residential care places can be provided to meet the demand following the implementation of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance)? How will the funding be allocated among the construction of care facilities, and the recruitment and training of professionals? What are the specific measures involved?

Asked by: Hon LAU Chi-pang (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

1. The current numbers of emergency places for various residential child care services are tabulated as follows:

Service type	Number of service places [Note]
Foster care (emergency) service (for children aged 0 to below 18)	130
Residential crèche (emergency residential service) (for children aged 0 to below 3)	20
Emergency/short-term care in small group home (for children aged 4 to below 18)	48
Children's home (emergency residential service) (for children aged 6 to below 18)	5
Children's reception centre (for children aged 0 to below 18)	95
Total	298

[Note] Statistics as at 31 December 2024.

2. To dovetail with the operation of the Ordinance in January 2026, the Government will, starting from 2025-26, allocate an additional annual provision of $29.07 million to

increase the number of emergency residential child care places, and $157.4 million to strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families, amounting to a total of approximately $186.5 million. In terms of emergency residential child care places, 2 new residential child care centres will commence operation before the Ordinance takes effect, adding a total of 96 emergency care service places and catering for about 380 children each year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2450)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance) will take effect on 20 January 2026 to facilitate early identification of child abuse cases and strengthen support for child abuse victims and their families. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1) What additional manpower and expenditure are involved in preparing for the implementation of the Ordinance?

2) Further to the question above, what specific tasks and measures does the Government plan to undertake during this financial year?

Asked by: Hon LEE Hoey Simon (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

1) To dovetail with the operation of the Ordinance, the Government will, starting from 2025-26, allocate an additional annual provision of $29.07 million to increase the number of emergency residential child care places, and $157.4 million to strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families, amounting to a total of approximately $186.5 million. 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) to create 41 permanent posts to enhance the Government's enforcement and support capacity, provide appropriate training for practitioners in the relevant professions and strengthen promotion and public education efforts on child protection.

2) To ensure that professionals and the public fully understand the details and effective date of the mandatory reporting regime, as well as to actively promote child protection messages, the Government will carry out a series of activities under the three-wave "Child Protection Campaign".

   The first wave commenced with the kick-off ceremony of the "Child Protection Campaign" on 20 January 2025, marking the one-year countdown to the operation of the Ordinance. Soon afterwards in the first quarter of 2025, the Government has commenced organising 10 seminars for management of institutions in the social welfare, education, and healthcare sectors. These seminars introduce the key aspects of the new

legislation, enabling heads of different organisations to review and, where necessary, update their internal guidelines, workflows, staff training, and devise measures to facilitate relevant professionals in fulfilling their legal obligations.

The second wave is a half-year countdown event to be held by the Government in July 2025, with the issuance of the Mandated Reporter Guide, featuring the upcoming commencement of the Ordinance. The Government will also organise a series of briefings for mandated reporters and related stakeholders. At the same time, Module 2 of the Child Protection Online Training will be launched to equip stakeholders with basic knowledge on the legal and reporting matters related to the new legislation. Television and radio announcements in the public interest, along with other large-scale government promotional campaigns, will be rolled out to strengthen publicity and public education.

In the third wave, the Government, in collaboration with the Commission on Children, will host activities in October 2025 to mark the final 3-month countdown. These activities will include a series of public engagement events aimed at promoting the message of child protection to the wider community.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)117

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0901)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government launched the 24-hour Designated Hotline for Carer Support 182 183 (the Carer Hotline) in September 2023. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the staffing arrangement and expenditure for the Carer Hotline last year, and the staffing and estimated expenditure for the current year;
2. the daily average number of cases received by the Carer Hotline last year, the average call duration per case, a breakdown of the types and number of cases received, the types and number of cases that required referral, and the types and number of cases that required emergency support services;
3. the measures taken by the Government to publicise the Carer Hotline so that more carers are informed about it and can seek help when needed; the expenditure on publicity last year; and
4. whether the Government will consider increasing the number of phone lines for the Carer Hotline; if so, the details; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has commissioned the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) to launch the 24-hour Carer Hotline in September 2023, with 30 phone lines answered by over 100 professional social workers on shift duties. The expenditure of the Carer Hotline is set out in Table 1 of Annex.
2. As at 31 December 2024, the Carer Hotline has received a total of about 62 800 calls with an average of about 130 calls daily, and the average duration of each call is about 20 minutes. The Carer Hotline has referred about 1 100 cases to relevant community support service units, and provided emergency support for over 90 cases through outreach services. The nature of calls received, the types of services referred, and the types of cases that required emergency support/outreaching visits are set out in Tables 2, 3 and 4 of Annex respectively.

3. SWD and TWGHs promote and publicise the Carer Hotline through various channels, including 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. These promotional efforts constitute part of the 3-year territory-wide "Care the Carers" publicity campaign launched in 2023, with a total expenditure of approximately $15 million over 3 years. In addition, the funding allocated to TWGHs by SWD for operating the Carer Hotline includes expenses for promotion, and TWGHs can flexibly deploy the funding. SWD does not have information on TWGHs' expenditure on promoting the Carer Hotline.

4. The Carer Hotline currently has sufficient capacity to meet service demands. SWD will continue to review the Carer Hotline's operations and service needs.

Annex

Table 1: Expenditure of the Carer Hotline

Year	2023-24 Note (Actual) ($ million)	2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($ million)
Expenditure	11.00	20.40

Note The Carer Hotline commenced operation in September 2023.

Table 2: Nature of calls received by the Carer Hotline

Nature of call	No. of calls (as at 31 December 2024)
Emotional problem	33 570
Enquiry on community support services	9 460
Care issue	6 540
Financial problem	1 880
Health problem	1 943
Mental health problem	1 596
Enquiry on residential care services	2 379
Request for respite services	1 450
Family relationship problem	815
Housing/accommodation problem	348
Others (such as enquiry on the services of the Carer Hotline)	2 818
Total	**62 799**

Table 3: Types of services referred by the Carer Hotline

Type of service referred	No. of referrals (as at 31 December 2024)
Elderly services	288
Family services	173
Rehabilitation services	159
Medical social services	77
Day/residential respite services	91
Home care/escort services	87
Suicide Crisis Intervention Centre/ 999 Crisis Centre	108
Fire Services Communications Centre for dispatch of ambulances	54
Others	56
Total	**1 093**

Table 4: Types of cases that required emergency support/outreaching visits

Type of case that required emergency support/outreaching visits	**No. of cases (as at 31 December 2024)**
Respite services	52
Care issue	26
Health problem	12
Others	3
Total	**93**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1413)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government has allocated an additional $272 million to increase the number of residential care service vouchers (RCSVs) by 1 000. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

(1) the number of users and the utilisation rate of RCSVs over the past 3 years;

(2) the number of residential care homes (RCHs) participating in the RCSV Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme) over the past 3 years;

(3) the number of inspections conducted on participating RCHs over the past 3 years; whether any non-compliance cases (such as overcharging) were identified; and, if so, what follow-up actions and penalties, if any, were imposed by the Government.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

(1) & (2) The number of users and the utilisation rate of RCSVs, and the number of recognised service providers (RSPs) participating in the RCSV Scheme over the past 3 years are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex.

(3) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) regularly conducts surprise visits to RSPs to review relevant records, interview randomly selected service users or their family members, and observe operations. These visits are carried out to assess RSPs' compliance with the relevant requirements stipulated in their service contracts. Information about SWD's service monitoring visits under the RCSV Scheme is set out in Table 3 of Annex. In the event of non-compliance, SWD will require the RCH concerned to make improvements or impose sanctions in accordance with existing mechanisms. A total of 23 non-compliance cases were identified in the past 3 years. Most of the cases involved issues related to fee-charging , and the RCHs for the elderly concerned have made improvements based on SWD's recommendations.

Annex

Table 1: 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	3 738	4 000	93.5%
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	4 807	5 126	93.8%

Table 2: Number of RSPs under the RCSV Scheme

Year	**Number of RSPs**
2022-23	186
2023-24	203
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	221

Table 3: Number of SWD's visits to RSPs under the RCSV Scheme

Year	**Number of visits**
2022-23	131
2023-24	199
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	272

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)119

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1414)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that the Government will allocate additional funding of about $135 million to enhance the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme). In this regard, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

(1) the current number of elderly persons participating in the GDRCS Scheme;

(2) the number of elderly persons who participated in the GDRCS Scheme in each of the past 3 years, broken down by the participating residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs);

(3) the number of elderly persons who withdrew from the GDRCS Scheme in the past 3 years;

(4) the number of elderly persons who participated in the 6-month trial period offered by the GDRCS Scheme since its introduction in 2023, and the number of elderly persons who withdrew from the GDRCS Scheme after the trial period; and

(5) the expenditure on purchasing subsidised RCHE places under the GDRCS Scheme in the past 3 years, broken down by the participating RCHEs, and the difference in average costs compared with places purchased under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS).

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

(1) to (3) As at the end of December 2024, a total of 316 elderly persons were residing in RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme. From 2022-23 to 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024), the cumulative total of participants by year, the headcount of participants by RCHE, and the number of participants who withdrew from the GDRCS Scheme are set out in Tables 1 to 3 of the Annex, respectively.

(4) To encourage eligible elderly persons to join the GDRCS Scheme, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has introduced a 6-month trial stay arrangement in October 2023. From the launch of the trial stay period to the end of December 2024, a total of 207 elderly persons participated in the GDRCS Scheme, with 9 withdrawing during the trial stay period due to deteriorating health or difficulties in adaptation.

(5) The annual expenditure from 2022-23 to 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024) is set out below:

Year	Expenditure ($ million)
2022-23 (Actual)	13.1
2023-24 (Actual)	18.9
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	32.1

SWD will pay service fees based on the actual number of participating elderly persons residing in RCHEs. To avoid impacting negotiations between SWD and the respective RCHEs regarding service fees, the Government does not intend to disclose the average monthly expenditure for subsidising residential care places at individual RCHEs.

Annex

Table 1: Cumulative total of participants in the GDRCS Scheme from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Year	Total number of participants
2022-23	150
2023-24	195
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	343

Table 2: Cumulative total headcount of persons by RCHE from 2022-23 to 2024-25 [Note 1]

RCHE	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Shenzhen Society for Rehabilitation Yee Hong Heights	137	172	198
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Helping Hand Zhaoqing Home for the Elderly	13	23	35
Foshan Chang Xiang Hui Home For The Aged Co., Ltd [Note 2]	Not applicable		75
Shum Yip Yiju Elder-Care Operation (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd [Note 2]			24
Foshan Canopusland Co., Ltd [Note 3]			4
Zhongshan Torch Development Zone Yikang Senior Services Center [Note 3]			3
Home For The Aged Nansha (Yinian Medical Senior Citizen) [Note 3]			3
Yishou Enjoylife Elderly Care Guangdong Guangzhou Luhujiazhanghui Nursing Home Branch [Note 3]			-
Guangzhou Tianyue Hexihui Home for the Elderly [Note 3]			-
Guangzhou Chunxuanmao Chenchong Senior Living Service Co., Ltd [Note 3]			3
Hetai Center [Note 3]			-

Note 1 During the trial stay period under the GDRCS Scheme, some elderly persons were allowed to transfer to another RCHE based on their personal needs in order to continue receiving services. As a result, some elderly persons resided in more than 1 RCHE.

Note 2 Joined the GDRCS Scheme since May 2024.

Note 3 Joined the GDRCS Scheme since November 2024.

Table 3: Number of persons who withdrew from the GDRCS Scheme from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Year	Number of persons
2022-23	8
2023-24	7
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	9

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1427)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the expansion of the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) – Supporting Elderly and Carers Scheme (the Scheme), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

(1) What is the anticipated increase in the estimated provision for each district?

(2) How effective was the Pilot Scheme? Are there any key performance indicators?

(3) How will the Government ensure that there is no overlap between the services provided under the Scheme and those originally offered by Care Teams?

(4) How will the Government ensure that there is no overlap between the services provided under the Scheme and those offered by social welfare organisations?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

(1) & (2) The Government launched the Scheme in March 2024. Taking Tsuen Wan and the Southern District as pilot points, Care Teams are engaged to help identify high-risk households of singleton and doubleton elderly, and carers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities (PWDs) through visits and contacts. Cases requiring assistance are then referred to social welfare service units for follow-up. They also assist in referring eligible elderly persons and PWDs to install and use emergency alarm systems (known as "Safety Bell") with government subsidy. The total expenditure of the Scheme for 2024-25 was about $9.20 million.

As at end-January 2025, a total of 36 Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and the Southern District have visited or contacted over 7 000 households of singleton and doubleton elderly and carers of elderly persons and PWDs, and have made over 1 190 referrals for welfare services under the Scheme. In addition, a total of 272 elderly persons and 11 PWDs have installed Safety Bells and received related subsidies through the referral of the Care Teams.

Encouraged by the positive outcomes of the Scheme during its pilot phase, the Chief Executive announced in the 2024 Policy Address that the Scheme would be extended to all 18 districts across the territory in the second quarter of 2025 to provide support to more elderly persons and carers. It is expected that in the 12-month implementation period of the Scheme, the Care Teams will contact over 60 000 households in need. The Scheme is expected to incur a total expenditure of about $107.9 million for 2025-26.

(3) The Scheme has specific service targets. The Care Teams are responsible for identifying high-risk households in need in the districts through visits or contacts, offering them ongoing care through visits, phone calls, interviews and activities, etc., as well as sharing information on social welfare services and community resources. The Care Teams will also help refer eligible persons to apply for the installation of Safety Bells and auxiliary aids (such as wheelchairs and crutches), as well as referring households in need to social welfare service units for follow-up by professional social workers or to receive social welfare services.

(4) The objective of the Care Teams is to enhance neighbourhood support for elderly persons and carers. In addition to providing ongoing care, the Care Teams also identify households in need and refer them to appropriate social welfare service units for follow-up. As the Care Teams do not provide social welfare services themselves, there is no issue of overlap.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1428)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Training Subsidy Scheme for Staff of Residential Care Homes, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

(1) the number of persons who completed training courses and received course fee subsidies, along with a breakdown of their positions and age distribution, for each of the past 3 years; and

(2) the expenditure for the Scheme.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

To enhance the service quality of residential care homes (RCHs) for the elderly (RCHEs) and RCHs for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) on a continuous basis, Social Welfare Department (SWD) has implemented a 5-year scheme (the 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 Qualifications Framework-recognised training courses. After assessing the effectiveness of the Scheme and considering the views of the sector, SWD has extended the Scheme by 3 years (from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027) to subsidise more RCH staff to receive related training. On average, the estimated annual expenditure involved is about $5 million.

As at the end of December 2024, a total of 6 313 RCH staff have enrolled in the training courses under the Scheme. The number of trainees in the past 3 years is set out at Annex. SWD does not have information on the breakdown of trainees who received course fee subsidies by their position or age.

Annex

Numbers of home managers, health workers and care workers of RCHs enrolled in related training courses from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Course and no. of enrolment / Year	Home manager		Advanced Training for Health Workers	Training for Care Workers	Total
	Training course (A) Note 1	Training course (B) Note 2			
2022-23	344	177	90	748	**1 359**
2023-24	272	213	78	736	**1 299**
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	89	155	49	949	**1 242**
Total:	**705**	**545**	**217**	**2 433**	**3 900**
	1 250				

Note 1 Trainees must be home managers currently employed by RCHEs or RCHDs, other staff nominated by RCHEs or RCHDs, or 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.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)122

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1432)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that the Government will enhance support for persons with disabilities (PWDs). In this regard, please inform this Committee of:

(1) the content of the services expected to be provided by integrated community rehabilitation centres (ICRCs);

(2) the expenditure and manpower earmarked for operating the 14 ICRCs, and the estimated number of beneficiaries;

(3) the geographical distribution of the additional day community rehabilitation and home care service places for PWDs; and the anticipated increase in expenditure and manpower; and

(4) whether the Government plans to enhance manpower training to meet the staffing needs.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched a 2-year pilot project in the third quarter of 2023 to set up 2 ICRCs, integrating the services of Community Rehabilitation Day Centres and home care services, with a view to providing PWDs requiring medium to high level care with flexible and integrated community support services through a case management approach. Tailored support is also offered based on the individual needs and rehabilitation progress of each PWD.

SWD will set up 14 ICRCs across the territory in phases to provide services for PWDs in all districts. This includes regularising the operation of the 2 ICRCs set up under the pilot project starting from the third quarter of 2025, while enhancing the functions of the 4 existing Community Rehabilitation Day Centres and converting them into ICRCs progressively. SWD will also reintegrate the Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities and Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities. This measure will create an additional 1 280 community rehabilitation and home care service places, bringing the expected total to 6 060 service places, with an additional annual expenditure of approximately $160 million. SWD will review the operation of the pilot project to evaluate the manpower needs and training requirements for the 14 ICRCs.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)123

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1433)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government will regularise the Pilot Project on Enhancing Vocational Rehabilitation Services (the Pilot Project) in the third quarter of this year. In this regard, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

(1) the annual expenditure of the Pilot Project since its implementation;

(2) the content of the services provided and training models used in Sheltered Workshops (SWs) and Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres (IVRSCs) that have been enhanced through the Pilot Project; and

(3) the respective numbers of beneficiaries and successful job placements since the implementation of the Pilot Project.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

(1) The Social Welfare Department launched the 2-year Pilot Project in July 2023 with an estimated expenditure of about $25 million.

(2) SWs and IVRSCs participating in the Pilot Project offered 201 basic and 46 advanced training courses for trainees. Basic training courses covered areas such as life skills training, career planning, and simulated job training/internship. Advanced training courses covered topics such as art or crafts creation, information technology applications, store management and sales, as well as logistics and transportation services.

(3) The participating SWs and IVRSCs have organised over 2 000 job attachment sessions for their trainees, spanning fields such as arts and design, computer and technology applications, catering, facilities management, sales and retail, packaging and assembly, logistics and warehousing, as well as general office administration. The Pilot Project has benefited about 1 100 persons. As at January 2025, 43 trainees successfully transitioned to supported employment training or open employment after completing training under the Pilot Project.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)124

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2160)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 that the Labour and Welfare Bureau will prepare for the commencement of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance), oversee the enhancement of training and preparation of guidelines for practitioners in the relevant professions to facilitate early identification of child abuse cases, and strengthen support for child abuse victims and their families. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The Government will provide training for mandated reporters during the 18-month transitional period following the gazettal of the Ordinance. What is the expenditure on the training, the progress of the training, and the planning for the coming year? What measures are in place to ensure that all the stakeholders complete the training?

2. It is noted that the Government has allocated an additional full-year provision of $24.2 million with effect from 2024-25 for creating 41 permanent posts, aiming to complement the implementation of the mandatory reporting regime for child abuse cases. What are the specific ranks and duties of these posts? Can they be deployed flexibly on a part-time basis to allow more effective use of resources?

3. To avoid duplicate reporting or misreporting, which could necessitate the Government to devote additional resources to handling administrative work, conducting case investigations, and other tasks, will this be addressed in the Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide), or are there other measures being considered?

4. With respect to the follow-up work related to the mandatory reporting of child abuse cases, what is the current progress on the plan to provide additional emergency places for residential child care?

5. What measures will be taken to prevent child abuse in the coming year, and what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1., 2. & 4. To dovetail with the operation of the Ordinance in January 2026, the Government will, starting from 2025-26, allocate an additional annual provision of $29.07 million to increase the number of emergency residential child care places, and $157.4 million to strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families, amounting to a total of approximately $186.5 million. 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) to create 41 permanent posts to enhance the Government's enforcement and support capacity, provide appropriate training for practitioners in relevant professions and strengthen promotion and public education efforts on child protection, with a view to dovetailing the commencement of the Ordinance.

The Government has set up an e-learning platform to provide training and information on child protection for relevant professionals. The Child Protection Online Training offers online self-learning training courses. Module 1 was launched in February 2024 to provide training on the basic knowledge of child protection. Module 2 is scheduled for phased rollout starting in July 2025, and will cover basic knowledge on the legal and reporting matters related to the new legislation. Besides, the Government also organised 3 webinars in 2024 to provide enrichment programmes for professionals to study different topics related to child protection and to enhance cross-sectoral professional collaboration. These webinars also incorporated Q&A sessions to address training needs and encourage interactive learning. In addition, in the first quarter of 2025, the Government has commenced organising 10 seminars for management of institutions in the social welfare, education, and healthcare sectors. These seminars introduce the key aspects of the new legislation, enabling heads of different organisations to review and, where necessary, update their internal guidelines, workflows, staff training, and devise measures to facilitate specified professionals in fulfilling their legal obligations. During these seminars, the Government will also remind heads of organisations to monitor staff training progress, ensure that existing staff complete the Child Protection Online Training courses within the specified timeframe, and arrange for new employees to do the same, while providing the necessary support for their staff.

In terms of emergency residential child care places, 2 new residential child care centres located in Tuen Mun and Kwun Tong districts respectively, will commence operation before the Ordinance takes effect, adding a total of 96 emergency care service places and catering for about 380 children each year.

3. Furthermore, the Government plans to issue the Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide) in July 2025, and will organise a series of briefings for mandated reporters and related stakeholders. The Guide, including decision trees, supplementary analytical frameworks, and sample case scenarios, provide mandated reporters with reference of making decisions on making reports, assist them to understand the principles of child protection, and identify cases that must be reported under their statutory obligations.

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, Family and Child Protective Services Units, 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 2025-26 is about $5.898 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 2025-26.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)125

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2161)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The 2024 Policy Address announced the launching of a pilot scheme to set up 4 Community Parents and Children Centres (CPCCs) to promote positive-parenting skills. Regarding the enhancement of child development and the protection of children's well-being, would the Government please inform of the following:

1. The locations, sizes, current progress, and projected dates of service commencement of these 4 CPCCs.
2. The future staffing establishments of these centres, whether it be necessary to deploy manpower to maintain and supervise their operations in the future?
3. What is the estimated expenditure on setting up these CPCCs, and number of families to be served each year? Given the growing popularity of play-based services for promoting parent-child interaction and education, will the Government consider expediting the next phase of the CPCC project to re-engineer more children and youth centres (CYCs) to focus on supporting families with children under the age of 6, with the goal of establishing parents and children centres that provide play-based services in all 18 districts?
4. One of the other functions of CPCCs is to reach out to socially and economically deprived families to provide early intervention. Through what channels will the Government contact and follow up on those families? What is the future establishment of social workers in these centres to follow up on the cases of needy families?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up 4 CPCCs on a pilot basis by re-engineering existing CYCs located in the Eastern, Wong Tai Sin, Sha Tin, and Yuen Long districts. These CPCCs will adopt a play-based approach to promote parent-child interaction and educate parents on positive parenting methods, provide support to families with parenting needs, and refer families with other needs to appropriate government and community services. The sizes of CPCCs will range from about 300 to 700 square metres. SWD will begin renovation works in the second quarter of 2025, with the 4 CPCCs scheduled to commence operations progressively starting from 2026, benefiting about 10 000 persons in the first year.

Through collaboration between the Government and community service units, these CPCCs will contact and identify families in need of parenting support to provide appropriate services. They will also reach out to socially and economically deprived families through home visits and referrals from maternal and child health centres or other welfare service units, offering therapeutic counselling and tailor-made group programmes, etc., and refer families with other needs to appropriate government and community services.

The provision for these CPCCs amounts to around $96.9 million over a 5-year period, from 2025-26 to 2029-30. The staffing establishment will comprise social workers, nurses, family aide workers, and child care workers, etc. Subject to compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements, operators may determine their staffing establishment and remuneration in accordance with their human resources policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the required service outputs and outcomes. SWD will draw up service agreements for operating CPCC services, stipulating the relevant requirements and standards, including essential service requirements, service output and outcome standards, and service quality standards. SWD will monitor the CPCCs' performance in accordance with existing mechanisms, and examine the way forward for the initiative.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2163)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention of the Programme that the Department will continue to 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, would the Government please provide the following information:

1. the numbers of centres and service places, and the utilisation rate of each service session under ASCP(PC) in the past 2 years, with a breakdown by district;
2. the current staffing establishment of each centre and the operating cost per service place; and
3. the timetable for extending ASCP(PC) to cover all 18 districts in Hong Kong and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. The numbers of centres and service places, and the average utilisation rate under ASCP(PC) in Hong Kong in the past 2 years, broken down by District Council (DC) district, are set out at Annex.
2. Each centre of ASCP(PC) has a staffing establishment consisting of 1 Assistant Social Work Officer and 2 support staff. Each centre provides 42 service places, receives an annual recurrent funding of about $1.2 million from the Social Welfare Department (SWD), and earmarks about $230,000 for fee waivers/reductions for eligible service users. SWD does not have information on the operating cost per service place.
3. SWD will extend ASCP(PC) to cover all districts in Hong Kong in phases within 3 years starting from 2024. The number of centres participating in ASCP(PC) will increase from 16 to 28, and the number of service places will increase from 672 to 1 176. The 16 centres are located in 8 districts (including Central and Western, Southern, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sham Shui Po, North, Yuen Long, and Kwai Tsing districts). SWD is extending the service to cover the remaining 10 districts in phases. The first phase of service extension has been completed, under which the 4 centres in Eastern, Kowloon City, Sha Tin, and Tai Po districts have commenced service in February 2025. The service extension involves an additional annual expenditure of about $14.2 million.

Annex

Number of centres and service places, and the average utilisation rate of ASCP(PC) by DC district

District	2023-24			April to December 2024		
	Number of centres	Number of places	Average utilisation rate (%)	Number of centres Note 1	Number of places	Average utilisation rate Note 2 (%)
Central & Western	1	42	9	1	42	16
Southern	2	84	32	2	84	53
Islands	-	-	N.A.	-	-	N.A.
Eastern	-	-	N.A.	-	-	N.A.
Wan Chai	-	-	N.A.	-	-	N.A.
Kwun Tong	3	126	52	2	84	57
Wong Tai Sin	1	42	80	1	42	76
Sai Kung	-	-	N.A.	-	-	N.A.
Kowloon City	-	-	N.A.	-	-	N.A.
Yau Tsim Mong	-	-	N.A.	-	-	N.A.
Sham Shui Po	3	126	76	3	126	73
Sha Tin	-	-	N.A.	-	-	N.A.
Tai Po	1	42	46	-	-	N.A.
North	1	42	77	1	42	115
Yuen Long	3	126	52	3	126	83
Tsuen Wan	-	-	N.A.	-	-	N.A.
Kwai Tsing	3	126	58	3	126	70
Tuen Mun	-	-	N.A.	-	-	N.A.
Total	**18**	**756**	**57**	**16**	**672**	**69**

N.A. – Not applicable

Note 1 All 18 centres were in operation in February 2024, but 2 of them ceased operation after March 2024. The remaining 16 centres provided a total of 672 service places.

Note 2 To meet the needs of the respective districts, some centres provide additional service places at specific time slots and/or additional opening sessions on Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays. The average utilisation rate may exceed 100% as the headcounts for additional services are also included.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)127

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2164)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is stated under the Programme that the Department will "continue to increase the places of aided child care centre (CCC) to strengthen day child care services". In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Regarding day child care services for children aged below 3, please provide a breakdown by District Council district of the (i) type, (ii) number of places, (iii) utilisation rate, and (iv) number of children waitlisted for various subsidised child care services.
2. Please provide a breakdown by standalone CCC and CCC attached to kindergarten (KG) of the numbers of service places for children aged 0 to 2 and those exclusively for children aged 2 or above in each district.
3. What are the progress and timetable for establishing new aided standalone CCCs, and how many additional places are expected to be provided? Will the Government implement future measures, including providing necessary modifications and support, to encourage aided KG-cum-CCCs to start providing services for children aged 0 to 2?
4. It is noted that the decrease in the utilisation rate of standalone CCCs is attributed to the establishment of new CCCs, which required time to build up their enrolment rate in the initial year of operation. As there is currently no central waitlisting system for the service places of standalone CCCs, parents must directly apply for such services from the service operators according to their needs. In order to build up the enrolment rates as soon as possible to ensure proper use of resources, will the Government consider setting up a central register or implementing other centralised application procedures so that parents interested in using such services may have one-stop access to details and waiting time for day CCCs?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

1. The numbers of places and the average utilisation rates for aided standalone CCCs and aided CCCs attached to KGs are set out at Annex 1. Parents can apply directly for the aforementioned child care services from the service operators, without being waitlisted under a central system.
2. The numbers of places of standalone CCCs and CCCs attached to KGs in Hong Kong are set out at Annex 2.

3. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up a total of 11 more aided standalone CCCs in phases within 3 years starting from 2024, providing about 1 000 additional places. Among these, the 4 CCCs at Queens Hill Estate and Wah Ming Estate in Fanling, the Treasury Building in Sham Shui Po, and Shun Lee Estate in Kwun Tong have commenced service in 2024, providing a total of 344 places. The 100 additional places at Cheung Shun Street in Sham Shui Po and the 60 places at Kwai Fong Estate in Kwai Tsing will commence service in 2025-26, whereas the 100 additional places each at the joint-user government office building in Area 67 of Tseung Kwan O, Sai Kung and Lei Yue Mun Ancillary Facilities Block in Kwun Tong are planned to commence service in 2026-27. The remaining 3 aided standalone CCCs, proposed to be set up in districts such as Kowloon City and Kwun Tong, are planned to be put into service by the end of 2027, adding about 300 places in total.

   The co-location of CCCs and KGs is managed by the Joint Office for Kindergartens and Child Care Centres (JOKC) under the Education Bureau (EDB). JOKC is staffed with officers of EDB and SWD, jointly regulating the care and education services of these service units in accordance with the requirements on premises design, staffing establishment, and safety measures, etc., under the Child Care Services Ordinance (Cap. 243), the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279), and the Operation Manual for Pre-primary Institutions, and providing one-stop services to applicants for CCC registration. If operators of existing aided CCCs attached to KGs intend to increase CCC service places for children aged below 3 in the premises, the operators may apply to JOKC. If the application complies with the aforementioned requirements, the Government will provide relevant subsidies for the aided CCCs attached to KGs.

4. Generally speaking, parents will consider the background, service features and facilities of the premises of the service operator when deciding whether to apply for CCC services. They will choose a suitable service unit located near their place of residence/work or the carer's residence based on their family's child-rearing needs. After understanding the services and arrangements of ancillary facilities provided by the CCC, parents can directly apply for services from the service operator. By understanding the circumstances of the parents and their children, the service operator can also provide more flexible support to families in need, and effectively address the service needs of different districts.

   Service operators will organise promotional activities in various districts, and promote their services and recruit service users through online searches/social media/websites, setting up street booths, distributing leaflets, and hanging promotional banners, etc. SWD's website also provides information on the distribution of CCCs operated by different service units across various districts, and will regularly produce and distribute publicity materials to promote various types of day child care services.

Annex 1

Numbers of places and average utilisation rates for aided standalone CCCs and aided CCCs attached to KGs (April to December 2024)

District	Aided standalone CCCs [Note 1]		Aided CCCs attached to KGs [Note 2]	
	Number of places	Average utilisation rate (%)	Number of places	Average utilisation rate (%)
Central & Western	48	100	455	29
Southern	-	N.A.	264	57
Islands	-	N.A.	335	27
Eastern	64	100	345	60
Wan Chai	48	100	226	40
Kwun Tong	88	10	558	71
Wong Tai Sin	-	N.A.	367	87
Sai Kung	-	N.A.	884	34
Kowloon City	67	100	499	44
Yau Tsim Mong	99	100	333	62
Sham Shui Po	162	75	424	49
Sha Tin	177	99	538	79
Tai Po	92	100	387	49
North	207	54	346	62
Yuen Long	152	90	378	99
Tsuen Wan	76	100	252	68
Kwai Tsing	32	100	445	67
Tuen Mun	64	100	447	74
Total	**1 376**	**87**	**7 483**	**58**

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 2 aided standalone CCCs in Sham Shui Po and Kwun Tong commenced service in September and October 2024, respectively.

Note 2 Figures provided by EDB as at September 2024.

Annex 2

Numbers of standalone CCCs and CCCs attached to KGs and their places (April to December 2024)

District	Standalone CCCs		CCCs attached to KGs [Note]	
	Aged below 2	Aged 2 to 3	Aged below 2	Aged 2 to 3
	Number of places	Number of places	Number of places	Number of places
Central & Western	48	-	80	3 031
Southern	-	-	88	1 073
Islands	90	46	14	1 301
Eastern	64	196	314	3 416
Wan Chai	48	-	16	1 514
Kwun Tong	83	314	56	1 295
Wong Tai Sin	-	-	30	528
Sai Kung	-	-	156	4 910
Kowloon City	103	1 049	152	4 601
Yau Tsim Mong	99	32	48	2 080
Sham Shui Po	126	36	16	1 647
Sha Tin	144	33	-	2 163
Tai Po	70	22	14	1 587
North	185	22	-	1 203
Yuen Long	130	22	48	1 511
Tsuen Wan	76	168	24	1 166
Kwai Tsing	32	28	-	1 186
Tuen Mun	64	108	-	1 779
Total	**1 362**	**2 076**	**1 056**	**35 991**

Note Figures provided by EDB as at September 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2165)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding carer support under the Programme, please inform this Committee:

1. The Labour and Welfare Bureau oversees the engagement of Care Teams in 18 Districts to help identify target carers through visits and contacts, and to refer cases requiring assistance to relevant social welfare service units for follow-up. What is the expenditure of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) on training Care Teams? What was the number of training sessions provided in the past year and their content?

2. Since the implementation of the District Services and Community Care Teams - Supporting Elderly and Carers Scheme (the Scheme) in March 2024, what have been the respective numbers of target carers identified and cases referred to social welfare units for follow-up?

3. What are the manpower allocation and expenditure involved in supporting the Care Teams' identification of target carers and subsequent follow-up work, including support hotlines?

4. What is the implementation status of the territory-wide Care the Carers Campaign mentioned in the Programme, and what was the expenditure in the past year?

5. Will the Government consider establishing a registration system for carers of the elderly and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the future? Such a system can help recognise carers, facilitate the identification and support of carers in need, and enable more targeted policymaking. If not, what are the reasons?

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

Reply:

1. The Government launched the Scheme in March 2024. Taking Tsuen Wan and the Southern District as pilot points, Care Teams are engaged to help identify high-risk households of singleton and doubleton elderly, and carers of elderly persons and PWDs through visits and outreach. Cases requiring assistance are then referred to social welfare service units for follow-up. They also assist in referring eligible elderly

persons and PWDs to install and use emergency alarm systems (known as "Safety Bells") with government subsidy. The total expenditure of the Scheme for 2024-25 was about $9.20 million. In 2024-25, SWD's District Welfare Offices provided a total of 8 training sessions for the Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and the Southern District to equip them with the necessary skills.

2. As at the end of January 2025, a total of 36 Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and the Southern District have visited or contacted over 7 000 households of singleton and doubleton elderly and carers of elderly persons and PWDs, and have made over 1 190 referrals for welfare services under the Scheme. In addition, a total of 272 elderly persons and 11 PWDs have installed Safety Bells and received related subsidies through the referral of the Care Teams.

3. Encouraged by the positive outcomes of the Scheme during its pilot phase, the Chief Executive announced in the 2024 Policy Address that the Scheme would be extended to all 18 districts across the territory in the second quarter of 2025 to provide support to more elderly persons and carers. It is expected that in the 12-month implementation period of the Scheme, the Care Teams will contact over 60 000 households in need. The Scheme is expected to incur a total expenditure of about $107.9 million for 2025-26.

4. The Government has launched a 3-year territory-wide "Care the Carers Campaign" publicity campaign since 2023-24, with a distinct theme each 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 emphasised 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. SWD promotes the message of care and support for carers across the territory through various channels, including television and radio announcements in the public interest, large-scale advertisements on public transportation, promotional materials, posters, service leaflets, etc. In addition, SWD organises different publicity activities in line with the annual themes and collaborates with non-governmental and local organisations to promote support for carers, encourage mutual assistance in the community and foster a carer-friendly environment. The total expenditure for the 3 years of publicity campaign is approximately $15 million.

5. The 2024 Policy Address proposed exploring the establishment of an inter-disciplinary and inter-organisation database of carers of elderly persons and PWDs. Leveraging existing data and information gathered on a need basis during home visits by the Care Teams under the Scheme, the Government will be able to use the database to identify high-risk cases at an early stage, facilitate targeted referrals to appropriate support services, and proactively intervene in emergencies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3249)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Programme mentions strengthening the home-based child care service (HCCS) of the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP). In this regard, would the Government please advise the following:

1. It is understood that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) subsidises non-governmental organisations to implement NSCCP, which includes HCCS and centre-based care group (CCG) services provided to children. Please provide a breakdown by district of the numbers of places for HCCS and CCG, and their respective utilisation rates.
2. It is understood that service operators can set service fees according to district circumstances. Please provide a breakdown by district of the current service fees for HCCS and CCG.
3. What was the expenditure related to training and monitoring of home-based child carers in the past year? How many monitoring activities, including home visits and surprise inspections, did SWD conduct to monitor home-based child carers?
4. If a service operator is found to be underperforming, including failing to properly recruit, assess, screen, and train home-based child carers, or in cases where home-based child carers commit violations, will the service operator's funding be reduced? In addition, since the launch of NSCCP, have there been any instances where a service operator's contract was terminated due to substandard performance?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. & 2. SWD requires service operators of NSCCP to flexibly increase the number of HCCS places to meet the actual service demands. Since NSCCP has no service quota limit, SWD does not have information on its average utilisation rate. The number of places, the number of children served, and the service fee of NSCCP, broken down by District Council district, are set out at Annex.

3. The revised estimate on NSCCP for 2024-25 was $226.6 million. SWD allocates funding to service operators based on their expenditure on 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. On this basis, service operators may flexibly deploy the funding to operate NSCCP. Therefore, SWD does not have the breakdown of the related expenditure. In 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024), SWD conducted 23 on-site review visits to assess the training courses provided by service operators for home-based child carers under NSCCP, with a view to enhancing the quality of services delivered by home-based child carers.

4. If a service operator breaches the terms of the SA or the relevant requirements, SWD will require the operator to formulate action plans and implement rectification or improvement measures within a specified timeframe. Depending on the circumstances, SWD may also conduct investigations, issue written warnings and/or make recommendations for improvement to the operator, or even reduce funding or consider terminating the SA. Since the launch of NSCCP, no SA has been terminated due to a service operator's non-compliance with the relevant requirements.

Annex

Number of places, number of children served, and service fee of NSCCP (2024-25) (April to December 2024)

District	Number of places Note 1		Number of children served Note 2		Basic service fee per hour Note 3 ($)	
	CCG	HCCS	CCG	HCCS	CCG	HCCS
Central & Western	14	78	168	133	20	28
Eastern	14	78	81	252		
Islands	14	78	145	453		
Kowloon City	14	78	5	102		
Kwun Tong	28	156	164	260		
Kwai Tsing	14	78	83	332		
North	14	78	145	142		
Southern	14	78	106	107		
Sai Kung	14	78	142	223		
Sham Shui Po	28	156	185	277		
Sha Tin	28	156	138	443		
Tuen Mun	28	156	120	510		
Tai Po	14	78	160	255		
Tsuen Wan	14	78	103	195		
Wan Chai	14	78	119	77		
Wong Tai Sin	14	78	246	130		
Yuen Long	28	156	104	750		
Yau Tsim Mong	14	78	193	343		
Total	**322**	**1 794**	**2 407**	**4 984**		

Note 1 Starting from September 2024, on the basis of 1 service team in each of the 18 districts in Hong Kong, SWD has added an additional service team in districts with higher service demands, namely Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Sha Tin, Tuen Mun, and Yuen Long districts. As a result, the number of service teams in Hong Kong has increased from 18 to 23. Each service team is required to provide a minimum of 92 service places (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 2 116). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement to meet the actual service demands.

Note 2 Some children used CCG services and HCCS at the same time.

Note 3 Starting from September 2024, the service fees for HCCS and CCG are standardised at $28 and $20 per hour respectively. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can approach service operators for fee waivers/reductions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3295)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Programme states that, in 2024-25, the Family Support Networking Teams (FSNTs) successfully contacted 4 139 vulnerable households through outreaching attempts and referred 3 370 of these households to welfare or mainstream services. In this regard, please provide the following information for the past year:

1. The number of outreaching provided by each FSNT, the manpower and expenditure involved, as well as the average cost per successful case of contacting vulnerable households;
2. The number of cases broken down by the type of assistance required (e.g., low-income families, new arrivals, singleton elderly persons, etc.), along with the number of minors involved in these cases; and
3. The number of successfully contacted cases with no referrals made, and the reasons why no referrals made.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

FSNTs reach out to vulnerable households through outreaching. After conducting assessments and obtaining consent, FSNTs will refer these households to welfare or mainstream services. Some successfully contacted households were not referred, as they either indicated no immediate welfare needs, declined the referral, or had already received the related welfare services. The staffing establishment of each FSNT consists of 2 to 6 Social Work Assistants. The total expenditure (revised estimate) of FSNTs in 2024-25 was $9.8 million. The Social Welfare Department does not maintain a breakdown of the other information sought.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1915)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. Regarding the measures to assist and encourage Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients in seeking employment, please advise on the following:
   a) the number of CSSA applicants participating in the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance (IEAPS) in each of the past 5 years; and
   b) the median average duration of CSSA receipt for each participant in each of the past 5 years.
2. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has launched the enhanced Employment Support Services (EmSS) since April 2020. In this connection, please provide:
   a) SWD's expenditure on commissioning non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to operate IEAPS and EmSS in each of the past years, presented in tabular form;
   b) the average cost per participating CSSA recipient;
   c) the respective numbers of participants who successfully secured employment or returned to mainstream education, with a breakdown by service programme; and
   d) 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.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1a) & 1b) The headcounts of persons who received EmSS in 2023-24 and 2024-25 are tabulated below. SWD does not have a breakdown of the headcounts by year and the average duration of receiving CSSA prior to April 2023.

Year	**Headcount of persons who received EmSS**
2023-24	16 480
2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)	14 022

2a) The expenditure incurred by SWD on commissioning non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide EmSS from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is tabulated below:

Year	Expenditure ($ million)
2020-21 (Actual)	152
2021-22 (Actual)	153
2022-23 (Actual)	157
2023-24 (Actual)	159
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	162

2b) Based solely on the expenditure incurred by SWD on commissioning NGOs to provide EmSS and the headcount of persons who received the service in 2023-24, the average cost per headcount is about $9,650. As each CSSA recipient receives different services under EmSS according to their individual needs and circumstances, and the number and duration of services also vary from person to person, the above average cost is for rough reference only. SWD does not have a breakdown of the headcounts by year prior to April 2023, therefore the average cost per headcount for relevant years is not available.

2c) Among the recipients of EmSS, the headcounts of persons who secured employment and those who returned to mainstream education for at least 1 month in 2023-24 and 2024-25 are tabulated below. SWD does not have a breakdown of the headcounts by year prior to April 2023.

Year	**Headcount of persons who secured employment for at least 1 month**	**Headcount of persons who returned to mainstream education for at least 1 month**
2023-24	1 891	110
2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)	1 307	93

2d) Among the recipients of EmSS, the headcounts of persons who left the CSSA net owing to securing employment and those who left owing to returning to mainstream education in 2023-24 and 2024-25 are tabulated below. SWD does not have a breakdown of the headcounts by year prior to April 2023.

Year	**Headcount of persons who left the CSSA net due to securing employment**	**Headcount of persons who left the CSSA net due to returning to mainstream education**
2023-24	489	37
2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)	311	42

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1916)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide information regarding the approved Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) applications involving persons aged 18 or above who had resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years over the past 5 years, including the number of cases, case nature, age distribution, and CSSA expenditure, with a breakdown by year.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

From 2020-21 to 2024-25, the number of approved CSSA applications involving persons aged 18 or above who have resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	**Number of approved CSSA applications**
2020-21	1 654
2021-22	895
2022-23	829
2023-24	670
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	522

SWD does not maintain breakdowns of the number or expenditure of these cases by case nature or age.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)133

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1917)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The last Budget introduced the "Stepping Stone" - Pilot Scheme on "Subsidy to Encourage Employment of Disabled Recipients under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme" (Pilot Scheme) to provide an additional employment subsidy of $500 per month for employed disabled CSSA recipients. The Pilot Scheme is expected to benefit around 6 800 persons.

a) What was the employment situation of disabled CSSA recipients over the past 3 years? Please provide a breakdown by year.

b) What were their occupations and average income? Please provide a breakdown.

c) What is the application status since the Pilot Scheme was launched last year? To date, how much subsidy has been disbursed, and how many persons have benefited? Does the Government consider the scheme successful in encouraging employment among persons with disabilities?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

a) A breakdown of the number of disabled CSSA recipients (including those receiving the standard rate for 50% disabled, 100% disabled or requiring constant attendance) with employment earnings from 2022-23 to 2024-25 is provided in Table 1 of Annex.

b) A breakdown of the number of disabled CSSA recipients with employment earnings by occupation from 2022-23 to 2024-25 is provided in Table 2 of Annex, while their average monthly income is provided in Table 3 of Annex.

c) The Pilot Scheme, subsidised by the Community Care Fund, was launched in September 2024 for a period of 3 years. It aims to encourage disabled CSSA recipients who are capable of working to engage with the community and unleash their potential. As at the end of December 2024, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has disbursed subsidies of about $9.086 million to 6 303 beneficiaries who were eligible between September and November 2024. SWD will evaluate the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme before the end of the 3-year pilot period.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of disabled CSSA recipients [Note] with employment earnings from 2022-23 to 2024-25**

Year	Number of disabled CSSA recipients with employment earnings
2022-23	5 905
2023-24	6 096
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	6 099

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 2022-23 to 2024-25**

Occupation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Cleaner	463	446	430
General worker/labourer (other than those engaged in construction works)	333	328	334
Waiter/waitress	164	181	177
Delivery worker	105	107	120
Salesperson	123	132	106
Driver	90	103	101
Watchman/guard	102	100	99
Clerk	78	70	80
Domestic helper/babysitter	26	29	29
Construction worker/ labourer/fitting-out worker	23	21	16
Others	4 398	4 579	4 607
Total	**5 905**	**6 096**	**6 099**

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 3 **Average monthly income of disabled CSSA recipients [Note] with employment earnings from 2022-23 to 2024-25**

Year	Average monthly income of disabled CSSA recipients [Note] with employment earnings ($)
2022-23	1,391
2023-24	1,434
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	1,468

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.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)134

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1918)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. Regarding elderly persons receiving various cash allowances under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme, please provide the number of recipients of various allowances and the expenditure involved in each of the past 3 financial years as well as this year's estimates, 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). Old Age Allowance (OAA);
   2). Higher Old Age Living Allowance (OALA);
   3). Normal OALA;
   4). Guangdong (GD) Scheme;
   5). Fujian (FJ) Scheme;
   6). Higher Disability Allowance (HDA); and
   7). Normal Disability Allowance (NDA).
2. Regarding measures to help elderly persons age in the Mainland, please provide the expenditure involved (excluding administrative expenses) in each of the past 3 financial years as well as this year's estimate, broken down by scheme.
3. Please provide the number of elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients in the past 3 financial years as well as this year's estimate, 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).
4. 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 financial years, broken down by scheme.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. The number of recipients aged 60 or above under the SSA Scheme, broken down by type of allowance and age group, from 2022-23 to 2024-25 is set out in Table 1 of Annex. It is estimated that there are about 1.33 million of SSA recipients aged 60 or above in 2025-26. However, SWD has not estimated the number of these recipients broken down by age group.

   The total expenditure on individuals aged 60 or above under the SSA Scheme, broken down by type of allowance, from 2022-23 to 2025-26 is set out in Table 2 of Annex. SWD does not have a breakdown of the expenditure on them by age group.

2. The expenditure on the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme under the CSSA Scheme, and that of the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme under the SSA Scheme from 2022-23 to 2025-26 are set out in Table 3 of Annex.

3. The number of CSSA recipients aged 60 or above (including those under the PCSSA Scheme), broken down by age group, from 2022-23 to 2024-25 is set out in Table 4 of Annex. SWD has not estimated the number of these recipients for 2025-26 broken down by age group.

4. In 2020-21, SWD appointed the International Social Service Hong Kong Branch (ISS Hong Kong) as the implementation 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 ISS Hong Kong as the implementation agents for the above schemes in the 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 written 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 recommend them to SWD, assist SWD in recovering overpayments from recipients and investigating suspected frauds, etc. The fees paid by SWD to the agents and the number of cases served by the agents from 2020-21 to 2024-25, broken down by type of cash assistance scheme, are set out in Tables 5 and 6 of Annex, respectively.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of SSA recipients aged 60 or above by type of allowance and age group from 2022-23 to 2024-25**

Type of allowance [Note 1]	Age group	Number of recipients		
		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)
OAA	Aged 60 to 64	N.A.		
	Aged 65 to 69			
	Aged 70 to 74	153 313	159 679	162 029
	Aged 75 to 79	82 125	93 784	102 412
	Aged 80 to 84	43 415	43 341	44 195
	Aged 85 or above	47 603	48 923	49 772
OALA [Note 2]	Aged 60 to 64	N.A.		
	Aged 65 to 69	201 047	212 052	214 544
	Aged 70 to 74	190 232	202 379	209 374
	Aged 75 to 79	120 572	135 468	148 117
	Aged 80 to 84	75 785	76 833	80 360
	Aged 85 or above	99 695	102 557	104 676
GD Scheme	Aged 60 to 64	N.A.		
	Aged 65 to 69	3 503	4 319	3 816
	Aged 70 to 74	6 851	7 875	7 711
	Aged 75 to 79	4 846	5 677	6 462
	Aged 80 to 84	3 271	3 321	3 506
	Aged 85 or above	3 563	3 819	4 241
FJ Scheme	Aged 60 to 64	N.A.		
	Aged 65 to 69	277	323	288
	Aged 70 to 74	500	602	561
	Aged 75 to 79	488	579	613
	Aged 80 to 84	341	384	405
	Aged 85 or above	510	559	608
HDA	Aged 60 to 64	2 257	2 393	2 475
	Aged 65 to 69	1 799	1 904	2 093
	Aged 70 to 74	1 589	1 651	1 630
	Aged 75 to 79	1 329	1 495	1 644
	Aged 80 to 84	1 449	1 429	1 463
	Aged 85 or above	3 561	3 682	3 799
NDA	Aged 60 to 64	25 195	25 371	25 532
	Aged 65 to 69	10 263	11 166	11 590
	Aged 70 to 74	5 458	5 886	6 331
	Aged 75 to 79	3 063	3 601	4 064
	Aged 80 to 84	2 218	2 191	2 291
	Aged 85 or above	4 391	4 686	4 918

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 applicants of Disability Allowance (DA).

Note 2 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.

Table 2 **Total expenditure on individuals aged 60 or above under the SSA Scheme by type of allowance from 2022-23 to 2025-26**

Type of allowance [Note 1]	Expenditure [Note 3] ($ million)			
	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)	2025-26 (Estimate)
OAA	6,021	6,535	7,133	7,820
OALA [Note 2]	31,999	35,718	39,457	45,312
GD Scheme	740	951	1,058	1,145
FJ Scheme	79	97	108	115
HDA	586	610	725	902
NDA	1,290	1,370	1,487	1,567
Total	**40,715**	**45,281**	**49,968**	**56,861**

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 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.

Note 3 The actual expenditures for 2022-23 and 2023-24, the revised estimate of expenditure for 2024-25, and the estimate of expenditure for 2025-26 include the payment of an additional half-month of the allowances in the year.

Table 3 **Expenditure on the PCSSA Scheme, the GD Scheme, and the FJ Scheme from 2022-23 to 2025-26**

Year	Expenditure [Note] ($ million)		
	PCSSA Scheme	GD Scheme	FJ Scheme
2022-23 (Actual)	39	740	79
2023-24 (Actual)	34	951	97
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	32	1,058	108
2025-26 (Estimate)	37	1,145	115

Note The actual expenditures for 2022-23 and 2023-24, the revised estimate of expenditure for 2024-25, and the estimate of expenditure for 2025-26 include the payment of an additional half-month of the allowances in the year.

Table 4 **Number of CSSA recipients aged 60 or above (including those under the PCSSA Scheme) by age group from 2022-23 to 2024-25**

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
2022-23	23 085	25 609	27 001	21 313	17 749	31 211
2023-24	22 039	24 824	26 507	21 999	16 865	31 023
2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)	21 576	23 858	26 119	23 088	16 726	30 980

Table 5 **Fees paid by SWD to the agents by type of cash assistance scheme from 2020-21 to 2024-25**

Year	Fees ($ million)				
	PCSSA Scheme	GD Scheme		FJ Scheme	
		OAA	OALA	OAA	OALA
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	3.71	3.19
2022-23	3.60	3.31
2023-24	3.93	3.49
2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)	4.89	3.28

Note With effect from 1 April 2021, SWD has appointed 2 agents to implement the PCSSA Scheme, the GD Scheme, and the FJ Scheme in the GD and FJ provinces, respectively.

Table 6 **Number of cases served by the agents by type of cash assistance scheme from 2020-21 to 2024-25**

Year	PCSSA Scheme	GD Scheme		FJ Scheme	
		OAA	OALA	OAA	OALA
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	679	8 086	16 139	654	1 722
2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)	594	8 197	16 893	644	1 773

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1919)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 current number of subsidised RCS places provided by various types of residential care homes (RCHs) for the elderly (RCHEs), as well as the number and utilisation rates of service places in day care centres for the elderly (DEs), 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 residential care service vouchers (RCSVs) by the elderly in the past 3 years, the number of RCSVs held by the elderly and the actual utilisation rates at each co-payment level (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 corresponding amount of funding involved (with a breakdown by the expected year of service commencement).
5. In the current financial year, the number of RCSVs will increase to 6 000. How will these 6 000 RCSVs, together with the existing RCSVs, be distributed across the 18 districts? Please provide separate breakdowns for the situations both before and after the increase.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

1. The number of subsidised RCS places provided by various types of RCHEs as at the end of December 2024, 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) and the utilisation rate, 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 2022-23 to 2024-25 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 are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 6.

4. The number of subsidised RCS places expected to be put into service between 2025-26 and 2029-30 is set out below:

Year	No. of places to be put into service
2025-26	412
2026-27	1 614
2027-28	438
2028-29	600
2029-30	570

In addition, the number of RCSVs will be increased by 1 000 in 2025-26, bringing the total to 6 000. As the RCSV Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme) adopts the principle of "money-following-the-user", information broken down by year of service commencement is not available.

Statistics for most of the subsidised RCS places expected to be operational in 2029 and beyond are currently unavailable, as the relevant RCHE projects are still in the planning stage and do not have exact completion dates. Based on the progress of individual projects, Social Welfare Department (SWD) will apply for funding in a timely manner through the established mechanism.

5. The RCSV Scheme adopts the principle of "money-following-the-user". Eligible elderly persons are free to choose among RCHEs participating in the scheme. As at the end of December 2024, the number of places available for RCSV holders by district is set out at Annex 7. As the supply of RCSV services is mainly driven by market demand, the Government has not projected the future distribution of residential care places (RCPs) in each district.

Annex 1

Number of subsidised service places provided by various types of RCHEs (as at end-December 2024)

District	Subvented home operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and self-financing home Note 1	Private RCHE under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) Note 2	Contract RCHE Note 3	RCSV Scheme	Total
Central & Western	232	671	221	Not applicable (N.A.)	**1 124**
Eastern	448	571	180		**1 199**
Wan Chai	462	269	60		**791**
Southern	1 470	596	-		**2 066**
Islands	292	-	145		**437**
Kwun Tong	1 384	868	284		**2 536**
Wong Tai Sin	1 346	446	208		**2 000**
Sai Kung	1 278	-	-		**1 278**
Kowloon City	648	1 759	110		**2 517**
Sham Shui Po	825	471	513		**1 809**
Yau Tsim Mong	98	881	272		**1 251**
Sha Tin	1 354	266	281		**1 901**
Tai Po	1 236	334	80		**1 650**
North	1 228	48	1 266		**2 542**
Yuen Long	943	1 001	149		**2 093**
Tsuen Wan	922	905	175		**2 002**
Kwai Tsing	1 760	1 231	375		**3 366**
Tuen Mun	1 204	847	60		**2 111**
Total	**17 130**	**11 164**	**4 379**	**5 000**	**37 673**

Note 1 Including home for the aged (H/As) places, care-and-attention (C&A) places, C&A places providing continuum of care (CoC), nursing home (NH) places and NH places purchased under the NH Place Purchase Scheme (NHPPS).

Note 2 Excluding subsidised designated residential respite places.

Note 3 Including C&A places providing CoC and NH places.

Annex 2

Number of service places and utilisation rates of DEs/DCUs
(as at end-December 2024)

District	**No. of places**	**Utilisation rate (April to December 2024)**
Central & Western	124	96.1%
Eastern	258	93.2%
Wan Chai	130	80.2%
Southern	108	93.0%
Islands	40	100.5%
Kwun Tong	452	92.2%
Wong Tai Sin	350	93.7%
Sai Kung	225	97.0%
Kowloon City	158	102.3%
Sham Shui Po	322	84.6%
Yau Tsim Mong	152	89.8%
Sha Tin	468	86.7%
Tai Po	124	97.5%
North	188	60.3%
Yuen Long	218	83.7%
Tsuen Wan	183	85.3%
Kwai Tsing	295	91.4%
Tuen Mun	328	86.5%
Total	**4 123**	**89.7%**

Annex 3

Financial expenditure on subsidised RCS for the elderly

Year	**Expenditure ($ billion)**
2022-23 (Actual)	7.4035
2023-24 (Actual)	8.4943
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	9.1890

Annex 4

Average monthly cost per place for various types of subsidised RCS for the elderly

	2022-23 ($)	**2023-24 ($)**	**2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($)**
NH operated by NGOs [Note 1]	26,025	26,971	27,456
Contract RCHE [Note 2]	23,529	23,128	24,248
C&A home operated by NGOs	18,335	18,928	19,408
Private C&A home under EBPS	17,471	16,413	16,513
RCSV Scheme	N.A. [Note 3]		

Note 1 Including subvented NHs and subsidised NH places of NHPPS.

Note 2 Contract RCHEs provide C&A and NH places. The figures represent the average monthly cost of these 2 types of places.

Note 3 SWD pays the portion of the voucher value subsidised by the Government to RCHs providing the services based on the co-payment levels of RCSV users.

Annex 5

Monthly service charges for various types of subsidised RCS for the elderly

	2022-23 ($)	**2023-24 ($)**	**2024-25 ($)**
NH operated by NGOs			
- Subvented NH	2,054	2,054	2,054
- NHPPS	2,060	2,060	2,060
Contract RCHE	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

Annex 6

Table 1: Cumulative number of RCSV holders by co-payment level and year

Co-payment level [Note 1]	**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 no. of RCSV holders by year:									
2022-23	4 342	533	17	15	6	4	-	186	5 103
2023-24	6 020	715	25	16	6	6	-	322	7 110
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024) ((a) C&A places)	7 506	849	33	19	8	8	-	422	8 845
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024) ((b) NH places) [Note 2]	124	17	1	-	-	-	-	9	151
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024) (Total (a)+(b))	7 630	866	34	19	8	8	-	431	8 996

Table 2: Co-payment amount of RCSV users by co-payment level

Co-payment level [Note 1]		**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 ($)	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
	2024-25 (C&A places)	-	1,644	3,287	4,931	6,574	8,218	10,272	12,326
	2024-25 [Note 2] (NH places)	-	2,123	4,246	6,370	8,493	10,616	13,270	15,924

Note 1 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 a portion of the voucher value based on their respective co-payment percentages.

Note 2 The coverage of RCSV has been extended to NH places since the second quarter of 2024.

Annex 7

Number of RCPs available for RCSV holders by district
(as at end-December 2024)

District	No. of places available for RCSV holders
Central & Western	387
Wan Chai	406
Eastern	585
Southern	373
Islands	72
Kwun Tong	884
Wong Tai Sin	420
Sai Kung	91
Kowloon City	1 633
Yau Tsim Mong	1 054
Sham Shui Po	759
Sha Tin	548
North	877
Yuen Long	555
Tai Po	293
Tsuen Wan	758
Kwai Tsing	1 687
Tuen Mun	592
Total	**11 974**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1920)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 groups of above 60 (i.e. 60 to 64, 65 to 69, 70 to 74, 75 to 79, 80 to 84, and 85 or above) 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.: 6)

Reply:

1. The number of CSSA recipients residing in RCHs from 2020-21 to 2024-25, 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 2025-26.
2. The monthly average CSSA payments received by singletons aged 60 or above residing in RCHs from 2021 to 2025, broken down by type of RCPs and level of disability, are set out in Table 2 of Annex.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of CSSA recipients residing in RCHs by age group and type of RCPs from 2020-21 to 2024-25**

Year	Number of recipients			
	Subsidised RCP		Non-subsidised RCP	
	Aged below 60	Aged 60 or above	Aged below 60	Aged 60 or above
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	9 317	17 838	3 273	19 479
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	9 436	18 049	3 295	20 122

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 2021 to 2025**

Type of RCPs	Level of disability	1 February 2021 ($) Note 2	1 February 2022 ($) Note 2	1 February 2023 ($) Note 2	1 February 2024 ($) Note 2	1 February 2025 ($) Note 2
Subsidised RCP	Able-bodied/ 50% disabled Note 1	5,113	5,258	5,615	5,813	5,979
	100% disabled	6,761	7,034	7,519	7,790	7,987
	Requiring constant attendance	10,621	10,879	11,581	11,704	12,115
Non-subsidised RCP	Able-bodied/ 50% disabled Note 1	8,203	8,466	9,087	9,346	9,641
	100% disabled	9,837	10,215	10,844	11,221	11,641
	Requiring constant attendance	12,669	13,156	13,923	14,434	14,838

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 figures listed in this row cover 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 -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)137

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1921)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding 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), please inform this Committee of the following:

1. For each year since the launch of the CCSV Scheme, 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 CCSV Scheme, 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 CCSV Scheme; and (5) the annual amount of government subsidy.
2. For each year since the launch of the RCSV Scheme, please set out in a table (1) the number of recognised service providers (RSPs) participating in the RCSV Scheme; (2) the number of service units; (3) the number of elderly persons participating in the RCSV Scheme, 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 RCSV Scheme; and (5) the annual amount of government subsidy.
3. Given that the service charges paid by each elderly person participating in the above 2 schemes and the amount of government subsidy vary according to the assets and incomes of individual elderly persons, please provide a breakdown of the sums paid by participants by co-payment levels.
4. The number of beneficiaries and the actual number of users since the regularisation of the CCSV Scheme; the expenditure involved; the number of organisations or units that have joined the CCSV Scheme since its regularisation; and the estimated number of additional service places per district.
5. Regarding the RSPs under the CCSV Scheme, please provide the following information:
   a) How many RSPs are operated by private and non-governmental organisations (NGOs)? What are their respective proportions?
   b) What are the average charges for the services provided by these RSPs?
   c) What is the situation regarding the utilisation of CCSVs by elderly persons at these RSPs?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

1., 2. & 3. The relevant information is provided at Annexes 1 to 3.

4. & 5. The CCSV Scheme was made permanent in September 2023. As at the end of December 2024, there were 297 RSPs under the Scheme, operated by 165 organisations. Among these RSPs, 127 (42.8%) were operated by 40 NGOs subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), 46 (15.5%) were operated by 22 non-profit-making organisations or social enterprises, and 124 (41.8%) were operated by 103 private organisations. As the supply of CCSV services is mainly driven by market demand, the Government does not have an estimate of the future number of service places in each district. SWD will regularly review the supply of CCSV services in each district, taking into account the elderly population, the availability of service places, and the utilisation of CCSVs, and will encourage more organisations to join as RSPs under the CCSV Scheme.

The ceiling prices for various CCSV service items are set out at Annex 4. RSPs are required to list the prices of all CCSV service items for the reference and selection of CCSV holders.

As at the end of December 2024, a total of 16 788 elderly persons were holding CCSVs, of whom 11 402 were utilising CCSV services. Given that a breakdown of the number of service users by RSP involves operational data of the service providers, it is not appropriate for SWD to disclose such information.

Annex 1

Table 1: Statistics on the first phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV

Year	No. of RSPs	No. of service places [Note]		Cumulative no. of voucher holders	Cumulative no. of dropouts	Subsidy amount ($ 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 service places for day care services that RSPs can provide and the number of service places for home care services is not provided separately. RSPs may provide CCSV holders who need day care services with home care services.

Table 2: Statistics on the second phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV

Year	No. of RSPs	No. of service places		Cumulative no. of voucher holders	Cumulative no. of dropouts	Subsidy amount ($ 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	No. of service places		Cumulative no. of voucher holders	Cumulative no. of dropouts	Subsidy amount ($ 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]	264	4 206	13 589	19 820	8 592	286.5

Note The CCSV Scheme was made permanent in September 2023.

Table 4: Statistics on the CCSV Scheme after it was made permanent

Year	No. of RSPs	No. of service places		Cumulative no. of voucher holders	Cumulative no. of dropouts	Subsidy amount ($ million)
		Day care services	Home care services			
2023-24	260	4 108	14 075	15 280	2 314	477.4 [Note 1]
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	297	4 246	15 615	21 626	4 838	687.8 [Note 2]

Note 1 Including the amount of CCSV subsidy provided by the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV for the Elderly for that year.

Note 2 Revised estimate for 2024-25.

Table 5: Age distribution of CCSV holders

Year	Cumulative no. of persons			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	5 622	10 904	15 255	**31 781**
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	6 995	13 163	17 969	**38 127**

Annex 2

Table 1: Statisitics on the RCSV Scheme

Year	No. of RSPs	No. of service units	Cumulative no. of voucher holders	Cumulative no. of dropouts	Subsidy amount ($ 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 Note 1	203	199	7 110	3 110	750.4
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	221	216	8 996	3 870	1,055.8 Note 2

Note 1 The RCSV Scheme was made permanent in April 2023.

Note 2 Revised estimate for 2024-25.

Table 2: Age distribution of RCSV holders

Year	Cumulative no. of persons			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	860	1 757	4 493	**7 110**
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	1 091	2 326	5 579	**8 996**

Annex 3

Table 1: Distribution of CCSV holders by co-payment level in the first phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV

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 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 by co-payment level in the second phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV

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 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 by co-payment level in the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV

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 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 by co-payment level after the CCSV Scheme was made permanent (as at end-December 2024)

Co-payment level [Note]	No. of person
I	2 786
II	11 517
III	1 714
IV	2 084
V	406
VI	3 119
Total	**21 626**

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 2024-25 range from $4,372 to $10,455 per month.

Table 5: Distribution of RCSV holders by co-payment level (as at end-December 2024)

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 ($) (Care-and-attention places)	-	1,644	3,287	4,931	6,574	8,218	10,272	12,326
Co-payment amount ($) (Nursing places)	-	2,123	4,246	6,370	8,493	10,616	13,270	15,924
No. of RCSV holders (Care-and-attention places)	7 506	849	33	19	8	8	-	422
No. of RCSV holders (Nursing places)	124	17	1	-	-	-	-	9

Note As at the end of December 2024, there were a cumulative total of 8 996 elderly persons holding RCSVs. Among them, 8 845 holders were under care-and-attention category while 151 holders under nursing home category. The RCSV values for care-and-attention places and nursing places are set at $16,435 per month (effective from 1 April 2024) and $21,232 per month (effective from 11 June 2024), respectively. 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, those at Levels 1 to 7 are required to pay for a portion of the voucher value based on their respective co-payment percentages.

Annex 4

Ceiling prices of CCSV service items

Community care service items	**2024-25 Ceiling price (HK$)**
Centre-based Services	
● Full-time day care service (12 sessions per week, at least 4 hours per session)	10,455 (per month)
● Day care service (4 hours)	243 (per session)
● Day care service outside normal service hours	97 (per hour)
● Transportation service (vehicle to/from centre)	12 (per trip)
● Escort for day care service (home to vehicle/vehicle to home)	37 (per trip)
Home-based Services	
Home Care Services	
● Rehabilitation exercise	
- delivered by physiotherapist/occupational therapist	963 (per hour)
- delivered by supporting staff [Note 2]	243 (per hour)
● Nursing care	
- delivered by enrolled / registered nurse	926 (per hour)
- delivered by supporting staff [Note 2]	243 (per hour)
● Personal care [Note 3] delivered by supporting staff [Note 2]	243 (per hour)
Home Support Services	
● Homemaking	147 (per hour)
● Escort	147 (per hour)
● Meal delivery	61 (per meal)
● Daytime elder sitting	
- delivered by professional staff [Note 1]	926 (per hour)
- delivered by supporting staff [Note 2] (including home respite services provided by personal care worker)	243 (per hour)
● On-site carer training	
- delivered by professional staff [Note 1]	926 (per hour)
- delivered by supporting staff [Note 2]	243 (per hour)
● Environmental risk assessment/home modification recommendation delivered by physiotherapist/occupational therapist [Note 1]	963 (per hour)
● Home-based services (except meal delivery and soft meal)/speech therapy service delivered outside pledged service hours	20% higher than the price for pledged service hours
Others	
● Residential respite service	558 (per day)
● Speech therapy service (50 minutes per session)	800 (per session)
● Soft meal (additional item for day care service/meal delivery)	6.1 (per meal)
● Rental service of assistive technology products [Note 4]	Approval from SWD required (per item)

Note 1 Professional staff refers to enrolled/registered nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists or registered social workers.

Note 2 Supporting staff include physiotherapy artisans, occupational therapy assistants, health workers, personal care workers, home-helpers, etc., who are trained and capable of providing services in their respective professions.

Note 3 Personal care services include feeding, transferring, showering/bathing, toileting/diaper changing, changing clothes, etc., but exclude meal delivery, homemaking, and escort services.

Note 4 Assistive technology products are grouped into 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

(Question Serial No. 1922)

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 (Edward TO)

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, (1) how many carers have been invited to join the Scheme, (2) how many of them 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 the Pilot Scheme for Carers of PWDs, (1) how many carers have been invited to join the Scheme, (2) how many of them 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. Please provide the (1) average age, and (2) average assets and incomes of applicants since the 2 schemes began accepting applications.
4. Please provide the main reasons for applications being rejected under the 2 schemes, as well as the number of applicants who have withdrawn from the 2 schemes and their reasons for withdrawal since the 2 schemes began accepting applications, broken down by category.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

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 total amount of funding allocation in 2024-25 was $432 million. From 2023-24 to 2024-25, the numbers of carers invited to join the 2 schemes, and the numbers of carers granted allowances and reimbursed for their

training fees are set out in Table 1 of Annex. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has deployed existing resources to implement these 2 schemes, and no additional administrative expenses have been incurred.

3. Eligible applicants for the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons and the Scheme for Carers of PWDs must meet the monthly household income limit. 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 carers are 59 years old for the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons, and 49 years old for the Scheme for Carers of PWDs.

4. The main reasons for applications being rejected under the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons and the Scheme for Carers of PWDs since their launch 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 who withdrew from the 2 schemes and their reasons for withdrawal are set out in Table 2 of the Annex.

Annex

Table 1: Numbers of carers invited to join the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons and the Scheme for Carers of PWDs, and numbers of carers granted allowances and reimbursed for their training fees

	Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons		Scheme for Carers of PWDs	
	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024) Note 1
No. of carers invited to join the scheme Note 2	37 634	14 310	15 254	3 980
No. of carers granted allowance	4 194	5 373	3 213	3 697
No. of carers reimbursed for training fees	9	25	85	331

Note 1 Applicants assessed as eligible in 2024-25 may receive the allowances by the end of December or later.

Note 2 In October 2023 and September 2024, SWD issued invitation letters in batches to elderly persons and PWDs who were currently on the waiting lists for designated services, inviting their carers to participate in the 2 schemes.

Table 2: Numbers of carers who withdrew from the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons and the Scheme for Carers of PWDs, and their reasons for withdrawal

Reason for withdrawal	Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons		Scheme for Carers of PWDs	
	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
The person under care has been admitted to residential care services	110	241	23	85
The person under care passed away	165	295	13	6
The carer has been granted OALA/CSSA	35	75	17	44
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.)	74	90	33	77
Other reasons (e.g. consolidation of cases, or reason not provided, etc.)	18	4	8	0
Total	**402**	**705**	**94**	**212**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1923)

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 (Edward TO)

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 district;
   (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, broken down by the type of follow-up services required;
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. If the Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have such data, how does it assess the effectiveness of the information available on the Information Gateway?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

1.(a)-(e) SWD has commissioned the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) to operate the Carer Hotline in September 2023, which is answered by professional social workers on 24-hour shift duties. Subject to TWGHs' compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements, it may flexibly deploy resources to achieve the required service outputs and outcomes. The revised estimated expenditure of the Carer Hotline for 2024-25 is about $20.4 million. As at 31 December 2024, the Carer Hotline has received about 62 800 calls with an average of about 130 calls daily, and the average duration of each call is about 20 minutes. The Carer Hotline has referred about 1 100 cases to relevant community support service units, and provided emergency support for over 90 cases through outreach services. The nature of calls received and the types of services referred are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex respectively. SWD does not have information about the distribution of assistance cases by district, staffing level of the Carer Hotline at different times, or the average waiting time for callers to be answered.

2.(a)-(c) In collaboration with the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT), SWD commissioned the Hong Kong Shue Yan University (HKSYU) to develop 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 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 31 January 2025, the Information Gateway had a cumulative website traffic of about 2.40 million. The funding for running the Information Gateway for the first 3 years comes from HKCCT. SWD does not have information on the manpower and estimated expenditure involved, or the average daily hit rate or information update frequency. HKSYU collects views from the public and stakeholders through seminars/workshops and questionnaires. SWD and HKSYU regularly review the usage of the Information Gateway and enhance it based on feedback from stakeholders. At the same time, publicity and promotion efforts are stepped up through various channels to raise awareness of the Information Gateway and encourage its wider use.

Annex

Table 1: Nature of calls received by the Carer Hotline

Nature of call	**No. of calls (as at 31 December 2024)**
Emotional problem	33 570
Enquiry on community support services	9 460
Care issue	6 540
Financial problem	1 880
Health problem	1 943
Mental health problem	1 596
Enquiry on residential care services	2 379
Request for respite services	1 450
Family relationship problem	815
Housing/accommodation problem	348
Others (such as enquiry on the services of the Carer Hotline)	2 818
Total	**62 799**

Table 2: Types of services referred by the Carer Hotline

Type of service referred	**No. of referrals (as at 31 December 2024)**
Elderly services	288
Family services	173
Rehabilitation services	159
Medical Social services	77
Day/residential respite services	91
Home care/escort services	87
Suicide Crisis Intervention Centre/ 999 Crisis Centre	108
Fire Services Communications Centre for dispatch of ambulances	54
Others	56
Total	**1 093**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1924)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) currently provides day respite service places and residential respite places for both elderly persons and persons with disabilities (PWDs). Please set out the following information for each of these services over the past 3 years in a table, with a breakdown by the 18 districts: (1) distribution of service places, (2) longest/average waiting time for services, (3) number of persons on waiting lists, (4) fees charged, and (5) service costs.

2. In December 2024, SWD announced the further expansion of the day respite service network so that carers can take short breaks or attend to personal matters. As of today, how many private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) are providing these services?

3. It is understood that these RCHEs in addition to providing residential respite services for the elderly, also offer day respite services to elderly persons in need within the community when residential places are vacant. What is the current status regarding the provision of elderly respite services to carers by these RCHEs? Please provide a breakdown by district and type of RCHEs.

4. Carer Spaces will progressively be established under the Jockey Club Carer Space Project throughout Hong Kong to provide support for carers. Will the Government consider adopting a similar support model by establishing one-stop, carer-centred support centres in all 18 districts of Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

1. The numbers of places for respite services for the elderly and PWDs by district, and the charges for the 2 services from 2022-23 to 2024-25 are set out at Annexes 1 to 6.

   Elderly persons, PWDs or carers can apply for respite services directly from the service units without having through the central referral system. Therefore, SWD does not have information on the waiting time or the number of waitlisted persons.

Regarding day respite services provided by recognised service providers (RSPs) under the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme, the estimated annual expenditure is about $24 million. SWD does not maintain records of the costs of respites services provided beyond the scope of the CCSV Scheme, as these services are part of the overall operations of the respective service units.

2. & 3. Starting from December 2023, SWD has required private RCHEs participating in EBPS to provide day respite services when there are vacancies in their residential respite places. As at the end of December 2024, a total of 134 private RCHEs participating in EBPS provided such services. The number of service places provided under this measure and the attendance, broken down by District Council (DC) district, are set out at Annex 7.

4. 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, 100 day care centres/units for the elderly (DEs/DCUs), 21 district support centres for PWDs, 19 parents/relatives resource centres and 24 integrated community centres for mental wellness, etc. These services include counselling, outreach services, referral for respite services, care skills training, stress-relief groups and recreational activities, etc. The staff of these 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 learn care skills and seek assistance. SWD collaborates with other organisations providing support services to foster greater synergy.

Annex 1

Number of designated residential respite places for the elderly [Note] by DC district

District	No. of service places		
	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Central & Western	24	22	22
Southern	18	18	18
Islands	2	2	2
Eastern	22	19	19
Wan Chai	7	7	7
Kwun Tong	17	17	16
Wong Tai Sin	11	11	11
Sai Kung	3	3	3
Kowloon City	41	41	39
Yau Tsim Mong	23	22	22
Sham Shui Po	22	20	20
Sha Tin	6	6	6
Tai Po	12	12	12
North	12	2	2
Yuen Long	35	35	35
Tsuen Wan	21	21	20
Kwai Tsing	29	28	27
Tuen Mun	23	23	23
Total	**328**	**309**	**304**

Note Designated residential respite places at subvented RCHEs, contract RCHEs and private RCHEs participating in EBPS.

Annex 2

Number of designated day respite service places for the elderly [Note] by DC district

District	No. of service places		
	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Central & Western	13	33	35
Eastern	3	21	28
Wan Chai	3	9	10
Southern	2	16	21
Islands	2	2	4
Kwun Tong	41	55	66
Wong Tai Sin	14	23	29
Sai Kung	16	16	22
Kowloon City	-	40	53
Sham Shui Po	29	52	62
Yau Tsim Mong	5	25	31
Sha Tin	28	36	46
Tai Po	12	22	27
North	10	16	17
Yuen Long	13	45	51
Tsuen Wan	18	36	45
Kwai Tsing	15	45	58
Tuen Mun	28	51	57
Total	**252**	**543**	**662**

Note Including service places provided by (i) subsidised DEs/DCUs, (ii) private RCHEs under EBPS that provide "Designated Places of Residential Respite Service for the Elderly" (since December 2023), and (iii) certain RSPs participating in the CCSV Scheme (since December 2024). As there are no fixed service places for RSPs in (iii), the calculation assumes 1 service place for each RSP.

Annex 3

Table 1: Charge for day respite service for the elderly

(2022-23 to 2024-25) Type of service unit	Charge ($)
DE/DCU	41.5 per day
Private RCHE under EBPS [Note 1]	41.5 per day
RSP participating in CCSV Scheme [Note 2]	21 per session [Note 3]

Note 1 Since December 2023.

Note 2 Since December 2024.

Note 3 Each session lasts 5 hours or part thereof.

Table 2: Charges for designated residential respite services for the elderly (from 2022-23 to 2024-25)

Type of recidential care place (RCP)	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.

Annex 4

Number of day respite service places for PWDs by DC district [Note]

District	No. of service places		
	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Central & Western	2	2	2
Southern	6	8	8
Islands	2	2	2
Eastern	8	10	10
Wan Chai	2	2	2
Kwun Tong	15	15	15
Wong Tai Sin	4	4	4
Sai Kung	10	10	10
Kowloon City	4	6	6
Yau Tsim Mong	12	15	15
Sham Shui Po	4	22	22
Sha Tin	26	28	28
Tai Po	4	4	4
North	24	30	30
Yuen Long	6	8	8
Tsuen Wan	8	11	11
Kwai Tsing	24	36	36
Tuen Mun	11	18	18
Total	**172**	**231**	**231**

Note Including designated day/residential respite service places under the Bought Place Scheme (BPS) for Private RCHDs.

Annex 5

Number of residential respite places for PWDs by DC district [Note]

District	No. of service places		
	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Central & Western	8	8	8
Southern	38	38	38
Islands	6	6	6
Eastern	12	14	14
Wan Chai	-	-	-
Kwun Tong	44	44	44
Wong Tai Sin	6	6	6
Sai Kung	26	26	26
Kowloon City	15	13	13
Yau Tsim Mong	10	13	13
Sham Shui Po	35	39	39
Sha Tin	38	38	38
Tai Po	20	20	20
North	24	24	24
Yuen Long	24	24	24
Tsuen Wan	13	13	13
Kwai Tsing	44	48	48
Tuen Mun	40	54	54
Total	**403**	**428**	**428**

Note Including designated day/residential respite service places under BPS for Private RCHDs.

Annex 6

Charges for day and residential respite services for PWDs from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Day respite service	**Hourly charge ($)**	
	Service user receiving Disability Allowance (DA)	**Service user not receiving DA**
Day activity centre	5.1	
District support centre for PWDs	5.1	
C&A home for severely disabled persons	5.1	
Private RCHD under BPS (providing medium level of care)	5.1 [Note 1]	5.1 [Note 2]
Private RCHD under BPS (providing high level of care)	5.1 [Note 3]	5.1 [Note 4]
Type of RCP	**Daily charge [Note 5] ($)**	
	Service user receiving DA	**Service user not receiving DA**
Hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons	52	49
Private RCHD under BPS (providing medium level of care)		
Hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons	62	55
Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons		
Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons with mental handicap		
C&A home for severely disabled persons		
Private RCHD under BPS (providing 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 prior approval from SWD, individual service organisations/units may charge higher rates depending on the circumstances of service provision.

Annex 7

Number of service places in private RCHEs providing "Designated Places of Residential Respite Service for the Elderly" and day respite service for the elderly [Note] and the attendance by district

District	No. of service places [Note]	Attendance of day respite service
	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	From the implementation of the new measure in December 2023 to end-December 2024
Central & Western	22	13
Eastern	18	-
Wan Chai	6	-
Southern	14	-
Islands	-	-
Kwun Tong	14	6
Wong Tai Sin	8	22
Sai Kung	-	-
Kowloon City	38	-
Sham Shui Po	18	-
Yau Tsim Mong	22	10
Sha Tin	-	-
Tai Po	10	1
North	-	-
Yuen Long	32	77
Tsuen Wan	18	-
Kwai Tsing	26	42
Tuen Mun	22	1
Total	**268**	**172**

Note Private RCHEs participating in EBPS have to provide day respite service when vacant residential respite places are available. The number of places is the same as that of "Designated Residential Respite Service" for the Elderly.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1925)

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 (Edward TO)

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 (HCS) for Persons with Severe Disabilities and Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities (ISS). Please tabulate the following information for the above services over the past 3 years:

a) the number of service units; b) the number of available service places and the actual number of beneficiaries for each service; c) the number of persons currently waitlisted for each service and their average waiting time; d) the average fee for each service; and e) the expenditure/cost associated with each service.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

From 2022-23 to 2024-25, SWD provided subvention to 24 NGOs to operate 61 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. The number of persons served, number of persons waitlisted, average waiting time, service fees and charges, average cost, and total annual expenditure for these 2 services are set out at Annexes 1 to 5.

In addition, from 2022-23 to 2024-25, SWD provided subvention to 6 NGOs to operate 6 teams of HCS for Persons with Severe Disabilities 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 2022-23 to 2024-25 are set out at Annexes 6 to 8. Since the duration and combination of services vary for each case, SWD does not have the average monthly cost per case for these 2 services. Service users can access these services through social workers or by applying directly to the centres. There are no central waiting lists for these services.

Annex 1

Numbers of persons served under HCS for Frail Elderly Persons from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Year	**IHCS(FC)**	**EHCCS**
2022-23	5 654	12 766
2023-24	5 477	12 627
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	5 037	11 490

Annex 2

Number of persons waitlisted and average waiting time for HCS for Frail Elderly Persons [Note 1] from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Year [Note 2]	**No. of waitlisted persons [Note 3]**	**Average waiting time (in months) (average of the past 3 months)**
2022-23	4 341	6
2023-24	6 044	8
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	7 542	11

Note 1 Including IHCS(FC) and EHCCS.

Note 2 The figures represent the number of waitlisted persons and the average waiting time as at the end of March for the respective year, except for 2024-25.

Note 3 Frail elderly persons who have 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 excludes elderly persons classified as inactive cases because of their participation in the Community Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly.

Annex 3

Service fees and charges for HCS for Frail Elderly Persons [Note]
from 2022-23 to 2024-25

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

Note Including IHCS(FC) and EHCCS.

Annex 4

Table 1: Average monthly cost for IHCS and EHCCS in 2022-23

Year	**IHCS** [Note 1] **($)**	**EHCCS ($)**
2022-23	2,931	9,597

Table 2: Average monthly cost for HCS for Frail Elderly Persons [Note 2] **from 2023-24 to 2024-25**

Year	**Cost ($)**
2023-24	10,154
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	10,391

Note 1 IHCS teams were previously responsible for providing IHCS(FC), IHCS (Ordinary Cases) [IHCS(OC)] and Home Care and Support Services for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment (HSMI). Prior to 2023-24, SWD did not maintain records of the average cost per service place for each category. Starting from 2023-24, SWD revised its calculation method and conducted a separate analysis of HCS for Frail Elderly Persons to gain a clearer understanding of the service situation.

Note 2 Including IHCS(FC) and EHCCS.

Annex 5

Table 1: Total annual expenditure on IHCS and EHCCS in 2022-23

Year	**IHCS** [Note 1] **($ billion)**	**EHCCS ($ billion)**
2022-23	1.1011	1.0738

Table 2: Total annual expenditure on HCS for Frail Elderly Persons [Note 2] **from 2023-24 to 2024-25**

Year	**Total expenditure ($ billion)**
2023-24	1.6450
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	1.6815

Note 1 IHCS teams were previously responsible for providing IHCS(FC), IHCS(OC) and HSMI. Prior to 2023-24, SWD did not maintain records of the average cost per service place for each category. Starting from 2023-24, SWD revised its calculation method and conducted a separate analysis of HCS for Frail Elderly Persons to gain a clearer understanding of the service situation.

Note 2 Including IHCS(FC) and EHCCS.

Annex 6

Numbers of persons served under HCS for Persons with Severe Disabilities and ISS from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Year	**No. of persons served**	
	HCS for Persons with Severe Disabilities	**ISS**
2022-23	4 769	1 189
2023-24	4 828	1 226
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	4 568	1 107

Annex 7

Total annual expenditure on HCS for Persons with Severe Disabilities and ISS from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Year	Total expenditure ($ million)	
	HCS for Persons with Severe Disabilities	ISS
2022-23	336.5	74.4
2023-24	351.8	77.5
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	361.7	79.4

Annex 8

Service fees and charges for HCS for Persons with Severe Disabilities and ISS from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Charge category of HCS for Persons with Severe Disabilities and ISS	**Service fees and charges**
Full service package Note 1	$1,002 (monthly charge ceiling)
Individual service	
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
Other service	
Transportation service	$10/trip

Note 1 The full service package includes personal care services, escort services, home respite services, 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 -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)142

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1926)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. Please provide information on the situation of residential child care services (RCCS) for the past 3 years, as well as the number of additional places planned for the future using the table below.

Type of service unit subsidised/ subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD)	**Number of places in 2024-25**	**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 ($)**
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)					

Type of service unit subsidised/ subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD)	Number of places in 2024-25	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 ($)
Children's reception centre (for children aged 0 to below 18)					
Boys' home (with school for social development (SSD) on-site) (for those aged 7 to below 18)					
Girls' home (with SSD on-site) (for those 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 children with disabilities					
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)					

2. It is understood that SWD does not have the statistics regarding the staffing of the above NGOs nor the average length of service of their staff. Will the Government consider collecting such data to better understand the staffing arrangements of these NGOs and using it as an important factor in assessing their service quality?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. The service information on RCCS for the past 3 years is set out at Annex.

2. Subject to compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs) and the relevant statutory staffing requirements (if applicable), NGOs operating subvented welfare services may determine their staffing establishment in accordance with their human resources policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the required service outputs and outcomes. Therefore, SWD does not have information on the staff providing services in these NGOs. NGOs receiving subventions to operate services are required to comply with the relevant requirements

and standards stipulated in the FSAs, including essential service requirements, service output and outcome standards, and service quality standards. SWD will monitor the performance of the service units in accordance with existing mechanisms, and conduct scheduled or surprise visits by random selection to assess the NGOs' compliance with the terms and requirements of FSAs.

Annex

Numbers of places and additional places, number of waitlisted children and their average waiting time, and amount of subvention provided to NGOs for various types of RCCS

Item	Year	RCCS for able-bodied children																	RCCS for children with disabilities	
		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 on-site)	Girls' home (with SSD on-site)	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	2022-23	1 015	115	954	46	139	20	53	-	413	5	95	502	270	201	39	77	18	122	128
	2023-24	1 100	130	978	49	139	20	53	-	413	5	95	502	270	201	39	77	18	122	128
	2024-25 Note 1	1 100	130	978	48	139	52 Note 2	53	1 6 Note 2	413	5	95	520	270	201	39	77	18	122	128
Number of additional places	2025-26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2026-27	-	-	30	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2027-28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of waitlisted children (monthly average)	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	292		335		38		22		77			6	8	48	33	32	10	35	112
	2024-25 Note 4	256		309		28		13		64			12	6	59	19	25	11	26	120
Average waiting time (month)	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	2.0		6.4		8.8		18.0		6.1			0.3	0.5	4.7	10.6	5.5	8.0	5.0	14.7
	2024-25 Note 4	1.7		5.9		6.2		11.1		3.6			0.3	0.5	3.5	4.7	3.2	4.3	Note 5	Note 5
Amount of subvention provided to NGOs ($ million)	2022-23 (Actual)	217.6		296.1	409.0														57.6	33.9
	2023-24 (Actual)	234.1		323.7	444.6														70.3	35.3
	2024-25 (Revised estimate)	347.5		351.8	493.1														82.7	37.1

Note 1 Statistics as at 31 December 2024.

Note 2 Including the number of places added in March 2025.

Note 3 Regarding emergency residential services, caseworkers may directly enquire with service units that provide emergency residential services, and arrange for children to be placed as soon as vacancies are available. Therefore, SWD does not have the statistics on the number of waitlisted children and their average waiting time for emergency residential services.

Note 4 Statistics from April to December 2024.

Note 5 As the average waiting time of residential care services for children with disabilities is compiled on a financial-year basis, the figure for 2024-25 is not yet available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1927)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government was granted funding totalling $20 billion by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council on 30 June 2020 to purchase premises for the provision of welfare facilities.

1. Please provide an update on the progress of the purchase programme thus far, with a tabulated breakdown of the details of each premises to be purchased, including location, area, designated use and acquisition price.
2. How many of these purchases have been affected by the current Government's fiscal deficits? Please provide a detailed explanation.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

1. 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 28 February 2025, 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.
2. In June 2020, the Government obtained approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council to create a new commitment of $20 billion for implementing the "purchase of welfare premises" initiative. SWD and GPA are continuing their efforts to identify and purchase suitable premises, and have earmarked $250 million for related work in 2025-26.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1928)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. The Government is going to reduce recurrent expenditure by cutting funding for social welfare organisations. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that receive $50 million or more in subvention will face consecutive cuts of 2% and 3% for 2 years in 2025/26. Meanwhile, the remaining 119 NGOs that receive less than $50 million in subvention will face a cumulative reduction of 3% in funding, with the Social Welfare Department (SWD) absorbing the remaining 4%. Please list the names of the affected NGOs and their respective funding allocations for 2 years in 2025/26.

2. As a standard practice, NGOs are required to return to the Government any Lump Sum Grant (LSG) reserve exceeding 25% of their annual operating expenditure at the end of each financial year. The Government has stated that it will extend the deadline, allowing large-sized NGOs to retain funds exceeding the LSG reserve ceiling for a period of 6 years, starting from the previous year, while small-sized NGOs can retain such funds for 5 years, beginning this year. Please list the names of these NGOs and the amount of funding they receive.

3. Has the Government assessed how the aforementioned measures will affect these NGOs' human resource deployment and the quality of services delivered by their service units?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

1. In the 2025-26 Budget, the Financial Secretary introduced measures to step up the Productivity Enhancement Programme (PEP), with the rate of reduction of recurrent government expenditure to be increased from the original 1% to 2% in 2025-26 and be extended for 2 years to 2027-28. Taking into account the 1% cut in 2024-25, the cumulative rate of reduction will be 7% in total.

   To support NGOs operating subvented welfare services in implementing PEP, the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Social Welfare Department (SWD) have made concerted efforts by reallocating internal resources and adjusting priorities to alleviate some of the financial burden on NGOs, ensuring they have adequate time to prepare for the adjusted PEP. Under PEP, 58 NGOs with provisional LSG

allocations of $50 million or more in 2024-25 will be required to cumulatively reduce their recurrent allocations by 2%, 5%, and 7% in 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28, respectively. For the 121 NGOs receiving provisional LSG allocations of less than $50 million in 2024-25 or subvention under the conventional subvention mode, they will be required to cumulatively reduce their recurrent allocations by 1% and 3% in 2026-27 and 2027-28, respectively. The provisional allocation amounts for various NGOs in 2025-26 are set out at Annex.

2. & 3. To enable NGOs to make more effective and long-term financial plans and arrangements, all NGOs will be allowed to retain and utilise funds exceeding the cap for the LSG reserve until 2028-29. Furthermore, starting from 2025-26, SWD will allow NGOs greater flexibility to reduce their workload related to cost apportionment. Provided that service users are not affected, SWD will review and optimise the content of Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs) and streamline the requirements for reporting service data, thereby alleviating administrative work for NGOs and relieving pressure on frontline staff.

Under the LSG Subvention System, SWD allocates recurrent subvention to NGOs with grants in a lump sum each year for operating welfare services. Subject to their compliance with the requirements of the FSAs and relevant statutory staffing requirements, NGOs may determine their staffing establishment in accordance with their own human resource policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service outputs and outcomes required.

SWD has also introduced initiatives to support social welfare organisations in 2024-25, including a $1 billion injection into the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care to enhance subsidies for eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent, or trial technological products. In addition, SWD has established a dedicated fund of $500 million to help NGOs meet their development needs, such as staff training and system enhancement, as well as encouraging and promoting the application of information technology (IT). The use of technology products and IT will help enhance NGOs' operational efficiency and alleviate manpower demands.

Annex

List of NGOs subject to subvention reductions, eligible to retain surpluses exceeding the LSG Reserve cap and the amount of subvention (provisional) received

S/N	Name of NGO	2025-26 Subvention [Note 1] (Provisional) ($)
1	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	2,262,030,730
2	Caritas - Hong Kong	1,587,457,121
3	Po Leung Kuk	1,425,246,914
4	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	1,254,130,712
5	SAHK	809,998,245
6	Salvation Army (The)	743,818,886
7	Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (The)	701,227,385
8	Hong Kong Christian Service	684,031,558
9	Christian Family Service Centre	682,722,440
10	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	664,972,361
11	Yan Chai Hospital	637,617,888
12	Heep Hong Society	617,452,307
13	Hong Chi Association	609,186,736
14	Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, the Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod Limited	552,899,558
15	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	550,523,805
16	St. James' Settlement	545,677,560
17	Fu Hong Society	496,719,483
18	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service	492,370,237
19	Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (The)	487,095,820
20	Hong Kong Society for the Aged (The)	481,801,181
21	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong	454,849,487
22	Haven of Hope Christian Service	449,987,887
23	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	439,874,202
24	Mental Health Association of Hong Kong (The)	330,606,652
25	Hong Kong Children and Youth Services	326,199,429
26	Pok Oi Hospital	307,313,835
27	Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (The)	294,745,136
28	Wai Ji Christian Service	276,499,495
29	Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association	261,035,414
30	Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service	253,984,042
31	Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong	245,813,029
32	Sik Sik Yuen	241,749,028
33	Yan Oi Tong	203,276,752
34	Hong Kong Society for the Blind (The)	186,752,110
35	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch	169,048,775

S/N	Name of NGO	2025-26 Subvention [Note 1] (Provisional) ($)
36	Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong (The)	163,373,813
37	Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre	135,451,504
38	Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service (The)	131,580,089
39	Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children	130,219,430
40	Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon (The)	127,508,185
41	Stewards	121,101,044
42	Hong Kong Playground Association	117,333,873
43	Helping Hand	105,362,032
44	Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (The)	105,323,333
45	Sheng Kung Hui St. Christopher's Home Limited	98,914,111
46	Methodist Centre	96,637,073
47	Hong Kong Student Aid Society Limited (The)	93,494,272
48	Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong	91,488,336
49	Hong Kong PHAB Association	86,272,405
50	Hong Kong Society for the Deaf (The)	85,256,412
51	Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Charity Foundation	81,329,368
52	Methodist Epworth Village Community Centre, Social Welfare	79,983,088
53	Society of Boys' Centres	77,069,517
54	Chi Lin Nunnery	74,568,024
55	Hong Kong Buddhist Association (The)	70,755,393
56	Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service	70,317,361
57	Asia Women's League Limited	68,118,814
58	Chung Sing Benevolent Society	56,894,963
59	Women's Welfare Club (Eastern District) Hong Kong (The)	56,564,758
60	Scout Association of Hong Kong	54,616,753
61	Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club	53,299,980
62	Chung Shak Hei (Cheung Chau) Home for the Aged Limited	53,059,546
63	Mongkok Kai-Fong Association Limited (The)	52,505,165
64	Yuen Yuen Institute (The)	52,469,930
65	Hong Kong Council of Social Service (The)	49,912,856
66	Ching Chung Taoist Association of Hong Kong Limited	48,517,733
67	Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong	47,244,195
68	Church of United Brethren in Christ Hong Kong Limited (The)	47,174,654
69	Kiangsu Chekiang and Shanghai Residents (Hong Kong) Association	46,851,538
70	Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council (The)	43,840,607
71	Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (The)	43,069,319
72	Christian & Missionary Alliance Social Services Limited	41,777,124

S/N	Name of NGO	2025-26 Subvention [Note 1] (Provisional) ($)
73	Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart Diseases Association (The)	41,777,117
74	Chuk Lam Ming Tong Limited	41,337,928
75	Yuen Long Town Hall Management Committee Limited	39,848,678
76	Hong Kong ABWE Social Services	35,816,861
77	Fung Kai Public School	35,217,212
78	Mother's Choice Limited	33,745,087
79	Hong Kong Bodhi Siksa Society Limited (The)	30,586,526
80	The Mother Superior of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd of Angers at Hong Kong	30,266,442
81	Asbury Methodist Social Service	29,335,625
82	Association for Engineering and Medical Volunteer Services	28,832,280
83	Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited	28,286,301
84	Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired (The)	26,193,550
85	Watchdog Limited	25,826,124
86	Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church Social Service Limited	25,800,870
87	Hong Kong Juvenile Care Centre	25,300,323
88	Evangelical Free Church of China Social Service	25,271,258
89	United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service	23,588,509
90	Free Methodist Church of Hong Kong (The)	23,229,982
91	Kowloon Women's Welfare Club (The)	21,752,827
92	Hong Kong-Macao Conference of Seventh - day Adventists	21,650,392
93	Superioress of the Sisters of the Precious Blood (The)	20,871,048
94	Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association (The)	20,593,141
95	Christian New Being Fellowship Limited (The)	18,439,503
96	Evangelical Free Church of China - Evangel Children's Home	17,764,037
97	Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China (The)*	17,599,351
98	Hong Kong Mutual Encouragement Association Limited	17,001,862
99	Women's Welfare Club, Western District, Hong Kong	15,988,017
100	Youth Outreach	15,939,854
101	International Church of the Foursquare Gospel Hong Kong District Limited	15,779,026
102	Tung Lum Nien Fah Tong Limited	15,585,029
103	Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong (The)	15,560,473
104	Project Care	15,296,656
105	Chinese Evangelical Zion Church Limited	15,072,811
106	ABM Hong Kong Swatow Baptist Church Community Service Association (The)	14,976,433
107	Fung Ying Seen Koon	14,535,503
108	Hong Kong Christian Mutual Improvement Society	14,494,011

S/N	Name of NGO	2025-26 Subvention [Note 1] (Provisional) ($)
109	New Territories Women and Juveniles Welfare Association Limited (The)	13,764,225
110	New Life Church of Christ Hong Kong Limited	13,705,627
111	Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited	13,595,181
112	Hong Kong and Kowloon Kaifong Women's Association	13,490,233
113	Tung Sin Tan Home for the Aged	12,729,350
114	Operation Dawn Limited	12,703,464
115	Harmony House Limited	12,286,503
116	Barnabas Charitable Service Association Limited (The)	10,591,176
117	Zion Social Service Limited	10,552,978
118	Child Development Centre (The)	10,348,383
119	Mission Covenant Church Limited (The)	9,407,562
120	Lam Tin Estate Kai Fong Welfare Association Limited (The)	9,259,031
121	Sai Kung District Community Centre	9,151,093
122	Endeavourers Hong Kong (The)	9,148,411
123	Hong Kong Red Cross	9,133,371
124	Baptist Mid-Missions	9,118,462
125	Asian Outreach Hong Kong Limited	8,263,993
126	Agency for Volunteer Service	7,995,720
127	Tsim Sha Tsui District Kaifong Welfare Association	7,767,822
128	Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (The)*	7,703,613
129	Jordan Valley Kaifong Welfare Association	7,449,163
130	Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth	7,423,529
131	Kowloon City Baptist Church Social Services	7,112,636
132	Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong (The)	7,094,089
133	Hong Kong Women Foundation Limited	7,032,392
134	Hong Kong Blind Union	7,015,713
135	International Women's League Limited	6,900,349
136	Light and Love Home Limited	6,802,815
137	Fo Guang Shan International Buddhist Progress Society (Hong Kong) Limited	6,766,201
138	Christian Nationals' Evangelism Commission Grace Light Neighbourhood Elderly Centre	6,739,480
139	China Peniel Missionary Society Incorporation	6,714,923
140	Hong Kong West Point Baptist Church	6,682,312
141	Hong Kong Southern District Women's Association Limited	6,543,186
142	Kowloon Women's Organisations Federation Limited	6,494,171
143	The Church of Christ in China Hop Yat Church Social Service Department	6,315,648
144	Shamshuipo Kai Fong Welfare Advancement Association	6,183,826
145	Hong Kong Rehabilitation Power	5,914,028

S/N	Name of NGO	2025-26 Subvention Note 1 (Provisional) ($)
146	Suen Mei Speech and Hearing Centre	5,568,080
147	Women Service Association Limited	5,237,910
148	Tin Shui Wai Women Association Limited	5,214,746
149	Kwun Tong Resident Association	5,196,586
150	Society for Community Organization	4,530,881
151	Yuk Chi Resource Centre Limited	4,449,504
152	Lok Chi Association Limited	4,346,630
153	Hong Kong Federation of the Blind	4,271,665
154	Nesbitt Centre Limited (The)	4,262,493
155	Hong Kong and Macau Regional Centre of the World Fellowship of Buddhists Limited	4,203,196
156	Hong Kong, China Sports Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability	4,135,155
157	Hans Andersen Club	3,921,393
158	Hong Kong Single Parents Association	3,918,183
159	OIWA Limited	3,918,183
160	Tuen Mun District Women's Association Limited	3,918,183
161	Cheung Chau Rural Committee Integrated Youth Centre	3,752,953
162	Tai Hang Residents' Welfare Association	3,744,260
163	New Kowloon Women Association Limited*	3,693,633
164	Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary	3,650,036
165	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui St. Simon's Social Services	3,643,877
166	Sports Association for the Physically Disabled of Hong Kong, China	3,153,726
167	Against Child Abuse Limited	2,822,088
168	Alice Lan and Vera Shen Education Fund Limited	2,602,350
169	Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited	2,547,118
170	SKH St. Matthias' Church Nursery School Limited	2,042,394
171	Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims Limited	2,030,593
172	Five Districts Business Welfare Association	1,946,141
173	Society of St. Vincent de Paul Central Council of Hong Kong	1,662,492
174	Hong Kong Chiu Chow Po Hing Buddhism Association Limited*	1,648,091
175	Cheung Sha Wan Kai Fong Welfare Association Lam Tam Yin Wah Day Nursery	1,459,789
176	Yuen Long District Women's Association Limited	1,307,559
177	People Service Centre Limited	1,274,319
178	Emmanuel Church	875,637

S/N	Name of NGO	2025-26 Subvention [Note 1] (Provisional) ($)
179	Baptist Convention of Hong Kong (The)*	163,343
	Total [Note 2]	**24,984,147,291**

Note 1 Including LSG subvention (including subvention on provident funds) and other subvention (such as Rent and Rates, Central Items, etc.). The subvention for 2025-26 is provisional. Certain subvented items (such as food cost for the Short-term Food Assistance Service and the training subsidies, fee waivers/reductions and incentive payments for the Neighborhood Support Child Care Project) are not included as their subvention is adjusted quarterly/half-yearly based on service usage.

Note 2 Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

* NGOs receiving subvention under the conventional mode are required to return any surplus amounts to the Government.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1929)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 (IVTCs) 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) the number of service places, (b) the enrolment rate, (c) the average waiting time, (d) the number of waitlisted applicants who passed away, (e) the average age of residents, (f) the annual expenditure, and (g) the 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.: 15)

Reply:

1. The number of service places, the average enrolment rate, the average waiting time, the 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. SWD does not have information on the average age of residents or the staffing establishment of individual residential rehabilitation services.
2. The number of places for various residential rehabilitation services will increase by a total of 324 in the next 2 years, involving an estimated total annual funding of about $83.19 million. Information on these service places is set out at Annex 2.

Annex 1

Table 1: Number of service places for various residential rehabilitation services

Service type	No. of service places		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
HWH	1 594	1 594	1 594
LSCH	1 587	1 987	1 987
IVTC (residential) [IVTC(Res)]	170	170	170
HMMH	2 851	2 926	2 926
HSPH	715	790	790
C&A/AB	828	828	828
SGH(MMHC) Note	128	128	128
SHOS	866	866	866

Note SGH(MMHC)s include integrated small group homes (ISGHs).

Table 2: Average enrolment rate of various residential rehabilitation services from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Average enrolment rate (%)		
2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)
97	91	96

Table 3: Average waiting time for various residential rehabilitation services

Service type	Average waiting time (in months) Note 2		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
HWH	4.2	4.3	Not available yet Note 4
LSCH	72.3	56.8	
IVTC(Res)	Not applicable Note 3	Not applicable Note 3	
HMMH	154.1	145.1	
HSPH	73.0	51.5	
C&A/AB	5.1	3.8	
SGH(MMHC) Note 1	17.5	14.7	
SHOS	78.8	65.7	

Note 1 SGH(MMHC)s include ISGHs.

Note 2 The waiting time is affected by multiple factors, such as the applicant's preference for the location of service units, indication on specific service unit, the turnover rate of the selected service units, etc. The average waiting time is calculated on a financial-year basis, spanning from 1 April of one year to 31 March of the following year.

Note 3 As this service may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have relevant statistics.

Note 4 As the average waiting time is calculated on a financial-year basis, spanning from 1 April of one year to 31 March of the following year, the figures for 2024-25 are not yet available.

Table 4: Number of applicants who passed away while waiting for various residential rehabilitation services

Service type	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
HWH	1	1	6
LSCH	22	40	27
IVTC(Res)	Not applicable [Note 1]	Not applicable [Note 1]	Not applicable [Note 1]
HMMH	12	14	5
HSPH	13	19	6
C&A/AB	15	7	6
SGH(MMHC) [Note 2]	0	0	0
SHOS	13	12	4

Note 1 As this service may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have relevant statistics.

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)		
	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)
HWH	232.7	240.7	246.1
LSCH	319.5	339.4	459.7
IVTC(Res)	11.9	12.4	12.7
HMMH	388.7	424.5	476.4
HSPH	193.8	204.7	239.0
C&A/AB	182.7	189.1	192.5
SGH(MMHC) [Note]	34.3	35.7	37.5
SHOS	120.2	132.3	142.3

Note SGH(MMHC)s include ISGHs.

Annex 2

Estimated number of additional service places for various residential rehabilitation services

Service type	**Estimated no. of additional service places for the next 2 years**
Hostel for mentally handicapped persons	111
SHOS	213
Total	**324**

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)146

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1930)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) announced this year that starting from 1 March, 4 additional residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) located in Jiangmen, Foshan and Shenzhen would become recognised service providers (RSPs) under the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme) to provide subsidised care-and-attention places for participating elderly persons. Together with the existing 11 RCHEs, the total number of participating RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme has increased to 15. In this regard, would the Government please provide:

1. the number of elderly persons participating in the GDRCS Scheme thus far, broken down by the RCHEs in which they are enrolled;
2. the annual funding provision for each of the service operators, the number of places available and the actual enrolment rate;
3. the estimated expenditure for sharing part of the elderly participants' medical expenses in Guangdong on a pilot basis and engaging an organisation to provide care services for participating elderly persons of the GDRCS Scheme as proposed by the Government, and the progress achieved thus far; and
4. the number of RCHEs expected to participate in the future as the Government plans to proactively expand the GDRCS Scheme.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

1. & 2. As at the end of December 2024, a total of 316 Hong Kong elderly persons had been admitted to RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme. The number of residential care places available and the actual number of residents in each participating RCHE under the GDRCS Scheme are set out at Annex. The revised estimated expenditure for the GDRCS Scheme in 2024-25 is about $32.1 million. SWD will pay the care service fees based on the actual number of participating elderly persons residing in RCHEs. To avoid impacting negotiations between SWD and the respective RCHEs regarding service fees, the Government does not intend to

disclose the average monthly expenditure for subsidising residential care places at individual RCHEs.

3. To assist elderly participants of the GDRCS Scheme in adapting to life in RCHEs in Guangdong (GD), SWD will engage a Hong Kong-based NGO experienced in Mainland social services to provide care services for elderly persons participating in the GDRCS Scheme and their families. In addition to supporting elderly persons in adapting to life in RCHEs in GD, the NGO will conduct standardised care need assessment for elderly services for elderly persons from Hong Kong who have settled in Mainland cities within the Greater Bay Area, and follow up on the applications of eligible elderly persons to join the GDRCS Scheme. These services are expected to be rolled out in May 2025, with an estimated expenditure of approximately $3.2 million for 2025-26. Moreover, SWD will implement a pilot scheme to share part of the medical costs incurred by elderly participants of the GDRCS Scheme in GD. The annual subsidy is capped at RMB10,000 per person for outpatient services, and RMB30,000 per person for inpatient services. The Government is currently finalising the implementation details of the pilot scheme, which is expected to be launched in the second half of 2025 for a period of 2 years. The total estimated expenditure for this pilot scheme is approximately $75 million.

4. In July 2023, SWD relaxed the eligibility criteria for operators participating in the GDRCS Scheme. Local organisations with experience in providing subsidised residential care services and a good track record (including NGOs and private organisations) may apply for participation in the GDRCS Scheme. At the same time, in accordance with the cooperation agreement outlined in the "Letter of Intent on Collaboration to Expand the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong", signed between the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Department of Civil Affairs of GD Province in November 2023, SWD continues to liaise with relevant departments in Mainland cities within the GBA, with a view to identifying suitable Mainland RCHEs for inclusion in the GDRCS Scheme.

Annex

Number of elderly residents by RCHE
(as at end-December 2024)

RCHE	Number of available residential care places	Number of elderly persons admitted [Note 1]
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Shenzhen Society for Rehabilitation Yee Hong Heights	216	180
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Helping Hand Zhaoqing Home for the Elderly	191	33
Foshan Chang Xiang Hui Home For The Aged Co., Ltd [Note 2]	200	71
Shum Yip Yiju Elder-Care Operation (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd [Note 2]	87	19
Foshan Canopusland Co, Ltd [Note 3]	100	4
Zhongshan Torch Development Zone Yikang Senior Services Center [Note 3]	60	3
Home For The Aged Nansha (Yinian Medical Senior Citizen) [Note 3]	50	3
Yishou Enjoylife Elderly Care Guangdong Guangzhou Luhujiazhanghui Nursing Home Branch [Note 3]	50	0
Guangzhou Tianyue Hexihui Home for the Elderly [Note 3]	50	0
Guangzhou Chunxuanmao Chenchong Senior Living Service Co, Ltd [Note 3]	36	3
Hetai Center [Note 3]	291	0

Note 1 The figures represent the number of elderly residents participating in the scheme and living in the respective RCHE at the time.

Note 2 Joined the GDRCS Scheme since May 2024.

Note 3 Joined the GDRCS Scheme since November 2024.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)147

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1931)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. What has been the number of elderly residents in various subvented and private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) in the past 3 years up to the present, broken down by age groups (60 to 65 years old/65 to 75 years old/75 to 85 years old/85 years old or above)?

2. What has been the number of elderly residents in various subvented and private residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) in the past 3 years up to the present, broken down by age groups (60 to 65 years old/65 to 75 years old/75 to 85 years old/85 years old or above)?

3. What are the respective ratios of the above residential care home (RCH) residents to the total elderly population in Hong Kong for the past 3 years? Has the Government assessed the projected ratios of elderly residents in RCHs for the next 3 years?

4. What is the current number of staff working in subvented and private RCHEs? Please provide a breakdown by position, including supervisors, nurses, health workers, care workers, care assistants, and others.

5. What is the current number of staff working in subvented and private RCHDs? Please provide a breakdown by position, including supervisors, nurses, health workers, care workers, care assistants, and others.

6. How has the Government increased the supply of manpower in RCHs through various training or funding programmes/policies over the past 5 years? Please refer to the table below.

Programme name/ initiative	Number of trainees/ Number of trainees who joined the industry	Related expenditure

7. How does the Government plan to further increase the manpower available for RCHEs in the future? Please provide details.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

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 information on the age groups of elderly residents in RCHEs.

2. The number of elderly residents in various types of RCHDs in the past 3 years is set out in Table 2 of Annex. SWD does not have information on the age groups of elderly residents in RCHDs.

3. Elderly residents in RCHEs constitute about 4% of the total elderly population aged 65 or above, while elderly residents in RCHDs make up about 0.19% of the total elderly population aged 60 or above in Hong Kong in the past 3 years.

   SWD has adopted a multi-pronged approach to increase the number of subsidised residential care places (RCPs) while providing a range of community support services. Since the admission of elderly persons to subsidised RCPs is affected by a number of factors, SWD has not projected the proportion of elderly residents in RCHs for the next 3 years.

4. The number of staff employed in various types of RCHEs as at the end of December 2024 is set out in Table 3 of Annex.

5. The number of staff employed in various types of RCHDs as at the end of December 2024 is set out in Table 4 of Annex.

6. & 7. 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. The purpose is to fully sponsor the tuition fees of students admitted to and completed designated programmes in occupational therapy and physiotherapy, 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 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 2024, a total of 470 graduates who participated in the scheme have joined the social welfare sector, with 249 in occupational therapy and 221 in physiotherapy.

   SWD launched 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 5 years, involving an expenditure of about $266 million. As at the end of December 2024, the enhanced Navigation Scheme has recruited a total of 1 377 trainees, of whom 486 have graduated. According to the information provided by some trainees at the time of graduation, 283 indicated that they would 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 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, with each cohort subsidising 427 places, involving an expenditure of about $587 million. Trainees are required to work as Enrolled Nurses (General) in welfare service organisations recognised by SWD for a minimum of 2 or 3 consecutive years after completing the training programme. As at the end of December 2024, 863 out of the 944 graduates from the training programme during the academic years from 2017/18 to 2021/22 worked as Enrolled Nurses (General) in the social welfare sector during the 2-year commitment period after graduation. Among them, 654 worked in RCHEs.

Employers in the elderly care service sector were given approval to import 1 511 and 1 631 elderly care workers through the Supplementary Labour Scheme (SLS) in 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 2022.

SWD launched the Special Scheme to Import Care Workers for Residential Care Homes (Special Scheme) in June 2023. When the Special Scheme was launched, the quota for importation was capped at 7 000, including about 4 000 care workers who were previously imported through SLS. After reviewing the demand and supply of care workers in the RCH sector, the Government announced in July 2024 an increase of 8 000 quotas over the next 3 years, raising the total quota limit to 15 000. Taking into consideration the overall demand for and supply of care workers in the RCH sector, the Secretary for Labour and Welfare will make timely adjustments to the total number of quotas, as well as the allocation and pace of each batch, with a view to responding flexibly and swiftly to changes in the supply of and demand for manpower in the RCH sector. As at end-December 2024, 4 rounds of applications for quotas to import care workers under the Special Scheme were completed, resulting in 6 439 quotas and 749 quotas (including those for contract renewals) being granted in batches to various RCHEs and RCHDs, respectively.

The Special Scheme is implemented by 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 over a 10-month period in 2023-24 and about $3.56 million in 2024-25. In addition to the dedicated manpower mentioned above, SWD has also deployed its existing resources to support the implementation of the Special Scheme.

To implement the measures announced in the 2022 Policy Address, SWD commissioned a consultant in July 2023 to review the skill and qualification requirements of staff providing health and rehabilitation services in RCHs, with a view to establishing professional standards and a career progression pathway for them. In the same month, the Steering Committee on Review of Manpower for Healthcare Services in RCHs was established to provide advice and steer for the review. The relevant work was completed at the end of 2024. The consultancy report put forth 4 key recommendations, including the establishment of a new professional rank, “Health & Care Practitioner”, specialising in the provision of care services in RCHEs, RCHDs and other elderly/rehabilitation welfare service units. This will not only attract individuals aspiring to build a career in the social

welfare sector, but also provide a career development pathway for Health Workers, and cultivate a dedicated pool of care talent for the sector. In addition, the report recommended that RCH operators adopt measures to attract and retain talent, such as enhancing career development and promotion opportunities, leveraging information technology and gerontechnology, improving the work environment and culture, and implementing staff engagement and incentive mechanisms. SWD has accepted the report and will progressively implement the relevant recommendations.

Annex

Table 1: Number of elderly residents in RCHEs

Type of RCHE [Note]	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Subvented home	14 514	14 817	15 031
Contracted home	4 305	5 757	6 195
Self-financing home	2 076	2 118	2 165
Private home	36 201	39 086	40 909
Total	**57 096**	**61 778**	**64 300**

Note Including RCHEs providing both subsidised and non-subsidised RCPs.

Table 2: Number of elderly residents in RCHDs [Note 1]

Type of RCHD [Note 2]	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Subvented home	3 910	4 168	4 448
Self-financing home	85	86	83
Private home	911	891	847
Total	**4 906**	**5 145**	**5 378**

Note 1 Calculated based on the number of persons aged 60 or above.

Note 2 Including RCHDs providing both subsidised and non-subsidised RCPs.

Table 3: Number of staff employed in RCHEs (as at end-December 2024)

Type of RCHE	Manager	Nurse	Health Worker	Care Worker	Assistant	Total
Subvented home	121	1 239	972	3 648	3 464	**9 444**
Contract home	51	1 043	238	1 893	1 026	**4 251**
Self-financing home	41	235	199	629	558	**1 662**
Private Home	668	1 786	2 877	6 975	4 766	**17 072**
Total	**881**	**4 303**	**4 286**	**13 145**	**9 814**	**32 429**

Table 4: Number of staff employed in RCHDs (as at end-December 2024)

Type of RCHD	Manager	Nurse	Health Worker	Care Worker	Assistant	Total
Subvented home	238	987	846	3 903	4 928	**10 902**
Self-financing home	13	5	36	40	95	**189**
Private Home	68	70	310	513	324	**1 285**
Total	**319**	**1 062**	**1 192**	**4 456**	**5 347**	**12 376**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1932)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Last year's Policy Address proposed extending the District Services and Community Care Teams – Pilot Scheme on Supporting Elderly and Carers to all 18 districts across the territory. In this regard, please provide the following information:

1. Since the launch of the Scheme, how many elderly persons and carers have been reached? How many cases have required referrals? What types of follow-up support services have been provided, and how many of each type have been delivered?

2. What is the progress of extending the Scheme to all 18 districts? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

1. The Government launched the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) – Supporting Elderly and Carers Scheme (the Scheme) in March 2024. Taking Tsuen Wan and the Southern District as pilot points, Care Teams are engaged to help identify high-risk households of singleton and doubleton elderly, and carers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities (PWDs) through visits and outreach. Cases requiring assistance are then referred to social welfare service units for follow-up. They also assist in referring eligible elderly persons and PWDs to install and use emergency alarm systems (known as "Safety Bell") with government subsidy. The total expenditure of the Scheme for 2024-25 was about $9.20 million.

   As at end-January 2025, a total of 36 Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and the Southern District have visited or contacted over 7 000 households of singleton and doubleton elderly and carers of elderly persons and PWDs, and have made over 1 190 referrals for welfare services under the Scheme. In addition, a total of 272 elderly persons and 11 PWDs have installed Safety Bells and received related subsidies through the referral of the Care Teams.

2. Encouraged by the positive outcomes of the Scheme during its pilot phase, the Chief Executive announced in the 2024 Policy Address that the Scheme would be extended to

all 18 districts across the territory in the second quarter of 2025 to provide support to more elderly persons and carers. It is expected that in the 12-month implementation period of the Scheme, the Care Teams will contact over 60 000 households in need. The Scheme is expected to incur a total expenditure of about $107.9 million for 2025-26.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1933)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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. the number of AWDs who received financial assistance in the past 3 years, and the amount of assistance disbursed to each of them;
2. the current number of AWDs at the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI), with a breakdown by full-time and amateur athletes, as well as their average monthly salary; and
3. details of the Government's initiatives to support AWDs, apart from providing assistance through the Fund.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. The number of elite AWDs provided with subsistence grant through 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)
2022-23	111	2.4
2023-24	115	2.5
2024-25	119	2.8

2. Currently, the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) has a total of 114 athletes with disabilities (AWDs), including 55 full-time AWDs, 9 part-time AWDs and 50 potential AWDs. HKSI provides Elite Training Grant for Athletes with Disabilities for elite AWDs according to the current financial support mechanism. The monthly grant for full-time AWDs ranges from $10,530 to $43,320, while part-time AWDs are provided with a monthly grant ranging from $3,510 to $8,190. Besides, HKSI provides local training opportunities for potential AWDs recommended by "national sports associations", as well as other additional support subject to special approval.

3. In addition to the Paralympians Fund, the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (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

(Question Serial No. 1935)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding child care services, please inform this Committee of the following for the past and coming year:

(1) (a) the number of places and (b) the average utilisation rate of long full-day child care service for children aged below 3; and (c) the number of places and (d) the utilisation rate of Extended Hours Service (EHS) in various districts in Hong Kong;

(2) details of the services provided under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP) in various districts in Hong Kong, including (1) the number of places; (2) the average utilisation rate; and (3) the average fee for the home-based child care service (HCCS) and centre-based care group (CCG), respectively, presented in tabular form; and

(3) (1) the expenditure on NSCCP; (2) the number of service operators participating in NSCCP, and the amount of subventions received.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

(1) & (2) The number of places and the 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 2024-25 (as at December 2024), broken down by district, are set out at Annex 1.

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) requires service operators of NSCCP to flexibly increase the number of HCCS places to meet the actual service demands. Since NSCCP has no service quota limit, it only has the number of service users rather than the average utilisation rate. The number of places, the number of children served, and the service fee of NSCCP, broken down by District Council district, are set out at Annex 2.

In 2025-26, SWD plans to provide an additional 100 aided CCC places and 17 EHS places in Sham Shui Po district, and an additional 60 aided CCC places and 6 EHS places in Kwai Tsing district. Various enhancement measures have been

implemented under NSCCP since September 2024, including the provision of about 1 000 additional service places. Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places to meet the actual service demands.

(3) The revised estimate on NSCCP for 2024-25 was $226.6 million, while the estimate for 2025-26 is $457.5 million. Currently, there are 19 organisations operating 23 service teams under NSCCP. In 2024-25, the amount of subvention they received was $69.1 million. This amount excludes incentive payments, training costs for home-based child carers, and subsidies granted to service users from low-income families for fee waivers/reductions, etc.

Annex 1

Number of places and average utilisation rate for aided CCCs providing long full-day child care service for children aged below 3 and EHS by district in Hong Kong (April to December 2024)

District	Aided standalone CCC Note 1		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	455	29	99	36
Southern	-	N.A.	264	57	73	73
Islands	-	N.A.	335	27	27	13
Eastern	64	100	345	60	175	40
Wan Chai	48	100	226	40	88	49
Kwun Tong	88	10	558	71	249	50
Wong Tai Sin	-	N.A.	367	87	206	49
Sai Kung	-	N.A.	884	34	94	30
Kowloon City	67	100	499	44	151	38
Yau Tsim Mong	99	100	333	62	139	39
Sham Shui Po	162	75	424	49	179	53
Sha Tin	177	99	538	79	149	43
Tai Po	92	100	387	49	111	43
North	207	54	346	62	105	51
Yuen Long	152	90	378	99	144	53
Tsuen Wan	76	100	252	68	98	42
Kwai Tsing	32	100	445	67	127	38
Tuen Mun	64	100	447	74	172	42
Total	**1 376**	**87**	**7 483**	**58**	**2 386**	**45**

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 2 aided standalone CCCs in Sham Shui Po and Kwun Tong commenced service in September and October 2024, respectively.

Note 2 Figures provided by the Education Bureau as at September 2024.

Annex 2

Number of places, number of children served, and service fee of NSCCP (April to December 2024)

District	Number of places Note 1	Number of children served Note 2		Basic service fee per hour Note 3 ($)	
		HCCS	CCG	HCCS	CCG
Central & Western	92	133	168	28	20
Eastern	92	252	81		
Islands	92	453	145		
Kowloon City	92	102	5		
Kwun Tong	184	260	164		
Kwai Tsing	92	332	83		
North	92	142	145		
Southern	92	107	106		
Sai Kung	92	223	142		
Sham Shui Po	184	277	185		
Sha Tin	184	443	138		
Tuen Mun	184	510	120		
Tai Po	92	255	160		
Tsuen Wan	92	195	103		
Wan Chai	92	77	119		
Wong Tai Sin	92	130	246		
Yuen Long	184	750	104		
Yau Tsim Mong	92	343	193		
Total	**2 116**	**4 984**	**2 407**		

Note 1 Starting from September 2024, on the basis of 1 service team in each of the 18 districts in Hong Kong, SWD has added an additional service team in districts with higher service demands, namely Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Sha Tin, Tuen Mun, and Yuen Long districts. As a result, the number of service teams in Hong Kong has increased from 18 to 23. Each service team is required to provide a minimum of 92 service places (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 2 116). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement to meet the actual service demands.

Note 2 Some children used CCG services and HCCS at the same time.

Note 3 Starting from September 2024, the service fees for HCCS and CCG are $28 and $20 per hour, respectively. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can approach service operators for fee waivers/reductions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1940)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) regularised the Special Care Subsidy Scheme for Persons with Severe Disabilities (the Subsidy Scheme) and the Scheme on Providing Subsidy for Higher Disability Allowance Recipients in Paid Employment to Hire Carers (the Scheme to Hire Carers) in October 2023 to support carers and persons with disabilities (PWDs). In this regard, please advise:

1. Since the launch of the Subsidy Scheme: (1) What is the annual number of applicants? (2) What is the annual number of successful applicants, along with their age distribution and the amount of subsidy granted? (3) What is the annual funding amount involved, excluding administrative expenses? (4) What is the amount of administrative expenses incurred annually? (Please present the information in tabular form)
2. Since the launch of the Scheme to Hire Carers: (1) What is the annual number of persons invited to join the scheme? (2) What is the annual number of successful applicants, along with their age distribution and the amount of subsidy granted? (3) What is the annual funding amount involved, excluding administrative expenses? (4) What is the amount of administrative expenses incurred annually? (Please present the information in tabular form)
3. Please provide a breakdown of the main reasons for the rejection of applications under the 2 schemes, as well as a breakdown of the number of withdrawn applications by their respective reasons since the schemes began accepting applications.
4. Please provide, in tabular form, the number of beneficiaries, their age distribution, and the amount of subsidy granted under these 2 schemes, with a breakdown by District Council (DC) district.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

1. & 2. The Subsidy Scheme and the Scheme to Hire Carers have been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme since October 2023, involving an annual funding of $90 million and $6 million, respectively. After the regularisation of the 2 schemes, SWD has deployed existing resources to

implement the schemes, and no additional administrative expenses have been incurred. The annual number of applicants, the annual number of successful applicants, and the amount of subsidy granted under the 2 schemes are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 1. Meanwhile, the number of successful applicants by district and age is set out in Tables 1 to 4 of Annex 2.

3. The numbers and reasons for applications rejected and withdrawn under the 2 schemes since their implementation are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 3, respectively.

4. SWD does not have the information on the amount of subsidy granted under the 2 schemes by DC district.

Annex 1

Table 1: Number of applicants, number of successful applicants and amount of subsidy granted under the Subsidy Scheme

	2023-24	**2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)** [Note]
Number of applicants	3 494	166
Number of successful applicants	3 379	3 538
Amount of subsidy ($ million)	36.16	66.48

Note In 2024-25, applicants assessed as eligible may receive subsidies by the end of December or later.

Table 2: Number of applicants, number of successful applicants and amount of subsidy granted under the Scheme to Hire Carers

	2023-24	**2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)**
Number of persons invited to join the Scheme	10 340	2 434
Number of applicants	60	10
Number of successful applicants	40	50
Amount of subsidy ($ million)	1.01	1.82

Annex 2

Table 1: Number of successful applicants under the Subsidy Scheme in 2023-24 by district and age

District Note 2	2023-24 Note 1						
	Number of successful applicants						
	Aged 0-5	Aged 6-11	Aged 12-18	Aged 19-29	Aged 30-39	Aged 40-49	Aged 50-59
Central & Western	5	4	5	3	17	14	29
Wan Chai	1	1	2	1	5	7	12
Eastern	9	13	11	34	39	32	93
Southern	2	6	11	10	22	18	37
Islands	3	9	10	6	5	6	11
Sham Shui Po	7	23	21	34	33	28	69
Yau Tsim Mong	3	3	8	11	9	13	22
Kowloon City	3	13	8	24	17	15	47
Kwun Tong	19	38	45	51	37	53	134
Wong Tai Sin	4	21	20	38	38	30	77
Sai Kung	8	24	18	34	40	31	77
Kwai Tsing	8	17	21	41	38	36	93
Tsuen Wan	6	15	8	13	15	29	46
Tuen Mun	12	20	31	36	29	37	81
Yuen Long	9	31	26	63	47	49	103
Sha Tin	15	33	39	39	52	48	124
Tai Po	3	7	12	20	31	25	44
North	9	12	18	37	33	25	52
Total	**126**	**290**	**314**	**495**	**507**	**496**	**1 151**
	3 379						

Note 1 Starting from October 2023.

Note 2 The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 2: Number of successful applicants under the Subsidy Scheme in 2024-25 by district and age

District Note	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)						
	Number of successful applicants						
	Aged 0-5	Aged 6-11	Aged 12-18	Aged 19-29	Aged 30-39	Aged 40-49	Aged 50-59
Central & Western	5	4	5	3	17	15	30
Wan Chai	1	1	3	1	5	7	13
Eastern	9	14	11	34	38	33	99
Southern	3	6	11	11	22	18	39
Islands	4	9	10	6	5	6	11
Sham Shui Po	7	25	22	35	35	29	71
Yau Tsim Mong	4	3	8	11	9	13	22
Kowloon City	5	15	8	25	20	16	48
Kwun Tong	19	40	48	57	36	52	139
Wong Tai Sin	6	22	21	39	38	32	81
Sai Kung	10	25	21	35	41	32	84
Kwai Tsing	9	17	22	40	40	37	103
Tsuen Wan	8	15	8	14	16	29	47
Tuen Mun	15	22	34	36	30	37	86
Yuen Long	9	31	30	65	49	51	111
Sha Tin	17	35	39	40	55	52	130
Tai Po	5	9	14	20	31	27	44
North	9	12	20	38	33	26	53
Total	**145**	**305**	**335**	**510**	**520**	**512**	**1 211**
	3 538						

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 3: Number of successful applicants under the Scheme to Hire Carers in 2023-24 by district and age

District Note 2	2023-24 Note 1						
	Number of successful applicants						
	Aged 15-18	Aged 19-29	Aged 30-39	Aged 40-49	Aged 50-59	Aged 60-69	Aged 70 or above
Central & Western	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Wan Chai	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Eastern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern	0	0	1	0	2	1	0
Islands	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Sham Shui Po	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Kowloon City	0	0	2	4	2	0	0
Kwun Tong	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Wong Tai Sin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sai Kung	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Kwai Tsing	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tsuen Wan	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Tuen Mun	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Yuen Long	0	0	2	2	1	0	0
Sha Tin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tai Po	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North	0	0	2	2	2	0	0
Total	**0**	**0**	**9**	**11**	**11**	**7**	**2**
	40						

Note 1 Starting from October 2023.

Note 2 The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 4: Number of successful applicants under the Scheme to Hire Carers in 2024-25 by district and age

District Note	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)						
	Number of successful applicants						
	Aged 15-18	Aged 19-29	Aged 30-39	Aged 40-49	Aged 50-59	Aged 60-69	Aged 70 or above
Central & Western	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Wan Chai	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Southern	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sham Shui Po	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Kowloon City	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Kwun Tong	0	0	2	2	2	0	0
Wong Tai Sin	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sai Kung	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Kwai Tsing	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
Tsuen Wan	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Tuen Mun	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Yuen Long	0	0	1	1	2	1	0
Sha Tin	0	1	3	4	2	0	0
Tai Po	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
North	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	**0**	**2**	**10**	**13**	**12**	**7**	**6**
	50						

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Annex 3

Table 1: Numbers and reasons for applications rejected and withdrawn under the Subsidy Scheme from 2023-24 to 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

	Non-eligible application	**Withdrawal after becoming eligible**
Applicant has reached the age of 60	7	128
Monthly household income exceeds the specified income limit applicable to the relevant household size	30	0
Applicant is admitted to a government-subsidised residential care home, hospital or special boarding school	10	35
Applicant is not receiving the higher disability allowance	29	198
Applicant is deceased	3	87
Application has been withdrawn	7	4
Total	**86**	**452**

Table 2: Numbers and reasons for applications rejected and withdrawn under the Scheme to Hire Carers from 2023-24 to 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

	Non-eligible application	**Withdrawal after becoming eligible**
Applicant is deceased	1	2
Applicant is not receiving the higher disability allowance	1	3
Applicant is not in paid employment	12	2
Applicant's monthly earnings from employment are lower than the relevant lower income limit	2	0
Applicant's monthly earnings from employment are higher than the relevant upper income limit	0	1
Applicant does not need to hire a full-time carer to assist with travelling between home and workplace or with activities in the workplace (including care for daily living)	0	2
Application has been withdrawn	1	0
Total	**17**	**10**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2267)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

With regard to the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP) launched by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in 2008 to address the child care needs of families, there are currently 20 service operators across District Council (DC) districts that offer flexible centre-based or home-based care services for families with children aged 0 to 9. In the fourth quarter of 2024, SWD introduced a standardised 14-hour training framework for home-based child carers (HCCs). Regarding the effectiveness of the home-based child care policy and potential enhancement measures, please advise this Committee of the following:

(a) The expenditure incurred by SWD over the past 3 years for the implementation and promotion of home-based child care service (HCCS);

(b) The number of centres providing HCCS, along with (i) the number of applications received; (ii) the number of service users; and (iii) the number of HCCs engaged for each centre over the past 3 years;

(c) For families utilising HCCS, how many opted for care services at child care centres compared to those who chose care services provided at HCCs' homes;

(d) SWD proposed to devise standardised training guidelines for HCCs in 2024. Does the Department plan to provide further training, enhance service supervision, or conduct regular reviews of the course content following the implementation of the training framework?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

(a) The expenditure on NSCCP in the past 3 financial years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure on NSCCP ($ million)
2022-23 (Actual)	28.3
2023-24 (Actual) Note 1	88.0
2024-25 (Revised estimate) Note 2	226.6

Note 1 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.

Note 2 The increase in expenditure for 2024-25 was due to the fact that the incentive payment for HCCs and the number of service places under NSCCP were increased.

(b) The numbers of centres, HCCs and children served under NSCCP in the past 3 financial years, broken down by DC district, are set out at Annex 1. SWD does not have information on the number of applications received for NSCCP.

(c) The numbers of children using centre-based care group (CCG) and HCCS under NSCCP in the past 3 financial years, broken down by DC district, are set out at Annex 2.

(d) SWD adopts a "quality-based approach" in selecting non-governmental organisations to operate NSCCP, and requires them to meet the service output and outcome standards specified in the Service Agreement (SA). According to the SA, service operators have to provide enhanced training courses for HCCs. Trainees are required to undergo 14 hours of basic training, the content of which is standardised and formulated by SWD. HCCs who are arranged to take care of children with special learning needs must receive an additional 4 hours of advanced training to learn the related knowledge and skills. Service operators are required to evaluate the child care skills and knowledge of HCCs 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 arranging them to provide services.

To ensure service quality, SWD has consistently required service operators of NSCCP to establish mechanisms for recruiting, assessing, selecting and training HCCs, as well as for service matching. Social workers from service operators are required to conduct monthly home visits to HCCs 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 HCCs' performance. 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.

Annex 1

Numbers of centres, HCCs and children served under NSCCP in the past 3 financial years by DC district

District	2022-23			2023-24			April to December 2024		
	Number of centres	Number of HCCs	Number of children served	Number of centres	Number of HCCs	Number of children served	Number of centres Note 1	Number of HCCs Note 2	Number of children served
Central & Western	1	29	413	1	59	494	1	50	284
Eastern	1	59	326	1	103	449	1	114	317
Islands	1	83	468	1	100	559	1	102	505
Kowloon City	1	521	455	1	525	350	1	25	107
Kwun Tong	1	44	395	1	46	533	2	63	414
Kwai Tsing	1	72	679	1	82	633	1	36	414
North	1	61	446	1	78	529	1	26	275
Southern	1	27	171	1	30	490	1	46	204
Sai Kung	1	139	591	1	83	670	1	29	360
Sham Shui Po	1	57	842	1	59	930	2	38	457
Sha Tin	1	41	848	1	42	763	2	52	515
Tuen Mun	1	33	732	1	37	822	2	86	574
Tai Po	1	69	580	1	77	552	1	86	370
Tsuen Wan	1	63	645	1	77	497	1	21	291
Wan Chai	1	73	189	1	67	282	1	24	174
Wong Tai Sin	1	45	595	1	112	668	1	31	371
Yuen Long	1	65	1 151	1	67	1 160	2	116	854
Yau Tsim Mong	1	278	793	1	126	819	1	98	518
Total	**18**	**1 759**	**10 319**	**18**	**1 770**	**11 200**	**23**	**1 043**	**7 004**

Note 1 Starting from September 2024, on the basis of 1 service team in each of the 18 districts in Hong Kong, an additional service team in districts with higher service demands, namely Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Sha Tin, Tuen Mun, and Yuen Long districts, has been added under NSCCP. As a result, the number of service teams in Hong Kong has increased from 18 to 23 to provide more service places.

Note 2 A new SA for NSCCP commenced in September 2024. Some HCCs are currently undergoing training, and will start service later. Therefore, the number of HCCs will gradually increase.

Annex 2

Numbers of children using CCG services and HCCS of NSCCP in the past 3 financial years

District	2022-23		2023-24		April to December 2024	
	CCG	HCCS	CCG	HCCS	CCG	HCCS
Central & Western	310	136	342	175	168	133
Eastern	88	247	136	335	81	252
Islands	157	376	210	449	145	453
Kowloon City	173	290	108	243	5	102
Kwun Tong	189	220	217	331	164	260
Kwai Tsing	163	524	165	470	83	332
North	250	256	302	266	145	142
Southern	106	76	391	111	106	107
Sai Kung	142	510	277	409	142	223
Sham Shui Po	284	572	300	651	185	277
Sha Tin	404	537	361	481	138	443
Tuen Mun	131	693	145	763	120	510
Tai Po	255	386	214	384	160	255
Tsuen Wan	143	516	164	342	103	195
Wan Chai	78	134	172	154	119	77
Wong Tai Sin	393	203	452	222	246	130
Yuen Long	291	909	245	945	104	750
Yau Tsim Mong	351	455	403	426	193	343
Total [Note]	**3 908**	**7 040**	**4 604**	**7 157**	**2 407**	**4 984**

Note Some children used CCG services and HCCS at the same time.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1990)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The financial provision for subvented/private organisations in 2025-26 has registered a significant decrease of 19.6% compared to 2024-25. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

a) What are the reasons for such a significant decrease in funding to these organisations?

b) Which types of subvented/private organisations does the Department expect to be most affected by this reduction? Does the Department foresee that social welfare services provided by these organisations will be significantly impacted? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The financial provision for subvented/private sectors mentioned under Programme (2) Social Security of the Social Welfare Department (SWD)'s Controlling Officer's Report in 2024-25 is mainly used for commissioning non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to operate the Employment Support Services (EmSS) under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme. EmSS, which will expire in September 2025, will be replaced by the Support Programme for the Unemployed (SPU) starting from October 2025. SPU will be more streamlined in operation when compared with EmSS, thereby reducing relevant estimated expenditure.

SPU will be operated on a pilot basis for 2 years by NGOs and/or other organisations. All unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 15 to 59 will be mandated to participate in SPU and take up unpaid work on a weekly basis arranged by SPU operators, until they have secured gainful employment or returned to mainstream education. Compared to the existing EmSS, SWD expects SPU to be more effective in motivating the unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients to connect with the community, develop a work habit and accumulate work experience to enhance employability, thereby reducing their reliance on CSSA in the long term. SWD will commission SPU operators through invitation for proposals. NGOs operating EmSS are free to submit their proposals.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)154

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2145)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26, it is mentioned that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will implement a 3-year pilot scheme under the Community Care Fund (CCF) to subsidise elderly recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) who choose to reside in designated residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) in Guangdong (GD). In this regard, please provide this Committee with the following information:

(a) What is the estimated expenditure for the scheme?

(b) What is the estimated timeframe for each case, from the submission of an application to officially moving into an RCHE in GD?

(c) For CSSA recipients who apply for the scheme but later decide to return to Hong Kong for personal reasons, how will SWD follow up on such cases?

(d) Has consideration been given to regularly evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot scheme through case and data analyses, and to publishing the findings to keep the public informed about its outcomes?

Asked by: Hon NG Chau-pei, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

The Government will launch a 3-year Pilot Scheme for Elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Recipients to Reside in Residential Care Homes in Guangdong (Pilot Scheme) in 2025 to subsidise elderly CSSA recipients who opt to retire in GD to reside in designated RCHEs in the province. The Pilot Scheme will have a quota of 1 000. A monthly subsidy of $5,000 will be provided to each elderly CSSA recipient on top of their CSSA payment under the Pilot Scheme. SWD will seek CCF funding from the Commission on Poverty to implement the Pilot Scheme.

Elderly CSSA recipients who wish to join the Pilot Scheme should apply to SWD or the agent commissioned by SWD, and select a suitable designated RCHE in GD on their own. The time required for them to move into an RCHE depends on the availability of places at the selected RCHE and their personal plans. If elderly recipients under the Pilot Scheme choose to return to Hong Kong for retirement in the future, they should contact the agent for case follow-up and appropriate assistance (including switching to receiving CSSA in Hong Kong).

SWD will review the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme, the subsidy amount and the way forward before the end of the pilot period.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2146)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme) has been regularised since 2022, providing means-tested co-payment services for elderly persons in need of community care services to obtain day care centre services or home care services. Regarding the effectiveness of CCSV and service utilisation, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

(a) the number and percentage of cases opting for (i) centre-based services (full-day or part-time), (ii) home-based services, and (iii) a mixed mode of centre-based and home-based services over the past 3 years (i.e. 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25);

(b) the average value of services utilised by each elderly recipient in the past 3 years (i.e. 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25);

(c) the number of cases in each of the 6 CCSV co-payment levels and their corresponding percentages of the total for each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25); and

(d) the average voucher value of CCSV applied for, and the average voucher value of CCSV actually utilised in the past 3 years (i.e. 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25), broken down by 6 co-payment levels.

(e) How does the Government manage the remaining funds in cases where vouchers have been issued but not utilised? Is there a transfer mechanism to reallocate these funds as additional subsidies for other individuals in need?

Asked by: Hon NG Chau-pei, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

(a) The requested breakdown of the number of persons is provided in Table 1 of Annex.

(b) & (d) Under the CCSV Scheme, CCSV users across all co-payment levels receive the same voucher value. The requested average voucher value used is provided in Table 2 of Annex. In addition, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not

maintain a breakdown of the average voucher value used by co-payment level of CCSV users.

(c) The requested information is provided in Tables 3 to 5 of Annex.

(e) The Government reimburses recognised service providers based on their actual costs under the CCSV Scheme. Therefore, CCSV holders who do not use any services do not consume resources from the Government or service providers. In addition, SWD has been flexibly allocating resources to enable more eligible elderly persons to receive services without the need to wait.

Annex

Table 1: Numbers of CCSV users by service type

Year	No. of persons [Note]		
	Centre-based services	Home-based services	Mixed mode of centre-based and home-based services
2022-23	2 121	3 439	1 373
2023-24	2 419	5 248	1 365
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	2 531	7 110	1 761

Note Figures as at the end of the respective financial year (unless otherwise specified).

Table 2: CCSV value and average value used

Year	CCSV value ($)	Average value used ($)
2022-23	10,070	6,377
2023-24	10,260	6,688
2024-25(as at end-December 2024)	10,455	6,454

Table 3: Co-payment levels of CCSV holders as at the end of March 2023

Co-payment level	No. of persons	Percentage
I	1 415	13.9%
II	5 332	52.4%
III	872	8.6%
IV	1 040	10.2%
V	180	1.8%
VI	1 345	13.2%
Total	**10 184**	**100%**

Table 4: Co-payment levels of CCSV holders as at the end of March 2024

Co-payment level	No. of persons	Percentage
I	1 717	13.2%
II	6 937	53.5%
III	1 052	8.1%
IV	1 268	9.8%
V	246	1.9%
VI	1 746	13.5%
Total	**12 966**	**100%**

Table 5: Co-payment levels of CCSV holders as at the end of December 2024

Co-payment level	No. of persons	Percentage
I	2 129	12.7%
II	9 080	54.1%
III	1 297	7.7%
IV	1 628	9.7%
V	319	1.9%
VI	2 335	13.9%
Total	**16 788**	**100%**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2147)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance), which will come into effect in January next year, please provide the following information:

(a) A breakdown of the actual expenditure on strengthening professional support for child abuse victims and their families out of the additional annual funding of $186 million.

(b) Regarding the enhancement of training and promulgation of guidelines for practitioners in the relevant professions, please provide in tabular form the types of training, estimated and actual number of trained personnel, and the expenditure on each type of training and guidelines.

(c) Regarding the increase in emergency places for residential child care service, please provide in tabular form the non-governmental organisation (NGO) centres providing such services, the districts where they are located, current number of children in emergency placement due to abuse, and the government funding allocated for this purpose.

Asked by: Hon NG Chau-pei, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

(a) & (c) To dovetail with the operation of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance) in January 2026, the Government will, starting from 2025-26, allocate an additional annual provision of $29.07 million to increase the number of emergency residential child care places, and $157.4 million to strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families, amounting to a total of approximately $186.5 million. Regarding strengthening professional support for child abuse victims and their families, SWD has subsidised non-governmental organisations to set up 6 service teams under the Child Protection Support Service (service teams) in March 2025. The service teams, comprising social workers, psychologists, nurses, and other supporting staff, will provide a range of support services, including home visitation support, therapeutic/psycho-social groups, educational and family enrichment programmes, etc., to provide targeted intervention and professional support for children who have been abused or are at risk of abuse, as well as their families.

In terms of emergency residential child care places, 2 new residential child care centres located in Tuen Mun and Kwun Tong districts respectively, will commence operation before the Ordinance takes effect, adding a total of 96 emergency care service places and catering for about 380 children each year. As these centres have not yet commenced operation, there is no information on the number of children currently residing at these centres.

(b) The Government has set up an e-learning platform to provide training and information on child protection for the specified professionals. The Child Protection Online Training platform offers online self-learning courses. Module 1 was launched in February 2024 to provide training on the basic knowledge on child protection. Module 2 is scheduled for phased rollout starting in July 2025, and will cover basic knowledge on the legal and reporting matters related to the new legislation. In 2024, the Government also organised 3 webinars to provide enrichment programmes for professionals to study different topics related to child protection and to enhance cross-sectoral professional collaboration. These webinars also incorporated Q&A sessions to address training needs and encourage interactive learning.

Furthermore, the Government plans to issue the Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide) in July 2025, and will organise a series of briefings for mandated reporters and related stakeholders. The Guide, including decision trees, supplementary analytical frameworks, and sample case scenarios, provides mandated reporters with reference of making decisions on making reports, assists them to understand the principles of child protection and identify cases that must be reported under their statutory obligations.

The above initiatives are jointly planned and implemented by the relevant policy bureaux and government departments. SWD does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2148)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) implemented a 5-year Training Subsidy Scheme for Staff of Residential Care Homes (the Scheme) in 2019 to provide full subsidy for home managers, health workers and care workers of all residential care homes (RCHs) for the elderly (RCHEs) and RCHs for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) across the territory to enrol in training courses recognised under the Qualifications Framework (QF), with the aim of enhancing the quality of care services provided by these practitioners in RCHs. With respect to the effectiveness of the Scheme and the future development of the residential care service industry, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

(a) the respective numbers of RCHE management and care staff who have enrolled in and completed QF-recognised courses with subsidies provided by SWD, and the employment status of those with recognised qualifications within the industry for 2023-24 and 2024-25, presented in tabular form;

(b) the expenditure and staffing establishment (SE) allocated for the implementation of the Scheme; and

(c) the effectiveness of the current measures in incentivising those who have completed recognised courses to continue working in the elderly care industry.

(d) It is understood that a report has recommended the Government create the position of "Health & Care Practitioner" (HCP) to improve the career ladder within the care industry. What is the Government's specific plan in this regard? What will be the expenditure and SE involved?

Asked by: Hon NG Chau-pei, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

(a) to (c) 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. After assessing the effectiveness of the Scheme and considering the views of the sector,

SWD has extended the Scheme by 3 years (from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027) to subsidise more RCH staff to receive related training. On average, the estimated annual expenditure involved is about $5 million.

As at the end of December 2024, a total of 6 313 RCH staff have enrolled in the training courses under the Scheme. The number of trainees in 2023-24 and 2024-25 is set out at Annex. RCH staff enrolling in recognised courses under the Scheme are required to remain employed at the RCHs from the date of enrolment until the completion of the course. Once the staff received the graduate certificates issued by the training institutes, the RCHs concerned may apply to SWD for full reimbursement of the course fees paid. SWD does not have information on trainees who have completed recognised courses and continue to work in the industry.

Since SWD has implemented the Scheme through internal redeployment of manpower resources, there is no additional manpower or administrative costs involved.

(d) In July 2023, SWD commissioned a Consultant to review the skill and qualification requirements of staff providing health and rehabilitation services in RCHs, with a view to establishing professional standards and a career progression pathway for them. In the same month, the Steering Committee on Review of Manpower for Healthcare Services in RCHs was established to offer advice and steer for the study. The relevant work was completed at the end of 2024. The consultancy report puts forth 4 key recommendations, including the establishment of a new professional rank, "Health & Care Practitioner" (HCP), to specialise in providing care services in RCHEs, RCHDs and other elderly/rehabilitation welfare service units. This will not only attract people who aspire to pursue a career in the welfare sector, but also offer a career progression path for Health Workers, and help build up dedicated care talent for the sector. SWD has accepted the report and will progressively implement the relevant recommendations.

To ensure that HCPs are competent to perform the care duties in the future, they have to complete a training course specified by the Director of Social Welfare. According to the Consultant's preliminary assessment, the training course for HCP can start enrolment in the second half of 2026, the earliest. SWD has already been communicating with training institutes regarding the course design. At the same time, the Government will amend the RCHs (Elderly Persons) Regulation and the RCHs (Persons with Disabilities) Regulation to introduce the new HCP rank into the relevant regulations without altering the existing statutory staffing requirements, and RCHs could employ either ENs or HCPs to meet the relevant statutory staffing requirements. The Government plans to consult the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services on the proposed amendments in the first half of 2026.

Since SWD has implemented the recommendation to establish the new HCP rank through internal redeployment, there is no additional manpower or administrative costs involved.

Annex

Number of home managers, health workers and care workers of RCHs enrolled [Note 1] in related training courses from 2023-24 to 2024-25

Course and no. of enrolment / Year	Home manager		Advanced Training for Health Workers	Training for Care Workers	Total
	Training course (A) [Note 2]	Training course (B) [Note 3]			
2023-24	272	213	78	736	**1 299**
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	89	155	49	949	**1 242**
Total:	**361**	**368**	**127**	**1 685**	**2 541**
	729				

Note 1 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.

Note 2 Trainees must be home managers currently employed by RCHEs or RCHDs, other staff nominated by RCHEs or RCHDs, or related professionals registered under the Laws of Hong Kong, including social workers, nurses, medical practitioners, Chinese medicine practitioners, occupational therapists, physiotherapists or pharmacists.

Note 3 Trainees must be home managers currently employed by RCHEs or RCHDs, or other staff nominated by RCHEs or RCHDs.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)158

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0960)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

To strengthen the functioning of families so they can better cater to the needs of 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 centres provide emotional support and professional advice to parents/relatives and carers of PWDs to help them understand how to take care of PWDs, and allow them to exchange experiences and support one another, thereby enabling them 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, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide details of the services provided by each PRC in the past 3 years, including (i) output standards and actual performance statistics; (ii) details of support services rendered; (iii) staffing establishment (SE); (iv) the estimated and actual expenditure; (v) effectiveness evaluation of PRC services; and (vi) satisfaction levels of service users, as well as the estimated expenditure and staff deployment for the coming year.

2. 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 & Western, Kwun Tong, Yau Tsim Mong, Kwai Tsing and Yuen Long). Please provide details of the service content and the results of the effectiveness evaluation of these specialised EM units.

3. Are there any plans to review the effectiveness of measures taken by SWD in respect of mental health? If yes, please provide details of the review, such as whether the support services rendered are adequate, and how SWD plans to strengthen its support. If no review is planned, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

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, etc. 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 2022-23 to 2024-25 are set out in Table 1 of Annex; the SE for the services is set out in Table 2 of Annex; the actual expenditure, revised estimate and estimated expenditure for 2025-26 are set out in Table 3 of Annex; the outcome indicators and satisfaction levels from 2022-23 to 2023-24 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 SE 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 2022-23 to 2023-24 are set out in Table 5 of Annex.

SWD reviews the needs of carers of persons in mental recovery and evaluates the effectiveness of related support measures from time to time, and will set up 4 additional PRCs for carers of persons in mental recovery in the second quarter of 2025 to enhance support for persons in mental recovery and their carers. Apart from the existing PRC in Kowloon East, PRCs for carers of persons in mental recovery will be set up on Hong Kong Island, and in Kowloon West, New Territories East and New Territories West to facilitate carers in obtaining the support they need.

Annex

Table 1: Output standards and actual performance statistics of PRCs from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Output indicator		Agreed output level	Actual performance statistics		
			2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
1	Monthly average of registered family membership in a year	7 010	12 121	13 312	13 598
2	Average attendance per opening session per quarter in a year	428	408 [Note]	479	493
3	Average number of individual-based support activities per quarter in a year	3 910	9 996	8 745	9 203
4	Average number of group meetings on support activities per quarter in a year	3 350	4 734	4 909	4 860
5	Average number of community education/networking activities per quarter in a year	137	180	210	207
6	Monthly average number of counselling cases	810	1 048	1 042	1 079
7	Number of therapeutic groups in a year	131	150	149	118

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: SE 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 SE. 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 2022-23 to 2025-26

2022-23 (Actual) ($ million)	2023-24 (Actual) ($ million)	2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($ million)	2025-26 (Estimate) ($ million)
94.9	94.4	96.4	111.4

Table 4: Outcome indicators and satisfaction levels of all PRCs [Note 1] from 2022-23 to 2023-24

Outcome indicator	Agreed level [Note 2]	2022-23	2023-24 (as at 31 December 2024)
Percentage of service users indicating enhancement of problem coping and solving capability after receiving PRC service	75%	89%	94%
Percentage of service users indicating enhancement of community support after receiving PRC service		85%	94%
Percentage of service users being satisfied with the overall services delivered to them in a year		98%	98%

Note 1 The relevant figures for 2024-25 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 2022-23 to 2023-24

Outcome indicator	Agreed level [Note 2]	2022-23	2023-24 (as at 31 December 2024)
Percentage of service users indicating enhancement of problem coping and solving capability after receiving PRC service	75%	96%	99%
Percentage of service users indicating enhancement of community support after receiving PRC service		90%	95%
Percentage of service users being satisfied with the overall services delivered to them in a year		96%	99%

Note 1 The relevant figures for 2024-25 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.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)159

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0964)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in the 2024 Policy Address that the Government will enhance the School-based After-School Care Service Scheme (the Scheme). Starting from this school year, the number of primary schools covered by the Scheme will increase from 50 to over 110, enabling students in need to stay at school outside school hours for care and learning support, thus allowing their parents to take up jobs. Depending on the actual utilisation and outcomes of the Scheme, the Government plans to encourage more schools to participate in the Scheme, without capping the number of places, in the 2025/26 school year. In this regard, please inform this Committee of:

1. the details of the implementation and effectiveness evaluation of the Scheme for the 2023/24 school year, including the number of participating organisations and schools, the number of beneficiaries or places, the service charge per user, service content, related expenditure and manpower, as well as the outcomes and limitations of the Scheme;
2. the specific implementation details of the enhanced Scheme for the 2024/25 school year, including the number of participating organisations and schools, the number of beneficiaries or places, service content and other relevant details, etc.; and
3. the specific measures that the Bureau has put in place, such as the provision of additional resources, promotional campaigns or home-school co-operation support, to encourage more organisations, schools and parents to participate in the Scheme to ensure that primary students in need can receive after-school care and learning support, thereby facilitating their parents in taking up jobs.

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

1. The Government has been implementing the Scheme since the 2023/24 school year. Under the Scheme, participating schools provide venues, while the Community Care Fund provides funding for non-governmental organisations to provide care and learning support services for students in need (particularly those from single-parent families) at school in a safe and familiar environment after class, thereby enabling their parents to take up jobs. The services provided under the Scheme cover homework tutorials, and assistance with completing homework and revision at schools wherever possible, in

order to ease the parenting and caregiving pressures on parents. In addition, parental guidance and education, skill learning and social/developmental activities (such as games/extra-curricular activities) are also provided to support parents in nurturing and caring for their children. A full-fee waiver is granted to families of participating students if they meet the income eligibility requirements. In the 2023/24 school year, a total of 59 primary schools participated in the Scheme, with services delivered by 20 service operators, benefiting a total of 2 664 students. The total expenditure was about $87.43 million, covering service fees and administrative expenses. The Social Welfare Department implements the Scheme by deploying existing manpower. As the staff involved are also responsible for other youth services, a breakdown of the staffing establishment dedicated solely to implementing the Scheme is not available. The Government will complete the evaluation of the Scheme in the 2025/26 school year.

2. The Scheme was extended to all 18 districts across the territory in the 2024/25 school year, with service targets and service content similar to those of the 2023/24 school year. There are currently a total of 125 primary schools participating in the Scheme, with services provided by 31 service operators, offering about 5 800 service places.

3. The Government launched the Scheme in the 2023/24 school year, with the initial target of engaging 50 primary schools in 7 districts with higher student populations in the first year. 59 schools were successfully recruited in the end. In the 2024/25 school year, the Scheme was expanded to cover all 18 districts in Hong Kong, with the target of recruiting about 110 primary schools. To date, 125 primary schools have joined the Scheme. We have exceeded the targets for the first 2 years, and the number of service operators has also increased. The Government will closely monitor the implementation of the Scheme, gather data, and collect views from stakeholders, and complete the evaluation of the Scheme's effectiveness in the 2025/26 school year to determine the way forward.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0972)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that starting from the third quarter of this year, the Government will regularise the Pilot Project on Enhancing Vocational Rehabilitation Services (the Pilot Project) to provide training to persons with disabilities (PWDs) according to their personal interests and abilities to enhance their employment opportunities. The annual expenditure involved is about $100 million and it is expected to benefit about 10 000 people. In this regard, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the specific arrangements for implementing the Project? This includes details on how training will be provided based on the personal interests and abilities of PWDs, as well as the scope and operational specifics of the related services.
2. The Government estimates that the Project will cost approximately $100 million annually and benefit around 10 000 PWDs. Apart from the number of beneficiaries, how does the Government evaluate whether the intended objectives of the Project are being achieved? For example, what is the expected percentage increase in employment opportunities or the level of improvement in vocational skills among PWDs? Are there specific performance indicators to assess its effectiveness?
3. Does the Government have plans to continuously improve the Project, such as by regularly collecting employment data and feedback from the participants to optimise service content? Will the Government consider further expanding the scope of the Project or increasing resource allocation in the future?

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the 2-year Pilot Project in July 2023, with a view to enhancing the service and training model of sheltered workshops (SWs) and integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres (IVRSCs) by providing training tailored to the individual interests and abilities of trainees. It also seeks to strengthen the development of relevant networks to establish different job types and enhance market promotion, thus ensuring that the content of advanced training courses aligns with the practical requirements of open employment. The goal is to build a better vocational rehabilitation and training

ladder for PWDs. The trainees participating in the Pilot Project include persons with intellectual disability, physical disability, and hearing/speech impairment, as well as persons in mental recovery. The participating SWs and IVRSCs have organised over 2 000 job attachment sessions for them, spanning fields such as arts and design, computer and technology applications, catering, facilities management, sales and retail, packaging and assembly, logistics and warehousing, as well as general office administration.

2. & 3. SWD has reviewed the effectiveness of the Pilot Project by examining service and employment data collected from the participating SWs/IVRSCs, as well as the feedback from the service units, service users and their families, job attachment providers, and employers. As the Pilot Project has been proven effective in establishing a vocational rehabilitation and training ladder for PWDs, SWD plans to regularise the Pilot Project in the third quarter of this year, and extend it to all SWs/IVRSCs. This initiative will involve an annual expenditure of about $100 million. Service operators will be required to deliver enhanced vocational rehabilitation services in accordance with the newly revised Funding and Service Agreement, which stipulates the essential service requirements, as well as service output and outcome standards. These include offering advanced training courses that align with the requirements of open employment, and arranging supported employment training for trainees with potential. SWD will continuously evaluate the performance and effectiveness of service operators under the existing Service Performance Monitoring System.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)161

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0978)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Programme states 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 centre (IP), on-site pre-school rehabilitation services (OPRS), and occasional child care service (OCCS) for children with disabilities. In 2023, SWD regularised the Tier 1 Support Services and integrated them with OPRS. In this connection, would the Government please provide this Committee with the following information:

1. The waiting list situation (e.g. the average waiting time and the number of waitlisted children) and the number of service places (including the total number of places and the year-on-year changes) for different types of pre-school rehabilitation services (including EETCs, SCCCs, IP, OPRS, and OCCS) in the past 5 years (i.e. from 2020 to 2024):

Waiting time for pre-school rehabilitation services

Service type	Average waiting time (in months)				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
OPRS					
EETC					
IP					
SCCC					

Number of service places for pre-school rehabilitation services

Service type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
OPRS					
EETC					
IP					
SCCC					

2. 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 (i.e. from 2022 to 2024), including the number of applicants (broken down into numbers of beneficiaries and rejected applications), the average length of benefit period (in months) and the average expenditure per beneficiary for NLS and HLS, as wells as the total number of beneficiaries, the total average duration of benefit period and the total expenditure.

3. Please provide details of the work related to regularisation of the Tier 1 Support Services, including the specific details on how the relevant arrangements were taking forward and implemented (e.g. the implementation timetable and integration method), the number of service places (including the total number of places and allocation method), the number of participating pre-primary institutions (e.g. the number and geographical distribution of kindergartens and child care centres), the effectiveness evaluation or progress reports (including feedback from the sector, e.g. service providers and parents), as well as the expenditure (including the total amount and breakdown of the estimated expenditure) and manpower involved (e.g. the number of additional staff and the division of labour).

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

1. The average waiting time and the 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.

2. SWD provides eligible children on the waiting list of 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.

3. 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 comprehensive and timely assistance to pre-school children who are awaiting professional assessment or those who have been assessed 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 they are not subject to a quota. The estimated expenditure on the Tier 1 Support Services for 2025-26 is about $172 million.

Annex 1

Table 1: Average waiting time for pre-school rehabilitation services

Service type	Average waiting time (in months) [Note]				
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 [Note]
OPRS	4.8	5.2	4.3	4.2	3.4
EETC	11.2	8	5.4	5	5
IP	7.5	8	6.3	5.3	3.6
SCCC	17.5	19.9	20.2	19.3	19.2

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 figures for 2024-25 are not yet available.

Table 2: Number of places for pre-school rehabilitation services

Service type	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
OPRS	8 074	9 074	10 074	10 124	10 124
EETC	3 888	4 174	4 393	4 413	4 605
IP	1 980	1 980	1 980	1 980	1 974
SCCC	2 170	2 274	2 364	2 456	2 516

Annex 2

Table 1: Annual expenditure on TSP

Year	Expenditure ($ million)
2022-23 (Actual)	77.1
2023-24 (Actual)	94.4
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	113.2

Table 2: Number of TSP beneficiaries [Note 1]

Year	NLS	HLS	No. of beneficiaries
2022-23	2 158	1 782	3 940
2023-24	2 416	1 803	4 219
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	1 587	1 389	2 976
Total	**6 161**	**4 974**	**11 135**

Note 1 Children who benefited from the programme in the respective financial years are also counted.

Table 3: Number of TSP applicants

Year	NLS	HLS	No. of applicants
2022-23	2 398	952	3 350
2023-24	1 983	894	2 877
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	999	487	1 486
Total	**5 380**	**2 333**	**7 713**

Table 4: Number of TSP applications not approved [Note 2]

Year	NLS	HLS	No. of applications not approved
2022-23	541	25	566
2023-24	283	54	337
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	127	27	154
Total	**951**	**106**	**1 057**

Note 2 The number of applications not approved includes the number of withdrawn applications allocated with service places.

Annex 3

Staffing establishment of OPRS

Rank/Post [Note 3]	**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/Occupational Therapist I	1.75
Occupational Therapy Assistant	1.0
Clerical Assistant	1.0
Welfare Worker	1.0
Motor Driver [Note 4]	1.0
Total	**19.25**

Note 3 The above staffing establishment is used solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of recurrent subvention. Subject to compliance with the requirements of Funding and Service Agreements and the relevant statutory staffing requirements, NGOs operating subsidised services may determine their staffing establishment in accordance with their human resources policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the required service outputs and outcomes.

Note 4 Only applicable to service teams operating mobile training centres.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3073)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In 2024-25, the Government injected an additional $1 billion into the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund) to enhance 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 burden on carers. Regarding the application of gerontechnology, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

1. the details of the vetting process for applications for the I&T Fund in the past 3 years, including the names of applicant organisations, the number of applications, the types of products involved, the amount of grants approved and the number of beneficiaries;
2. the current balance and utilisation status of the I&T Fund after the injection of additional funding; the estimated number of years the funding can sustain the operation of the I&T Fund, as well as the estimated expenditure and number of funded projects for the coming year;
3. the number of projects dedicated to the research and development (R&D) of gerontechnology since the establishment of the I&T Fund and related products, along with a breakdown of the names of these R&D projects, their progress, the amount of funding involved, and deliverables; whether the Government has evaluated the effectiveness of these R&D deliverables through such means as consulting stakeholders (e.g. elderly persons, PWDs and carers, etc.) and provided developers with feedback; and
4. measures taken by the Government to encourage collaboration between the local industry and other operators in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), and to support the local industry in exploring the GBA market, given that a number of local suppliers wish to expand into the emerging market of the GBA in light of the limited size of Hong Kong gerontechnology market; and whether the Government will consider accepting applications from eligible residential care homes (RCHs) for the elderly (RCHEs) in the GBA for the I&T Fund.

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. Details pertaining to the applications and approval of grants under the I&T Fund from 2022-23 to 2024-25 are set out at Annex. Names of the approved service units and product categories are uploaded to the Social Welfare Department's (SWD) website:

   https://www.swd.gov.hk/en/pubsvc/rehab/cat_fundtrustfinaid/itfund/

   As the I&T Fund is open to applications from elderly and rehabilitation service units only, SWD does not maintain the number of beneficiaries of these technology products.

2. As at the end of February 2025, grants totalling around $840 million have been approved under the I&T Fund. The balance was about $1.16 billion (including the additional injection of $1 billion). In the coming year, SWD will continue to invite eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to submit applications. The annual expenditure and operational longevity of the I&T Fund are contingent upon the number of applications, the amount of grants involved and the approval situation.

3. The I&T Fund aims to improve the quality of life of service users and reduce the burden and pressure on care staff and carers by subsidising eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent or trial technology products. The scope of the I&T Fund does not cover subsidising R&D of gerontechnology products. Eligible service units may identify suitable technology R&D 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 2025, a total of 7 projects for trial use of products were approved, involving an expenditure of about $15 million. These products include a fall prevention management system, a smart bedside intelligence management system, an interactive rehabilitation assessment and training system, a smart glasses device that can transmit instant video and audio signals, a smart transportation robot suite, the trial version of eREACH-HK and a sleep management system.

4. The annual Gerontech and Innovation Expo cum Summit (GIES), co-organised by the Government and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, provides a platform that brings together gerontechnology stakeholders to engage and collaborate in the promotion of the use of technology across all sectors, so as to address the challenges posed by an ageing population and provide solutions for the rehabilitation needs of the elderly and PWDs. The GIES offers forums, thematic talks and workshops, creating a platform for dialogue and collaboration among representatives from the innovation and technology sector, academia, the social welfare sector, technology product users, and gerontechnology industry players from the Mainland. Last year, the Expo welcomed 21 exhibitors from the Mainland, and a special exhibition area for Mainland China exhibitors was set up, attracting enterprises from the GBA, Yangtze River Delta Region, Fujian Province and Shandong Province to participate in the exhibition. In addition, last year's Summit invited speakers from the Mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan to share industry experiences and exchange ideas. The Government currently has no plan to subsidise RCHEs in the GBA to procure, rent or trial technology products using the I&T Fund.

Annex

Statistics pertaining to the applications and approval of grants under the I&T Fund in the past 3 years (as at 28 February 2025)

Year of application	Type of service unit	No. of products applied for	No. of products approved	Amount of grant approved ($ million)
2022-23	Subsidised elderly service unit	2 268	2 115	52
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	1 200	1 023	40
	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHE	3 570	3 311	101
	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCH for PWDs (RCHD)	108	104	3
2023-24	Subsidised elderly service unit	1 465	1 118	35
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	646	531	20
	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHE	1 346	1 091	29
	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHD	84	72	2
2024-25 Note	Subsidised elderly service unit	1 855	787	23
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	2 231	1 518	20
	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHE	1 541	808	25
	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHD	169	105	5

Note This tranche started accepting applications in March 2024 and the vetting of applications is still underway.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2593)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding foster care services, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

(1) The number of service places, the utilisation rate, the age distribution of foster children, their average length of stay, the number of waitlisted children, and the average waiting time for various foster care services in the past 3 years.

(2) To strengthen support for foster families, the Government increased the incentive payment for foster parents in 2024-25. Please provide details on the number of foster families following the adjustment to the incentive payment, including their income and age distribution, as well as the number of foster families that have either withdrawn midway or newly joined.

(3) The Budget indicates that the Government will continue to strengthen support and training for foster families. Please provide details of any specific programmes, as well as the estimated expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

(1) The number of places, the utilisation rate, the average length of stay, the number of waitlisted children, and the average waiting time for foster care services in the past 3 years are set out in Table 1 of Annex. The age distribution of children receiving foster care services is set out in Table 2 of Annex.

(2) The number of foster families that have withdrawn midway and the number of newly registered foster families following the increase in the incentive payment for foster parents since April 2024 are set out in Table 3 of Annex. The number of foster families and the age distribution of foster parents are set out in Table 4 of Annex. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the income distribution of foster families.

(3) The estimated overall expenditure on foster care services (including continuously strengthening support and training for foster families) for 2025-26 is $403.7 million. The Government has implemented a series of enhancement measures to bolster support for foster care services. Starting from January 2025, additional resources have been allocated to provide extra support for foster families caring for children with special learning or care needs, and arrange early assessments and appropriate professional rehabilitation therapy and training for foster children. Foster parents will also have access to consultation services from relevant professionals, e.g. clinical psychologists, as needed, with a view to alleviating their caregiving stress and enhancing their skills in handling children's emotional and behavioural problems. Regarding strengthening training, starting from January 2025, applicants who wish to become foster parents are required to complete a total of 12 hours of training comprising 4 modules before providing services. The training covers topics such as children's physical and psychological development needs, health and nutrition, handling common illnesses and emergencies, understanding children with special needs, enhancing parenting and stress management skills, and collaborating with foster children's birth families and other professionals, etc. This training is also applicable to existing foster parents. In addition, foster parents are required to attend annual in-service training workshops to enhance their skills and confidence in caring for foster children by refreshing their knowledge and sharing experiences. SWD has provided additional resources for non-governmental organisations providing foster care services to hire an additional 12 Assistant Social Work Officers to facilitate the implementation of the aforementioned enhancement measures.

Annex

Table 1: Number of places, utilisation rate, average length of stay, number of waitlisted children, and average waiting time for foster care services

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 [Note 1]
Number of places	1 130	1 230	1 230
Utilisation rate [Note 2]	78%	72%	72%
Average length of stay (month) [Note 2]	34.90	38.33	32.78
Number of waitlisted children [Note 3]	289	292	256
Average waiting time (month) [Note 3] [Note 4]	1.82	2.04	1.75

Note 1 Statistics as at 31 December 2024.

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. SWD does not have the statistics on the number of waitlisted children and the average waiting time for foster care (emergency) service.

Note 4 The figures only refer to cases that were successfully matched within a 3-month period but not cases with matching difficulties.

Table 2: Age distribution of children receiving foster care services

Year (as at end-December)	Age	Number of foster children
2022	Newborn to below 6	403
	6 to below 12	330
	12 to below 18	147
	18 or above [Note]	-
2023	Newborn to below 6	385
	6 to below 12	319
	12 to below 18	139
	18 or above [Note]	1
2024	Newborn to below 6	405
	6 to below 12	320
	12 to below 18	157
	18 or above [Note]	1

Note Under exceptional circumstances, children receiving foster care services may extend their stay with the foster families after reaching 18 years old.

Table 3: Numbers of withdrawn and newly registered foster families in 2024-25

Foster family type	Number [Note]
Withdrawn	30
Newly registered	93

Note Statistics from April to December 2024.

Table 4: Number of foster families and age distribution of foster parents

Age	Number of foster families [Note]
25 to 40	40
41 to 50	163
51 to 55	143
56 to 60	193
Above 61	502
Total	1 041

Note Statistics as at 31 December 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2594)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Budget states that to better prepare for the commencement of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance), the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will enhance training and promulgate guidelines for practitioners in the relevant professions. In the light of this, please advise this Committee on the details of the various types of training and support measures, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Government has set up an e-learning platform to provide training and information on child protection for relevant professionals. The Child Protection Online Training platform offers online self-learning courses. Module 1 was launched in February 2024 to provide training on the basic knowledge on child protection. Module 2 is scheduled for phased rollout starting in July 2025, and will cover basic knowledge on the legal and reporting matters related to the legislation. In 2024, the Government also organised 3 webinars to provide enrichment programmes for professionals to study different topics related to child protection and to enhance cross-sectoral professional collaboration. These webinars also incorporated Q&A sessions to address training needs and encourage interactive learning. In addition, in the first quarter of 2025, the Government has commenced organising 10 seminars for management of institutions in the social welfare, education, and healthcare sectors. These seminars will introduce the key aspects of the new legislation, enabling heads of different organisations to review and, where necessary, update their internal guidelines, workflows, staff training, and devise measures to facilitate relevant professionals in fulfilling their legal obligations. Furthermore, the Government plans to issue the Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide) in July 2025, and will organise a series of briefings for mandated reporters and related stakeholders. The Guide, including decision trees, supplementary analytical frameworks, and sample case scenarios, provides mandated reporters with reference of making decisions on making reports, assists them to understand the principles of child protection and identify cases that must be reported under their statutory obligations.

The above initiatives are jointly planned and implemented by the relevant policy bureaux and government departments. SWD does not maintain a breakdown of the staffing arrangements or estimated expenditures for training and support.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)165

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2595)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Under this Programme, the financial provision for subvented/private organisations in 2025-26 has shown a significant decrease of 19.6% compared to the revised estimate in 2024-25. In this regard, please provide this Committee with the following information:

(1) Which areas of expenditure will be reduced, and what are the details?

(2) What are the anticipated impacts of these expenditure reductions on subvented organisations?

(3) How does the Government plan to ensure that needy persons continue to receive relevant social security services?

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The financial provision for subvented/private sectors mentioned under Programme (2) Social Security of the Social Welfare Department (SWD)'s Controlling Officer's Report in 2024-25 is mainly used for commissioning non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to operate the Employment Support Services (EmSS) under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme. EmSS, which will expire in September 2025, will be replaced by the Support Programme for the Unemployed (SPU) starting from October 2025. SPU will be more streamlined in operation when compared with EmSS, thereby reducing relevant estimated expenditure.

SPU will be operated on a pilot basis for 2 years by NGOs and/or other organisations. All unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 15 to 59 will be mandated to participate in SPU and take up unpaid work on a weekly basis arranged by SPU operators, until they have secured gainful employment or returned to mainstream education. Compared to the existing EmSS, SWD expects SPU to be more effective in motivating the unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients to connect with the community, develop a work habit and accumulate work experience to enhance employability, thereby reducing their reliance on CSSA in the long term. SWD will commission SPU operators through invitation for proposals. NGOs operating EmSS are free to submit their proposals.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)166

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2596)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

A 3-year "Stepping Stone" - Pilot Scheme on "Subsidy to Encourage Employment of Disabled Recipients under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme" (Pilot Scheme) has been launched under the Community Care Fund (CCF). In this connection, please advise:

(1) The number of applicants participating in the Pilot Scheme, broken down by type of disability, education level, age, industry sector, and salary;

(2) As employers' willingness to hire is crucial for promoting the employment of persons with disabilities (PWDs), what measures have been implemented to encourage employers to hire PWDs?

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

(1) The CCF-funded Pilot Scheme was launched in September 2024. Up to end-December 2024, a total of 6 303 beneficiaries were granted subsidies under the Pilot Scheme. The age distribution of these beneficiaries is set out at Annex. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not maintain statistics on the distribution of Pilot Scheme beneficiaries by disability type, education level, industry sector, or salary.

(2) SWD subsidises non-governmental organisations to provide supported employment training services for PWDs who are not yet ready for open employment. These services include skills training, job attachment, vocational training, counselling, helping PWDs find suitable jobs, and providing them with ongoing support. To encourage employers to hire PWDs, wage subsidies are available during the job trial period for up to 6 months, capped at $4,000 per month. Moreover, since 2013, SWD has implemented the Support Programme for Employees with Disabilities (SPED), which provides a one-off subsidy for employers to purchase assistive devices and/or modify workplaces, thereby helping employees with disabilities perform their duties more effectively and enhancing their work efficiency. The subsidy is capped at $40,000 per employee with disabilities. Up to end-February 2025, about $5.4 million has been allocated under SPED, benefiting over 300 employees with disabilities.

Annex

Pilot Scheme
Age distribution of beneficiaries
(up to end-December 2024)

Age group	Number
Aged 18 or below	39
Aged 19-29	568
Aged 30-39	1 111
Aged 40-49	1 622
Aged 50-59	1 669
Aged 60-64	744
Aged 65 or above	550
Total	**6 303**

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)167

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2597)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The financial provision for the government sector under this Programme for 2025-26 has been reduced by more than 10% compared to the revised estimate for 2024-25. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of:

(1) a detailed account of the specific areas where expenditure will be reduced;

(2) the expected impact of the expenditure reduction on services provided by government organisations; and

(3) measures to ensure that elderly persons in need continue to have access to relevant elderly services.

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department's (SWD) estimated expenditure on overall elderly services under Programme (3) for 2025-26 increases by 10.7% compared to the revised estimate for 2024-25, and by 4.2% compared to the original estimate for 2024-25. This reflects the Government's ongoing commitment to provide support and services to address the diverse needs of the elderly.

The provision for the government sector under Programme (3) reflects the expenditure of SWD on providing related services, but it accounts for only about 5% of the overall estimate for this Programme. The estimate for the government sector under this Programme for 2025-26 decreases by about 10% compared to the original estimate for 2024-25. This is mainly due to SWD's anticipated adjustments to the cash requirements for certain services during the year, which may be affected, for example, by the timing of payment claims submitted by organisations approved under the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care. In fact, the estimate for the government sector under Programme (3) for 2025-26 is 15% higher than the revised estimate for 2024-25.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2598)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the work of District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) across the 18 districts:

(1) Please list the number of target carers identified, cases referred, and follow-up services provided by Care Teams in each district.

(2) Please list the completion status of the Key Performance Indicators for the Care Teams in these districts.

(3) Since the Care Teams have been established for over 2 years, has consideration been given to optimising the KPIs and evaluation mechanisms to enhance performance monitoring and the Care Team's effectiveness in delivering the results expected by society and providing services that meet the specific needs of each district?

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The Government launched the District Services and Community Care Teams – Supporting Elderly and Carers Scheme (the Scheme) in March 2024. Taking Tsuen Wan and the Southern District as pilot points, Care Teams are engaged to help identify high-risk households of singleton and doubleton elderly, and carers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities (PWDs) through visits and outreach. Cases requiring assistance are then referred to social welfare service units for follow-up. They also assist in referring eligible elderly persons and PWDs to install and use emergency alarm systems (known as "Safety Bell") with government subsidy. The total expenditure of the Scheme for 2024-25 was about $9.20 million. The numbers of needy households visited/contacted, the headcount of persons provided with follow-up and support services, and the numbers of referrals made for welfare services by the Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and the Southern District are set out at Annex.

As at end-January 2025, a total of 36 Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and the Southern District have visited or contacted over 7 000 households of singleton and doubleton elderly and carers of elderly persons and PWDs, and have made over 1 190 referrals for welfare services under

the Scheme. In addition, a total of 272 elderly persons and 11 PWDs have installed Safety Bells and received related subsidies through the referral of the Care Teams.

Encouraged by the positive outcomes of the Scheme during its pilot phase, the Chief Executive announced in the 2024 Policy Address that the Scheme would be extended to all 18 districts across the territory in the second quarter of 2025 to provide support to more elderly persons and carers. It is expected that in the 12-month implementation period of the Scheme, the Care Teams will contact over 60 000 households in need. The Scheme is expected to incur a total expenditure of about $107.9 million for 2025-26.

Annex

Number of households visited/contacted, headcount of persons provided with follow-up and support services, and number of referrals made for welfare services by the Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and the Southern District

(as at 31 January 2025)

Item	**Tsuen Wan**	**Southern District**	**Total**
Households [Note 1] visited/contacted (number of households) [Note 2]	4 135	2 955	**7 090**
Follow-up and support services provided (headcount of persons) [Note 2]	5 782	7 009	**12 791**
Referrals made for welfare services (number of referrals) [Note 2]	859	340	**1 199**

Note 1 Including households of singleton and doubleton elderly, as well as carers of elderly persons and PWDs.

Note 2 As the statistics for services rendered in January 2025 by some Care Teams were entered into the household information management platform in February, some service statistics are not reflected in the table above.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2166)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

According to the website of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), there are 67 Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) in total. Please provide the following information regarding these IFSCs:

(a) the amount of funding allocated by the Government to the 67 non-governmental organisation (NGO)-operated IFSCs in each of the past 3 years, presented in tabular form;

(b) the type of ownership (i.e. government or private property) of the premises of the 67 existing NGO-operated IFSCs, as well as their respective floor areas and rents, presented in tabular form;

(c) the permitted duration of operation in years for the 67 existing NGO-operated IFSCs, their minimum staffing requirements for professionals (such as nurses, social workers, and mediators) and support staff (such as drivers and typists), as well as their membership figures in each of the past 3 years, presented in tabular form; and

(d) the key performance indicators (KPIs) set by SWD for the 67 NGO-operated IFSCs, instances where they failed to meet the KPIs (presented in tabular form), the methods by which the Government monitors their operations, and the number of on-site inspections conducted by SWD to evaluate their implementation of the Funding and Service Agreement (FSA) in the past year.

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

(a) There are 65 IFSCs and 2 Integrated Services Centres operated by SWD and NGOs across the territory. Of these, 24 IFSCs are operated by 10 SWD-subvented NGOs. The amount of subventions received by these IFSCs from 2022-23 to 2024-25 is set out in Table 1 of Annex.

(b) Of the 24 IFSCs operated by NGOs, 23 are situated in properties owned by the Government/the Hong Kong Housing Authority/the Hong Kong Housing Society, while the remaining 1 IFSC rents a private property. The standard area for an IFSC is

551.1 square metres. The total expenditure on rent, rates and Government rent for the 24 NGO-operated IFSCs in 2023-24 amounted to about $9.51 million.

(c) Having regard to the service commencement dates of various IFSCs, SWD has signed non-time-defined FSAs with NGOs operating 21 IFSCs, and 5-year time-defined FSAs with NGOs operating 3 IFSCs, respectively. The staffing establishment of an IFSC is set out in Table 2 of Annex. Subject to compliance with the requirements of FSAs, NGOs may flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the required service outputs and outcomes. SWD does not have information on the membership figures of the NGO-operated IFSCs mentioned above.

(d) NGOs operating IFSCs are required to comply with the relevant requirements and standards stipulated in the FSAs, including essential service requirements, service output and outcome standards, and service quality standards. In 2023-24, except for 2 IFSCs that failed to achieve the service output standard of "number of cases" and the service quality standard related to conducting fire drills respectively, all other IFSCs complied with all the requirements stipulated in the FSAs.

SWD requires all NGOs operating IFSCs to put in place an effective internal monitoring mechanism to properly monitor and manage their daily operations, ensuring compliance with the requirements of FSAs. In addition to reviewing the operation of various services and monitoring the performance of service units in accordance with existing mechanisms, SWD conducts scheduled or surprise visits through random selection to assess NGOs' compliance with the terms and requirements of FSAs. In 2024-25 (as at the end of February 2025), SWD conducted review visits to 6 IFSCs.

Annex

Table 1: Amount of subventions received by NGO-operated IFSCs

Year	Amount ($ million)
2022-23 (Actual)	366.6
2023-24 (Actual)	382.3
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	390.1

Table 2: Staffing establishment of an NGO-operated IFSC [Note]

Rank/Post	Number of staff
Social Work Officer	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 The above estimated staffing establishment is solely for calculating subventions and should not be used as a benchmark for the manpower or staff mix of a subvented service unit. Subject to compliance with the requirements of FSAs, NGOs may flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the required service outputs and outcomes. IFSCs established in or after 2012-13 and operated by NGOs receive additional subventions to employ 2 additional Social Work Officers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2167)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

According to the website of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), there are 21 district support centres for persons with disabilities (DSCs) and 30 integrated community centres for mental wellness (ICCMWs), making a total of 51 centres. Please provide the following information regarding these DSCs and ICCMWs:

(a) the amount of funding allocated by the Government to the 51 non-governmental organisation (NGO)-operated DSCs and ICCMWs in each of the past 3 years, presented in tabular form;

(b) the type of ownership (i.e. government or private property) of the premises of the 51 existing NGO-operated DSCs and ICCMWs, as well as their respective floor areas and rents, presented in tabular form;

(c) the permitted duration of operation in years for the 51 existing NGO-operated DSCs and ICCMWs, their minimum staffing requirements for professionals (such as nurses, social workers and mediators) and support staff (such as drivers and typists), as well as their membership figures in each of the past 3 years, presented in tabular form; and

(d) the key performance indicators (KPIs) set by SWD for the 51 NGO-operated DSCs and ICCMWs, instances where they failed to meet the KPIs (presented in tabular form), the methods by which the Government monitors their operations, and the number of on-site inspections conducted by SWD to evaluate their implementation of the Funding and Service Agreement (FSA) in the past year.

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

(a) SWD has set up 21 DSCs and 24 ICCMWs in Hong Kong. Among these, 1 ICCMW have 2 sub-bases while 4 ICCMWs have 1 sub-base each, providing a total of 30 ICCMW service points across the territory. The expenditure on DSCs and ICCMWs in each of the past 3 years is set out in Table 1 of Annex.

(b) Currently, there are 16 DSCs located on properties owned by the Government/the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) or service operators, while the remaining 5 are situated on private properties. As for ICCMWs, 25 service points located on properties owned

by the Government/HA or service operators, while the remaining 5 service points are situated on rented private properties. The net usable floor area required for a standard scale DSC and an ICCMW is 626 square metres and 663 square metres, respectively. The actual total rental expenditure for the above premises for 2023-24 was about $29 million.

(c) SWD has signed a 5-year time-defined FSA with NGOs operating DSCs and ICCMWs. The membership figures of DSC and ICCMW in each of the past 3 years are set out in Table 2 of Annex. The staffing establishments for DSCs and ICCMWs have been uploaded to SWD's website (https://www.swd.gov.hk/en/ngo/subventions/suballoc/subvention/). Subject to compliance with the requirements of FSAs, service operators may flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service outputs and outcomes required.

(d) NGOs operating DSCs and ICCMWs are required to comply with the relevant requirements and standards as stipulated in the FSAs, including essential service requirements, service output standards, etc. In 2023-24, as regards essential service requirements, 19 DSCs and all ICCMWs complied with the requirements stipulated in the FSAs, with the exception of 2 DSCs that were unable to engage clinical psychologists. As regards service output standards, with the exception of 11 DSCs that could not achieve 8 of the output standards (including service hours, number of assessment/treatment sessions, rate of reviewing psychological needs, utilisation rate of day care services, total number of cases and number of counselling sessions) and 3 ICCMWs that could not achieve part of the 3 output standards (i.e. total number of new cases, total number of outreaching visits/interview sessions, and number of sessions of interest classes/supportive groups organised), all other DSCs and ICCMWs achieved all the output standards. Relevant improvement measures have been implemented by the NGOs concerned at the request of SWD.

Service operators 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 FSAs. SWD reviews the operation of various services and monitor the performance of the service units in accordance with existing mechanisms and also conducts scheduled or surprise visits by random selection to assess the NGOs' compliance with the terms and requirements of FSAs. In 2024-25 (as at the end of February 2025), SWD conducted review visits to 5 DSCs and 2 ICCMWs.

Annex

Table 1: Expenditure on DSCs and ICCMWs

Year	**2022-23 (Actual) ($ million)**	**2023-24 (Actual) ($ million)**	**2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($ million)**
DSC	305.0	333.1	482.1
ICCMW	495.7	529.7	600.8

Table 2: Membership figures of DSC and ICCMW

Year	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)**
DSC	7 079	8 673	8 998
ICCMW	33 227	33 048	30 359

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2168)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

According to the website of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), there are 139 integrated children and youth services centres (ICYSCs) and 22 children and youth centres (CYCs), making a total of 161 centres. Please provide the following information regarding these ICYSCs and CYCs:

(a) the amount of funding allocated by the Government to the 161 non-governmental organisation (NGO)-operated ICYSCs and CYCs in each of the past 3 years, presented in tabular form;

(b) the type of ownership (i.e. government or private property) of the premises of the 161 existing NGO-operated ICYSCs and CYCs, as well as their floor areas and rents, presented in tabular form;

(c) the permitted years of operation for the 161 existing NGO-operated ICYSCs and CYCs, their minimum staffing requirements for professionals (such as nurses, social workers and mediators) and support staff (such as drivers and typists), as well as their number of members in each of the past 3 years, presented in tabular form; and

(d) the key performance indicators (KPIs) set by SWD for the 161 NGO-operated ICYSCs and CYCs, instances where they failed to meet the KPIs (presented in tabular form), the methods by which the Government monitors their operations, and the number of on-site inspections conducted by SWD to evaluate their implementation of the Funding and Service Agreement (FSA) in the past year.

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

(a) The amount of subventions granted by SWD to the 161 NGO-operated ICYSCs and CYCs (centres) in each of the past 3 years are set out as follows:

Year	2022-23 (Actual) ($ million)	2023-24 (Actual) ($ million)	2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($ million)
ICYSC	1,272.3	1,321.8	1,348.9
CYC	84.6	87.2	89.2

(b) Currently, 161 centres have their premises located in properties owned by the Government, the Hong Kong Housing Authority or the Hong Kong Housing Society. Of these, 3 centres have part of their premises (such as sub-bases) located in private properties. The required net operating floor area for ICYSCs and CYCs is approximately 631 m² and 366 m², respectively. In 2023-24, the expenses for rents, rates, and Government rents for ICYSCs and CYCs were approximately $67.97 million and $4.98 million, respectively.

(c) Depending on the service commencement dates of each centre, SWD has signed time-defined service agreements of 3 years and 5 years, respectively, with the organisations operating 2 of the centres, while the remaining agreements are non-time-defined. The staffing establishments for ICYSCs and CYCs are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex. Subject to compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements, organisations may flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the required service outputs and outcomes. The number of members of these centres in each of the past 3 years are set out as follows:

Year	Number of members		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
ICYSC	332 805	387 235	368 502
CYC	31 234	35 447	33 495

(d) NGOs operating ICYSCs and CYCs are required to adhere to the requirements and standards outlined in their service agreements, including essential service requirements, output and outcome standards, and service quality standards. In 2023-24, with the exception of 8 centres that failed to meet one of the following requirements: (i) the essential service requirement for "number of opening sessions", (ii) the service output standard for "service hours/average attendance", (iii) the service outcome standard for "outcomes after service termination", or (iv) the service quality standard related to fire safety facilities, all other centres complied fully with the requirements stipulated in the service agreements. The organisations concerned have implemented corresponding improvement measures as directed by SWD.

SWD requires operators to establish an effective internal monitoring mechanism to properly oversee and manage their daily operations, ensuring compliance with the requirements of the service agreements. SWD will review the operation of these services and monitor the performance of the service units in accordance with existing mechanisms, and will conduct scheduled or surprise visits by random selection to assess operators' compliance with the terms and requirements of the service agreements. In 2024-25 (as at the end of February 2025), SWD conducted performance assessment visits to 21 ICYSCs and CYCs.

Annex

Table 1: Staffing establishment of ICYSC

ICYSC	
Rank/Post	**Number of staff**
Social Work Officer	1
Assistant Social Work Officer	5
Senior Social Work Assistant	1
Social Work Assistant	4
Welfare Worker	2
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Assistant	1
Office Assistant	1
Typist	1
Workman II	1

Table 2: Staffing establishment of CYC

CYC	
Rank/Post	**Number of staff**
Social Work Officer	0.2
Assistant Social Work Officer	1
Social Work Assistant	3
Welfare Worker	1.75
Clerical Assistant	1
Workman II	1

Note The above staffing establishments are intended solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of subvention, and should not be regarded as the standard for staffing levels or employee composition in subvented services. Subject to compliance with the requirements of Funding and Service Agreements, organisations can flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service outputs and outcomes required.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2169)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

According to the website of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), there are 32 aided child care centres (CCCs). Please provide the following information regarding these aided CCCs:

(a) the amount of funding allocated by the Government to the 32 non-governmental organisation (NGO)-operated aided CCCs in each of the past 3 years, presented in tabular form;

(b) the type of ownership (i.e. government or private property) of the premises of the 32 existing NGO-operated aided CCCs, as well as their respective floor areas and rents, presented in tabular form;

(c) the permitted duration of operation in years for the 32 existing NGO-operated aided CCCs, their minimum staffing requirements for professionals (such as nurses, social workers, and mediators) and support staff (such as drivers and typists), as well as their membership figures in each of the past 3 years, presented in tabular form; and

(d) the key performance indicators (KPIs) set by SWD for the 32 NGO-operated aided CCCs, instances where they failed to meet the KPIs (presented in tabular form), the methods by which the Government monitors their operations, and the number of on-site inspections conducted by SWD to evaluate their implementation of the Funding and Service Agreement (FSA) in the past year.

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

(a) SWD provides subsidies to 11 NGOs operating 19 aided standalone CCCs. The amount of subsidies granted by SWD to aided standalone CCCs in each of the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Year	Amount of subsidy ($ million)
2022-23 (Actual)	53.8
2023-24 (Actual)	62.8
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	82.4

(b) Currently, 16 aided standalone CCCs have their premises located in properties owned by the Government/the Hong Kong Housing Authority/the Hong Kong Housing Society, while the remaining 3 are situated in private properties. The sizes of these CCCs range from 108 to 679 square metres. The total expenditure on rent, rates, and Government rent in 2023-24 amounted to about $2.8 million.

(c) Having regard to the service commencement dates of various aided standalone CCCs, SWD has signed non-time-defined FSAs with NGOs operating 12 aided standalone CCCs, and 5-year time-defined FSAs with NGOs operating 7 aided standalone CCCs, respectively. All CCCs must be registered under the Child Care Services Ordinance (Cap. 243) and the Child Care Services Regulations (CCSR) (Cap. 243A). In accordance with the CCSR, they are required to employ individuals registered as child care workers or supervisors to provide child care services. The manning ratio of child care workers or supervisors present and on duty in day CCCs is 1:8 for children aged 0 to below 2, and 1:14 for children aged 2 to below 3. To enhance service quality, the Government has allocated additional resources since the 2019/20 school year to improve the above manning ratios to 1:6 and 1:11, respectively. As aided standalone CCCs do not operate on a membership system, SWD does not maintain records of membership figures.

(d) NGOs operating aided standalone CCCs are required to comply with the relevant requirements and standards stipulated in the FSAs, including essential service requirements, service output and outcome standards, and service quality standards. In 2023-24, except for 1 aided standalone CCC that failed to achieve the service output standard of "average enrolment rate", all other aided standalone CCCs complied with all the requirements stipulated in the FSAs.

SWD requires all NGOs operating aided standalone CCCs to put in place an effective internal monitoring mechanism to properly monitor and manage their daily operations, ensuring compliance with the requirements of FSAs. In accordance with the existing mechanisms, SWD conducts scheduled or surprise visits through random selection to assess NGOs' compliance with the terms and requirements of FSAs. In 2024-25 (as at February 2025), SWD conducted review visits to 5 aided standalone CCCs. In addition, the Child Care Centres Advisory Inspectorate (CCCAI) of SWD conducts surprise inspections at CCCs at different periods of time during office and non-office hours. To monitor and ensure CCCs' continuous compliance with the statutory requirements, CCCAI will increase the frequency of inspections as necessary based on the principle of risk management. In 2024-25 (as at February 2025), CCCAI conducted 58 inspections at aided standalone CCCs.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)173

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2170)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the funding for district elderly community centres (DECCs), neighbourhood elderly centres (NECs) and social centres for the elderly (SEs), will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

(a) (i) the annual amount of funding received, (ii) the year-on-year change in such amount, and (iii) the average staffing establishment and the respective year-on-year changes in table for the past 5 years for each of the DECCs, NECs and SEs operated by subvented non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

(b) (i) the number of members, (ii) the average attendance per session, (iii) the number and percentage of members aged 55 to 64 and those aged 65 or above, (iv) the percentage of such numbers relative to the population of the same age groups in the same district (and their respective districts), and (v) the number and percentage of members who are singleton or doubleton elderly in table form the past 5 years for each of the subvented DECCs, NECs and SEs;(c)the key performance indicators (KPIs) for the services of DECCs operated by each subvented NGO, including collaboration with and provision of support to elderly service units in the district, community education, reaching out and networking, support teams for the elderly, health education, educational and developmental activities, provision of information on community resources and referral services, volunteer development, carer support services, educational and supportive programmes on dementia, retirement planning, promotion of gerontechnology, counselling services, social and recreational activities, meal and laundry services, and drop-in services; and if the KPIs have not yet been set, the reasons for this;

(d) the KPIs for the services of the NECs operated by each subvented NGO, including health education, educational and developmental activities, provision of information on community resources and referral services, volunteer development, carer support services, educational and supportive programmes on dementia, retirement planning, promotion of gerontechnology, counselling services, reaching out and networking, social and recreational activities, and drop-in services; and if the KPIs have not yet been set, the reasons for this; and

(e) the KPIs for the services of the subvented SEs, including organising indoor and outdoor groups or activities, provision of information on welfare services for the elderly, encouraging the elderly to organise mutual help activities and participate in community affairs, provision of leisure facilities and gathering venues; and if the KPIs have not yet been set, the reasons for this?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

(a) The total expenditures for DECCs, NECs and SEs subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are set out at Annex 1. As the service operators of DECCs and NECs receive funding through Lump Sum Grant (LSG) mode, SWD does not have a record of allocation amounts for each service unit.

The requested information on staffing establishments is set out in Tables 1 to 3 of Annex 2.

(b) The membership number and the average attendance per session of DECCs, NECs and SEs from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are set out at Annex 3. SWD does not have information on the age distribution of members, their proportion relative to percentage to the population in the same district, or information on members who are singleton or doubleton elderly.

(c) The output standards for DECCs are set out at Annex 4. As meal and laundry services are not the core services of DECCs, no relevant output standards are available.

(d) The output standards for NECs are set out at Annex 5.

(e) The output standards for SEs are set out at Annex 6. Among them, output standard 5 (the total number of activities organised in a quarter) covers various types of services and activities.

Annex 1

Statistics on expenditures for DECCs, NECs and SEs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	**DECCs (41 DECCs) ($ million)**	**NECs (170-173 NECs) Note 1 ($ million)**	**SEs (1 SE) ($ million)**
2020-21	572.2 (1.2% higher than the previous year)	881.1 (1.5% higher than the previous year)	1.2 (14.3% lower than the previous year)
2021-22	566.0 (1.1% lower than the previous year)	875.7 (0.6% lower than the previous year)	1.3 (8.3% higher than the previous year)
2022-23	573.4 (1.3% higher than the previous year)	898.7 (2.6% higher than the previous year)	1.3 (no change)
2023-24	621.6 (8.4% higher than the previous year) Note 2	1,002.6 (11.6% higher than the previous year) Note 3	1.4 (7.7% higher than the previous year)
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	668.4 (7.5% higher than the previous year)	1,118.2 (11.5% higher than the previous year)	1.6 (14.3% higher than the previous year)

Note 1 There are 170 NECs in 2020-21; 171 NECs in 2021-22; 172 NECs in 2022-23; and 173 NECs in both 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Note 2 The subvention for DECCs has increased since October 2023 to provide pre-retirement planning services and promote the applicationof gerontechnology.

Note 3 The subvention for NECs has increased since October 2023 to provide pre-retirement planning services and promote the application of gerontechnology.

Annex 2

Table 1: Staffing establishment [Note 1] of DECCs (from 2020-21 to 2024-25)

Rank/Post	No. of staff in 2020-21 to 2022-23	No. of staff [Note 2] in 2023-24 to 2024-25
Social Work Officer	1	1
Nursing Officer	0.5	0.5
Occupational Therapist I or Physiotherapist I	1	1
Assistant Social Work Officer	5	5
Senior Social Work Assistant	3	3
Social Work Assistant	5	6
Senior Welfare Worker	1	1
Welfare Worker	1	1
Personal Care Worker	2	2
Clerical Officer II / Assistant Clerical Officer	1	1
Clerical Assistant	1	1
Workman II	3	3
Total	**24.5**	**25.5**

Note 1 Subject to compliance with the requirements of the FSAs, NGOs operating subsidised services may flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to ensure service quality and effectiveness.

Note 2 The subvention for DECCs has increased since October 2023 to enhance manpower for providing pre-retirement planning services and promoting the adoption of gerontechnology.

Table 2: Staffing establishment of NECs (from 2020-21 to 2024-25)

Rank/Post	No. of staff in 2020-21 to 2022-23	No. of staff [Note] in 2023-24 to 2024-25
Social Work Officer	0.25	0.25
Assistant Social Work Officer	2	2
Social Work Assistant	4	5
Welfare Worker	1	1
Personal Care Worker	1	1
Clerical Assistant	1	1
Workman II	1	1
Total	**10.25**	**11.25**

Note The subvention for NECs has increased since October 2023 to enhance manpower for providing pre-retirement planning services and promoting the adoption of gerontechnology.

Table 3: Staffing establishment of SEs (from 2020-21 to 2024-25)

Rank/Post	No. of staff
Senior Social Work Assistant	0.167
Social Work Assistant	1
Welfare Worker	1
Clerical Assistant	1
Workman II	1
Total	**4.167**

Annex 3

Number of members and average attendance per session of DECCs, NECs and SEs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	**Item**	**DECCs (41 DECCs)**	**NECs (170-173 NECs)** [Note]	**SEs (1 SE)**
2020-21	Total number of members	63 322	147 777	1 413
	Average attendance per session	68.36	26.62	12.33
2021-22	Total number of members	71 033	167 736	1 429
	Average attendance per session	107.54	49.08	39.52
2022-23	Total number of members	86 773	198 518	1 467
	Average attendance per session	149.40	73.20	59.89
2023-24	Total number of members	86 963	200 582	1 544
	Average attendance per session	167.02	79.87	102.59
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	Total number of members	89 154	201 962	1 418
	Average attendance per session	180.28	88.35	131.22

Note There are 170 NECs in 2020-21; 171 NECs in 2021-22; 172 NECs in 2022-23; and 173 NECs in both 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Annex 4

Output standards of DECCs

Content	Output indicator	Agreed level
1	Average membership in a year	1 000
2	Average attendance per session in a year.	130
3	Total number of preventive and developmental groups, activities and programmes held in a year:	330
	a. number of groups, activities and programmes of categories (i) to (vi) held in a year:	290
	(i) for meeting the educational and developmental needs of elderly persons including cognitive training, empowering and protecting elderly persons;	230
	(ii) for volunteer recruitment, development and service;	
	(iii) for promoting healthy ageing of elderly persons;	40
	(iv) for promoting active ageing of elderly persons;	10
	(v) for promoting pre-retirement planning for the elderly persons; and	6
	(vi) for promoting application of digital technology and gerontechnology in elderly persons.	4
	b. for meeting social and recreational needs of elderly persons.	40
4	Total number of supportive groups, activities and programmes held in a year	100
	a. mutual support among elderly persons; and	50
	b. carer support services including for carers of demented elderly persons, through mutual support groups and training activities, etc.	50
5	Remedial services provided in a year:	
	a. monthly average number of active counselling cases with agreed plan summing up the 12 month-end number of active counselling cases ÷ 12);	240
	b. turnover rate of active counselling cases in a year (total number of closed cases ÷ total number of active counselling cases served x 100%); and	20%
	c. total number of therapeutic groups for elderly persons.	4
6	Networking services of the Support Team for the Elderly (STE) in a year	
	a. total number of elderly persons in the community, who are not known to STE, being contacted through different ways of contact such as outreaching activities;	1,200
	b. total number of elderly persons who have received STE networking support services;	600
	c. total number of networking support services rendered by volunteers; and	3,100
	d. total number of volunteers of STE and non-STE.	120
7	Total number of carers served in a year.	230
8	Total number of support and training programmes/activities for NEC and other units providing service to the elderly persons.	12
9	Services for hidden or vulnerable elderly persons:	
	a. monthly average number of active cases of hidden and vulnerable elderly persons (summing up the 12 month-end number of active cases ÷ 12); and	35
	b. turnover rate of cases served in a year in relation to hidden and vulnerable elderly persons (total number of closed cases ÷ total number of cases served x 100%).	20%
10	Total number of activities held with local stakeholders for service promotion and/or establishing strategic partnership in a year, e.g. security guards, for building up rapport, promoting services, negotiating co-operation strategies and contacting and identifying needy carers through different ways.	24
11	Total number of interRAI-Home Care version 9.3 assessments conducted in a year.	65
12	Total number of training sessions to staff on dementia.	21
13	Services for needy carers:	
	a. Total number of supportive groups held in a year for needy carers;	6
	b. Total number of training activities and programmes held in a year for needy carers;	25
	c. Total number of support services to needy carers, such as volunteer visits, escort service and occasional elderly sitting services (home -based or centre-based)	200
	d. (i) Total number of needy carers served in a year;	100
	(ii) Turnover rate of needy carers served in a year.	20%

Annex 5

Output standards of NECs

Content	Output indicator	Agreed level
1	Average membership in a year.	400
2	Average attendance per session in a year.	60
3	Total number of groups, activities and programmes held in a year:	220
	a. number of groups, activities and programmes of categories (i) to (vii) held in a year:	140
	(i) for promoting psycho-social well-being of elderly persons;	110
	(ii) for meeting the educational and developmental needs of elderly persons;	
	(iii) for meeting the social and recreational needs of elderly persons;	
	(iv) for promoting healthy ageing of elderly persons;	20
	(v) for promoting active ageing of elderly persons;	5
	(vi) for promoting pre-retirement planning for the elderly persons; and	3
	(vii) for promoting application of digital technology and gerontechnology in elderly persons.	2
	b. for volunteer recruitment, development and services;	40
	c. for providing carer support services including mutual support groups and training activities etc.	40
4	Total number of volunteers in a year.	100
5	Active counselling cases in a year:	
	a. monthly average number of active counselling cases with agreed plan in a year (summing up the 12 month-end number of active counselling cases ÷ 12); and	100
	b. turnover rate of active counselling cases in a year (total number of closed cases ÷ total number of active counselling cases served x 100%).	20%
6	Total number of carers served in a year.	140
7	Services for hidden or vulnerable elderly persons:	
	a. monthly average number of active cases of hidden or vulnerable elderly persons (summing up the 12 month-end number of active cases ÷ 12); and	35
	b. turnover rate of cases served in a year in relation to hidden or vulnerable elderly persons (total number of closed cases ÷ total number of cases served x 100%).	20%
8	Total number of activities held with local stakeholders forservice promotion and/or establishing strategic partnership in a year.	16
9	Total number of interRAI-Home Care version 9.3 assessments conducted in a year.	45
10	Dementia-related services:	
	a. Total number of people trained with dementia-related knowledge;	30
	b. Total number of programmes/activities to provide public education on dementia;	10
	c. Total number of programmes/activities to provide support and training to elderly persons with dementia and/or their carers;	6
	d. Total number of groups to provide support and training to elderly persons with dementia and/or their carers; and	3
	e. Total number of training sessions to staff on dementia.	15
11	Service for needy carer:	
	a. Total number of supportive groups held for needy carers in a year;	4
	b. Total number of training activities and programmes held for needy carers in a year;	15
	c. Total number of support services to needy carers such as volunteer visits, escort service and occasional elder sitting services (home-based or centre-based);	100
	d. (i) Total number of needy carers served in a year; and	50
	(ii) Turnover rate of needy carers served in a year.	20%

Annex 6

Output standards of SEs

Content	Output indicator	Agreed level
1	Average number of members registered in a year	350
2	Average attendance per session in a year	50
3	Number of group meetings organised in a quarter	50
4	Average attendance per group meeting organised in a year	12
5	Number of activities organised in a quarter	12
6	Average attendance per activity organised in a year	40

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)174

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2171)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The emergency alarm system (EAS) (commonly known as "Safety Bell") ensures the safety of the elderly while facilitating their ageing in place. The Government also provides a grant for EAS under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme. In this regard, please provide information on the following:

(a) the number of elderly households currently eligible for the grant for EAS provided by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), the Housing Department or the Hong Kong Housing Society to CSSA recipients and public rental housing residents, out of which the actual number of persons with EAS installed, as well as their percentage out of the total number of persons eligible for the grant for EAS in each of the past 5 years in tabular form;

(b) the percentage of the grant for EAS out of CSSA payment in each of the past 5 years in tabular form;

(c) the publicity measures of the Government for promoting EAS installation in the homes of the elderly, as well as the costs of implementing each of these measures; and

(d) the distribution of the elderly's choice by EAS service provider, as well as the regulatory measures of the Government for individual service providers.

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

(a) Elderly CSSA 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 cover the fees for installing and using indoor or mobile EAS. CSSA recipients aged 60 to 64 who are single or living in a family with other family members who cannot take care of him/her may also apply from SWD for the same 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. SWD does not maintain statistics on the number of CSSA recipients eligible for the grant for EAS. The number of CSSA recipients

receiving the grant for EAS from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is set out in Table 1 of Annex.

(b) The expenditure on the grant for EAS and its percentage of the total CSSA expenditure from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are set out in Table 2 of Annex.

(c) & (d) Individuals in need of EAS are free to choose a suitable service provider according to their specific needs, and directly enquire about and purchase EAS services from the service provider. SWD does not maintain any information related to service providers. Regarding the grant for EAS provided to elderly recipients under the CSSA Scheme, SWD has not recognised any specific service providers for EAS services. Nevertheless, staff at Social Security Field Units will provide eligible CSSA recipients with information about the grant and facilitate their applications.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of CSSA recipients receiving the grant for EAS from 2020-21 to 2024-25**

Year	Number of CSSA recipients receiving the grant for EAS
2020-21	32 745
2021-22	30 634
2022-23	28 354
2023-24	26 653
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	25 882

Table 2 **Expenditure on the grant for EAS and its percentage of the total CSSA expenditure from 2020-21 to 2024-25**

Year	Expenditure on the grant for EAS ($ million)	Percentage of the total CSSA expenditure Note 1 Note 2 (%)
2020-21	42	0.2
2021-22	38	0.2
2022-23	35	0.2
2023-24	33	0.1
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	23	0.1

Note 1 The total CSSA expenditure for 2024-25 is a revised estimate.

Note 2 The actual expenditure for 2020-21 includes the payment of 1 additional month of CSSA standard rates in the year. The actual expenditures from 2021-22 to 2023-24, as well as the revised estimate of expenditure for 2024-25, include the payment of an additional half-month of CSSA standard rates in the year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2173)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Lump Sum Grant Subvention System (LSGSS) has been implemented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) since 2001, with a view to enhancing accountability, efficiency and cost-effectiveness in the use of subvention allocations. In this connection, please provide the following information on LSGSS:

(a) Please set out in a table the proportion of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that were required to submit a Review Report on Remuneration Packages for Staff in the Top Three Tiers under LSGSS in each of the past 3 years.

(b) Please provide the key performance indicators (KPIs) for different types of NGOs under LSGSS and the number of KPIs achieved.

(c) Please set out in a table SWD's expenditure and staffing establishment for implementing various tasks under the Service Performance Monitoring System.

(d) The Government announced the Productivity Enhancement Programme (PEP) in the 2024-25 Budget, under which various types of social welfare organisations are required to achieve a cumulative reduction of 7% in their subvention by 2027-28. Although small and medium-sized organisations will have 4% of this reduction borne by SWD, they still have to make cuts. In this connection, please set out in a table the amount of subvention that has already been cut from each organisation and their main cost-cutting measures.

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

(a) From 2021-22 to 2023-24, under LSGSS, the percentage of NGOs required to submit a Review Report on Remuneration Packages for Staff in the Top Three Tiers is tabulated as follows:

Year	Percentage of NGOs required to submit the Review Report (%)
2021-22	52.7%
2022-23	55.7%
2023-24	54.1%

(b) NGOs operating subvented welfare services are required to comply with the relevant requirements and standards as stipulated in the Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs), including essential service requirements (ESRs), service output and outcome standards (OS/OCs Standards), and service quality standards (SQSs). In 2023-24, a total of 172 NGOs operated more than 3 200 service units under LSGSS. Except for 42 service units, all service units met the ESRs, OC Standards, and SQSs. Regarding OS Standards, about 80% of the service units achieved the agreed levels stipulated in their FSAs, whereas the remaining 20% met only part of the Standards.

(c) SWD currently has 23 staff members who are responsible for handling duties related to social welfare subvention, including monitoring the service performance of NGOs, liaising with NGOs, handling complaints, and implementing support measures for NGOs. SWD does not maintain a breakdown of the staffing establishment or expenditure dedicated to monitoring service performance.

(d) In the 2025-26 Budget, the Financial Secretary introduced measures to step up PEP. To support NGOs in implementing PEP, the Labour and Welfare Bureau and SWD have made concerted efforts by reallocating internal resources and adjusting priorities to alleviate some of the financial burden on NGOs, ensuring they have sufficient time to prepare for the adjusted PEP. In 2024-25, SWD has not reduced the subvention for existing services provided by NGOs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2174)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Gerontechnology is indispensable for achieving ageing in place. In this connection, please provide the following information regarding the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund):

(a) Provide, in tabular form, the number of eligible applications, the total number of successful applications, the number of successful applications where the target beneficiaries are elderly persons (aged 60 or above), the number of applications where the target beneficiaries are persons with disabilities (PWDs), and the average grant amount per successful application in each of the past 5 years.

(b) According to the Reference List of Recognised Technology Application Products of the I&T Fund, there are currently 22 types of products eligible for application. Provide, in tabular form, the number of applications, the number of successful applications, and the average grant amount applied in each case for each type of products in each of the past 5 years.

(c) Set out, in tabular form, the types of gerontechnology products suitable for household use by elderly persons, PWDs and their carers that eligible service units are allowed to procure under the expanded scope of the I&T Fund, and their reference price.

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

(a) The Government allocated $1 billion to launch the I&T Fund in 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 2020-21 to 2024-25, 7 tranches of grants have been approved under the I&T Fund to subsidise elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure or rent over 20 400 items of technology products. Relevant information is set out in Table 1 of Annex.

As the I&T Fund is open to applications from elderly and rehabilitation service units only, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the number of beneficiaries. In addition, given the wide variety and significant price differences of technology products, and the varying number of products involved in each

application, the average grant amount per case cannot accurately reflect the utilisation of the I&T Fund. Therefore, SWD does not maintain such information.

(b) The numbers of technology products applied for and approved in the past 5 years, broken down by type of product, are set out in Table 2 of Annex. SWD does not maintain the average grant amount applied for each type of product.

(c) The 2023 Policy Address announced 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 allow non-governmental organisations operating subvented elderly and rehabilitation community service units to apply for extra funding to procure technology products suitable for elderly persons/PWDs and their carers to borrow and use at home. SWD will explain the application details of the relevant measures to eligible service units and provide product examples for their reference. The Assessment Panel of the I&T Fund will consider a number of factors when assessing individual applications, including whether the proposed technology products in the applications can benefit elderly persons/PWDs living in the community or relieve the pressure on their carers, whether the products are suitable for lending to service users for home use, and whether the applicant organisations can provide ongoing support, etc.

Annex

Table 1: Information pertaining to the approval of applications under the I&T Fund from 2020-21 to 2024-25 (as at 28 February 2025)

Tranche no.	No. of products applied for	No. of products approved
4	3 071	2 790
5	3 053	2 647
6	1 631	1 463
7	1 154	987
8	7 146	6 553
9	3 541	2 812
10 [Note]	5 796	3 218

[Note] The vetting of the 10th tranche of applications is still underway.

Table 2: Statistics on applications and approvals from 2020-21 to 2024-25 (Based on the Reference List of Recognised Technology Application Products) (as at 28 February 2025)

Type of product on the Reference List	No. of products applied for	No. of products approved
1. Smart hospital bed and accessories	7 974	6 546
2. Chair for special purpose	710	512
3. Infection control equipment	144	13
4. Appliances for kitchen	398	345
5. Bathing accessories	245	203
6. Personal care appliance and accessories	47	46
7. Shower and bath trolley/bench/bed	12	11
8. Special feeding equipment	115	115
9. Toileting accessories	47	35
10. Equipment for psychomotor training	465	328
11. Communication aid equipment	526	470
12. Hoist/raiser/lifter/climber	476	413
13. Wheelchair	160	136
14. Bed monitoring system	561	488
15. Security equipment	572	441
16. Near-field communication device	803	803
17. Computer software	536	245
18. Equipment, assessment tools and accessories for occupational therapy/physiotherapy/speech therapy	5 603	4 693
19. Equipment and accessories for multi-sensory therapy	970	875
20. Medical equipment and supplies	1 741	1 494
21. Smart sensor	532	287
22. Smart system	275	204

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)177

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2016)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides various day child care services, including the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP), which was launched since October 2011, to provide flexible home-based day child care services for families within their neighbourhood. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following information for each of the past 3 financial years, in tabular form:

(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 undertaken;

(c) the amount of subvention provided to each of the 23 service teams in all districts.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

(a) & (b) The numbers of home-based child carers and 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 Service Agreement (SA) for NSCCP signed between service operators and SWD, service operators are required to establish mechanisms for recruiting, assessing, screening and training home-based child carers, as well as service matching. In 2022-23 and 2023-24, home-based child carers were required to complete 4 hours of basic training. Starting from September 2024, under the enhanced training programme for home-based child carers, they are required to undergo 14 hours of basic training, and those who are arranged to take care of children with special learning needs must receive an additional 4 hours of advanced training. 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 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 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) Since September 2024, there are 19 organisations operating 23 service teams under NSCCP. In 2024-25, the amount of subvention provided by SWD to each service team was about $3.22 million. This amount excludes incentive payments, training costs for home-based child carers, and subsidies granted to service users from low-income families for fee waivers/reductions, etc.

Annex

Numbers of home-based child carers and children served under NSCCP in the past 3 financial years by DC district

District	2022-23		2023-24		April to December 2024	
	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 Note	Number of children served
Central & Western	29	413	59	494	50	284
Eastern	59	326	103	449	114	317
Islands	83	468	100	559	102	505
Kowloon City	521	455	525	350	25	107
Kwun Tong	44	395	46	533	63	414
Kwai Tsing	72	679	82	633	36	414
North	61	446	78	529	26	275
Southern	27	171	30	490	46	204
Sai Kung	139	591	83	670	29	360
Sham Shui Po	57	842	59	930	38	457
Sha Tin	41	848	42	763	52	515
Tuen Mun	33	732	37	822	86	574
Tai Po	69	580	77	552	86	370
Tsuen Wan	63	645	77	497	21	291
Wan Chai	73	189	67	282	24	174
Wong Tai Sin	45	595	112	668	31	371
Yuen Long	65	1 151	67	1 160	116	854
Yau Tsim Mong	278	793	126	819	98	518
Total	**1 759**	**10 319**	**1 770**	**11 200**	**1 043**	**7 004**

Note A new SA for NSCCP commenced in September 2024. Some home-based child carers are currently undergoing training, and will start service later. Therefore, the number of home-based child carers will gradually increase.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2018)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill was passed in 2023 and will come into effect in January 2026. One of the matters requiring special attention for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in 2025-26 is to prepare for the commencement of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance). In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

(a) Please provide a breakdown of the number of practitioners from 25 professions who have completed Module 1 of the online self-learning training and achieved a score of 90% or higher in the post-course quiz.

(b) After the Ordinance comes into effect, there may be a substantial increase in the number of reported child abuse cases. Has the Government earmarked sufficient resources and manpower to handle the increased caseload; if yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

(a) To dovetail with the operation of the Ordinance in January 2026, the Government has set up an e-learning platform to provide training and information on child protection for relevant professionals. The Child Protection Online Training offers online self-learning courses. Module 1 was launched in February 2024 to provide training on the basic knowledge on child protection. Module 2 is scheduled for phased rollout starting in July 2025, and will cover basic knowledge on the legal and reporting matters related to the new legislation. As at January 2025, about 14 000 individuals from the social welfare sector, 10 000 from the education sector, and 8 000 from the healthcare sector completed Module 1. Over 90% of them obtained a certificate after completing the post-course quiz.

(b) To dovetail with the commencement of the Ordinance, the Government will, starting from 2025-26, allocate an additional annual provision of $29.07 million to increase the number of emergency residential child care places, and $157.4 million to strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families, amounting to a total of approximately $186.5 million. 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) to create 41 permanent posts to enhance the Government's enforcement and support capacity, provide appropriate training for practitioners in relevant professions and strengthen promotion and public education efforts on child protection, with a view to preparing for the operation of the Ordinance.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)179

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2019)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides family and child welfare services and programmes. The 2023 Policy Address mentioned that the School-based After School Care Service Scheme (the Scheme) would be rolled out in the 2023/24 school year, with schools providing venues and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating the services. The Scheme will first be implemented on a trial basis in 50 primary schools, with plans to expand to about 110 primary schools across all 18 districts in Hong Kong. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

(a) Please set out in a table the number of primary schools in each district, the number of primary schools participating in the Scheme, and the number of service places allocated for each school;

(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 28 February 2025;

(c) Has the Government conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Scheme since its implementation? If yes, what are the findings? Will the Government consider extending the Scheme to kindergartens? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

(a) A total of 125 primary schools have participated in the Scheme since its launch in the 2024/25 school year, offering about 5 800 service places. The number of primary schools in each district and the number of participating primary schools under the Scheme are set out at Annex 1, and the number of service places for each participating school is set out at Annex 2.

(b) The estimated total expenditure for the Scheme in the 2024/25 school year is $237 million. Based on the current service capacity of 5 800 service places, the average monthly cost per service place is estimated to be about $3,405. A breakdown of the number of student beneficiaries and the amount of subsidy for each primary school is not yet available as some schools joined the Scheme some time after the start of the school year.

(c) Currently, SWD subsidises NGOs to operate Extended Hours Service at 172 pre-primary institutions, allowing pre-primary children under the age of 6 in need to continue receiving care in the original institutions they attend. The aim is to support parents who cannot take care of their children temporarily due to work or other reasons. The Government will complete the evaluation of the Scheme in the 2025/26 school year to determine the way forward.

Annex 1

Number of primary schools in each district and number of participating primary schools under the Scheme in the 2024/25 school year

District	Number of primary schools in the district [Notes 1 & 2]	Number of participating primary schools under the Scheme
Central & Western	16	2
Southern	12	1
Islands	16	3
Eastern	27	3
Wan Chai	15	1
Kwun Tong	33	9
Wong Tai Sin	25	10
Sai Kung	26	4
Kowloon City	34	9
Yau Tsim Mong	21	6
Sham Shui Po	24	9
Sha Tin	41	8
Tai Po	20	6
North	30	7
Yuen Long	47	14
Tsuen Wan	21	10
Kwai Tsing	31	15
Tuen Mun	35	8
Total	**474 (60)**	**125**

Note 1 By school year.

Note 2 Number of publicly-funded primary schools. The bracketed number denotes aided special schools with primary section.

Annex 2

Number of service places for each participating primary school under the Scheme in the 2024/25 school year

Participating Schools under the Scheme [Note 1]	**Service Places**
Central and Western	
St. Charles School	37
Li Sing Primary School	23
Sub-total:	60
South	
SKH Chi Fu Chi Nam Primary School	34
Sub-total:	34
Islands	
Hong Kong Federation of Education Workers Wong Cho Bau School	50
Tung Chung Catholic School	41
The Church of Christ in China Cheung Chau Church Kam Kong Primary School	20
Sub-total:	111
Eastern	
Buddhist Chung Wah Kornhill Primary School	33
The Salvation Army Ann Wyllie Memorial School	30
Shau Kei Wan Government Primary School	50
Sub-total:	113
Wan Chai	
Sir Ellis Kadoorie (S) Primary School	20
Sub-total:	20
Kwun Tong	
S.K.H Kei Lok Primary School	29
Lok Wah Catholic Primary School	63
Ping Shek Estate Catholic Primary School	18
Sau Mau Ping Catholic Primary School	75
The Mission Covenant Church Holm Glad Primary School	63
L.S.T. Yeung Chung Ming Primary School	80
HKTAYYI Chan Lui Chung Tak Memorial School	64
Kwun Tong Government Primary School	40
Kwun Tong Government Primary School (Sau Ming Road)	75
Sub-total:	507
Wong Tai Sin	
S.K.H. Kei Tak Primary School	58
Po Yan Oblate Primary School	50
Bishop Ford Memorial School	63
Ng Wah Catholic Primary School	58
Wong Tai Sin Catholic Primary School	84
Confucian Tai Shing Primary School	33
Price Memorial Catholic Primary School	42
The Church of Christ In China Kei Wa Primary School	51
Wong Tai Sin Government Primary School	59
Choi Wan St Joseph's Primary School	30
Sub-total:	528

Participating Schools under the Scheme [Note 1]	Service Places
Sai Kung	
HKMLC Ming Tao Primary School	42
Sai Kung Sung Tsun Catholic School (Primary Section)	13
King Lam Catholic Primary School	50
Tseung Kwan O Government Primary School	30
Sub-total:	135
Kowloon City	
S.K.H. Holy Cross Primary School	67
Ma Tau Chung Government Primary School	25
Farm Road Government Primary School	26
Oblate Primary School	58
S.K.H. Good Shepherd Primary School	58
Kowloon Tong Government Primary School	55
Ma Tau Chung Government Primary School (Hung Hom Bay)	25
ELCHK Hung Hom Lutheran Primary School	64
St. Eugene de Mazenod Oblate Primary School	45
Sub-total:	423
Yau Tsim Mong	
Yaumati Kaifong Association School	50
CCC Wanchai Church Kei To Primary School	64
Jordan Road Government Primary School	62
Fresh Fish Traders' School	79
T.K.D.S Fong Shu Chuen School	55
TWGHs Lo Yu Chik Primary School	50
Sub-total:	360
Sham Shui Po	
S.K.H. St. Andrew's Primary School	88
S.K.H. Kei Oi Primary School	60
S.K.H. St. Clement's Primary School	65
Fuk Wing St Government Primary School	45
Sham Shui Po Government Primary School	45
Shamshuipo Kaifong Welfare Association Primary School	30
S.K.H. Kei Fook Primary School	60
Good Counsel Catholic Primary School	60
Li Cheng Uk Government Primary School	26
Sub-total:	479
Sha Tin	
LKWFSL Wong Yiu Nam Primary School	35
Ng Clan's Association Tai Pak Memorial School	50
Chi Hong Primary School	50
H.K.T.A. Shun Yeung Primary School	24
Kowloon City Baptist Church Hay Nien (Yan Ping) Primary School	32
S.K.H. Holy Spirit Primary School	20
GCCITKD Cheong Wong Wai Primary School	60
The Little Flower's Catholic Primary School	34
Sub-total:	305

Participating Schools under the Scheme [Note 1]	Service Places
Tai Po	
S.K.H. Yuen Chen Maun Chen Primary School	16
S.K.H. Yuen Chen Maun Chen Jubilee Primary School	19
NTWJWA Leung Sing Tak Primary School	71
NTWJWA Christian Remembrance of Grace Primary School	40
Tai Po Old Market Public School	50
Tai Po Government Primary School	25
Sub-total:	221
North	
F.S.F.T.F Fong Shu Chuen Primary School	45
HHCALA Buddhist Ching Kok Lin Association School	60
Ta Ku Ling Ling Ying Public School	50
The Salvation Army Centaline Charity Fund Queen's Hill School	100
Tung Koon School	59
Sha Tau Kok Central Primary School	16
Fanling Government Primary School	25
Sub-total:	355
Yuen Long	
LST Leung Kau Kui Primary School (BR)	29
Tin Shui Wai Methodist Primary School	70
Tun Yu School	30
HKFYG Lee Shau Kee Primary School	60
Yuen Long Po Kok Primary School	30
Cumberland Presbyterian Church Yao Dao Primary School	60
TWGHs Leo Tung-hai LEE Primary School	29
Yuen Long Public Middle School Alumni Association Tang Ying Yip Primary School	45
Lions Clubs International Ho Tak Sum Primary School	23
Chiu Yang Por Yen Primary School	29
Ho Ming Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)	17
TWGHs Yiu Dak Chi Memorial Primary School (Yuen Long)	30
S.K.H. Tin Shui Wai Ling Oi Primary School	31
Chinese Y.M.C.A Primary School	62
Sub-total:	545
Tsuen Wan	
CCC Chuen Yuen First Primary School	60
Lei Muk Shue Catholic Primary School	54
Chai Wan Kok Catholic Primary School	55
Tsuen Wan Chiu Chow Public School	65
Holy Cross Lutheran School	84
Hoi Pa St Government Primary School	73
HKTA Yuen Yuen Institute Shek Wai Kok Primary School	45
Ho Shun Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)	58
Tsuen Wan Public Ho Chuen Yiu Memorial Primary School	69
C.C.C. Kei Wai Primary School	32
Sub-total:	595

Participating Schools under the Scheme [Note 1]	**Service Places**
Kwai Tsing	
CNEC Lui Ming Choi Primary School	37
E.L.C.H.K Kwai Shing Lutheran Primary School	46
TWGHs Chow Yin Sum Primary School	60
TWGHs Wong See Sum Primary School	35
TWGHs Ko Ho Ning Memorial Primary School	27
Asbury Methodist Primary School	40
CCC Kei Chun Primary School	23
Salesian Yip Hon Primary School	64
Cho Yiu Catholic Primary School	38
Salesian Yip Hon Millennium Primary School	40
S.K.H. Chu Oi Primary School	20
Yan Chai Hospital Chiu Tsang Hok Wan Primary School	52
Buddhist Lam Bing Yim Memorial School (Sponsored by HKBA)	59
Tsuen Wan Trade Association Primary School	45
CNEC Ta Tung School	25
Sub-total:	611
Tuen Mun	
Toi Shan Association Primary School	69
The Yuen Yuen Institute Chan Kwok Chiu Hing Tak Primary School	50
Yan Oi Tong Madam Lau Wong Fat Primary School	42
Castle Peak Catholic Primary School	58
Yan Chai Hospital Ho Sik Nam Primary School	31
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Tang Shiu Kin Primary School	53
Taoist Ching Chung Primary School (Wu King Estate)	48
Lui Cheung Kwong Lutheran Primary School	45
Sub-total:	396
Total:	**5 798**

Note 1 The participating schools in each district are listed based on their assigned serial numbers under the Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2021)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

One of the aims of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) is to provide support services for families, including those in disadvantaged circumstances and lacking means to meet their needs. In this regard, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

(a) What are the respective numbers of inspections, surprise inspections, and staff deployed by SWD to inspect subvented residential child care centres (RCCCs), residential special child care centres (RSCCCs) and children's organisations under its purview?

(b) During inspections, does SWD conduct random checks of the closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage or review the records of management staff examining CCTV footage and related audits? If so, what are the respective frequencies, durations, and counts of such random checks? If not, what are the reasons?

(c) Last year, SWD provided funding to the Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children (HKSPC) to incorporate AI surveillance technology into the CCTV systems at its centres. Will the Government allocate additional resources to implement similar AI surveillance technology across all child care centers (CCCs) and children's organisations to reduce the likelihood of unfortunate incidents? If so, what are the related expenditure, details, and implementation timetable? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

(a) All CCCs must be registered under the Child Care Services Ordinance (Cap. 243) and the Child Care Services Regulations (Cap. 243A), and comply with the requirements of the above legislation and the Operation Manual for Pre-primary Institutions. The Child Care Centres Advisory Inspectorate (CCCAI) of SWD is responsible for registering and inspecting 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. Inspectors of CCCAI conduct at least 6 surprise inspections at subvented RCCCs/RSCCCs and at least 2 such visits at day CCCs every 12 months, both during office and non-office hours. The frequency of inspections will be increased as necessary based on the principle of risk management. The respective numbers of

inspections conducted by CCCAI at RCCCs/RSCCCs and day CCCs (including both aided and non-aided CCCs) in each of the past 3 years are set out at Annex.

At present, the staffing establishment of CCCAI comprises 1 Social Work Officer, 5 social workers, and 1 registered nurse. In addition, SWD engaged 2 former law enforcement officers through internal redeployment of manpower resources in 2022 to strengthen its inspection efforts.

(b) All RCCCs/RSCCCs are required, while complying with the relevant guidelines of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, to install CCTV surveillance system in the centres and to formulate policies and mechanisms for monitoring and viewing the CCTV footage, that include arranging management staff from at least 2 hierarchical levels to independently examine and view the CCTV footage, defining the method and time of extracting the CCTV footage, assigning a person responsible to make clear records as well as details of supervising staff's review of the process.

To strengthen the monitoring of CCCs' childcare services, CCCAI inspectors visited CCCs every 2 weeks to conduct random checks and review on average at least 2 hours of CCTV footage. Inspectors will also proactively perform random checks of the CCTV footage, inspect the records kept by RCCC/RSCCC management staff regarding their viewing of the CCTV footage and the relevant review records during surprise inspections, follow-ups on complaint cases, etc.

(c) In 2024, SWD, through an allocation of about $20.5 million from the Lotteries Fund, assisted 12 RCCCs and RSCCCs in Hong Kong (including the Children's Residential Home under HKSPC and 2 other centres that are expected to commence operation soon) in introducing the AI monitoring systems into their CCTV systems, so as to enable a more comprehensive monitoring of childcare condition and a more effective identification of staff's improper behaviour for follow-up. The non-governmental organisations operating these centres have engaged service providers to carry out system development, design, coding, and technical testing, etc. according to the service environments and needs of individual centres. The AI monitoring systems are expected to be applied in these centres starting from mid-2025.

Annex

Number of inspections conducted by CCCAI at RCCCs/RSCCCs and day CCCs [Note]

Year	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
RCCCs/RSCCCs	378	323	255
Day CCCs	150	133	138
Total	**528**	**456**	**393**

Note Inspections conducted by CCCAI are normally in the form of surprise inspections, except for some scheduled random checks involving the review of CCTV footage monitored by designated management officers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2622)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the numbers of applications and approved beneficiaries, as well as the subsidy amounts for the Dementia Supplement (DS) and Infirmary Care Supplement (ICS) in subvented residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and private RCHEs participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS), broken down by District Council (DC) district, over the past decade.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides DS to subvented RCHEs and private RCHEs participating in EBPS to enable them to strengthen their manpower through additional resources, with a view to providing training and enhanced care to elderly residents with dementia. Meanwhile, SWD also provides ICS to these RCHEs, allowing them to recruit additional staff to provide better care to elderly residents who are chronically ill or disabled and in need of infirmary care.

From 2020-21 to 2023-24, the number of RCHEs receiving DS provided by SWD, the number of eligible elderly persons and the amount of subsidy disbursed are set out below:

Year	No. of RCHEs	No. of eligible elderly persons [Note]	Subsidy amount ($ million)
2020-21	266	6 777	387
2021-22	288	6 945	386
2022-23	306	7 245	386
2023-24	323	7 515	393

Note It refers to elderly persons who were assessed and certified by the Community Psychogeriatric Team of the Hospital Authority (HA) to be eligible for DS before 2019-20. SWD estimates the number of eligible elderly persons at private RCHEs under EBPS based on the number of elderly residents assessed as eligible at subvented care-and-attention (C&A) homes for the elderly. Since 2020-21, SWD has been calculating and disbursing DS using the number of eligible elderly persons certified in 2019-20 as the benchmark.

Starting from 2024-25, DS provided by SWD to subvented C&A homes has been covered by lump sum grants, thus information on the annual subsidy amount is not available.

From 2020-21 to 2024-25, the number of RCHEs receiving ICS provided by SWD, the number of eligible elderly persons and the amount of subsidy disbursed are set out below:

Year	No. of RCHEs	No. of eligible elderly persons [Note]	Subsidy amount ($ million)
2020-21	129	1 782	170
2021-22	127	1 818	173
2022-23	127	1 770	167
2023-24	121	1 772	171
2024-25	117	1 911	183

[Note] It refers to eligible elderly persons who were certified by Community Geriatric Assessment Teams of HA to be in need of infirmary care.

SWD does not maintain statistics on the numbers of applicants and recipients, and the amount of subsidy disbursed for the above supplements by DC district or type of RCHE.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)182

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2623)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The enhanced Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services (Navigation Scheme) was rolled out in 2020-21 to provide a total of 1 200 training places over 5 years. In this connection, please provide:

a. The number of applicants in 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 (as at end-December 2024);

b. The number of trainees who completed the first-year of the course and became health workers in 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23; and

c. The number of trainees who completed the course and continued to work in the social welfare care sector in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

a. & b. Under the Navigation Scheme, the respective numbers of applicants, admissions and trainees who became health workers from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are provided below:

Admission year	No. of applicants	No. of admissions	No. of registered health workers [Note]
2020-21	1 016	418	254
2021-22	905	368	227
2022-23	511	222	119
2023-24	467	228	Still undergoing training
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	311	141	Still undergoing training

[Note] Trainees may apply to the Social Welfare Department for registration as health workers upon successfully completing the first year of the part-time diploma course.

c. As at the end of December 2024, 224 and 168 trainees, who were admitted in 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively, graduated. Out of these, 132 and 102

graduates, according to information provided by some of the trainees at the time of graduation, have continued to be employed in social welfare service units.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2624)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What was the monthly cost per place for on-site pre-school rehabilitation services (OPRS) provided by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for children with mild disabilities under the age of 6 in the past 3 financial years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

SWD does not have information on the monthly cost per place for OPRS in 2022-23 and 2023-24. SWD has begun maintaining such data in 2024-25. The revised estimate for the monthly cost per place for OPRS in that financial year is $9,382.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)184

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2626)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In the past 3 financial years, what was the annual expenditure of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) on providing the Agency-based Enhancement of Clinical Psychological Support Services for Children under Foster Care for foster care service agencies?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

SWD's annual expenditure on providing Agency-based Enhancement of Clinical Psychological Support Services for Children under Foster Care for agencies operating foster care service in the past 3 financial years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure ($ million)
2022-23 (Actual)	3.8
2023-24 (Actual)	4.1
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	4.3

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)185

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2627)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In the past 3 financial years, what was the annual expenditure of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) on providing the Agency-based Enhancement of Professional Staff Support Services in Residential Care Homes for agencies operating residential child care services (RCCS)?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

SWD's annual expenditure on providing the Agency-based Enhancement of Professional Staff Support Services in Residential Care Homes for agencies operating RCCS in the past 3 financial years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure ($ million)
2022-23 (Actual)	29.8
2023-24 (Actual)	31.5
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	32.7

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2631)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the numbers of service units of district elderly community centre (DECC) and neighbourhood elderly centre (NEC), the respective numbers of counselling cases and cases of hidden or vulnerable elderly persons handled, as well as the number of cases undergoing Minimum Data Set-Home Care (MDS-HC) assessments (or "interRAI-HC version 9.3 assessments" since August 2021) in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The number of service units of DECC and NEC in Hong Kong, the respective numbers of counselling cases and cases of hidden or vulnerable elderly persons handled, as well as the number of cases undergoing MDS-HC assessments from 2020-21 to 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024) are set out at Annex.

Annex

Number of service units of DECC and NEC in Hong Kong, the respective numbers of counselling cases and cases of hidden or vulnerable elderly persons handled, as well as the number of cases undergoing MDS-HC assessments from 2020-21 to 2024-25

	DECC	NEC
2020-21		
No. of service units	41	170
Counselling cases [Note]	12 672	20 702
Cases of hidden or vulnerable elderly persons	1 978	8 718
Cases undergoing MDS-HC assessments	3 059	8 117
2021-22		
No. of service units	41	171
Counselling cases [Note]	13 015	21 712
Cases of hidden or vulnerable elderly persons	2 016	8 936
Cases undergoing MDS-HC assessments	2 984	8 388
2022-23		
No. of service units	41	172
Counselling cases [Note]	12 812	22 473
Cases of hidden or vulnerable elderly persons	1 923	6 633
Cases undergoing MDS-HC assessments	3 429	10 534
2023-24		
No. of service units	41	173
Counselling cases [Note]	13 505	23 949
Cases of hidden or vulnerable elderly persons	1 903	7 033
Cases undergoing MDS-HC assessments	3 405	10 666
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)		
No. of service units	41	173
Counselling cases [Note]	12 988	25 039
Cases of hidden or vulnerable elderly persons	1 850	6 924
Cases undergoing MDS-HC assessments	2 781	9 049

[Note] The figures exclude the counselling cases handled by individual integrated services centres that adopt an integrated approach in providing services for various types of users (including families, children and youths, and elderly persons, etc.).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2632)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

There were 20 recommendations in the Elderly Services Programme Plan (ESPP) announced by the Elderly Commission in 2017. Could the Government please provide a detailed account of the financial expenditure incurred thus far in implementing these recommendations? Please provide a breakdown of the financial expenditure and expenditure items associated with the implementation of each recommendation.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

The ESPP has put forward a total of 20 short-term and medium to long-term recommendations for the future development of elderly services. The follow-up work on the recommendations is undertaken by the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB), Social Welfare Department and other relevant bureaux/departments according to their respective purviews. LWB is also responsible for the overall coordination and monitoring of the progress of the follow-up work on various recommendations in the ESPP. Work has been initiated to implement all 20 recommendations in the ESPP, with some projects already completed and others on-going. Since the follow-up work is carried out to strengthen and enhance existing elderly services, or is part of the regular work of the bureaux/departments concerned, the financial expenditure involved cannot be separately calculated.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)188

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2633)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the waiting situation for residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), please provide the average waiting time (in months) for various types of RCHEs in the past 5 years using the following table:

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Care-and-attention (C&A) place					
Subvented/contract home					
Private RCHE participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS)					
Nursing home (NH) place					
Overall					

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

The average waiting time for various types of subsidised residential care places (RCPs) for the elderly from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is set out below:

	Average waiting time (in months) [Note 1]				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
C&A home					
- Subvented/contract home	42	41	31	17	19
- Private home under EBPS	8	8	4	4	5
Overall	19	18	14	8	9
NH home [Note 2]	22	21	18	10	9

Note 1 It is the average number of months taken for cases to be admitted to subsidised RCPs for the elderly during the last 3 months of the year concerned (except for 2024-25).

Note 2 Including subsidised NH places provided by subvented NHs, self-financing homes and contract homes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2648)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding suicide incidents over the past 5 years, please provide statistics on the means of suicide, triggering factors, professional support provided prior to the incidents, and follow-up actions taken afterward. Furthermore, please elaborate on the resources committed by the Government to prevent and address suicides, the categories of services available, and its plans for future development in the next 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

The factors leading to suicide are highly complex and include emotional issues, personal health, family relationships, romantic relationships, financial difficulties, and challenges related to work and studies.

The Government attaches great importance to suicide prevention, and has been providing multi-tiered support through multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration among various policy bureaux and departments (including the Education Bureau (EDB), the Health Bureau (HHB), the Department of Health (DH), the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB), and the Social Welfare Department (SWD)), public organisations, and other stakeholders within the community. These efforts aim to promote public education, identify high-risk groups, intervene early, and provide appropriate counselling and support services to individuals with suicidal tendencies and their families.

(1) Public education and promotion

Enhancing public awareness of mental health, fostering a positive mental health culture, and strengthening resilience:

- LWB organises an annual "Mental Health Month" to raise public awareness of mental health through lectures, exhibitions, community activities, and workshops, and convey positive messages, encouraging individuals to care for their own emotional well-being as well as that of others.
- SWD distributes promotional materials, broadcasts short videos, and organises community activities to convey positive messages, enhance public resilience, and encourage seeking help early.

- DH implements mental health promotion programmes, such as "Shall We Talk" and the Joyful@HK Campaign to raise public awareness of mental health issues.
- HHB promotes the "Mental Health Workplace Charter" programme to advocate for workplace mental health, foster a positive working environment, and mitigate the impact of workplace stress on mental health.
- EDB encourages schools to adopt a whole-school approach to promote students' mental health through curriculum, information dissemination, activities, and training, thereby enhancing the resilience of all students.

(2) Identifying high-risk groups and early intervention

Identifying high-risk groups and providing targeted support services and early intervention to reduce potential suicide risks:

- SWD has set up cyber youth support teams (CYSTs) to reach out to emotionally unstable youth or those with suicidal thoughts via social media and other online platforms. CYSTs provide emotional support, counselling, and appropriate referral services. In the second quarter of 2025, SWD plans to enhance CYSTs' services by providing an online youth emotional support platform, offering real-time online counselling to students or young people facing emotional distress and immediate crises.
- HHB launched the Pilot Scheme on Mental Health Assessment in 2024 at 3 District Health Centres/District Health Centre Expresses to provide free preliminary mental health assessments at the community level. The pilot scheme aims to achieve the primary healthcare goal of "early detection and early treatment" and strengthen support for individuals in need.
- In March 2024, HHB provided mental health first aid training to members of Care Teams to enhance their ability to identify and assist high-risk cases within the community.

(3) Crisis intervention for high-risk cases

Providing in-depth counselling and crisis intervention for high-risk cases with suicidal tendencies or mental health issues:

- SWD subvents The Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong to operate the Suicide Crisis Intervention Centre, which offers outreaching, crisis intervention, and in-depth counselling services for individuals troubled by suicide-related issues.
- SWD and subvented organisations operate multiple hotlines, including the SWD Hotline, the crisis intervention and support hotline of the CEASE Crisis Centre under the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, the Caritas Crisis Line, the Hotline Service for Youth at Risk, and the Designated Hotline for Carer Support. These hotlines provide immediate support to individuals with suicidal tendencies or emotional distress and encourage them to seek in-depth counselling at relevant service units.
- When suspected student suicide incidents occur, schools will immediately activate a crisis management team to provide group or individual counselling to affected teachers and students while following up with high-risk students.
- Since December 2023, the Government has implemented the Three-tier School-based Emergency Mechanism across all secondary schools. This

mechanism integrates in-school multidisciplinary teams, the off-campus support network, and medical services to identify students with higher suicidal risk early and provide them with targeted support.

- Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness, subvented by SWD, provide emotional support, case management, and counselling services to individuals with mental health needs or suicidal tendencies. These centres collaborate with the Hospital Authority (HA) and other welfare service units to provide immediate support and referrals for high-risk cases.
- HHB launched the "Mental Health Support Hotline" in December 2023, offering 24-hour immediate mental health support and referral services to individuals at risk of suicide.
- HHB has also established an emotional support and counselling service centre for ethnic minorities, comprising a multi-disciplinary team of counsellors proficient in ethnic minority languages, to provide mental health support.
- In 2023, HA optimised the Case Management Programme by improving the case manager-to-patient ratio to no more than 1:40. Additional manpower has been recruited to strengthen community psychiatric services, inpatient and outpatient psychiatric care, particularly for high-risk patients.

The SWD does not maintain statistics on the means of suicide, triggering factors, professional support provided before, or follow-up actions taken after suicide incidents.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0008)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government launched the Incentive Scheme to Encourage Provision of Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities (RCHDs) in New Private Developments (the Scheme) in 2023. The Scheme aims to provide incentives to private developers to build residential care homes for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in new private development projects, thereby increasing the supply of RCHDs. In this regard, would the Government please provide the following information:

1. Since the launch of the Scheme, how many projects have been approved, and when are the approved projects expected to commence service after completing the vetting process?
2. Will the suitability of incentives provided be assessed and adjusted? If not, what are the reasons?

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

Reply:

The Government launched the Scheme in December 2023 to allow private developers, in the course of land transactions relating to lease modification, land exchange or private treaty grant for new private developments (excluding industrial developments), to be exempted from payment of land premium on the eligible RCHD premises, on the condition that they comply with certain lease conditions and obtain support from the Social Welfare Department.

Private developers' participation in the Scheme may depend on the state of the property market, commercial considerations, and other relevant factors. As at the end of December 2024, the Scheme has been launched for 1 year and the Lands Department has yet to receive any applications. We will continue to promote the Scheme and keep its implementation under review.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)191

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0057)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

An allocation of $20 billion to purchase properties for accommodating social welfare facilities was approved in 2020, with the aim of purchasing 60 properties for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to establish more than 130 social welfare facilities. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee:

1. of the annual expenditure on purchasing properties for accommodating social welfare facilities, and the costs of purchased properties each year since the allocation was approved;
2. of the districts and uses of purchased properties; and
3. if the Government will assess whether the established objective has been achieved.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1. & 2. With the assistance of the Government Property Agency (GPA), SWD is striving to identify suitable premises for purchase through different channels. As at 28 February 2025, 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.

3. SWD and GPA are continuing their efforts to identify and purchase suitable premises, and have earmarked $250 million for related work in 2025-26. The progress of purchasing premises depends on the availability of suitable properties in the market and various external factors, including whether the properties for sale have suitable 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. 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 will continue to implement and review the scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1963)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 that the Department will continue to increase the places of aided child care centres (CCCs). In this regard, please provide the following information:

1. How many standalone CCCs are there in Hong Kong? How are these centres distributed across districts, and what is the utilisation rate of each? How many new aided CCCs will be established, and what will be the amount of subsidy allocated to each?
2. The utilisation rate of standalone CCCs has dropped from 94% in 2023-24 to 85% in 2024-25, and is expected to remain flat in 2025-26. What are the reasons for this?
3. Some citizens have told me that the waiting time for day CCCs in certain districts is too long, making it difficult to reduce the child care burden on working mothers. Has the Department assessed whether the distribution and quantity of CCCs adequately meet the needs of families in different districts? Have there been cases where certain districts have an excess of places, while others face lengthy waiting time? Has resource allocation been conducted based on the actual needs in different districts? If such assessments have been made, what are the findings? If not, will an immediate assessment be conducted?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will set up a total of 11 more aided standalone CCCs in phases within 3 years starting from 2024. Among these, 4 CCCs at Queens Hill Estate and Wah Ming Estate in Fanling, the Treasury Building in Sham Shui Po, and Shun Lee Estate in Kwun Tong have commenced service in 2024. In addition, the CCCs at Cheung Shun Street in Sham Shui Po and Kwai Fong Estate in Kwai Tsing will commence service in 2025-26 whereas the CCCs at the joint-user government office building in Area 67 of Tseung Kwan O, Sai Kung and the Lei Yue Mun Ancillary Facilities Block in Kwun Tong are planned to commence service in 2026-27. The remaining 3 aided standalone CCCs, proposed to be set up in districts such as Kowloon City and Kwun Tong, are planned to be put into service by the end of 2027. The

number of aided standalone CCCs in various districts in Hong Kong and their average utilisation rates in 2024-25 (as at December 2024) are set out at Annex. The expenditure of a CCC depends on the number of places it provides. For an aided standalone CCC offering 100 places, the estimated annual expenditure is about $7.9 million.

2. The overall utilisation rate of aided standalone CCCs in 2024-25 was lower than that in 2023-24 as the 4 additional aided standalone CCCs commenced service in January, March, September, and October 2024, respectively, and it took time for them to admit service users. In addition, 2 more aided standalone CCCs will commence service in 2025-26, and they are also expected to require time to admit service users. Therefore, the utilisation rate for that financial year is expected to be similar to that in 2024-25.

3. Generally speaking, parents will consider the background, service features and facilities of the premises of the service operator when deciding whether to apply for CCC services. They will choose a suitable service unit located near their place of residence/work or the carer's residence based on their family's child-rearing needs. After understanding the services and arrangements of ancillary facilities provided by the CCC, parents can directly apply for the services from the service operator. By understanding the circumstances of the parents and their children, the service operator can also provide more flexible support to families in need, and effectively address the service needs of different districts. In addition, SWD has been continuously reviewing the service planning for CCCs. This involves considering 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. Follow-up measures will be taken in a timely manner, including enhancing service promotion, and adjusting the planned provision of CCCs and the distribution of service places, etc., to better meet the service demand of the community.

Annex

Number of aided standalone CCCs in various districts and their average utilisation rates

(April to December 2024)

District	Aided standalone CCC	
	Number	**Average utilisation rate (%)**
Central & Western	1	100
Southern	-	N.A.
Islands	-	N.A.
Eastern	1	100
Wan Chai	1	100
Kwun Tong	1	10 [Note 1]
Wong Tai Sin	-	N.A.
Sai Kung	-	N.A.
Kowloon City	1	100
Yau Tsim Mong	1	100
Sham Shui Po	2	75 [Note 2]
Sha Tin	2	99
Tai Po	1	100
North	3	54 [Note 3]
Yuen Long	2	90
Tsuen Wan	1	100
Kwai Tsing	1	100
Tuen Mun	1	100
Total	**19**	**87**

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 The first additional aided standalone CCC in the district commenced operation in October 2024.

Note 2 The second additional aided standalone CCC in the district commenced operation in September 2024.

Note 3 The second and the third additional aided standalone CCCs in the district commenced operation in January and March 2024, respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2745)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Many citizens have remarked that the Budget Speech references the term "support" at least 24 times in connection with various industries and groups. However, it makes no mention of support for the "sandwich class" or the middle class, resulting in considerable dissatisfaction. Their discontent stems from the fact that current policies permit elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients to reside in Guangdong (GD) or Fujian (FJ) provinces while continuing to receive welfare benefits. In contrast, when elderly parents in ordinary families retire and relocate to the Mainland for their later years, the living and medical expenses covered by their carers cannot be claimed as tax deductions or used to apply for the dependent parent tax allowance. In this regard, would the Government please provide the following information:

1. Has the Government estimated the current number of elderly persons aged 65 or older living in the Mainland, particularly in GD and FJ provinces? How do these figures compare to the past 3 financial years?

2. Further to the question above, how many of these elderly persons are participating in the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme, and what is the annual expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

1. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region does not maintain statistics or estimates on the number of Hong Kong people residing in the mainland of China (the Mainland). Notwithstanding, since 2016, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) has been making use of the movement records of Hong Kong permanent residents to compile and release figures on "Hong Kong residents usually staying in the GD Province", estimating the number of Hong Kong permanent residents who have stayed in the GD Province for a cumulative duration of at least half of the time during the 6 months before and after the reference time-point. The estimated number for end-2023 was 495 900, with 93 700 aged 65 or above, representing increases of 1 900 (2.1%), 8 600 (10.1%), and 5 700 (6.4%) compared to end-2020, end-2021, and end-2022, respectively, for this group. The estimations are made on the assumption

that Hong Kong permanent residents departing Hong Kong via land control points and the China Ferry Terminal are staying in the GD Province, and cannot differentiate those who travelled to other areas in the Mainland or outside the Mainland after departing Hong Kong. The figures for mid-2024 will be released by C&SD by end-March 2025.

2. The number of recipients [Note 1] under the PCSSA Scheme and the related expenditures [Note 2] from 2022-23 to 2024-25 are tabulated as follows:

2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	
Number of recipients	Expenditure (Actual) ($ million)	Number of recipients	Expenditure (Actual) ($ million)	Number of recipients	Expenditure (Revised estimate) ($ million)
652	39	568	34	555	32

Note 1 Individuals who were 60 to 64 and were receiving CSSA before 1 February 2019 are eligible to participate in the PCSSA Scheme, provided they meet the other eligibility criteria.

Note 2 The actual expenditures for 2022-23 and 2023-24, as well as the revised estimate of expenditure for 2024-25 include the payment of an additional half-month of CSSA standard rates in the year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3098)

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 (Edward TO)

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 provide the following information:

1. the annual number of applications and approvals for subsidising eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure or rent technology products, the types of subsidised products, the amount involved, and the number of elderly beneficiaries over the past 5 years, broken down by type of service organisation;
2. the annual numbers of activities and promotional materials produced to promote the use of gerontechnology among the elderly, their content, the number of elderly reached, and the expenditure involved over the past 5 years; and
3. the number of staff, establishment, ranking, salary expenses by rank, and total salary expenses for those responsible for the I&T Fund.

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. Information pertaining to the approval of applications under the I&T Fund from 2020-21 to 2024-25 (as at the end of February 2025) is set out at Annex.

   The types of technology products more commonly applied for procurement by service units include equipment, assessment tools and accessories for occupational therapy/ physiotherapy/speech therapy; smart hospital bed and accessories; computer software; security equipment; and hoist/raiser/lifter/climber, etc. As the I&T Fund is open to applications from elderly and rehabilitation service units only, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not keep records of the number of beneficiaries.

2. The Government continues to promote the use of gerontechnology among the elderly through various channels, including, since October 2023, integrating the promotion of gerontechnology into the service scope of SWD's district elderly community centres and neighbourhood elderly centres to encourage the adoption of gerontechnology in the community. In addition, elderly centres organise activities such as seminars and

workshops to provide opportunities for the elderly to access and learn to use more technology products, such as smart phones, tablets and application software, etc. SWD does not have information on the numbers of activities organised and promotional materials produced, as well as their content, the number of elderly persons reached and the expenditure involved, etc.

3. In 2018-19, 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 Executive Officer grades. The average annual expenditure from 2022-23 to 2024-25 is about $6.85 million.

Annex

Information pertaining to the approval of applications under the I&T Fund from 2020-21 to 2024-25 (as at 28 February 2025)

Tranche no.	Type of service unit	No. of products applied for	No. of products approved	Amount of grant approved ($ million)
4	Subsidised elderly service unit	2 327	2 166	60
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	744	624	31
5	Subsidised elderly service unit	2 046	1 792	56
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	1 007	855	30
6	Subsidised elderly service unit	1 254	1 129	37
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	377	334	19
7	Subsidised elderly service unit	726	620	23
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	428	367	11
8	Subsidised elderly service unit	2 268	2 115	52
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	1 200	1 023	40
	Non-subsidised elderly service unit	3 570	3 311	101
	Non-subsidised rehabilitation service unit	108	104	3
9	Subsidised elderly service unit	1 465	1 118	35
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	646	531	20
	Non-subsidised elderly service unit	1 346	1 091	29
	Non-subsidised rehabilitation service unit	84	72	2
10 [Note]	Subsidised elderly service unit	1 855	787	23
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	2 231	1 518	20
	Non-subsidised elderly service unit	1 541	808	25
	Non-subsidised rehabilitation service unit	169	105	5

[Note] The vetting of the 10th tranche of applications is still underway.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)195

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2978)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance) is scheduled to come into effect next January. The Government will provide an additional annual provision of $186 million to increase emergency places for residential child care and strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. A detailed breakdown of the $186 million allocation, specifying how the funds will be distributed across different items, including increasing emergency places for residential child care, professional support services (e.g., psychological counselling and social work support), family support services (e.g., early intervention and crisis management solutions), as well as other related administrative or enforcement expenses.
2. The expected outcomes of this funding allocation, including the number of emergency places for residential child care services to be provided, the specific number of children and families who stand to benefit, and the extent to which professional support service coverage will be expanded.
3. Has the Government conducted an assessment of the long-term impact and effectiveness of these additional resources? For example, will the Government establish monitoring mechanism or performance evaluation indicators to ensure that resource utilisation aligns with actual needs?
4. Does the Government have further legislative plans, inter-departmental cooperation initiatives, or public education programmes to ensure the long-term protection of child welfare? If so, please provide the details. If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1. & 2. To dovetail with the operation of the Ordinance in January 2026, the Government will, starting from 2025-26, allocate an additional annual provision of $29.07 million to increase the number of emergency residential child care places, and $157.4 million to strengthen professional support for child abuse victims and their families, amounting to a total of approximately $186.5 million. 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) to create 41 permanent posts to enhance the Government's enforcement and support capacity, provide appropriate training for practitioners in relevant professions and strengthen promotion and public education efforts on child protection.

In terms of emergency residential child care places, 2 new residential child care centres will commence operation before the Ordinance takes effect, adding a total of 96 emergency care service places and catering for about 380 children each year.

Regarding strengthening professional support for child abuse victims and their families, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has subsidised non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to set up 6 service teams under the Child Protection Support Service (service teams) in March 2025. The service teams, comprising social workers, psychologists, nurses, and other supporting staff, will provide a range of support services, including home visitation support, therapeutic/psycho-social groups, educational and family enrichment programmes, etc., to provide targeted intervention and professional support for children who have been abused or are at risk of abuse, as well as their families.

3. NGOs operating subvented services have to comply with the relevant requirements and standards stipulated in the Service Agreements (SAs), including essential service requirements, output and outcome standards, and service quality standards. SWD will review the operation of these services and monitor the performance of the service units in accordance with existing mechanisms, and will conduct scheduled or surprise visits by random selection to assess whether NGOs are in compliance with the terms and requirements of the SAs.

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, Family and Child Protective Services Units, 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.

In addition, SWD will set up 4 Community Parents and Children Centres (CPCCs) on a pilot basis by re-engineering existing children and youth centres located in the Eastern, Wong Tai Sin, Sha Tin, and Yuen Long districts. These CPCCs will adopt a play-based approach to promote parent-child interaction and educate parents on positive parenting methods, provide support to families with parenting needs, and refer families with other needs to appropriate government and community services. SWD will begin renovation works in the second quarter of 2025, with the 4 CPCCs scheduled to commence operations progressively starting from 2026. The estimated number of beneficiaries in the first year is about 10 000 persons.

The Commission on Children launched the "Walk with Kids" Thematic Campaign in 2023 to promote child protection. A series of stakeholder engagement activities have been organised to address a broad range of child-related issues, including child protection, children's physical and mental well-being, positive

parenting, and family solidarity. These activities aim to gather feedback from stakeholders and children for consideration and follow-up by relevant departments. Furthermore, the Commission has introduced the Funding Scheme for Children's Well-being and Development to support various promotional and public education projects that promote children's rights, well-being, and development.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)196

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0384)

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 (Gilford LAW)

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 in administering the WFA Scheme each year, the proportion of the related expenditure to the overall expenditure of the department, the average number of cases handled by each staff member;
(2) the number of applications for the WFA Scheme 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 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 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 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 each year;
(7) the distribution of the number of applications by race;
(8) the number of cases withdrawn from the WFA Scheme each year; and
(9) the manpower and estimated expenditure involved in the WFA Scheme in 2025-26.

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

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 2022-23 and 2023-24, while the number of staff in 2024-25 is about 710. The staff costs of the WFAO in 2022-23 and 2023-24 were about $279.7 million and $304.6 million respectively, while the revised estimate of staff cost for 2024-25 is about $311.7 million. The staff cost of the WFAO 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 financial years. As at end of February 2025, the WFAO has received a total of about 348 000 WFA applications in the past 3 financial years, representing an application-to-staff ratio of about 160:1 per year.

(2) The number of approved WFA applications by district from 2022-23 to 2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025) 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 2022-23 to 2024-25 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 2022-23 to 2024-25 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 2022-23 to 2024-25 is set out in Table 20 of the Annex.

(7) The number of applications received from non-Chinese households from 2022-23 to 2024-25 is set out in Table 21 of the Annex. The WFAO does not maintain further statistics on the race of non-Chinese applicant households.

(8) The number of applications withdrawn from 2022-23 to 2024-25 is set out in Table 22 of the Annex.

(9) The number of staff in the WFAO is estimated to be around 680 in 2025-26, involving estimated costs of about $331.1 million.

Annex

Table 1

A breakdown of the number of approved WFA applications by year and by district

District	Number of approved WFA applications		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
Kwun Tong	16 915	14 603	11 724
Sham Shui Po	13 207	11 470	8 795
Yuen Long	10 679	9 130	7 474
Sha Tin	10 152	8 955	7 134
Kwai Tsing	9 966	8 879	7 614
Tuen Mun	9 434	9 410	7 736
North	7 309	7 042	5 729
Wong Tai Sin	7 219	6 542	5 474
Kowloon City	5 765	5 025	4 144
Eastern	4 475	4 036	3 302
Yau Tsim Mong	4 377	3 707	2 831
Tsuen Wan	4 025	3 600	3 003
Islands	3 627	3 045	2 460
Sai Kung	3 326	2 867	2 372
Tai Po	3 283	2 866	2 867
Southern	2 146	1 912	1 543
Central & Western	1 078	934	720
Wan Chai	614	531	453
Total	**117 597**	**104 554**	**85 375**

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

Gender of applicant	Number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances					
	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	
	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate
Male	41 290	9 564	35 274	9 158	30 304	5 566
Female	33 610	7 171	29 398	6 571	25 858	4 383
Total	**74 900**	**16 735**	**64 672**	**15 729**	**56 162**	**9 949**

Table 3

A breakdown of the amount of full-rate and half-rate allowances granted by year and by gender of the applicant

(i)

Gender of applicant	Amount of full-rate allowance granted		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
Male	$829,075,750	$721,747,450	$681,529,906
Female	$549,079,850	$503,651,450	$497,181,828
Total	**$1,378,155,600**	**$1,225,398,900**	**$1,178,711,734**

(ii)

Gender of applicant	Amount of half-rate allowance granted		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
Male	$99,828,550	$95,750,350	$61,973,788
Female	$61,569,500	$57,988,750	$41,371,657
Total	**$161,398,050**	**$153,739,100**	**$103,345,445**

Note: The breakdown of the applications by category is determined based on the information in the last claim month of each approved WFA application. This applies to Tables 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13.

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

Age of applicant	Number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances					
	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	
	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate
15 to below 20	13	5	4	3	8	2
20 to below 30	2 314	674	1 774	562	1 447	321
30 to below 40	20 624	4 837	17 583	4 573	14 738	2 684
40 to below 50	28 885	6 483	25 267	6 376	22 517	4 101
50 to below 60	14 739	3 466	12 522	3 085	10 866	2 028
60 or above	8 325	1 270	7 522	1 130	6 586	813
Total	**74 900**	**16 735**	**64 672**	**15 729**	**56 162**	**9 949**

Table 5

A breakdown of the amount of full-rate and half-rate allowances granted by year and by age of the applicant

(i)

Age of applicant	Amount of full-rate allowance granted		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
15 to below 20	$109,400	$17,450	$74,161
20 to below 30	$39,800,250	$31,752,100	$28,658,717
30 to below 40	$442,158,700	$387,968,850	$358,067,781
40 to below 50	$584,972,150	$526,747,450	$520,069,020
50 to below 60	$222,946,600	$197,494,550	$193,393,094
60 or above	$88,168,500	$81,418,500	$78,448,961
Total	**$1,378,155,600**	**$1,225,398,900**	**$1,178,711,734**

(ii)

Age of applicant	Amount of half-rate allowance granted		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
15 to below 20	$16,850	$10,950	$6,116
20 to below 30	$5,772,750	$4,717,500	$2,635,615
30 to below 40	$53,415,300	$50,528,200	$31,676,511
40 to below 50	$68,573,900	$68,187,800	$46,732,348
50 to below 60	$26,290,850	$24,083,300	$17,433,474
60 or above	$7,328,400	$6,211,350	$4,861,381
Total	**$161,398,050**	**$153,739,100**	**$103,345,445**

Table 6

A breakdown of the number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances by year and by household size

Household size	Number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances					
	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	
	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate
1 person	4 225	2 013	3 478	1 525	2 864	1 088
2 persons	13 556	2 796	11 242	2 659	9 495	1 757
3 persons	18 458	4 480	15 877	4 084	13 831	2 498
4 persons	27 870	5 442	24 609	5 372	21 620	3 249
5 persons	8 399	1 526	7 326	1 622	6 427	1 078
6 persons or above	2 392	478	2 140	467	1 925	279
Total	**74 900**	**16 735**	**64 672**	**15 729**	**56 162**	**9 949**

Table 7

A breakdown of the amount of full-rate and half-rate allowances granted by year and by household size

(i)

Household size	Amount of full-rate allowance granted		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
1 person	$28,020,050	$24,268,550	$22,198,901
2 persons	$145,968,850	$124,659,950	$116,139,668
3 persons	$290,128,100	$258,331,950	$249,695,609
4 persons	$612,234,800	$547,471,400	$528,343,243
5 persons	$228,387,400	$203,575,400	$196,049,835
6 persons or above	$73,416,400	$67,091,650	$66,284,478
Total	**$1,378,155,600**	**$1,225,398,900**	**$1,178,711,734**

(ii)

Household size	Amount of half-rate allowance granted		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
1 person	$8,141,750	$6,102,150	$4,746,863
2 persons	$18,191,650	$17,424,350	$12,428,165
3 persons	$38,575,650	$34,797,050	$23,231,920
4 persons	$66,463,650	$64,694,300	$41,619,367
5 persons	$22,493,400	$23,256,300	$16,411,757
6 persons or above	$7,531,950	$7,464,950	$4,907,373
Total	**$161,398,050**	**$153,739,100**	**$103,345,445**

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

Industry of applicant	Number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances					
	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	
	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate
Financing, insurance, real estate, professional and business services	22 503	5 270	19 082	4 714	16 249	3 096
Construction	12 584	3 339	11 040	2 995	9 679	1 905
Transportation, storage, postal and courier services, information and communications	11 744	1 924	10 301	2 044	8 780	1 301
Accommodation and food services	9 984	2 227	8 492	2 380	7 815	1 325
Import/export, wholesale and retail trades	8 767	1 438	7 534	1 370	6 601	844
Public administration, social and personal services	4 614	1 547	4 220	1 370	3 866	973
Manufacturing	1 313	242	1 118	192	948	105
Others	3 391	748	2 885	664	2 224	400
Total	**74 900**	**16 735**	**64 672**	**15 729**	**56 162**	**9 949**

Table 9

A breakdown of the amount of full-rate and half-rate allowances granted by industry of the applicant and by year

(i)

Industry of applicant	Amount of full-rate allowance granted		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
Financing, insurance, real estate, professional and business services	$358,837,700	$312,206,250	$294,811,558
Construction	$268,601,600	$243,169,000	$236,802,295
Transportation, storage, postal and courier services, information and communications	$237,905,150	$210,810,950	$196,581,092
Accommodation and food services	$187,862,400	$166,252,100	$170,985,205
Import/export, wholesale and retail trades	$158,380,800	$140,483,450	$135,739,366
Public administration, social and personal services	$80,277,550	$77,321,100	$78,988,773
Manufacturing	$22,709,150	$19,759,600	$18,210,790
Others	$63,581,250	$55,396,450	$46,592,655
Total	**$1,378,155,600**	**$1,225,398,900**	**$1,178,711,734**

(ii)

Industry of applicant	Amount of half-rate allowance granted		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
Financing, insurance, real estate, professional and business services	$43,532,700	$39,664,150	$27,949,507
Construction	$38,423,850	$34,295,200	$23,617,908
Transportation, storage, postal and courier services, information and communications	$20,355,900	$21,353,700	$14,472,784
Accommodation and food services	$22,522,950	$24,378,350	$14,209,059
Import/export, wholesale and retail trades	$13,062,200	$12,898,300	$8,334,019
Public administration, social and personal services	$13,541,700	$12,525,800	$9,392,713
Manufacturing	$2,372,050	$1,887,550	$1,035,831
Others	$7,586,700	$6,736,050	$4,333,624
Total	**$161,398,050**	**$153,739,100**	**$103,345,445**

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

Occupation of applicant	Number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances					
	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	
	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate
Elementary occupations	30 265	5 452	25 888	4 918	21 858	3 240
Service and sales workers	19 276	3 825	16 805	3 838	15 159	2 300
Craft and related workers	7 123	1 870	6 175	1 720	5 425	1 077
Associate professionals	6 015	2 603	5 299	2 577	4 970	1 599
Clerical support workers	6 914	1 437	5 952	1 257	5 242	839
Professionals	1 104	392	949	390	744	238
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	433	190	365	171	270	115
Others	3 770	966	3 239	858	2 494	541
Total	**74 900**	**16 735**	**64 672**	**15 729**	**56 162**	**9 949**

Table 11

A breakdown of the amount of full-rate and half-rate allowances granted by year and by occupation of the applicant

(i)

Occupation of applicant	Amount of full-rate allowance granted		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
Elementary occupations	$535,562,400	$472,076,550	$442,235,846
Service and sales workers	$351,478,350	$317,939,950	$319,828,271
Craft and related workers	$150,628,350	$132,429,300	$128,089,863
Associate professionals	$122,167,900	$111,169,300	$113,624,663
Clerical support workers	$118,291,550	$103,786,550	$100,200,442
Professionals	$21,086,900	$18,859,650	$16,353,608
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	$8,819,150	$7,502,750	$6,383,313
Others	$70,121,000	$61,634,850	$51,995,728
Total	**$1,378,155,600**	**1,225,398,900**	**$1,178,711,734**

(ii)

Occupation of applicant	Amount of half-rate allowance granted		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
Elementary occupations	$50,384,900	$46,193,250	$32,359,754
Service and sales workers	$36,103,600	$37,372,000	$23,144,669
Craft and related workers	$21,166,750	$19,350,350	$13,272,886
Associate professionals	$26,566,900	$25,947,900	$17,188,332
Clerical support workers	$11,524,450	$10,455,150	$7,433,570
Professionals	$3,762,500	$3,882,250	$2,739,310
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	$2,112,100	$1,848,050	$1,382,080
Others	$9,776,850	$8,690,150	$5,824,844
Total	**$161,398,050**	**$153,739,100**	**$103,345,445**

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

	Number of approved applications granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances					
	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	
	Full-rate [1]	Half-rate [2]	Full-rate [1]	Half-rate [2]	Full-rate [1]	Half-rate [2]
Basic Allowance [3]	4 744	158	3 462	210	2 563	113
Medium Allowance [3]	8 113	1 090	5 815	889	4 761	543
Higher Allowance [3]	62 043	15 487	55 395	14 630	48 838	9 293
Total	**74 900**	**16 735**	**64 672**	**15 729**	**56 162**	**9 949**

Note 1: The income limits for receiving 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 receiving 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 remained unchanged.

Table 13

A breakdown of the amount of full-rate and half-rate allowances granted by year and by working hours

(i)

	Amount of full-rate allowance granted		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
Basic Allowance	$55,625,900	$44,677,550	$34,039,085
Medium Allowance	$126,012,000	$90,694,500	$82,095,661
Higher Allowance	$1,196,517,700	$1,090,026,850	$1,062,576,988
Total	**$1,378,155,600**	**$1,225,398,900**	**$1,178,711,734**

(ii)

	Amount of half-rate allowance granted		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
Basic Allowance	$1,073,700	$1,464,050	$800,846
Medium Allowance	$9,215,650	$7,126,000	$4,728,040
Higher Allowance	$151,108,700	$145,149,050	$97,816,559
Total	**$161,398,050**	**$153,739,100**	**$103,345,445**

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

Gender of applicant	Number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances					
	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	
	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate
Male	1 494	380	1 294	319	1 048	196
Female	7 501	1 161	7 162	1 218	6 592	793
Total	**8 995**	**1 541**	**8 456**	**1 537**	**7 640**	**989**

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

Age of applicant	Number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances					
	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	
	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate
15 to below 20	0	0	1	0	2	0
20 to below 30	325	82	229	82	198	40
30 to below 40	3 471	644	3 245	630	2 771	386
40 to below 50	4 221	661	4 117	667	3 904	474
50 to below 60	866	144	774	144	696	82
60 or above	112	10	90	14	69	7
Total	**8 995**	**1 541**	**8 456**	**1 537**	**7 640**	**989**

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

Household size	Number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances					
	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	
	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate
2 persons	3 572	843	3 270	826	2 821	532
3 persons	3 894	536	3 697	558	3 427	353
4 persons	1 255	136	1 230	123	1 134	79
5 persons	241	20	222	27	221	20
6 persons or above	33	6	37	3	37	5
Total	**8 995**	**1 541**	**8 456**	**1 537**	**7 640**	**989**

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

Industry of applicant	Number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances					
	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	
	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate
Financing, insurance, real estate, professional and business services	3 045	541	2 736	565	2 423	351
Construction	661	147	639	124	528	89
Transportation, storage, postal and courier services, information and communications	551	99	526	91	433	54
Accommodation and food services	1 430	215	1 470	222	1 446	141
Import/export, wholesale and retail trades	1 695	203	1 577	214	1 448	132
Public administration, social and personal services	1 065	256	986	259	958	178
Manufacturing	148	16	148	11	124	6
Others	400	64	374	51	280	38
Total	**8 995**	**1 541**	**8 456**	**1 537**	**7 640**	**989**

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

Occupation of applicant	Number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances					
	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	
	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate	Full-rate	Half-rate
Elementary occupations	2 069	251	1 912	232	1 590	151
Service and sales workers	3 507	536	3 375	557	3 271	350
Craft and related workers	358	72	339	51	289	41
Associate professionals	727	313	695	342	669	214
Clerical support workers	1 649	221	1 522	228	1 353	149
Professionals	225	60	200	56	162	36
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	31	8	22	9	9	4
Others	429	80	391	62	297	44
Total	**8 995**	**1 541**	**8 456**	**1 537**	**7 640**	**989**

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

	Number of approved applications from single-parent households granted the full-rate and half-rate allowances					
	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	
	Full-rate [1]	Half-rate [2]	Full-rate [1]	Half-rate [2]	Full-rate [1]	Half-rate [2]
Basic Allowance [3]	228	1	214	4	174	4
Medium Allowance [3]	287	3	256	3	204	3
Higher Allowance [3]	8 480	1 537	7 986	1 530	7 262	982
Total	**8 995**	**1 541**	**8 456**	**1 537**	**7 640**	**989**

Note 1: The income limits for receiving a full-rate allowance is set at a level not exceeding 50% of the MMDHIEA.

Note 2: The income limits for receiving 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 proof of their working hours or income from work by year

Number of approved applications with applicants submitting a self-declared statement as proof of their working hours or income from work		
2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
24 257	21 681	17 708

Table 21

The annual number of applications from non-Chinese households by year

Number of applications from non-Chinese households		
2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
3 100	2 958	2 813

Table 22

The annual number of applications withdrawn by year

Number of applications withdrawn		
2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
3 416	3 591	3 730

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1591)

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 (Gilford LAW)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

As at the end of last year, about 50 000 households were receiving allowance under the Working Family Allowance Scheme, involving around 170 000 persons, inclusive of some 70 000 children. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

1. the numbers of applications for the Scheme, numbers of cases under each type of allowance, expenditure on each type of allowance, and the total expenditure involved in the past 5 financial years;
2. the numbers of working hours reported in the applications under the Scheme in the past 5 financial years.

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

From 2020-21 to 2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025), a total of 617 921 applications were received under the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme, of which 557 258 applications were approved, while some applications are still being processed. A breakdown of the number of applications approved is set out in Tables 1 and 2 of the Annex.

Annex

Table 1

A breakdown of the number of approved WFA applications by year, by household income level and by working hours

	2020-21		
	Full-rate [1]	3/4-rate[2]	Half-rate [3]
Basic Allowance [4]	5 222	404	140
Medium Allowance [4]	8 481	1 542	660
Higher Allowance [4]	76 106	20 647	10 958
Total	**89 809**	**22 593**	**11 758**

	2021-22		
	Full-rate [1]	3/4-rate[2]	Half-rate [3]
Basic Allowance [4]	3 521	167	71
Medium Allowance [4]	9 403	1 903	893
Higher Allowance [4]	71 813	23 436	14 365
Total	**84 737**	**25 506**	**15 329**

	2022-23		
	Full-rate [1]	3/4-rate[2]	Half-rate [3]
Basic Allowance [4]	4 744	425	158
Medium Allowance [4]	8 113	1 925	1 090
Higher Allowance [4]	62 043	23 612	15 487
Total	**74 900**	**25 962**	**16 735**

	2023-24		
	Full-rate [1]	3/4-rate[2]	Half-rate [3]
Basic Allowance [4]	3 462	481	210
Medium Allowance [4]	5 815	1 612	889
Higher Allowance [4]	55 395	22 060	14 630
Total	**64 672**	**24 153**	**15 729**

	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)		
	Full-rate [1]	3/4-rate[2]	Half-rate [3]
Basic Allowance [4]	2 563	323	113
Medium Allowance [4]	4 761	1 367	543
Higher Allowance [4]	48 838	17 574	9 293
Total	**56 162**	**19 264**	**9 949**

Note 1： The income limits for receiving 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 receiving a 3/4-rate allowance is set at a level exceeding 50% but not higher than 60% of MMDHIEA.

Note 3： The income limits for receiving a half-rate allowance is set at a level exceeding 60% but not higher than 70% of MMDHIEA.

Note 4： The standing working hour requirements under the WFA Scheme are as follows:

	Minimum working hour requirements per month	
	Non-single-parent households	Single-parent households
Basic Allowance	144 hours	36 hours
Medium Allowance	168 hours	54 hours
Higher Allowance	192 hours	72 hours

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 remained unchanged.

Table 2

A breakdown of the amount of WFA granted by year, by household income level and by working hours

	2020-21		
	Full-rate	3/4-rate	Half-rate
Basic Allowance	$60,794,600	$3,024,050	$781,800
Medium Allowance	$117,291,350	$14,918,750	$4,445,000
Higher Allowance	$1,259,431,750	$243,503,800	$93,267,150
Total	**$1,437,517,700**	**$261,446,600**	**$98,493,950**

	2021-22		
	Full-rate	3/4-rate	Half-rate
Basic Allowance	$41,986,250	$1,339,500	$391,400
Medium Allowance	$145,596,500	$21,684,900	$7,477,500
Higher Allowance	$1,390,139,150	$325,889,550	$140,736,400
Total	**$1,577,721,900**	**$348,913,950**	**$148,605,300**

	2022-23		
	Full-rate	3/4-rate	Half-rate
Basic Allowance	$55,625,900	$3,919,850	$1,073,700
Medium Allowance	$126,012,000	$21,611,300	$9,215,650
Higher Allowance	$1,196,517,700	$326,883,650	$151,108,700
Total	**$1,378,155,600**	**$352,414,800**	**$161,398,050**

	2023-24		
	Full-rate	3/4-rate	Half-rate
Basic Allowance	$44,677,550	$4,193,250	$1,464,050
Medium Allowance	$90,694,500	$18,753,900	$7,126,000
Higher Allowance	$1,090,026,850	$310,057,850	$145,149,050
Total	**$1,225,398,900**	**$333,005,000**	**$153,739,100**

	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)		
	Full-rate	3/4-rate	Half-rate
Basic Allowance	$34,039,085	$2,966,262	$800,846
Medium Allowance	$82,095,661	$16,898,895	$4,728,040
Higher Allowance	$1,062,576,988	$267,677,054	$97,816,559
Total	**$1,178,711,734**	**$287,542,211**	**$103,345,445**

Note: The breakdown of the applications by category is determined based on the information in the last claim month of each approved WFA application.

– End –

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1248)

Head: (173) Working Family And Student Financial Assistance Agency

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

(199) Working family allowance

Programme: (2) Working Family Allowance

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (Gilford LAW)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned under the Programme that the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency 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 inform this Committee of:

1). the maintenance cost, upgrading cost as well as technical administrators-related expenses of the centralised e-service portal over the past 3 years;

2). the reduction in the proportion of administrative manpower with the use of the portal, and whether the Government has calculated the expenditure thereby reduced, over the past 3 years;

3). the numbers of applicants for the WFA Scheme over the past 5 years, and whether the Government conducts regular reviews on the target effectiveness of the electronic means of application; and

4). how the Government will step up efforts in promoting the centralised e-service portal to applicants, and the estimated manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

1) & 2) In September 2019, the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (the Agency) introduced an e-submission service for Working Family Allowance (WFA) applications to facilitate applicants in submitting applications and supplementary documents. In March 2025, the Agency further launched a one-stop e-service platform, namely "eWFSFAA" to provide the public with a more convenient application method and enhance their service experience. Users can access the platform upon completing a one-off identity verification to manage

account information and applications for various financial assistance schemes conveniently, including viewing the status of all applications on a single page. The original WFA e-submission service has been integrated into the eWFSFAA. Compared to paper-based application, online application can streamline data entry and other tasks, and the resources saved have been reallocated to other tasks related to the implementation of the WFA Scheme. After integration into eWFSFAA, the original e-submission service continues to use the Government Cloud Infrastructure which costs about $1.5 million per year. The operating and recurrent expenditure of both e-submission service and eWFSFAA (including maintenance and upgrading costs) is absorbed within the recurrent expenditure of the Agency. The Agency does not maintain a breakdown of the relevant expenditure.

3) The total number of WFA applications and the number and percentage of applications made online in 2020-21 to 2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025) are set out below:

	Number of applications made online	Total number of applications received	Percentage of applications made online
2020-21	11 341	135 229	8.4%
2021-22	22 887	134 942	17.0%
2022-23	42 549	128 127	33.2%
2023-24	52 181	115 589	45.1%
2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	56 922	104 034	54.7%

The number of applications submitted online has been on the rise in the past 5 years, indicating that the e-submission service is highly effective. The Agency will continue to review and enhance the e-submission service.

4) The Agency will promote the eWFSFAA through multiple channels to encourage the public to use the new platform. The means of publicity include setting up a thematic webpage, making full use of existing promotion channels (e.g. letters, leaflets, mobile phone SMS messages, community promotion activities, website banners), and introducing the functions and advantages of the new platform via the eWFSFAA hotline. To facilitate the public in creating accounts, the new platform is interfaced with "iAM Smart" and the existing e-service platforms of the Agency. Users can access the platform by logging in to "iAM Smart" or the existing e-service platforms of the Agency upon completing a one-off identity verification. The above-mentioned promotion work will be carried out through deployment of internal resources and manpower, without involving additional expenditure.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)199

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2390)

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 (Gilford LAW)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It was mentioned in paragraph 200 of the Budget Speech that about 50 000 households were receiving allowance under the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee: (i) of the numbers of households receiving WFA, the numbers of beneficiaries and the expenditure involved in the past 3 years; and (ii) whether there has been a significant increase in the number of new applications after the 15% increase in the rates of WFA allowance since last April? If yes, what is the rate of increase?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

(i) For the period from 2022-23 to 2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025), the breakdown of the number of households granted the Working Family Allowance (WFA), the number of beneficiaries and the amount of allowance granted are as follows:

Approved WFA applications	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
Number of households	66 471	59 235	54 180
Number of beneficiaries	219 805	198 653	182 723
Amount of allowance granted	$1,891,968,450	$1,712,143,000	$1,569,599,390

(ii) The rates of the household and child allowances under the WFA Scheme have been increased by 15% across the board with effect from April 2024. The number of new applications under the WFA Scheme in 2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025) is on average about 1 240 per month, representing an increase of around 17% as compared to the average number of new applications of about 1 060 per month in 2023-24.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1937)

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 (Gilford LAW)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Low-income Working Family Allowance, please advise on the following since the launch of the scheme (with a breakdown by year in tabular form):

1. the number of applications each year, with breakdowns by (1) household size and (2) working hours of applicants;
2. (i) the occupation categories of 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 a self-declared statement in lieu of proof on income/working hours in the past 3 years;
4. the numbers of beneficiaries from single-parent households and non-single-parent households each year, with a breakdown by type of allowance granted (full-rate/ 3/4-rate/ half-rate);
5. the amount of allowance involved in the scheme each year and the administrative expenditure incurred; and
6. the number of children benefitted each year since the launch of the scheme, with a breakdown by type of allowance granted.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

1. The numbers of applications received under the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme from 2020-21 to 2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025), with breakdown by household size and monthly working hours, are set out in Table 1 and Table 2 of the Annex.

2. A breakdown of approved WFA applications by the occupation category of applicants, and the numbers and percentages of self-employed applicants from 2022-23 to 2024-25 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 2022-23 to 2024-25 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 the Child Allowance granted are set out in Tables 6 to 9 of the Annex.

Annex

Table 1

A breakdown of the number of WFA applications from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by household size

Year	Number of applications						
	Household size						
	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons or more	**Total**
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	8 351	20 369	29 393	41 256	12 370	3 850	**115 589**
2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	7 216	18 057	26 783	37 111	11 319	3 548	**104 034**

Table 2

A breakdown of the number of WFA applications from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by monthly working hours[Note]

Number of applications						
Single-parent household	Less than 36 hours	36 hours to less than 54 hours	54 hours to less than 72 hours	72 hours or more	Insufficient information provided by applicants	**Total**
Non-single-parent household	Less than 144 hours	144 hours to less than 168 hours	168 hours to less than 192 hours	192 hours or more		
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	2 448	3 369	9 688	99 909	175	**115 589**
2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	3 179	3 200	8 787	87 658	1 210	**104 034**

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 remained unchanged.

Applicants who are unable to provide sufficient information on their working hours will not be granted the WFA.

Table 3

A breakdown of the number of approved WFA applications from 2022-23 to 2024-25 by year and by occupation category of the applicant

Occupation category of applicant	Number of approved WFA applications		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
Elementary occupations	44 672	39 010	31 535
Service and sales workers	29 649	26 808	22 423
Craft and related workers	11 767	10 431	8 500
Associate professionals	11 922	11 163	9 302
Clerical support workers	10 531	9 267	7 744
Professionals	2 065	1 835	1 382
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	862	730	525
Others	6 129	5 310	3 964
Total	**117 597**	**104 554**	**85 375**

Table 4

The numbers and percentages of approved WFA applications from self-employed applicants from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Employment nature of applicant	Number of approved WFA applications (percentage of the total number of cases granted the allowance)		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
Self-employment	7 235 (about 6.2%)	6 735 (about 6.4%)	5 346 (about 6.3%)

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 2022-23 to 2024-25

Number of approved WFA applications with applicants submitting a self-declared statement as proof of their working hours or income from work		
2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)
24 257	21 681	17 708

Table 6

A breakdown of the number of beneficiaries granted the WFA which were single-parent households and non-single-parent households from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by type of allowance

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	
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	12 900	3 539	2 401	108 231	41 320	30 262	**198 653**
2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	13 746	3 448	1 718	107 178	36 451	20 182	**182 723**

Table 7

The amounts of the WFA granted from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year		Amount of allowance granted
WFA Scheme	2020-21	$1,797,458,250
	2021-22	$2,075,241,150
	2022-23	$1,891,968,450
	2023-24	$1,712,143,000
	2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	$1,569,599,390

Table 8

The administrative expenditure incurred in implementing the WFA Scheme from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	Administrative expenditure
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
Actual expenditure for 2023-24 (WFA)	About $408.7 million
Revised estimate for 2024-25 (WFA)	About $409.9 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 in June 2021) in 2020-21 and 2021-22. Therefore, the administrative expenditure for these 2 years covered both the WFA Scheme and the I-WITS Scheme.

Table 9

The numbers of children granted the Child Allowance and the amounts of the Child Allowance granted from 2020-21 to 2024-25

WFA Scheme	Number of children granted the Child Allowance[Note]	Amount of the Child Allowance
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	79 901	$1,008,320,600
2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)	74 546	$928,434,067

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 the allowance once or twice in the same year.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)201

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1782)

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 introduced JoyYou Card in 2021 to gradually replace the Elder Octopus to prevent abuse of the $2 Scheme by ineligible persons. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. as of this year, the total expenditure for the entire JoyYou Card application exercise, including publicity expenses, operating cost of JoyYou Card Application Service Centres and subsidy for the application fee for the first application;

2. whether the Bureau has assessed the effectiveness on prevention of abuse of the scheme by ineligible persons since the launch of JoyYou Cards; please provide the amount of savings in additional expenditure which would otherwise arise from abuse of the scheme;

3. as it is learned that JoyYou Card could still function after the death of the card holder, whether the Bureau can provide data on the number of JoyYou Cards of deceased holders that have yet to be returned; whether there are other people using these cards and enjoying the concessions under the scheme; if yes, the government expenditure involved; and

4. whether the Government has taken actions to regularly check the list with other departments and invalidate JoyYou Cards of deceased holders to prevent abuse of the welfare scheme?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. 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. The non-recurrent expenditure involved is about

$75 million, which includes expenses on system modification, processing JoyYou Card applications, operation of application service centres, etc. Meanwhile, the Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The non-recurrent expenditure involved is about $94 million, which includes expenses on system modification, processing JoyYou Card applications, operation of JoyYou Card application service centres, etc. The publicity expenses involved in the 2 arrangements are about $11 million. All expenditures mentioned above are borne by the Government.

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 relevant legislation and penalty under the relevant by-laws to prevent abuses. TD also conducts surveys and monitors the situation. To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the $2 concessions by ineligible persons, TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at 24 August 2024 (i.e. before full implementation of the use of JoyYou Card), a total of around 450 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 900 routes with about 3 000 persons inspected for suspected abuse of the $2 Scheme, and 7 suspected abuse cases were found and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearings of 3 of the cases were completed: the passenger in the first case was fined approximately $14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around $2,000); the passenger in the second case was convicted of false accounting and sentenced to 120 hours of community service, and was fined around $5,800 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around $620); and the passenger in the third case was fined $2,000. Investigation into another 2 cases was completed and the Police did not have sufficient evidence to prosecute the suspected abusers. The investigation and prosecution work of the remaining 2 cases are ongoing. Abusers in all cases were involved in using anonymous Elder Octopus.

After full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme, TD carried out a total of around 100 joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from 25 August 2024 to February 2025, inspecting about 560 persons for suspected abuse of $2 Scheme, and no abuse case were found. During the same period, in the enforcement actions carried out by the MTR Corporation Limited, the weekly number of abuse cases with surcharges imposed was 8 on average, significantly lower by 95% as compared to 158 before implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme, indicating that full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme is effective in combating abuses.

TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with the PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases with sufficient evidence to the Police for criminal investigations so as to deter ineligible persons from abusing the $2 Scheme.

3-4.

JoyYou Cards require real-name registration and must be used by card holders. It is an offence for an ineligible person to use other people's JoyYou Cards to enjoy the concessions. Any person who is convicted is liable to imprisonment. As with other

Octopus cards, if a JoyYou Card has not had any add value or payment transaction for 3 years, it will become an inactive card and an inactive card administrative fee will be deducted from the remaining value and deposit of the card regularly until the remaining value and deposit are fully depleted. In such case, the JoyYou Card will be cancelled and cannot be reactivated. The Government currently does not maintain information of deceased JoyYou Card holders.

In the 450 joint enforcement actions conducted by TD in conjunction with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 to February 2025, no offenders were found to have used JoyYou Cards of deceased persons to enjoy the $2 Scheme. The Government will continue to monitor the operation of the $2 Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0473)

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 fare concession, please provide the following information (from the launch of the Scheme up to the present):

1. the number of beneficiaries enjoying the concession, and among them, the number and percentage of those aged above 65, with a breakdown by the 18 districts;

2. the number of those taking more than 240 trips each month, and the potential savings on expenditure upon adjustments to the Scheme; and

3. the card tapping count relating to fare of more than $10, with a breakdown by age groups of 60 to 64 and 64 and above.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

1. The average daily numbers of 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) since its launch on 28 June 2012, with a breakdown by type of beneficiary, are tabulated below. The Transport Department (TD) does not maintain statistics on such numbers with breakdown by district.

Calendar year	**Persons aged 65 or above**	**Persons aged 60 to 64**(Note 1)	**Eligible persons with disabilities**	**Total** (Note 2)
2012 (from 28 June)	564 400 (88%)	-	74 600 (12%)	639 000 (100%)
2013	627 300 (88%)	-	86 500 (12%)	713 800 (100%)

2014	690 400 (87%)	-	99 600 (13%)	790 000 (100%)
2015	892 900 (87%)	-	128 700 (13%)	1 021 600 (100%)
2016	974 200 (87%)	-	139 800 (13%)	1 114 000 (100%)
2017	1 064 700 (88%)	-	149 800 (12%)	1 214 500 (100%)
2018	1 154 000 (88%)	-	159 000 (12%)	1 313 000 (100%)
2019	1 256 200 (88%)	-	168 000 (12%)	1 424 200 (100%)
2020	984 600 (88%)	-	128 900 (12%)	1 113 500 (100%)
2021	1 247 100 (89%)	-	159 100 (11%)	1 406 200 (100%)
2022	1 190 300 (57%)	750 000 (36%)	145 300 (7%)	2 085 600 (100%)
2023	1 536 300 (60%)	871 800 (34%)	169 600 (6%)	2 577 700 (100%)
2024	1 634 900 (60%)	912 900 (34%)	171 700 (6%)	2 719 400 (100%)

(Note 1) From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the $2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60.

(Note 2) Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding off to the nearest hundred.

2 & 3.

The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million

2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000[3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme[1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360

Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, namely "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and "limit on the number of concessionary trips", savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)203

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0659)

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 (the $2 Scheme), will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the actual expenditure, number of beneficiaries and average amount of subsidy per beneficiary in each financial year since the launch of the $2 Scheme in 2012;

2. the Government's reimbursements of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators in the past 3 years in table form;

3. the numbers of beneficiaries and amounts involved in respect of fare subsidy per trip in the past 3 years, broken down into the categories of below $10 and $10 or above; and

4. the estimated expenditure saved in each of the coming 5 financial years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

1. - 3.

The amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme since its launch on 28 June 2012 are set out in the following table (Note 1):

Financial year	**The Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme ($'000)**
2012-13 (Actual)	225,890

(since 28 June 2012)	
2013-14 (Actual)	506,014
2014-15 (Actual)	581,169
2015-16 (Actual)	870,649
2016-17 (Actual)	991,029
2017-18 (Actual)	1,093,456
2018-19 (Actual)	1,209,408
2019-20 (Actual)	1,274,988
2020-21 (Actual)	1,016,676
2021-22 (Actual)	1,395,323
2022-23 (Actual)	3,078,823
2023-24 (Actual)	4,008,811
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	4,390,764

The numbers of average daily passenger trips taken by the beneficiaries under the $2 Scheme since its launch are set out in the following table (Note 1):

Calendar year	**Number of average daily passenger trips taken by the beneficiaries**
2012 (since 28 June)	639 000
2013	713 800
2014	790 000
2015	1 021 600
2016	1 114 000
2017	1 214 500
2018	1 313 000
2019	1 424 200
2020	1 113 500
2021	1 406 200
2022	2 085 600
2023	2 577 700
2024	2 719 400

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 amounts of Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme in respect of PTOs in the past 3 financial years are tabulated as follows (Note 2):

PTOs	**2022-23 Actual ($'000)**	**2023-24 Actual ($'000)**	**2024-25 Revised estimate ($'000)**
MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL)	1,165,741	1,536,197	1,627,826

Franchised bus operators	1,187,781	1,556,079	1,688,615
Ferry operators	78,745	86,147	93,823
Green minibus operators	564,345	690,463	791,572
Red minibus operators	61,424	103,527	146,447
Kaito operators	7,941	6,438	5,990
Hong Kong Tramways Limited	2,259	2,698	2,820
Residents' service operators	10,587	27,262	33,671
Total	**3,078,823**	**4,008,811**	**4,390,764**

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; and from 25 September 2022, the $2 Scheme has been extended to cover residents' services.

The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				

No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000[3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme[1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)

Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

As for the information requested in the question, the Government did not maintain such statistics broken down by fare before full implementation of JoyYou Cards for enjoyment of the $2 Scheme.

4. The Government has completed the review of the $2 Scheme and proposed that the number of concessionary trips taken by an eligible beneficiary be limited to 240 per month and that the concessionary fare be changed to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount". After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0539)

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, it is mentioned in paragraph 232 of the Budget Speech that the Government will change the concessionary fare to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount", which means that beneficiaries will continue to pay $2 for trips with fare below or equal to $10. For trips with fare above $10, the beneficiaries will have to pay the amount of full fare after 80 per cent discount. Furthermore, the number of concessionary trips will also be limited to 240 per month. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the amount of subsidies and the number of beneficiaries under the $2 Scheme in each of the past 5 years, with a breakdown by age groups of 60 to 64 and 65 or above;

2. the respective expenditure on subsidising trips with fare below or at $10 and trips with fare above $10 in each of the past 5 years, with a breakdown by age groups of 60 to 64 and 65 or above;

3. the respective estimated annual expenditure on subsidising trips with fare below or at $10 and trips with fare above $10;

4. the estimated administrative cost of adjusting the Octopus processors; and

5. the estimated expenditure in each of the coming 5 years under the new proposal, and the potential savings compared with the existing arrangements?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1. & 2.
The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use

JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000[3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million

Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme [1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

The Government did not maintain statistics of expenditure broken down by trip fare before fully implementing the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme.

The average daily numbers of concessionary trips taken (Note) by beneficiaries under the $2 Scheme in the past 5 years are set out as follows:

Calendar Year	**Persons aged 65 or above**	**Persons aged between 60 and 64 (Note 1)**	**Eligible persons with disabilities**	**Total (Note 2)**
2020	985 000	—	129 000	1 114 000
2021	1 247 000	—	159 000	1 406 000
2022	1 190 000	750 000	145 000	2 086 000
2023	1 536 000	872 000	170 000	2 578 000
2024	1 635 000	913 000	172 000	2 719 000

Note 1: From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the $2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60.

Note 2: Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding off to the nearest thousand.

3. & 5.

After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, namely "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and "limit on the number of concessionary trips", savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30. The Government does not maintain statistics of expenditure broken down by trip fare.

Annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, travelling habits and patterns of eligible beneficiaries, fare adjustments, changes in PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme, and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures. The Government will closely monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme, prepare the estimated expenditures and reflect them in the estimates of the corresponding years.

4. The Government is working with the Octopus Cards Limited and the PTOs involved on the relevant implementation details (including system modification, trial runs, publicity, etc.) for the refined arrangements of the $2 Scheme. The estimate of the relevant expenditure is not yet available.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)205

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2051)

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 (i.e. the $2 Scheme), will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the basis of estimation involved and the reasons for the large difference of about $1.7 billion between the revised estimate for 2024-25 being about $4.3 billion and the approved estimate for 2024-25 being about $6 billion according to Subhead 166;

2. the basis of estimation for Subhead 166 which indicates an estimate for 2025-26 of about $5.4 billion; following the change of the concessionary fare to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" for the $2 Scheme, the reasons for the increase rather than decrease of the estimate;

3. the amounts of subsidy disbursed to various public transport operators under the $2 Scheme and the operational expenses in the past 3 financial years, with a breakdown into age groups of 60 to 64 /65 or above in table form; and

4. the numbers of persons eligible for the $2 Scheme, the numbers of JoyYou Card holders and the amounts of subsidy in the past 3 financial years, with a breakdown into the 2 age groups of 60 to 64 and 65 or above in table form; and, in respect of JoyYou Card holders, the monthly average total fares (pre-subsidy fares /original fares), the Government subsidy amount, the number of trips taken and the average subsidy amount for each trip in the past financial year, with a breakdown into the 2 age groups of 60 to 64/65 or above in table form?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1. The revised estimate of the $2 Scheme in the financial year of 2024-25 is lower than the approved estimate. This is mainly due to lower-than-expected number of passenger trips and rates of fare increase of various PTOs, as well as lower-than-expected numbers of red minibus routes, kaito services and residents' services joining the $2 Scheme. As a result, the provision required for the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme has reduced.

2. The refined arrangement of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" is expected to be implemented no later than September 2026, while the upgrade of relevant system for the implementation of the "limit on the number of concessionary trips" arrangement is expected to take a longer time. Therefore, the estimated expenditure of the $2 Scheme for the financial year of 2025-26 (about $5.4 billion) has not yet reflected the impact of the implementation of the 2 refined arrangements.

   Annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, travelling behaviour and patterns of eligible beneficiaries, fare adjustments, changes in PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme, and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures. The Government will closely monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme, prepare the estimated expenditures and reflect them in the estimates of the corresponding years.

3. The amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs for beneficiaries aged from 60 to 64 and those aged 65 or above under the $2 Scheme in the past 3 financial years are set out as follows:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64
2022-23 Financial year Actual	$1,130.8 million	$1,710.4 million
2023-24 Financial year Actual	$1,512.5 million	$2,214.3 million
Financial year of 2024-25 Revised estimate	$1,688.6 million	$2,403.4 million

   The overall actual recurrent operating expenses of the $2 Scheme in the financial years of 2022-23 and 2023-24 were about $51 million and $52 million respectively. The revised estimate of overall actual recurrent operating expenses for 2024-25 is about $60 million. There is no separate breakdown by age group of the beneficiaries on the recurrent operating expenses involved.

4. The numbers of persons aged from 60 to 64 and those aged 65 or above who are eligible beneficiaries under the $2 Scheme and holders of JoyYou Cards in the past 3 years are set out as follows:

   Numbers of eligible beneficiaries:

Year	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64
2022	1 528 900	589 544
2023	1 641 900	607 479

2024 (Note 1)	1 756 100	643 600

(Note 1) It refers to the provisional population estimate by sex and age group for end-2024 released by the Census and Statistics Department, which may be different from the actual population.

Numbers of beneficiaries holding JoyYou Cards:

Year (Note 2)	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64
2022	651 000 (Note 3)	602 000
2023	1 495 000	658 000
2024	1 750 000	690 000

(Note 2) It refers to the figures as at 31 December of that year.

(Note 3) JoyYou Card applications from Hong Kong residents aged 65 or above were accepted in batches from 1 June 2022.

The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000[3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)

concessions at least once in the above three months				
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme[1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	

Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2704)

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 Speech that the Government has proposed refined arrangements for the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the $2 Scheme). In this regard, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the actual expenditures for the $2 Scheme in the past 3 years and the estimated expenditure for the scheme after implementation of the refined arrangements;

2. whether additional administrative and staff costs will be incurred after implementation of the refined arrangements; if yes, the details;

3. the amounts reimbursed to various public transport modes under the $2 Scheme in the past 3 years (set out in table form);

4. 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 3 years and the respective amounts of subsidies involved;

5. whether the Government is aware of the average monthly number of trips taken by beneficiaries; please provide the number of persons taking more than 240 trips on public transport each month and their proportion in the total number of beneficiaries; and

6. the respective numbers of inspections conducted and prosecutions and convictions instituted by law enforcement departments in respect of abuse of the $2 Scheme in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

1. The amounts of 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 3 financial years are set out in the following table (Note 1):

2022-23 Financial year Actual	$3,078.8 million
2023-24 Financial year Actual	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 Financial year Revised estimate	$4,390.8 million

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 has completed the review of the $2 Scheme and proposed that the number of concessionary trips taken by an eligible beneficiary be limited to 240 per month and that the concessionary fare be changed to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount". After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30.

Annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, travelling behaviour and patterns of eligible beneficiaries, fare adjustments, changes in PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme, and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures. The Government will closely monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme, prepare the estimated expenditures and reflect them in the estimates of the corresponding years.

2. The Government is working with the Octopus Cards Limited and the PTOs involved on the relevant implementation details (including system modification, trial runs, publicity, etc.) for the refined arrangements of the $2 Scheme. The estimate of the relevant administrative cost is not yet available. As the work of the Transport Department (TD) on assisting in implementation of the refined arrangements is undertaken by the existing staff, there is no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved.

3. The amounts of Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme in the past 3 financial years with a breakdown by PTOs are tabulated as follows (Note 2):

PTOs	Financial year of 2022-23 Actual ($'000)	Financial year of 2023-24 Actual ($'000)	Financial year of 2024-25 Revised estimate ($'000)
MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL)	1,165,741	1,536,197	1,627,826
Franchised bus operators	1,187,781	1,556,079	1,688,615
Ferry operators	78,745	86,147	93,823
Green minibus operators	564,345	690,463	791,572
Red minibus (RMB) operators	61,424	103,527	146,447
Kaito operators	7,941	6,438	5,990
Hong Kong Tramways Limited	2,259	2,698	2,820
Residents' service (RS) operators	10,587	27,262	33,671
Total	**3,078,823**	**4,008,811**	**4,390,764**

Note 2: From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the $2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60, with extension to cover RMB, kaitos and trams; and from 25 September 2022, the $2 Scheme has been extended to cover RS.

4. & 5.

The numbers of average daily passenger trips taken by the beneficiaries under the $2 Scheme by type of beneficiary in the past 3 years are set out in the following table:

Calendar Year	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged between 60 and 64 (Note 3)	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total (Note 4)
2022	1 190 300	750 000	145 300	2 085 600
2023	1 536 300	871 800	169 600	2 577 700
2024	1 634 900	912 900	171 700	2 719 400

Note 3: From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the $2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60.

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

The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary

fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000 [3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme [1]				

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

6. TD has all along been requesting 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' buses, a total of about 900 suspected abuse cases were found.

To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the $2 concessions by ineligible persons, TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at 24 August 2024 (i.e. before full implementation of the use of JoyYou Card), a total of around 450 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 900 routes with about 3 000 persons inspected for suspected abuse of the $2 Scheme, and 7 suspected abuse cases were found and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearings of 3 of the cases were completed: the passenger in the first case was fined approximately $14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around $2,000); the passenger in the second case was convicted of false accounting and sentenced to 120 hours of community service, and was fined around $5,800 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around $620); and the passenger in the third case was fined $2,000. Investigation into another 2 cases was completed and the Police did not have sufficient evidence to prosecute the suspected abusers. The investigation and prosecution work of the remaining 2 cases are ongoing. Abusers in all cases were involved in using anonymous Elder Octopus.

After full implementation of the use of JoyYou Card, TD carried out a total of around 100 joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from 25 August 2024 to February 2025, inspecting about 560 persons for suspected abuse of $2 Scheme, and no abuse case were found. During the same period, in the enforcement actions carried out by MTRCL, the weekly number of abuse cases with surcharges imposed was 8 on average, significantly lower by 95% as compared to 158 before implementation of the use of JoyYou Card, indicating that full implementation of the use of real-name JoyYou Card is effective in combating abuses.

TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with the PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases with sufficient evidence to the Police for criminal investigations so as to deter ineligible persons from abusing the $2 Scheme.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)207

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2214)

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 Transport Department (TD) mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 under Programme (5) that TD will replace 8 rehabuses and procure 5 additional rehabuses; and oversee the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (HKSR)'s replacement of the existing rehabus operating system with a new integrated computerised system. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

(a) the subventions for the rehabus services operators in 2024-25 and 2025-26 (estimate) respectively (with a breakdown by operator and route);

(b) the total expenditure on (i) replacement of 8 rehabuses and (ii) procurement of 5 additional rehabuses and the cash flow required for 2025-26 respectively;

(c) the total expenditure on the HKSR's replacement of the existing rehabus operating system with a new integrated computerised system and the cash flow required for 2025-26; and

(d) TD's (i) staffing provision and (ii) expenditure on emoluments, operation and equipment involved in overseeing the replacement of the computerised system?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

(a) The Government provides rehabus services to persons with disabilities who find use of public transport services inconvenient through two rehabus operators (HKSR and Kwoon Chung Inclusive and Accessible Transport Services Company Limited (KCIS)). There are three main types of rehabus services, namely scheduled route service, dial-a-ride (DAR) service and feeder service. The amounts of subvention for HKSR and KCIS in 2024-25 and 2025-26 are set out below:

Operator	2024-25 (Actual) ($ million)	2025-26 (Estimate) ($ million)
HKSR (operation of scheduled route service and DAR service)	132.6	148.6
KCIS (operation of feeder service)	17.3	19.4

(b) The Government will set aside about $16.81 million in 2025-26 for the replacement of eight rehabuses and the procurement of five additional rehabuses in 2025.

(c) HKSR has secured a funding approval of about $9 million from the Government for engagement of a contractor to develop an integrated computerised system that would provide more convenience for users to open an account and apply for services. The estimated expenditure for 2025-26 regarding the project is about $4.05 million.

(d) The work related to overseeing HKSR's launch of the integrated computerised system is undertaken by existing staff of TD. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2217)

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 noted that certain public transport operators (PTOs) have cancelled the free rides for retired employees in recent years and instead requested them to apply for JoyYou Cards under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the $2 Scheme), pay the $2 fare in advance when taking public transport for reimbursement by the company afterwards. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

(a) whether the Government maintains (i) the number of applications for JoyYou Card and (ii) the number of trips with the use of JoyYou Card by retirees from the PTOs, as well as (iii) the subsidy amount involved for the year of 2024; if no, the reasons;

(b) whether the Government has evaluated the annual savings on the subsidy amount mentioned in item (a)(iii) after implementation of the proposal upon review of the $2 Scheme; and

(c) whether the Government will request the PTOs concerned to resume their own welfare for retirees in order to reduce the government expenditure on the $2 Scheme; if yes, the timetable; if no, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

(a)-(b)

Currently, the target beneficiaries under the $2 Scheme are Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above and eligible persons with disabilities. Eligible persons can access designated public transport modes and services at a concessionary fare under the Scheme. Applicants for JoyYou Card do not have to indicate on the application form whether they are retirees from PTOs. Hence the Transport Department (TD) does not have the requested information.

(c) Staff benefits are contractual arrangements between PTOs (as employers) and their employees. TD has reminded PTOs to balance commercial considerations with social responsibilities and to fully consider and respect the expectations of their staff and other stakeholders in the provision of benefits.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)209

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2218)

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 aims of the Transport Department (TD) under Programme (5) include administering effectively 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. In the revised estimate of $4.6584 billion for 2024-25, what are the (i) amount of subsidies disbursed to the public transport operators, (ii) emoluments expenses of TD's staff, (iii) expenses for on-site inspections conducted by TD's staff or entrusted third parties, and (iv) other operating and equipment expenses?

2. In the estimate of $5.6961 billion for 2025-26, what are the estimated (i) amount of subsidies disbursed to the beneficiaries, (ii) emoluments expenses of TD's staff, (iii) expenses for on-site inspections conducted by TD's staff or entrusted third parties, and (iv) other operating and equipment expenses?

3. The revised estimate for 2024-25 is 26.6% lower than the original estimate of $6.3435 billion. What are the reasons?

4. It is reported that implementation of the review proposal on the $2 Scheme is expected to achieve annual savings of about $680 million in expenditure. However, the estimate of $5.6961 billion for 2025-26 is 22.3% higher than the revised estimate for 2024-25. Has the savings in expenditure brought about by implementation of the proposal been taken into account? If not, what are the reasons for the surge in expenditure?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

1. and 2.

The Government's reimbursements of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme and the operating expenses in the financial years of 2024-25 and 2025-26 are tabulated below:

	2024-25 Revised estimate ($'000)
(a) The Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme:	
MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL)	1,627,826
Franchised bus operators	1,688,615
Ferry operators	93,823
Green minibus operators	791,572
Red minibus operators	146,447
Kaito operators	5,990
Hong Kong Tramways Limited	2,820
Residents' service operators	33,671
Sub-total	4,390,764
(b) Operating expenses (Note)	**60,154**
Total recurrent expenditure	**4,450,918**

Note 1: 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 2: The operating expenses included emoluments expenses of TD's staff, expenses for on-site inspections conducted by TD's staff or entrusted third parties, and other operating and equipment expenses.

The estimated expenditure of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme is about $5.4 billion, while the estimated operating expenses are about $95.6 million in 2025-26.

3. The revised estimate of the $2 Scheme in the financial year of 2024-25 is lower than the approved estimate. This is mainly due to lower-than-expected number of passenger trips and rates of fare increase of various PTOs, as well as lower-than-expected numbers of red minibus routes, kaito services and residents' services joining the $2 Scheme. As a result, the provision required for the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme has reduced.

4. The estimated expenditure of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme is about $5.4 billion in 2025-26. The refined arrangement of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" is expected to be implemented no later than September 2026, while the upgrade of relevant system for the implementation of the "limit on the number of concessionary trips" arrangement is expected to take a longer time. Therefore, the estimated expenditure of the $2 Scheme for the financial year of 2025-26 has not yet reflected the impact of the implementation of the 2 refined arrangements. After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements,

savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year that follows (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30.

Annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, travelling habits and patterns of eligible beneficiaries, fare adjustments, changes in PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme, and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures. The Government will closely monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme, prepare the estimated expenditures and reflect them in the estimates of the corresponding years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2219)

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 232(a) of the Budget Speech that adjustments will be made to the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the $2 Scheme). The Government will change the concessionary fare to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" (i.e. the beneficiaries will continue to pay $2 for trips with fare below $10, while for trips with fare above $10, the beneficiaries will have to pay the amount of full fare after 80 per cent discount) and the number of concessionary trips will be limited to 240 per month. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

(a) the numbers of JoyYou Cards issued (i) since the launch of the $2 Scheme and (ii) in 2024;

(b) the subsidy amount disbursed to the public transport operators in 2024 and the estimates for 2025 (with a breakdown by company);

(c) (i) the number of eligible trips, (ii) number of eligible trips with full fare of $10 or above, (iii) average monthly number of beneficiaries, (iv) average daily number of concessionary trips per person, (v) average monthly number of beneficiaries taking 8 concessionary trips or more on average per day and (vi) average subsidy amount for each concessionary trip of the $2 Scheme in 2024;

(d) the justifications for setting the limit of eligible trips at 240 per month, averaging 8 trips per day in the review proposal; and

(e) the estimated implementation date of the review proposal; and whether there is an estimate for the average monthly number of beneficiaries who will pay more in fares under the $2 Scheme after implementation of the review proposal?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

(a) With effect from 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above are required to use the JoyYou Cards to enjoy the $2 Scheme. As at the end of November 2024, the number of beneficiaries holding JoyYou Card is about 2.42 million.

(b) The Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme in the financial year of 2024-25 are tabulated below:

PTOs	**2024-25 Revised estimate ($'000)**
MTR Corporation Limited	1,627,826
Franchised bus operators	1,688,615
Ferry operators	93,823
Green minibus operators	791,572
Red minibus operators	146,447
Kaito operators	5,990
Hong Kong Tramways Limited (Note 1)	2,820
Residents' service operators	33,671
Total	**4,390,764**

Note 1: 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.

The estimated expenditure of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme is about $5.4 billion in 2025-26.

(c) The number of average daily passenger trips taken by the beneficiaries under the $2 Scheme in 2024 is tabulated as follows (Note 2):

Persons aged 65 or above	**Persons aged 60 to 64**	**Eligible persons with disabilities**	**Total**
1 635 000	913 000	172 000	2 719 000

Note 2: Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding off to the nearest thousand.

The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000[3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme [1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)

Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

(d) & (e)

The $2 concessionary fare has never been adjusted since the launch of the scheme in 2012. With an ageing population in Hong Kong and the increasingly high public transport fares, the scheme will not be financially viable if the concessionary fare remains unchanged. Currently, about 60% of the public transport routes have fares below or equal to $10. During the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme, about 76% of the beneficiaries travelled on routes with fares below or equal to $10. Under the $10 threshold of the "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" fine-tuned arrangement, over 75% of the beneficiaries will remain unaffected, as they will continue to pay $2 only. If beneficiaries need to take a

long-haul trip, they will have to pay the amount of adult fare after 80 per cent discount. We believe this is still a significant incentive for them to travel. One point of community consensus is that the issue of "long-haul trips for short-distance travel" must be addressed. It is worth noting that while the trips with fares above $10 (mostly long-haul trips) taken by beneficiaries with concession have accounted for less than 25% of the total number of concessionary trips, the amount of the Government's reimbursement to PTOs for the relevant trips has made up more than half of the total amount of reimbursement. The refined arrangement of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" will provide beneficiaries with an incentive, encouraging them to choose routes that suit their travelling needs and ease the situation of "long-haul trips for short-distance travel". This will help the beneficiaries to save money, and at the same time avoid disbursing unnecessary government subsidies.

Another point of community consensus is that concessionary trips should not be unlimited. In response to this is the proposed limit on the number of concessionary trips. Data obtained from the first 3 months upon full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme showed that the average numbers of daily concessionary trips taken by persons aged 60 to 64, persons aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities were 1.4, 1.0 and 1.3 respectively. Among the 2.5 million beneficiaries, only about 360 took more than 240 concessionary trips per month. Supposing that a beneficiary travels twice a day and with each occasion involving interchange trips, a maximum of 8 trips will still meet the beneficiary's travelling needs. Moreover, since the cap is applied on a monthly basis, there will be greater flexibility for beneficiaries to balance out the difference when they occasionally take more than 8 trips on one day.

These 2 fine-tuned arrangements, namely "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and "limit on the number of concessionary trips", aim to preserve the policy intent of the $2 Scheme, while striking the best balance between enhancing its sustainability and minimising its impacts to the beneficiaries.

The arrangement of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" is expected to be implemented no later than September 2026, while the upgrade of relevant system for the implementation of the "limit on the number of concessionary trips" arrangement is expected to take a longer time. The Government will compress the implementation timetable as far as possible and strive to implement the arrangements as soon as possible.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2221)

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:

As mentioned in paragraph 232 of the Budget Speech, the Government has proposed refined arrangements for 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; and it is mentioned in paragraph 233 that the Government is expected to save $6.2 billion in the coming 5 years. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the estimated amount of savings in the expenditure of the $2 Scheme in the coming 5 years; and

2. whether the Government has engaged a consultancy firm to conduct the review of the $2 Scheme; if yes, the consultancy fee; if not, (i) the Government's staff establishment and (ii) the related salaries and operation and equipment expenses involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. The Government has completed the review of the $2 Scheme and proposed that the number of concessionary trips taken by an eligible beneficiary be limited to 240 per month and that the concessionary fare be changed to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount". After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30.

   Annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, travelling habits and patterns of eligible beneficiaries, fare adjustments, changes in the public transport operators participating in the $2 Scheme, and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures. The

Government will closely monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme, prepare the estimated expenditures and reflect them in the estimates of the corresponding years.

2. The Transport Department (TD) has not engaged any consultancy firm to assist in the review of the $2 Scheme. The relevant tasks are undertaken by TD's existing staff and hence there is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1404)

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 Speech that the Government will change the concessionary fare of the $2 Scheme to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount". Adjustment to the payment system is expected to take 18 months. In this connection:

1. What is the progress of the discussion between the Government and various operators? Will the Digital Policy Office assume any role or provide any support?

2. How will the Government monitor the operators' timely completion of the system adjustment?

3. Upon completion of the adjustment, will the Government request the operators to conduct any tests? If yes, what are the details? and

4. Will the Government pay the operators the relevant administrative cost? If yes, how much for each of them?

Asked by: Hon CHIU Duncan (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

1.-4.

The refined arrangement of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" is expected to be implemented no later than September 2026, while the upgrade of relevant system for the implementation of the "limit on the number of concessionary trips" arrangement is expected to take a longer time. The Government will compress the implementation timetable as far as possible and strive to implement the refined arrangements as soon as possible. The Transport Department (TD), which is responsible for the implementation of the $2 Scheme, will maintain communication with the Digital Policy Office and listen to its professional advice. TD will also carry out safety risk

assessment, comprehensive system testing and auditing as required by the Digital Policy Office to ensure smooth operation of the system.

The Government is working with the Octopus Cards Limited and the public transport operators involved on the relevant implementation details (including system modification, trial runs, publicity, etc.) for the refined arrangements of the $2 Scheme. The estimate for the relevant expenditure is not yet available.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)213

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1471)

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:

As mentioned in paragraph 232 of the Budget Speech, the Government proposes to fine-tune the $2 Scheme, changing the concessionary fare to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" with the targeted beneficiaries unchanged. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. As the fine-tuned proposal involves the adjustment of the settings and testing of the Octopus payment system in Hong Kong, which will take time to complete, what are the administrative or procedural costs involved?

2. The principle of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" is that beneficiaries will continue to pay $2 for trips with fare below or equal to $10, while for trips with fare above $10, the beneficiaries will have to pay the amount of full fare after 80 per cent discount. However, in the past, quite a number of public transport operators have offered half-fare concessions for elderly people aged 65 or above, and some operators have set the age of 60 as the threshold of eligibility for such concessions. Under the new policy of beneficiaries paying 20 per cent of the full fare, what will be the calculation method of the amounts reimbursed to various operators? How will it help achieve savings?

Asked by: Hon HO King-hong, Adrian Pedro (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. The Government is working with the Octopus Cards Limited and the public transport operators (PTOs) involved on the relevant implementation details (including system modification, trial runs, publicity, etc.) for the refined arrangements of the $2 Scheme. The estimate of the relevant expenditure is not yet available.

2. Currently, about 60% of the public transport routes have fares below or equal to $10. During the first 3 months after full implementation of real-name JoyYou Cards, about 76% of the beneficiaries travelled on routes with fares below or equal to $10. Under

the $10 threshold of the "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" fine-tuned proposal, over 75% of the beneficiaries will remain unaffected, as they will continue to pay $2 only. If a beneficiary needs to take a long-haul trip, he will have to pay the amount of adult fare after 80 per cent discount. The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary.

It is worth noting that while the trips with fares above $10 (mostly long-haul trips) taken by beneficiaries with concession have accounted for less than 25% of the total number of concessionary trips, the amount of the Government's reimbursement to PTOs for the relevant trips has made up more than half of the total amount of reimbursement. The "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" proposal will provide beneficiaries with an incentive, encourage them to choose routes that suit their travelling needs and ease the situation of "long-haul trips for short-distance travel". This will help the beneficiaries to save money, and at the same time avoid disbursing unnecessary government subsidies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1148)

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 2025-26 Budget Speech that adjustments will be made to the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the $2 Scheme). The concessionary fare will be changed to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and a limit will be set for the number of concessionary trips. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. based on the data of the $2 Scheme in previous years, the estimated savings brought by the above adjustments; and

2. the expenditure involved in implementing the proposed adjustments (such as the costs for adjusting the Octopus card readers).

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, namely "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and "limit on the number of concessionary trips", savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30.

2. The Government is working with the Octopus Cards Limited and the public transport operators involved on the relevant implementation details (including system modification, trial runs, publicity, etc.) for the refined arrangements of the $2 Scheme. The estimate of the relevant expenditure is not yet available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2951)

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 232 (a) of the Budget Speech that on the basis that the targeted beneficiaries under the $2 Scheme remain unchanged, the Government will change the concessionary fare to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and limit the number of concessionary trips to 240 per month. In this connection, for this Committee's information:

1) Please set out in table form the amounts of Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to individual participating public transport operators under the $2 Scheme, their year-on-year rates of change and their percentages relative to the total amount of reimbursement in the past 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25);

2) Please set out in table form the operating expenses and the year-on-year rates of change relating to the $2 Scheme in the past 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25);

3) What are the monthly numbers of beneficiaries taking 240 trips or less and those taking more than 240 trips in the past 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25);

4) Reportedly, it takes time to adjust the Octopus card readers and the "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" will be implemented no later than September 2026. What are the reasons for taking 18 months to adjust the readers? What are the expenses involved in adjusting the Octopus system and will such expenses be borne by public transport operators? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons? and

5) When will the details be published? What are the potential savings on expenditure upon the adjustment in 5 years from September 2026 onwards?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

1-2) The Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme and the operating expenditures in the past 5 financial years are set out in the table below:

PTOs	**2020-21 Financial year Actual ($'000)**	**2021-22 Financial year Actual ($'000)**	**2022-23 Financial year Actual ($'000)**	**2023-24 Financial year Actual ($'000)**	**2024-25 Financial year Revised estimate ($'000)**
(a) The amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme (Note 1):					
MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL)	266,742 (26.2%)	368,927 (26.5%)	1,165,741 (37.9%)	1,536,197 (38.3%)	1,627,826 (37.1%)
Franchised bus operators	408,013 (40.1%)	576,020 (41.3%)	1,187,781 (38.6%)	1,556,079 (38.8%)	1,688,615 (38.5%)
Ferry operators	27,004 (2.7%)	38,362 (2.7%)	78,745 (2.5%)	86,147 (2.1%)	93,823 (2.1%)
Green minibus operators	314,917 (31.0%)	407,401 (29.2%)	564,345 (18.3%)	690,463 (17.2%)	791,572 (18.0%)
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%)	103,527 (2.6%)	146,447 (3.3%)
Kaito operators		683 (0.0%)	7,941 (0.3%)	6,438 (0.2%)	5,990 (0.1%)
Hong Kong Tramways Limited		188 (0.0%)	2,259 (0.1%)	2,698 (0.1%)	2,820 (0.1%)
Residents' service operators		The $2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport modes concerned	10,587 (0.3%)	27,262 (0.7%)	33,671 (0.8%)
Sub-total	1,016,676 (100%)	1,395,323 (100%)	3,078,823 (100%)	4,008,811 (100%)	4,390,764 (100%)
(b) Operating Expenditure [Change over previous year]	**22,513**	**37,961** [+69%]	**51,527** [+36%]	**52,333** [+2%]	**60,154** [+15%]

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.

3) The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000 [3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)

Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme [1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

As for the information requested in the question, the Government did not maintain such statistics broken down by fare before full implementation of JoyYou Cards for enjoyment of the $2 Scheme.

The Government does not maintain the statistics required before the full implementation of JoyYou Cards for enjoyment of the $2 Scheme.

4-5)

After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, namely "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and "limit on the number of concessionary trips", savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30.

Annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, travelling habits and patterns of eligible beneficiaries, fare adjustments, changes in the PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme, and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures. The Government will closely monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme, prepare the estimated expenditures and reflect them in the estimates of the corresponding years.

The refined arrangement of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" is expected to be implemented no later than September 2026, while the upgrade of relevant system for the implementation of the "limit on the number of concessionary trips" arrangement is expected to take a longer time. The Government will compress the implementation timetable as far as possible and strive to implement the refined arrangements as soon as possible. The Government is working with the Octopus Cards Limited and the PTOs involved on the relevant implementation details (including system modification, trial runs, publicity, etc.) for the refined arrangements of the $2 Scheme. The estimate of the relevant expenditure is not yet available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1261)

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 (the $2 Scheme), will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the total number of persons with disabilities currently enjoying the concessions, the number of working persons with disabilities, the average daily number of concessionary trips taken and the relevant annual expenditure; and

2. whether the Government has consulted the relevant organisations and individuals on the proposed adjustments to the $2 Scheme so as to consider if the adjustments will result in a reduction in the desire of persons with disabilities to travel and their community involvement, as well as an increase in the fare burden of working persons with disabilities.

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

Reply:

1. The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000 [3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme [1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

2. The $2 Scheme aims to promote travelling among the elderly and eligible persons with disabilities for their social inclusion in the community. The $2 concessionary fare has never been adjusted since the launch of the scheme in 2012. With an ageing population

in Hong Kong and the increasingly high public transport fares, the scheme will not be financially viable if the concessionary fare remains unchanged.

Currently, about 60% of the public transport routes have fares below or equal to $10. In the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme, about 81% of trips taken by eligible persons with disabilities were trips with fares below or equal to $10. On this basis, we expect that, under the $10 threshold of the "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" proposal, over 80% of eligible persons with disabilities will remain unaffected, as they will continue to pay $2 only. If a beneficiary needs to take a long-haul trip, he will only have to pay the amount of adult fare after 80 per cent discount. We believe this is still a significant incentive for them to travel. One point of community consensus is that the issue of "long-haul trips for short-distance travel" must be addressed. It is worth noting that while the trips with fares above $10 (mostly long-haul trips) taken by eligible persons with disabilities with concession have accounted for less than 20% of the total number of concessionary trips, the amount of the Government's reimbursement to PTOs for the relevant trips has made up more than 40% of the total amount of reimbursement. The "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" proposal will provide beneficiaries with an incentive, encourage them to choose routes that suit their travelling needs and ease the situation of "long-haul trips for short distance travel". This will help the beneficiaries to save money, and at the same time avoid disbursing unnecessary government subsidies.

Another point of community consensus is that concessionary trips should not be unlimited. In response to this is the proposed limit on the number of concessionary trips. Data obtained from the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme showed that the average number of daily concessionary trips taken by eligible persons with disabilities was 1.3. Among the 130 000 eligible persons with disabilities, only about 80 took more than 240 concessionary trips per month. Supposing that a beneficiary travels twice a day and with each occasion involving interchange trips, a maximum of 8 trips will still meet the beneficiary's travelling needs. Moreover, since the cap is applied on a monthly basis, there will be greater flexibility for beneficiaries to balance out the difference when they occasionally take more than 8 trips on 1 day.

These 2 fine-tuned proposals, namely "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and "limit on the number of concessionary trips", aim to preserve the policy intent of the $2 Scheme while striking the best balance between enhancing its sustainability and minimising its impacts to the beneficiaries.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)217

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2966)

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 (the $2 Scheme), will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the monthly numbers of eligible beneficiaries and the numbers of JoyYou Card users benefited from the $2 Scheme since August last year, with a breakdown by age group (i.e. 60 to 64 years old and 65 years old or above);

2. regarding the JoyYou Card users mentioned in item (1), (i) the average number of trips taken and (ii) average amount of government subsidy for each trip per month per person since August last year, with a breakdown by age group (i.e. 60 to 64 years old and 65 years old or above) and public transport operator (PTO);

3. the amounts or estimated monthly amounts of government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs since August last year, with a breakdown by PTO;

4. the monthly numbers of operations conducted by the Government or PTOs for the prevention of abuses of the Scheme, prosecutions relating to suspected cases of abuse found during the operations; and convictions among the prosecuted cases and the average penalties involved since August last year;

5. it is mentioned in the 2025-26 Budget Speech that the Government will change the concessionary fare of the Scheme to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and limit the number of concessionary trips. With such measures, the Government expects to save about $680 million annually on expenditure. What is the specific calculation for the savings? It is noted that the estimated recurrent expenditure of the Scheme for 2025-26 financial year is about $5.4 billion. What is the specific calculation for the estimated expenditure?

6. the Government has indicated that the implementation of concession in the form of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and the limit on the number of concessionary trips will involve adjustments to the Octopus payment system. What is the estimated administrative cost to be involved in such adjustments? Will the administrative cost be fully borne by the Government? and

7. will the Government enhance discussion with PTOs (such as bus companies) to encourage the availability of section fares for short journeys on more routes, so that short journey passengers can enjoy a more concessionary fare on these routes under the Scheme when taking public transport, thereby lowering government expenditure on the reimbursements to the PTOs; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

1-2.

The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000 [3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)

concessions at least once in the above 3 months				
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme [1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by	14	20	25	

persons who made the highest no. of trips				

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

3. The average monthly amounts of the Government's actual reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme, broken down by type of beneficiaries and PTO, in the first 3 months (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme are tabulated as follows:

	Persons aged 65 or above ($'000)	**Persons aged 60 to 64 ($'000)**	**Eligible persons with disabilities ($'000)**	**Total ($'000)**
MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL)	35,828	96,989	6,087	138,904
Franchised bus operators	49,356	76,329	13,498	139,183
Ferry operators	3,127	4,187	339	7,653
Green minibus operators	41,159	20,652	3,877	65,688
Red minibus operators	6,831	4,364	707	11,902
Kaito operators	313	163	13	489
Hong Kong Tramways Limited	- (Note 1)	204	22	226
Residents' service operators	1,475	1,526	118	3,119
Total	**138,089**	**204,414**	**24,661**	**367,164**

(Note 1) 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. In this connection, the $2 Scheme is not applicable to elderly persons aged 65 or above travelling on trams.

4. The Transport Department (TD) has all along been requesting 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.

To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the $2 concessions by ineligible persons, TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at 24 August 2024 (i.e. before full implementation of the use of JoyYou Card), a total of around 450 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 900 routes with about 3 000 persons inspected for suspected abuse of the $2 Scheme, and 7 suspected abuse cases were found and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearings of 3 of the cases were completed: the passenger in the first case was fined approximately $14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around $2,000); the passenger in the second case was convicted of false accounting and sentenced to 120 hours of community service, and was fined around $5,800 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around $620); and the passenger in the third case was fined $2,000. Investigation into another 2 cases was completed and the Police did not have sufficient evidence to prosecute the suspected abusers. The investigation and prosecution work of the remaining 2 cases are ongoing. Abusers in all cases were involved in using anonymous Elder Octopus.

After full implementation of the use of JoyYou Card, TD carried out a total of around 100 joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as those of franchised buses and ferries from 25 August 2024 to February 2025, inspecting about 560 persons for suspected abuse of $2 Scheme, and no abuse case were found. During the same period, in the enforcement actions carried out by MTRCL, the weekly number of abuse cases with surcharges imposed was 8 on average, significantly lower by 95% as compared to 158 before implementation of the use of JoyYou Card, indicating that full implementation of the use of real-name JoyYou Card is effective in combating abuses.

TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with the PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases with sufficient evidence to the Police for criminal investigations so as to deter ineligible persons from abusing the $2 Scheme.

5. The estimated expenditure on the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme is $5.4 billion in 2025-26. The refined arrangement of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" is expected to be implemented no later than September 2026, while the upgrade of relevant system for the implementation of the "limit on the number of concessionary trips" arrangement is expected to take a longer time. Therefore, the estimated expenditure of the $2 Scheme for the financial year of 2025-26 (about $5.4 billion) has not yet reflected the impact of the implementation of the 2 refined arrangements. After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year that follows (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30.

Annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, travelling behaviour and patterns of eligible beneficiaries, fare adjustments, changes in PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme, and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures. The Government will closely

monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme, prepare the estimated expenditures and reflect them in the estimates of the corresponding years.

Upon implementation of the refined arrangement of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount", as the fare payable by beneficiaries for trips with adult fare above $10 will be calculated at a discount of 80 percent instead, the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme will reduce accordingly. The achievable savings in expenditures upon adjustment is based on such estimation.

6. The Government is working with the Octopus Cards Limited and PTOs involved on the relevant implementation details (including system modification, trial runs, publicity, etc.) for the refined arrangements of the $2 Scheme. The estimate of the relevant administrative cost is not yet available.

7. TD will continue to encourage franchised bus operators to offer more fare concessions and will explore with the bus companies the provision of both the front-part-journey and end-part-journey section fares, so as to better align with the implementation of the refined proposal of the $2 Scheme and ensure that public money is well spent.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0289)

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:

As stated in paragraph 232 of the Budget Speech, the Government has proposed adjustments to the $2 Scheme. The number of trips will be limited to 240 per month. Beneficiaries will continue to pay $2 for trips with fare below or equal to $10. For trips with fare above $10, the beneficiaries will have to pay the amount of full fare after 80 per cent discount. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the administrative cost involved in making the adjustments; and

2. the estimated expenditures of the $2 Scheme upon adjustments in the coming 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LAM Shun-chiu, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

1. The Government is working with the Octopus Cards Limited and the public transport operators (PTOs) involved on the implementation details (including system modification, trial runs, publicity, etc.) for the refined arrangements of the $2 Scheme. The estimate of the relevant expenditure is not yet available.

2. The refined arrangement of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" is expected to be implemented no later than September 2026, while the upgrade of relevant system for the implementation of the "limit on the number of concessionary trips" arrangement is expected to take a longer time. The Government will compress the timetable as far as possible and strive to implement the refined arrangements as soon as possible. After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year that follows (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30. Annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, travelling behaviour and patterns of eligible beneficiaries, fare adjustments, changes in PTOs

participating in the $2 Scheme, and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures. The Government will closely monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme, prepare the estimated expenditures and reflect them in the estimates of the corresponding years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0306)

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 adjustments to the $2 Scheme mentioned in paragraph 232 of the Budget Speech, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of beneficiaries taking more than 240 concessionary trips per month under the Scheme;

2. the number of beneficiaries taking 120 to 240 concessionary trips per month under the Scheme; and

3. the number of beneficiaries taking less than 120 concessionary trips per month under the Scheme?

Asked by: Hon LAM Shun-chiu, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000[3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme [1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)

Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(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:

Regarding the adjustments to the $2 Scheme mentioned in paragraph 232 of the Budget Speech, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the numbers of passenger trips taken by persons aged between 60 and 64 under the $2 Scheme and the expenditures involved in the past 3 years; and

2. the numbers of passenger trips taken by persons aged 65 or above under the $2 Scheme and the expenditures involved in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LAM Shun-chiu, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million

2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000[3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme [1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000

120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

Numbers of average daily passenger trips taken by beneficiaries under the $2 Scheme in the past 3 years (Note) are as follows:

Calendar year	**Persons aged 65 or above**	**Persons aged between 60 and 64**
2022	1 190 000	750 000
2023	1 536 000	872 000
2024	1 635 000	913 000

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0508)

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 Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26, it is mentioned that the Transport Department (TD) will provide support to the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) in implementing measures related to the review of the $2 Scheme. Please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the respective amounts of subsidy provided by the Government to various transport modes under the $2 Scheme in the past 5 years;

2. the estimated savings on the subsidies for various transport modes after the implementation of the "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" measure; and

3. the 5 routes with the highest savings on subsidy among various transport modes?

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

1. The amounts and percentages of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the public transport operators (PTOs) participating in the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the $2 Scheme) in respect of PTOs in the past 5 financial years are tabulated below (Note):

PTOs	**2020-21 Actual ($'000)**	**2021-22 Actual ($'000)**	**2022-23 Actual ($'000)**	**2023-24 Actual ($'000)**	**2024-25 Revised estimate ($'000)**
MTR Corporation Limited	266,742 (26.2%)	368,927 (26.5%)	1,165,741 (37.9%)	1,536,197 (38.3%)	1,627,826 (37.1%)

PTOs	2020-21 Actual ($'000)	2021-22 Actual ($'000)	2022-23 Actual ($'000)	2023-24 Actual ($'000)	2024-25 Revised estimate ($'000)
Franchised bus operators	408,013 (40.1%)	576,020 (41.3%)	1,187,781 (38.6%)	1,556,079 (38.8%)	1,688,615 (38.5%)
Ferry operators	27,004 (2.7%)	38,362 (2.7%)	78,745 (2.5%)	86,147 (2.1%)	93,823 (2.1%)
Green minibus operators	314,917 (31.0%)	407,401 (29.2%)	564,345 (18.3%)	690,463 (17.2%)	791,572 (18.0%)
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%)	103,527 (2.6%)	146,447 (3.3%)
Kaito operators		683 (0.0%)	7,941 (0.3%)	6,438 (0.2%)	5,990 (0.1%)
Hong Kong Tramways Limited		188 (0.0%)	2,259 (0.1%)	2,698 (0.1%)	2,820 (0.1%)
Residents' service operators		The $2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport modes concerned	10,587 (0.3%)	27,262 (0.7%)	33,671 (0.8%)
Total	**1,016,676 (100%)**	**1,395,323 (100%)**	**3,078,823 (100%)**	**4,008,811 (100%)**	**4,390,764 (100%)**

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' services.

2-3.

The Government has completed the review of the $2 Scheme and proposed that the number of concessionary trips taken by an eligible beneficiary be limited to 240 per month and that the concessionary fare be changed to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount". After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30.

Upon implementation of the refined arrangement of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount", as the fare payable by beneficiaries for trips with adult fare above $10 will be calculated at a discount of 80 percent instead, the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme will reduce accordingly. The savings in expenditures to be achieved upon adjustment is based on such estimation rather than on the savings in subsidy for individual routes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0746)

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 (the $2 Scheme), it is mentioned in paragraph 232 of the Budget Speech that the Government will change the concessionary fare to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount", which means that beneficiaries will continue to pay $2 for trips with fare below or equal to $10. For trips with fare above $10, the beneficiaries will have to pay the amount of full fare after 80 per cent discount. The number of concessionary trips will also be limited to 240 per month. With the above proposal, the Government wishes to tackle the problem of "long-haul trips for short-distance travel" and encourage beneficiaries to choose the routes that suit their trip purposes. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the usage figures of persons aged 60 to 64 and 65 or above since the launch of JoyYou Card, including the average daily numbers of trips taken and the average fare amounts subsidised by the Government; and
2. whether there are any abuse cases (e.g. non-elderly persons using JoyYou Card); if yes, the number of cases and the way of handling such cases.

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

1. The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first three months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000[3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme[1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)

Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

2. The Transport Department (TD) has all along been requesting 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. To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the $2 concessions by ineligible persons, TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at 24

August 2024 (i.e. before full implementation of the use of JoyYou Card), a total of around 450 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 900 routes with about 3 000 persons inspected for suspected abuse of the $2 Scheme, and seven suspected abuse cases were found and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearings of three of the cases were completed: the passenger in the first case was fined approximately $14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around $2,000); the passenger in the second case was convicted of false accounting and sentenced to 120 hours of community service, and was fined around $5,800 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around $620); and the passenger in the third case was fined $2,000. Investigation into another 2 cases was completed and the Police did not have sufficient evidence to prosecute the suspected abusers. The investigation and prosecution work of the remaining two cases are ongoing. Abusers in all cases were involved in using anonymous Elder Octopus.

After full implementation of the use of JoyYou Card, TD carried out a total of around 100 joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from 25 August 2024 to February 2025, inspecting about 560 persons for suspected abuse of $2 Scheme, and no abuse case were found. During the same period, in the enforcement actions carried out by the MTR Corporation Limited, the weekly number of abuse cases with surcharges imposed was 8 on average, significantly lower by 95% as compared to 158 before implementation of the use of JoyYou Card, indicating that full implementation of the use of real-name JoyYou Card is effective in combating abuses.

TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with the PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases with sufficient evidence to the Police for criminal investigations so as to deter ineligible persons from abusing the $2 Scheme.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)223

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1384)

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 (the $2 Scheme), will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the number of elderly persons aged 60 or above and holding JoyYou Card, their total count of card usage in the past 2 financial years and the estimated figure for 2025-26, with a breakdown by age group (60 to 64, 65 to 69, 70 to 74, 75 to 79, 80 to 84, 85 to 89 and 90 or above)?

2. What is the amount of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) in the past 2 financial years and the estimated figure for 2025-26?

3. In relation to actions taken by the Government and PTOs against abuse of the $2 Scheme by ineligible persons in the past 3 years, what are the involved (i) staff establishment, (ii) number of operations, (iii) public transport modes and routes, (iv) number of abusers spotted and (v) total amount of fines and surcharges imposed?

4. What are the staff establishment and administrative costs involved in the implementation of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount"? and

5. The Government has indicated that upon implementation of the refined arrangements for the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme and the $2 Scheme, it expects to save $6.2 billion in the coming 5 years. What are the estimated savings that the Government expects to achieve in each of the 5 financial years following the implementation of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" under the $2 Scheme?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. & 2.

The numbers of beneficiaries holding JoyYou Card under the $2 Scheme in the past 2 years are tabulated as follows:

Calendar year (Note 1)	**Persons aged 65 or above**	**Persons aged 60 to 64**	**Total**
2023	1 495 000	658 000	2 153 000
2024	1 750 000	690 000	2 440 000

Note 1: Figures as at 31 December of the year.

The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000 [3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme [1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who	14	20	25	

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
made the highest no. of trips				

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

3. The Transport Department (TD) has all along been requesting 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' services, a total of about 900 suspected abuse cases were found.

To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the $2 concessions by ineligible persons, TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at 24 August 2024 (i.e. before full implementation of the use of JoyYou Card), a total of around 450 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 900 routes with about 3 000 persons inspected for suspected abuse of the $2 Scheme, and 7 suspected abuse cases were found and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearings of 3 of the cases were completed: the passenger in the first case was fined approximately $14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around $2,000); the passenger in the second case was convicted of false accounting and sentenced to 120 hours of community service, and was fined around $5,800 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around $620); and the passenger in the third case was fined $2,000. Investigation into another 2 cases was completed and the Police did not have sufficient evidence to prosecute the suspected abusers. The investigation and prosecution work of the remaining 2 cases are ongoing. Abusers in all cases were involved in using anonymous Elder Octopus.

After full implementation of the use of JoyYou Card, TD carried out a total of around 100 joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from 25 August 2024 to February 2025, inspecting about 560 persons for suspected abuse of $2 Scheme, and no abuse case were found. During the same period, in the enforcement actions carried out by the MTR Corporation Limited, the weekly number of abuse cases with surcharges imposed was 8 on average, significantly lower by 95% as compared to

158 before implementation of the use of JoyYou Card, indicating that full implementation of the use of real-name JoyYou Card is effective in combating abuses.

TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with the PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases with sufficient evidence to the Police for criminal investigations so as to deter ineligible persons from abusing the $2 Scheme.

The work involved in combating abuses of the $2 Scheme is mainly absorbed by TD with existing resources and no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved can be provided.

4. & 5.

After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, namely "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and "limit on the number of concessionary trips", savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30. Annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, travelling habits and patterns of eligible beneficiaries, fare adjustments, changes in PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme, and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures. The Government will closely monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme, prepare the estimated expenditures and reflect them in the estimates of the corresponding years.

The Government is working with the Octopus Cards Limited and the PTOs involved on the relevant implementation details (including system modification, trial runs, publicity, etc.) for the refined arrangements of the $2 Scheme. The estimate of the relevant administrative cost is not yet available. As the work of TD on assisting in implementation of the refined arrangements is undertaken by the existing staff, there is no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)224

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2425)

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:

As mentioned in paragraph 232 of the Budget Speech, the Government proposes to fine-tune the $2 Scheme and change the concessionary fare to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount", which means that beneficiaries will continue to pay $2 for trips with fare below or equal to $10. For trips with fare above $10, the beneficiaries will have to pay the amount of full fare after 80 per cent discount. The number of concessionary trips will also be limited to 240 per month. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the estimated expenditure and staff establishment involved in the process of fine-tuning the $2 Scheme, which includes adjustment of Octopus processors and related systems;

2. the expected implementation date and details of the "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" concessions;

3. the Government's annual operating expenditure after fine-tuning the $2 Scheme;

4. whether regular review of the $2 Scheme will be conducted in future; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LEE Chun-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

1. The Government is working with the Octopus Cards Limited and the public transport operators (PTOs) involved on the relevant implementation details (including system modification, trial runs, publicity, etc.) for the refined arrangements of the $2 Scheme. The estimate of the relevant expenditure is not yet available.

   As the work of the Transport Department on assisting in implementation of the refined arrangements is undertaken by the existing staff, there is no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved.

2. The refined arrangement of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" is expected to be implemented no later than September 2026, while the upgrade of relevant system for the implementation of the "limit on the number of concessionary trips" arrangement is expected to take a longer time. The Government will compress the timetable as far as possible and strive to implement the refined arrangements as soon as possible.

3-4. After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30.

Annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, travelling behaviour and patterns of eligible beneficiaries, fare adjustments, changes in PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme, and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures. The Government will closely monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme, prepare the estimated expenditures and reflect them in the estimates of the corresponding years.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)225

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2461)

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 Speech that on the basis that the targeted beneficiaries remain unchanged, the Government will change the concessionary fare to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and the number of concessionary trips will be limited to 240 per month. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1) Since the launch of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the $2 Scheme), individual public transport operators (PTOs) have cancelled their existing fare concessions for the elderly. Will the Government consider discussing the issue with the operators or go further to provide policy incentives for them to offer fare concessions to the elderly?

2) What are the amount and percentage of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs in the past 3 years?

3) Is there any assessment on the relevant expenditure and its increase in the next 3 years under the adjusted $2 Scheme?

4) According to the Final Report of Comprehensive Review of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities, statistics as at October 2018 show that about 90% of all beneficiaries made 70 or less journeys in the month. What considerations or formulae has the Department adopted in deciding to limit the number of concessionary trips to 240 per month?

5) Does the existing mechanism include any verification of extreme cases where a certain monthly number of trips is exceeded?

Asked by: Hon LEE Hoey Simon (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

1) Currently, most of the public transport operators (PTOs) (including the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL), franchised bus operators, Hong Kong Tramways (HKT) and ferry operators, etc.) under the $2 Scheme provide fare concessions to certain groups of passengers on a voluntary basis. These mainly include fare concessions at about half-price for elderly persons aged 65 or above. For those franchised bus operators, the HKT and ferry operators which provide fare concessions to elderly persons, the Government has exempted them from the payment of the annual vehicle/vessel licence fees and reimburse the rentals for their use of government land under the Elderly Concessionary Fare Scheme, so as to encourage them to maintain such fare concessions for the elderly. In discussing fare concession measures with the relevant PTOs, the Government needs to strike a balance between passengers' aspirations for concessions and the impact of the measures on the financial viability of individual operators. The Government will maintain close liaison with the PTOs and encourage them to continue to provide passengers with various fare concession schemes in light of their operating conditions, market economic environment and other relevant factors, while preserving a robust financial position.

2) The amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme and their percentages in the past 3 financial years are tabulated below:

PTOs	**2022-23 Financial year** (Note 1) **Actual ($'000)**	**2023-24 Financial year Actual ($'000)**	**2024-25 Financial year Revised estimate ($'000)**
MTRCL	1,165,741 (37.9%)	1,536,197 (38.3%)	1,627,826 (37.1%)
Franchised bus operators	1,187,781 (38.6%)	1,556,079 (38.8%)	1,688,615 (38.5%)
Ferry operators	78,745 (2.5%)	86,147 (2.1%)	93,823 (2.1%)
Green minibus operators	564,345 (18.3%)	690,463 (17.2%)	791,572 (18.0%)
Red minibus (RMB) operators	61,424 (2.0%)	103,527 (2.6%)	146,447 (3.3%)
Kaito operators	7,941 (0.3%)	6,438 (0.2%)	5,990 (0.1%)
HKT	2,259 (0.1%)	2,698 (0.1%)	2,820 (0.1%)
Residents' services (RS) operators	10,587 (0.3%)	27,262 (0.7%)	33,671 (0.8%)
Total	**3,078,823 (100%)**	**4,008,811 (100%)**	**4,390,764 (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 RMB, kaitos and trams; and from 25 September 2022, the $2 Scheme has been extended to cover RS.

3) After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, namely "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and "limit on the number of concessionary trips", savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30. Annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, travelling behaviour and patterns of eligible beneficiaries, fare adjustments, changes in PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme, and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures. The Government will closely monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme, prepare the estimated expenditures and reflect them in the estimates of the corresponding years.

4-5) Data obtained in the first 3 months after implementation of real-name system for the $2 Scheme showed that the average numbers of daily concessionary trips taken by persons aged 60 to 64, persons aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities were 1.4, 1.0 and 1.3 respectively. Among the 2.5 million beneficiaries, only about 360 took more than 240 concessionary trips per month. The Government has adopted a relaxed approach by limiting the number of concessionary trips at 240 per month (about 8 trips per day on average). Supposing that a beneficiary travels twice a day and with each occasion involving interchange trips, a maximum of 8 trips will still meet the beneficiary's travelling needs. Moreover, since the cap is applied on a monthly basis, there will be greater flexibility for beneficiaries to balance out the difference when they occasionally take more than 8 trips on 1 day.

The refined arrangements of "limit on the number of concessionary trips" aims to preserve the policy intent of the $2 Scheme while striking the best balance between enhancing its sustainability and minimising its impacts to the beneficiaries. Capping the number of concessionary trips can tackle cases of extremely high number of passenger trips taken. Upon implementation of the refined arrangements, the Government will continue to monitor the operation of the $2 Scheme.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)226

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0188)

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 Speech that adjustment will be made to 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. the monthly fare subsidy and the numbers of beneficiaries broken down by group (persons with disabilities, persons aged 60 to 64 and persons aged 65 or above) in 2023-24;

2. the monthly fare subsidy and the numbers of elderly beneficiaries using JoyYou Cards broken down by age group as mentioned above from August last year up until now;

3. the monthly fare subsidy to single trip fares ($0-$9.9 and $10 or above) and the numbers of trips taken by passengers broken down by group (persons with disabilities, persons aged between 60 and 64 and persons aged 65 or above) in 2023-24;

4. the monthly subsidies to single trip fares ($0-$9.9 and $10 or above) and the numbers of trips taken by elderly JoyYou Card users broken down by age group as mentioned above from August last year up until now;

5. the monthly numbers of passenger trips on various modes of public transport taken by JoyYou Card users broken down by age group as mentioned above;

6. the numbers of passengers with monthly trips (below 100 trips, 101-200 trips, 201-240 trips and above 240 trips) broken down by age group as mentioned above and their; and

7. the criteria for the Government to cap the number of subsidised trips at 240 per month?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1, 2, 4 & 6.

The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000 [3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)

Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme [1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme.

The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

3. The Government does not maintain the statistics required before fully implementing the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme.

5. According to the data obtained from the first 3 months after fully implementing the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme as mentioned above, the average monthly numbers of beneficiaries of the $2 Scheme [4], broken down by age group and PTO, are tabulated as follows:

	Persons aged 65 or above	**Persons aged between 60 and 64**	**Eligible persons with disabilities**	**Total**
MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL)	13.06 million	11.86 million	2.13 million	27.05 million
Franchised bus operators	20.17 million	10.77 million	2.06 million	33 million
Ferry operators	290 000	180 000	30 000	500 000
Green minibus operators	9.31 million	4.52 million	880 000	14.71 million
Red minibus operators	940 000	550 000	90 000	1.58 million
Kaito operators	40 000	20 000	0	70 000
Hong Kong Tramways Limited	- [5]	200 000	20 000	230 000
Residents' service operators	290 000	170 000	20 000	480 000
Total	**44.10 million**	**28.27 million**	**5.23 million**	**77.62 million**

[4] Rounded off to the nearest ten thousand.

[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 fare of $2 under the $2 Scheme. In this connection, the $2 Scheme is not applicable to elderly persons aged 65 or above travelling on trams.

7. The $2 concessionary fare has never been adjusted since the launch of the scheme in 2012. With an ageing population in Hong Kong and the increasingly high public transport fares, the scheme will not be financially viable if the concessionary fare

remains unchanged. Currently, about 60% of the public transport routes have fares below or equal to $10. In the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme, about 76% of the beneficiaries travelled on routes with fares below or equal to $10. Under the $10 threshold of the "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" fine-tuned proposal, over 75% of the beneficiaries will remain unaffected, as they will continue to pay $2 only. If beneficiaries need to take a long-haul trip, they will have to pay the amount of adult fare after 80 per cent discount. We believe this is still a significant incentive for them to travel. One point of community consensus is that the issue of "long-haul trips for short-distance travel" must be addressed. It is worth noting that while the trips with fares above $10 (mostly long-haul trips) taken by beneficiaries with concession have accounted for less than 25% of the total number of concessionary trips, the amount of the Government's reimbursement to PTOs for the relevant trips has made up more than half of the total amount of reimbursement. The "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" proposal will provide beneficiaries with an incentive, encouraging them to choose routes that suit their travelling needs and ease the situation of "long-haul trips for short-distance travel". This will help the beneficiaries to save money, and at the same time avoid disbursing unnecessary government subsidies.

Another point of community consensus is that concessionary trips should not be unlimited. In response to this is the proposed limit on the number of concessionary trips. Data obtained from the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme showed that the average numbers of daily concessionary trips taken by persons aged 60 to 64, persons aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities were 1.4, 1.0 and 1.3 respectively. Among the 2.5 million beneficiaries, only about 360 took more than 240 concessionary trips per month. Supposing that a beneficiary travels twice a day and with each occasion involving interchange trips, a maximum of eight trips will still meet the beneficiary's travelling needs. Moreover, since the cap is applied on a monthly basis, there will be greater flexibility for beneficiaries to balance out the difference when they occasionally take more than eight trips on one day.

These 2 fine-tuned proposals, namely "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and "limit on the number of concessionary trips", aim to preserve the policy intent of the $2 Scheme while striking the best balance between enhancing its sustainability and minimising its impacts to the beneficiaries.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)227

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1938)

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:

1. Please set out in tabular form the amount of subsidies relating to various modes of public transport under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the $2 Scheme) and the administrative cost involved in the past 5 years and the corresponding estimates for this year.

2. Please set out in tabular form the concessions enjoyed by persons with disabilities and persons in different age groups (60 to 64, 65 to 69, 70 to 74, 75 to 80 and above 80) under the $2 Scheme in the past 5 years and the corresponding estimates for this year.

3. What are the relevant number of prosecutions instituted by law enforcement departments and number of resulting convictions in the past 5 years?

4. What are the current numbers of those holding JoyYou Cards and those holding Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status"?

5. What are the expenditure and staff establishment involved in the review of the $2 Scheme?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1. The recurrent expenditures of the $2 Scheme, including the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) and the operational expenses, in the past 5 financial years are tabulated below:

	2020-21 Actual ($'000)	2021-22 Actual ($'000)	2022-23 Actual ($'000)	2023-24 Actual ($'000)	2024-25 Revised estimate ($'000)
(a) The Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme (Note 1):					
MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL)	266,742	368,927	1,165,741	1,536,197	1,627,826
Franchised bus operators	408,013	576,020	1,187,781	1,556,079	1,688,615
Ferry operators	27,004	38,362	78,745	86,147	93,823
Green minibus operators	314,917	407,401	564,345	690,463	791,572
Red minibus operators	The $2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport modes concerned	3,742	61,424	103,527	146,447
Kaito operators		683	7,941	6,438	5,990
Hong Kong Tramways Limited		188	2,259	2,698	2,820
Residents' service operators		The $2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport modes concerned	10,587	27,262	33,671
Sub-total	1,016,676	1,395,323	3,078,823	4,008,811	4,390,764
(b) Operational expenses	**22,513**	**37,961**	**51,527**	**52,333**	**60,154**
Total recurrent expenditure	**1,039,189**	**1,433,284**	**3,130,350**	**4,061,144**	**4,450,918**

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 estimated expenditure of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme for 2025-26 is about $5.4 billion.

2. The average daily numbers of passenger trips taken by the beneficiaries under the $2 Scheme in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by type of beneficiary, are set out below:

Calendar year	**Persons aged 65 or above**	**Persons aged 60 to 64** (Note 2)	**Eligible persons with disabilities**	**Total** (Note 3)
2020	985 000	-	129 000	1 114 000
2021	1 247 000	-	159 000	1 406 000
2022	1 190 000	750 000	145 000	2 086 000
2023	1 536 000	872 000	170 000	2 578 000
2024	1 635 000	913 000	172 000	2 719 000

Note 2: From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the $2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60.

Note 3: Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding off to the nearest thousand.

3. 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. 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, about 1 600 suspected abuse cases were found.

To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the $2 concessions by ineligible persons, TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at 24 August 2024 (i.e. before full implementation of the use of JoyYou Card), a total of around 450 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 900 routes with about 3 000 persons inspected for suspected abuse of the $2 Scheme, and 7 suspected abuse cases were found and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearings of three of the cases were completed: the passenger in the first case was fined approximately $14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around $2,000); the passenger in the second case was convicted of false accounting and sentenced to 120 hours of community service, and was fined around $5,800 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around $620); and the passenger in the third case was fined $2,000. Investigation into another 2 cases was completed and the Police did not have sufficient evidence to prosecute the suspected abusers. The investigation and prosecution work of the remaining 2 cases are ongoing. Abusers in all cases were involved in using anonymous Elder Octopus.

After full implementation of the use of JoyYou Card, TD carried out a total of around 100 joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from 25 August 2024 to February 2025, inspecting about 560 persons for suspected abuse of $2 Scheme, and no abuse case were found. During the same period, in the enforcement actions carried out by the MTRCL, the weekly number of abuse cases with surcharges imposed was 8 on average, significantly lower by 95% as compared to 158 before implementation of the use of JoyYou Card, indicating that full implementation of the use of real-name JoyYou Card is effective in combating abuses.

TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with the PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases with sufficient evidence to the Police for criminal investigations so as to deter ineligible persons from abusing the $2 Scheme.

4. As at the end of November 2024, there were about 2.42 million eligible beneficiaries aged 60 or above holding JoyYou Card and about 130 000 eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 holding Personalised Octopus encoded with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the $2 concession fare.

5. The Government is working with the Octopus Cards Limited and the PTOs involved on the relevant implementation details (including system modification, trial runs, publicity, etc.) for the refined arrangements of the $2 Scheme. The estimate of the relevant expenditure is not yet available. As the work of TD on assisting in implementation of the refined arrangements is undertaken by the existing staff, there is no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1939)

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 is planning to introduce new measures under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the $2 Scheme). For trips with fare below $10, beneficiaries will continue to pay $2; for trips with fare above $10, the beneficiaries will have to pay the amount of full fare after 80 per cent discount. Moreover, the number of trips will be limited to 240 per month. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. How does the Government expect this measure will affect the annual expenditure of the whole scheme?

2. Has the Government estimated the percentages of elderly people who pay 20 per cent of a fare and those who do not? What will be the transport mode most affected?

3. Please provide the statistics on the numbers and percentages of elderly people taking more than 240 trips per month on average in the past 2 years.

4. Please provide the numbers of average monthly passenger trips taken by the following groups of elderly people in the past year: i) persons with disabilities; ii) persons aged 60 to 64; iii) persons aged 65 to 79; iv) persons aged 70 to 74; v) persons aged 75 to 79; and vi) persons aged 80 or above.

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

1. After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, namely "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and "limit on the number of concessionary trips", savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30.

Annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, travelling habits and patterns of eligible beneficiaries, fare adjustments, changes in PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme, and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures. The Government will closely monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme, prepare the estimated expenditures and reflect them in the estimates of the corresponding years.

2. & 3.

The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000[3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%

Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme[1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or

eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

Before fully implementing the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme, the Government did not maintain the statistics required.

4. The numbers of average daily passenger trips (Note) taken by the beneficiaries under the $2 Scheme in 2024 are as follows:

Elderly people aged 65 or above	**Elderly people aged 60 to 64**	**Eligible persons with disabilities**	**Total**
1 635 000	913 000	172 000	2 719 000

(Note): Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand and may not add up to the total due to rounding.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0916)

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 Financial Secretary, in paragraph 232 of the Budget Speech, proposes to adjust 2 transport subsidy schemes that incur relatively high expenditure with a rapid growth rate, namely 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. Under the $2 Scheme, the concessionary fare will be changed to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount", which means that beneficiaries will continue to pay $2 for trips with fare below or equal to $10. For trips with fare above $10, the beneficiaries will have to pay the amount of full fare after 80 per cent discount. Furthermore, the number of concessionary trips will also be limited to 240 per month. Regarding the $2 Scheme, please advise this Committee of the expenditure of the scheme last year and the proportion of administrative cost, the administrative cost to be incurred for making the proposed adjustments and the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The actual total expenditure of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities ($2 Scheme) in the 2023-24 financial year was about $4.06 billion, of which the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) was about $4.01 billion and the administrative cost was about $50 million.

The Government is working with the Octopus Cards Limited and the PTOs involved on the relevant implementation details (including system modification, trial runs, publicity, etc.) for the refined arrangements of the $2 Scheme. The estimate of the relevant expenditure is not yet available. As the work of the Transport Department on assisting in implementation of the refined arrangements is undertaken by the existing staff, there is no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0780)

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:

On the basis that the targeted beneficiaries remain unchanged under the $2 Scheme, the Government will change the concessionary fare to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount", which means that beneficiaries will continue to pay $2 for trips with fare below or equal to $10. For trips with fare above $10, the beneficiaries will have to pay the amount of full fare after 80 per cent discount. The number of concessionary trips will be limited to 240 per month. From June 2025 onwards, the threshold of monthly public transport expenses incurred for receiving the subsidy under the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme will be raised from $400 to $500. Upon implementation of the refined arrangements, the Government is expected to save $6.2 billion in the coming five years. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What is the annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme in the past 5 years?

2. What is the basis for capping the number of concessionary trips at 240 per month?

3. How will the "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" be assessed as to its effectiveness in reducing cases of "long-haul trips for short-distance travel"?

4. With the Government expecting to save about $6.2 billion in the coming 5 years upon implementation of the refined arrangements, what will be the annual estimated expenditure of the $2 Scheme thereafter? and

5. Given that the refined arrangements are expected to take effect no later than September next year, has the Government explored with the relevant transport service operators on advancing the implementation date? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1. The amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme in the past 5 financial years are set out in the following table (Note):

Financial year of 2020-21 Actual reimbursement	$1,016.7 million
Financial year of 2021-22 Actual reimbursement	$1,395.3 million
Financial year of 2022-23 Actual reimbursement	$3,078.8 million
Financial year of 2023-24 Actual reimbursement	$4,008.8 million
Financial year of 2024-25 Revised estimate	$4,390.8 million

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' services.

2-3.

The $2 concessionary fare has never been adjusted since the launch of the scheme in 2012. With an ageing population in Hong Kong and the increasingly high public transport fares, the scheme will not be financially viable if the concessionary fare remains unchanged. Currently, about 60% of the public transport routes have fares below or equal to $10. In the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme, about 76% of the beneficiaries travelled on routes with fares below or equal to $10. Under the $10 threshold of the "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" fine-tuned proposal, over 75% of the beneficiaries will remain unaffected, as they will continue to pay $2 only. If a beneficiary needs to take a long-haul trip, he will have to pay the amount of adult fare after 80 per cent discount. We believe this is still a significant incentive for them to travel. One point of community consensus is that the issue of "long-haul trips for short-distance travel" must be addressed. It is worth noting that while the trips with fares above $10 (mostly long-haul trips) taken by beneficiaries with concession have accounted for less than 25% of the total number of concessionary trips, the amount of the Government's reimbursement to PTOs for the relevant trips has made up more than half of the total amount of reimbursement. The "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" proposal will provide beneficiaries with an incentive to choose routes that suit their travelling needs and ease the situation of "long-haul trips for short-distance travel". As well as helping the beneficiaries to save money, this will avoid disbursing unnecessary government subsidies.

Another point of community consensus is that concessionary trips should not be unlimited. In response to this is the proposed limit on the number of concessionary trips. Data obtained from the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme showed that the average numbers of daily concessionary trips taken by persons aged 60 to 64, persons aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities were 1.4, 1.0 and 1.3 respectively. Among the 2.5

million beneficiaries, only about 360 took more than 240 concessionary trips per month. Supposing that a beneficiary travels twice a day and with each occasion involving interchange trips, a maximum of 8 trips will still meet the beneficiary's travelling needs. Moreover, since the cap is applied on a monthly basis, there will be greater flexibility for beneficiaries to balance out the difference when they occasionally take more than 8 trips on 1 day.

These 2 fine-tuned proposals, namely "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and "limit on the number of concessionary trips", aim to preserve the policy intent of the $2 Scheme while striking the best balance between enhancing its sustainability and minimising its impacts to the beneficiaries.

4. After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, namely "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and "limit on the number of concessionary trips", savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30. Annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, travelling habits and patterns of eligible beneficiaries, fare adjustments, changes in PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme, and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures. The Government will closely monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme, prepare the estimated expenditures and reflect them in the estimates of the corresponding years.

5. The refined arrangement of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" is expected to be implemented no later than September 2026, while the upgrade of relevant system is expected to take a longer time for the implementation of the "limit on the number of concessionary trips" arrangement. The Government will compress the implementation timetable as far as possible and strive to implement the refined arrangements as soon as possible.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1741)

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 232 of the Budget Speech that on the basis that the targeted beneficiaries remain unchanged, the Government will change the concessionary fare to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and the number of concessionary trips will be limited to 240 per month. What is the implementation timetable for these arrangements? It has been learned that the Octopus processors need to be adjusted manually one by one. In view of this, will there be any plan to fully upgrade the Octopus system and drive its digitisation, including enabling remote system control, etc. to enhance efficiency and save manpower?

Asked by: Hon SO Cheung-wing (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

The refined arrangement of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" is expected to be implemented no later than September 2026, while the upgrade of relevant system for the implementation of the "limit on the number of concessionary trips" arrangement is expected to take a longer time. The Government is working with the Octopus Cards Limited (OCL) and the public transport operators (PTOs) involved on the relevant implementation details (including system modification, trial runs, publicity, etc.). The Government will compress the implementation timetable as far as possible and strive to implement the refined arrangements as soon as possible. After completing necessary system modification and trials for the implementation of the refined arrangements, the OCL and the PTOs can apply the updated fare collection system program to the Octopus readers. The OCL and the PTOs can update the program remotely via the network.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2172)

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's decision to adjust the $2 Scheme, which is a benevolent policy, in face of the fiscal deficit this year will inevitably affect the elderly. In this connection, will the Government tabulate the following information relating to the $2 Scheme:

(a) the annual amounts of the Government's subsidy to various modes of public transport under the $2 Scheme in the past 5 years;

(b) the estimated savings on expenditure for various modes of public transport upon the Government's adjustments to the $2 Scheme;

(c) the numbers of trips with Government's subsidy exceeding $18 and trips with subsidy below $18 under the $2 Scheme in the past 5 years; and

(d) the numbers of beneficiaries taking 8 trips or more and those taking less than 8 trips per day under the $2 Scheme in the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

1. and 2.

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) in respect of PTOs in the past 5 financial years are tabulated as follows (Note):

PTOs	2020-21 Actual ($'000)	2021-22 Actual ($'000)	2022-23 Actual ($'000)	2023-24 Actual ($'000)	2024-25 Revised estimate ($'000)
MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL)	266,742	368,927	1,165,741	1,536,197	1,627,826
Franchised bus operators	408,013	576,020	1,187,781	1,556,079	1,688,615
Ferry operators	27,004	38,362	78,745	86,147	93,823
Green minibus operators	314,917	407,401	564,345	690,463	791,572
Red minibus operators	The $2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport modes concerned	3,742	61,424	103,527	146,447
Kaito operators		683	7,941	6,438	5,990
Hong Kong Tramways Limited		188	2,259	2,698	2,820
Residents' service operators		The $2 Scheme has not yet been extended to cover the public transport mode concerned	10,587	27,262	33,671
Total	**1,016,676**	**1,395,323**	**3,078,823**	**4,008,811**	**4,390,764**

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.

The Government has completed the review of the $2 Scheme and proposed that the number of concessionary trips taken by an eligible beneficiary be limited to 240 per month and that the concessionary fare be changed to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount". After implementation of the two refined arrangements, savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30.

3-4.

The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000[3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)

Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme[1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with “Persons with Disabilities Status” and JoyYou Card with “Persons with Disabilities Status”

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2035)

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 232 of the Budget Speech that for the $2 Scheme, on the basis that the targeted beneficiaries remain unchanged, the Government will change the concessionary fare to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount", which means that beneficiaries will continue to pay $2 for trips with fare below or equal to $10. For trips with fare above $10, the beneficiaries will have to pay the amount of full fare after 80 per cent discount. Furthermore, the number of concessionary trips will also be limited to 240 per month. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

(a) the number of cases of illegal use of the scheme since its launch;

(b) Will the Government consider amending the legislation to require JoyYou Card holders to show their JoyYou Cards to drivers for verification of their appearance when travelling on buses and minibuses, so as to further combat the illegal use of JoyYou Cards? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

(c) It has been learned that at present, the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) has installed some 800 entry/exit gates at MTR stations throughout Hong Kong, and it is difficult for MTRCL to deploy extra manpower to specifically check the identities of JoyYou Card holders, thus aggravating the situation of illegal use of JoyYou Cards. Will the Government consider amending the legislation to impose heavier penalties on illegal use of JoyYou Cards, or even make it a criminal offence? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

(d) Will the Government consider amending the legislation so that JoyYou Card holders may also be subject to criminal liability if misuse of JoyYou Cards is found? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

(a)-(d)

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 relevant legislation and penalty under the relevant by-laws to prevent abuses. TD also conducts surveys and monitors the situation. At present, persons found to be suspected of abuse of the scheme will be required to show their JoyYou Cards that carry a personal photo and the name of the eligible beneficiary or their Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" as proof of eligibility for enjoying the $2 concessionary fare.

During site monitoring surveys jointly conducted by TD and PTOs in the past 3 years on MTR, buses, ferries, kaitos, minibuses, trams and residents' buses, about 900 suspected abuse cases were found.

To step up enforcement actions against abuses of the $2 concessions by ineligible persons, TD has enhanced joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from June 2023 onwards. As at 24 August 2024 (i.e. before full implementation of the use of JoyYou Card), a total of around 450 joint enforcement actions were conducted across 900 routes with about 3 000 persons inspected for suspected abuse of the $2 Scheme, and 7 suspected abuse cases were found and referred to the Police for follow-up. The court hearings of 3 of the cases were completed: the passenger in the first case was fined approximately $14,000 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around $2,000); the passenger in the second case was convicted of false accounting and sentenced to 120 hours of community service, and was fined around $5,800 and required to repay the underpaid fare (totalling around $620); and the passenger in the third case was fined $2,000. Investigation into another 2 cases was completed and the Police did not have sufficient evidence to prosecute the suspected abusers. The investigation and prosecution work of the remaining 2 cases are ongoing. Abusers in all cases were involved in using anonymous Elder Octopus.

The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme.

After full implementation of the use of JoyYou Card, TD carried out a total of around 100 joint enforcement actions with PTOs such as franchised buses and ferries from 25 August 2024 to February 2025, inspecting about 560 persons for suspected abuse of $2 Scheme, and no abuse case were found. During the same period, in the enforcement actions carried out by MTRCL, the weekly number of abuse cases with surcharges imposed was 8 on average, significantly lower by 95% as compared to 158 before implementation of the use of JoyYou Card, indicating that full implementation of the use of real-name JoyYou Card is effective in combating abuses.

At present, PTOs' staff may ask passengers to show their JoyYou Cards that carry a personal photo and the name of the eligible beneficiary or their Personalised Octopus

with “Persons with Disabilities Status” for identity verification. Should passengers fail to produce relevant proof of eligibility and refuse to pay the full fare, PTOs may refuse to provide services. Nevertheless, since PTOs’ frontline staff are not law enforcement officers, TD will continue to conduct joint special inspection and enforcement actions with PTOs and refer suspected abuse cases with sufficient evidence to the Police for criminal investigations for achieving a deterrent effect. The Government has no plan at this stage to enact legislation to require eligible beneficiaries to show their proof of eligibility to the staff of PTOs when boarding.

JoyYou Cards require real-name registration and must be used by card holders. It is an offence for an ineligible person to use other people’s JoyYou Cards to enjoy the concessions. Any person who is convicted is liable to imprisonment. Starting from 25 June 2023, MTRCL has raised the amount of surcharge on all ineligible passengers travelling at the concessionary fares (including concessions under the $2 Scheme) from $500 to $1,000 for heavy rail and from $290 to $370 for light rail and MTR bus services.

On public education and publicity, the Government has launched a new round of publicity programmes from October 2024. Through TV and radio announcements in the public interest and posters, the Government has reminded persons aged 60 or above that they must use JoyYou Cards to benefit from the $2 Scheme. It 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2634)

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:

According to current information, the expansion of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities to include persons aged 60 to 64 has resulted in substantial expenditure. The Government intends to cancel or adjust the Scheme. What are the relevant details? Will it affect the elderly persons aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities (PWDs)? Moreover, we know that the Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited (KMB) has provided section fares for Tseung Kwan O district in order to reduce cases of taking long-haul routes for short journeys. Will the Government follow such practice and urge various transport operators to implement section fares? If no, what are the reasons?

Besides, it is mentioned in the Budget Speech that a limit will be set for the number of concessionary trips and that the beneficiaries will have to pay the amount of full fare after 80 per cent discount for trips with fare above $10. At present, the fares of the majority of buses and minibuses are $10 or above. Will the Government fine-tune such adjustment so that the beneficiaries will have to pay the amount of full fare after 80 per cent discount for trips with fare above $20 instead of $10? In addition, the eligible PWDs will also be affected by the adjustments. Why should the eligible PWDs be affected as well?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The Government has completed the review of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the $2 Scheme) and proposed that the number of concessionary trips taken by an eligible beneficiary be limited to 240 per month and that the concessionary fare be changed to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount".

The $2 concessionary fare has never been adjusted since the launch of the scheme in 2012. With an ageing population in Hong Kong and the increasingly high public transport fares, the scheme will not be financially viable if the concessionary fare remains unchanged. Currently, about 60% of the public transport routes have fares below or equal to $10. During the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme, about 76% of the beneficiaries travelled on routes with fares below or equal to $10. Under the $10 threshold of the "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" fine-tuned proposal, over 75% of the beneficiaries will remain unaffected, as they will continue to pay $2 only. If beneficiaries need to take a long-haul trip, they will have to pay the amount of adult fare after 80 per cent discount. We believe this is still a significant incentive for them to travel. One point of community consensus is that the issue of "long-haul trips for short-distance travel" must be addressed. It is worth noting that while the trips with fares above $10 (mostly long-haul trips) taken by beneficiaries with concession have accounted for less than 25% of the total number of concessionary trips, the amount of the Government's reimbursement to PTOs for the relevant trips has made up more than half of the total amount of reimbursement. The "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" proposal will provide beneficiaries with an incentive, encouraging them to choose routes that suit their travelling needs and ease the situation of "long-haul trips for short-distance travel". This will help the beneficiaries to save money, and at the same time avoid disbursing unnecessary government subsidies.

Another point of community consensus is that concessionary trips should not be unlimited. In response to this is the proposed limit on the number of concessionary trips. Data obtained from the first 3 months upon full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme showed that the average numbers of daily concessionary trips taken by persons aged 60 to 64, persons aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities were 1.4, 1.0 and 1.3 respectively. Among the 2.5 million beneficiaries, only about 360 took more than 240 concessionary trips per month. Supposing that a beneficiary travels twice a day and with each occasion involving interchange trips, a maximum of 8 trips will still meet the beneficiary's travelling needs. Moreover, since the cap is applied on a monthly basis, there will be greater flexibility for beneficiaries to balance out the difference when they occasionally take more than 8 trips on 1 day.

These two fine-tuned proposals, namely "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and "limit on the number of concessionary trips", aim to preserve the policy intent of the $2 Scheme while striking the best balance between enhancing its sustainability and minimising its impacts to the beneficiaries.

For the refined proposal, we do not recommend categorising the beneficiaries into, say, different age groups for different treatment, which would make the design of the $2 Scheme too complicated to be in line with the principle of being "simple and easy to understand". The Government will closely monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme.

TD will continue to encourage franchised bus operators to offer more fare concessions having regard to their commercial considerations, while exploring with the bus companies the provision of both the front-part-journey and end-part-journey section fares, so as to better align with the implementation of the refined proposal of the $2 Scheme and ensure that public money is well spent.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2638)

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:

In the past 5 years, what were the daily amounts of subsidies for the following beneficiaries under the $2 Scheme: persons with disabilities, persons aged 60 to 64, and persons aged 65 or above (please provide the average, median and quartile amounts)?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million

2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000[3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme [1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360

Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

The Government does not maintain the statistics on the median and quartile amounts of the subsidies. Before fully implementing the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme, the Government did not maintain information on the average amount of subsidies per trip under the $2 Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2639)

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:

In the past 5 years, what are the numbers of daily passenger trips taken by the following beneficiaries under the $2 Scheme: persons with disabilities, persons aged 60 to 64, and persons aged 65 or above (please provide the average, median and quartile numbers)?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million

2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000 [3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme [1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360

Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

The Government does not maintain the statistics on the median and quartile numbers of passenger trips taken. Before fully implementing the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme, the Government did not maintain information on the numbers of daily passenger trips taken by beneficiaries under the $2 Scheme.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)237

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3271)

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:

In 2012, the Government launched the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the $2 Scheme) to encourage retired elderly persons and those with disabilities to go out to participate in activities, or visit friends and relatives. Since implementation, adjustments have been made to the scheme features, such as the public transport modes covered and the definition of eligible elderly persons. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. During every occasion of adjustment of the $2 Scheme, has the Octopus Cards Limited (OCL) always been responsible for liaising, undertaking and co-ordinating the updating of fare payment systems among operators of relevant transport services, including bus, public light bus, tram, Star Ferry, etc.? If yes, what are the details of the fees charged by OCL for the relevant work on each occasion of adjustment?

2. What are the respective government expenses incurred in reviewing the $2 Scheme and conducting publicity and promotion activities on each occasion of adjustment?

3. On the premise of maintaining the policy intent of the $2 Scheme, how will the Government enhance the effectiveness of cost control?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 80)

Reply:

1. 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. The non-recurrent expenditure involved is about $75 million, which includes expenses on system modification, processing JoyYou Card applications, operation of application service centres, etc. Meanwhile, the Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use

JoyYou Card to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The non-recurrent expenditure involved is about $94 million, which includes expenses on system modification, processing JoyYou Card applications, operation of JoyYou Card application service centres, etc. All expenditures mentioned above are borne by the Government.

At present, the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) and the 2 major franchised bus operators (i.e. KMB/Long Win and Citybus) use their respective payment system and backend system to calculate the differential fare for submission to the Government and deal with the related matters. Separately, the Octopus Cards Limited (OCL) set up a centralised settlement platform for the $2 Scheme in 2013 to cover the other public transport services (including the New Lantao Bus Company, green minibuses, ferries, red minibuses (RMBs), kaitos and trams) to calculate the differential fare under the $2 Scheme for submission to the Government. All along, OCL has been co-operating with the public transport operators (PTOs) to facilitate the smooth implementation of the adjustments to the $2 Scheme.

2. Between 2021 and 2024, to tie in with the implementation of the adjustments to the $2 Scheme, the Government launched a range of publicity activities, in such forms as TV and radio announcements in the public interest, promotional leaflets and posters, and advertisements on buses, MTR and trams compartment, to remind the relevant beneficiaries to timely apply for JoyYou Card. Their attention was also brought to the extension of the $2 Scheme to cover RMBs, kaitos, trams and residents' services. In addition, the Government set up facilities such as temporary JoyYou Card application service centres to assist those in need in applying for JoyYou Card. Also, briefings were organised for the frontline staff deployed at the distribution points of application forms. The total publicity expenses related to the 2 adjustments, i.e. lowering the eligible age for elderly persons from 65 to 60 under the $2 Scheme and mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card to enjoy the concessionary fare, were about $11 million.

3. The Government has completed the review of the $2 Scheme and proposed that the number of concessionary trips taken by an eligible beneficiary be limited to 240 per month and that the concessionary fare be changed to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount".

The $2 concessionary fare has never been adjusted since the launch of the scheme in 2012. With an ageing population in Hong Kong and the increasingly high public transport fares, the scheme will not be financially viable if the concessionary fare remains unchanged. Currently, about 60% of the public transport routes have fares below or equal to $10. In the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme, about 76% of the beneficiaries travelled on routes with fares below or equal to $10. Under the $10 threshold of the "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" fine-tuned proposal, over 75% of the beneficiaries will remain unaffected, as they will continue to pay $2 only. If a beneficiary needs to take a long-haul trip, he will have to pay the amount of adult fare after 80 per cent discount. We believe this is still a significant incentive for them to travel. One point of community consensus is that the issue of "long-haul trips for short-distance travel" must be addressed. It is worth noting that while the trips with fares above $10 (mostly long-

haul trips) taken by beneficiaries with concession have accounted for less than 25% of the total number of concessionary trips, the amount of the Government's reimbursement to PTOs for the relevant trips has made up more than half of the total amount of reimbursement. The "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" proposal will provide beneficiaries with an incentive, encouraging them to choose routes that suit their travelling needs and ease the situation of "long-haul trips for short-distance travel". This will help the beneficiaries to save money, and at the same time avoid disbursing unnecessary government subsidies.

Another point of community consensus is that concessionary trips should not be unlimited. In response to this is the proposed limit on the number of concessionary trips. Data obtained in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme show that the average numbers of daily concessionary trips taken by persons aged 60 to 64, persons aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities were 1.4, 1.0 and 1.3 respectively. Among the 2.5 million beneficiaries, only about 360 took more than 240 concessionary trips per month. Supposing that a beneficiary travels twice a day and with each occasion involving interchange trips, a maximum of 8 trips will still meet the beneficiary's travelling needs. Moreover, since the cap is applied on a monthly basis, there will be greater flexibility for beneficiaries to balance out the difference when they occasionally take more than 8 trips on the same day.

These 2 refined arrangements, namely "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and "limit on the number of concessionary trips", aim to preserve the policy intent of the $2 Scheme while striking the best balance between enhancing its sustainability and minimising its impacts to the beneficiaries.

After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30. Annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, travelling habits and patterns of eligible beneficiaries, fare adjustments, changes in PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme, and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures. The Government will closely monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme, prepare the estimated expenditures and reflect them in the estimates of the corresponding years.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)238

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2675)

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 announced in the Budget that the Government will refine 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. As the refined arrangements involve adjusting Octopus processors on various transport modes in Hong Kong, will the expenditure incurred be borne by the Government alone? Before announcing the proposal, has the Government assessed the administrative cost involved in implementing the refined arrangements? If yes, what is the estimated administrative cost? If not, what are the reasons?

2. Is the annual audit fee for the $2 Scheme currently borne by the Government or the operators? If it is borne by the Government, please provide the relevant figures in the past 3 years. If the new refined arrangements are implemented, will it result in an increase of annual audit fee and what is the estimated additional cost?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

1. The Government is working with the Octopus Cards Limited (OCL) and the participating public transport operators (PTOs) involved on the relevant implementation details (including system modification, trial runs, publicity, etc.) for the refined arrangements of the $2 Scheme. The estimate of the relevant expenditure is not yet available.

2. The Transport Department (TD) has been closely monitoring the PTOs in implementing the $2 Scheme. OCL and the participating PTOs are required to submit annual assurance and audit reports on the relevant patronage and differential fare under the $2 Scheme prepared by independent auditors in accordance with the relevant standards

issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. OCL and the participating PTOs may choose to engage the auditor following the Government's specified procurement procedures, or the operator may engage its own specified auditor to submit an assurance and audit report, with the auditor's fees to be borne by the Government or the operator respectively.

Audit fees borne by the Government in the past 3 years are as follows (Note 1):

	Financial year of 2021-22 Actual ($'000)	**Financial year of 2022-23 Actual ($'000)**	**Financial year of 2023-24 Actual ($'000)**
Audit fee borne by the Government	2,370	2,865	3,442

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. As there has been an increase in the number of participating operators, and for most of the PTOs, the audit fees are borne by the Government, the audit fee borne by the Government in 2023-24 has also increased.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)239

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2989)

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 $2 Scheme, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Currently, what are i) the numbers of JoyYou Cards and Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" issued and ii) the total numbers of beneficiaries using these Cards/Octopus cards to enjoy the $2 Scheme each month?

2. Under Subhead 166 the $2 Scheme, for 2024-25, the approved estimate is $6 billion, whereas the revised estimate is $4.39 billion, which is 26.8% lower. What are the justifications for the approved estimate and the reasons for the substantial reduction in the revised estimate?

3. What were the numbers and subsidy amounts of the beneficiaries using the JoyYou Cards to enjoy the $2 Scheme since 25 August 2024, including (i) persons aged 60 to 64, (ii) persons aged 65 or above, and (iii) eligible persons with disabilities, with a breakdown into average daily passenger trips (2 trips or less, 2 to 4 trips, 4 to 6 trips, 6 to 8 trips, and 8 trips or more) and average fares per trip ($10 or below, $10 to $20, and $20 or above)?

4. What were the amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to various public transport operators (PTOs) (including MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL), The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited (KMB), Citybus Limited (CTB), Long Win Bus Company Limited (LW), New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited (NLB), ferry operators, green minibus operators, red minibus operators, kaito operators, Hong Kong Tramways Limited, residents' service operators, etc.) and numbers of average daily passenger trips taken by the beneficiaries, with a breakdown into beneficiary groups under the $2 Scheme (persons aged 60 to 64, persons aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities) in 2024-25?

5. What were the annual patronages and annual farebox revenues of various PTOs (including MTRCL, KMB, CTB, LW, NLB, ferry operators, green minibus operators, red minibus operators, kaito operators, Hong Kong Tramways Limited, residents' service operators, etc.) in 2024-25?

6. The Government plans to adjust the $2 Scheme. Initial estimate puts the annual saving in government expenditure at $680 million upon implementation of the adjustment. What are the estimated amounts of savings in respect of beneficiary groups with a breakdown by age group? and

7. For adjustment of the $2 Scheme, the Government estimates that it will take 18 months to adjust the payment system. What are the details of the specific timetable, manpower and expenses involved?

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1. & 3.

The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. As at the end of November 2024, the number of eligible beneficiaries aged 60 or above and holding JoyYou Card is about 2.42 million whereas the number of eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 and holding Personalised Octopus encoded with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the $2 concession is about 130 000.

The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amount of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				

Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000 [3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly number of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amount of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme [1]				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)

Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

2. The revised estimate of the $2 Scheme in the financial year of 2024-25 is lower than the approved estimate. This is mainly due to lower-than-expected number of passenger trips and rates of fare increase of various PTOs, as well as lower-than-expected numbers of red minibus routes, kaito services and residents' services joining the $2 Scheme. As a result, the provision required for the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme has reduced.

4. The revised estimate of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme in the financial year of 2024-2025 by types of beneficiaries is tabulated as follows:

	Persons aged 65 or above ($'000)	**Persons aged 60 to 64 ($'000)**	**Eligible persons with disabilities ($'000)**	**Total ($'000)**
MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL)	437,410	1,119,197	71,219	1,627,826
Franchised bus operators	606,733	915,864	166,018	1,688,615
Ferry operators	39,146	50,483	4,194	93,823
Green minibus operators	498,548	246,250	46,774	791,572

Red minibus operators	84,833	52,896	8,718	146,447
Kaito operators	3,812	2,004	174	5,990
Hong Kong Tramways Limited (Note 1)	-	2,539	281	2,820
Residents' service operators	18,112	14,132	1,427	33,671
Total	**1,688,594**	**2,403,365**	**298,805**	**4,390,764**

Note 1: 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. In this connection, the $2 Scheme is not applicable to elderly persons aged 65 or above travelling on trams.

The average daily numbers of beneficiaries of the $2 Scheme regarding PTOs in 2024 are tabulated as follows:

	Persons aged 65 or above	**Persons aged 60 to 64**	**Eligible persons with disabilities**	**Total** (Note 3)
MTRCL	609 000	380 000	69 000	1 058 000
Franchised bus operators	676 000	352 000	69 000	1 097 000
Ferry operators	10 300	5 900	1 100	17 300
Green minibus operators	300 900	144 000	28 300	473 200
Red minibus operators	28 100	17 500	2 900	48 400
Kaito operators	1 400	800	100	2 300
Hong Kong Tramways Limited (Note 2)	-	6 900	800	7 600
Residents' service operators	9 700	5 400	500	15 600
Total (Note 4)	**1 634 900**	**912 900**	**171 700**	**2 719 400**

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. In this connection, 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 off to the nearest hundred.

5. The annual patronages of PTOs in 2024 are tabulated as follows:

Patronage of PTOs in 2024		
PTO		**Patronage ('000)**
Franchised bus	KMB	940 309
	CTB	357 693
	LW	48 342
	NLB	35 363
Railway	MTRCL	1 894 519
	Hong Kong Tramways Limited	50 474
Public light bus	Green minibus	484 884#
	Red minibus (Note 4)	53 441#
Ferry (Note 5)		39 064
Other	Residents' service	67 789#
	MTR bus (Northwest New Territories)	58 946

Note 4: No regular return is collected from operators of red minibuses (RMB). As such, the RMB patronage figures are estimated based on the results of the Comprehensive Surveys on Red Minibus Services, the number of licensed RMB and other relevant parameters. The estimated RMB patronage figures should not be taken as an accurate representation of the actual RMB patronage.

Note 5: Ferries include franchised and licensed ferry services but exclude Kaitos. The Transport Department (TD) does not have the information on the annual patronage of kaito routes.

Provisional figures

The annual farebox revenues of various PTOs are commercially sensitive information and thus are not provided.

6. The Government has completed the review of the $2 Scheme and proposed that the number of concessionary trips taken by an eligible beneficiary be limited to 240 per month and that the concessionary fare be changed to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount". After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30.

Annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, travelling habits and patterns of eligible beneficiaries, fare adjustments, changes in PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme, and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures. The Government will closely monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme, prepare the estimated expenditures and reflect them in the estimates of the corresponding years.

7. The refined arrangement of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" is expected to be implemented no later than September 2026, while the upgrade of relevant system for the implementation of the "limit on the number of concessionary trips" arrangement is expected to take a longer time. The Government will compress the implementation timetable as far as possible and strive to implement the refined arrangements as soon as possible.

The Government is working with the Octopus Cards Limited and PTOs involved on the relevant implementation details (including system modification, trial runs, publicity, etc.) for the refined arrangements of the $2 Scheme. The estimate of the relevant expenditure is not yet available. As the work of TD on assisting in implementation of the refined arrangements is undertaken by the existing staff, there is no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)240

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3379)

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 local guide dog service, will the Government provide this Committee with information for the past 3 years in respect of:

1. the number of local guide dogs, broken down by organisation;
2. the number of complaints received by the Government about guide dogs;
3. the number of complaints received by the Government about guide dog handlers having been denied access to public places;
4. the annual amount of funding support for guide dog service;
5. whether the Government will further strengthen its support for local guide dog service?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

Persons keeping dogs (including guide dogs) are required to obtain general dog licences from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). Other than that, guide dogs are not subject to the regulation of other licenses. Therefore the Government does not have the number of guide dogs across the territory or the number of complaints about them. From March 2016 onwards, the AFCD may, at the request made by relevant organisations providing guide dog services on a voluntary basis, add to dog licences the names of the organisations to which the dogs (including puppies) belong. As at end-February 2025, there were 79 dogs in total with licences bearing the names of the organisations to which they belong.

According to our understanding from the Transport Department, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, from 2022-23 to 2024-25 (up to end-February 2025), there were a total of 10 complaints involving persons with guide dogs who had been denied boarding to green minibuses or access to LCSD facilities or restaurants.

Non-profit-making organisations providing guide dog services in Hong Kong are mainly operated on a self-financing basis. The Government will continue to offer appropriate support for organisations providing guide dog services to promote their services according to

the actual circumstances and needs. The Government will also continue to, through various communication channels, remind operators and frontline staff in relevant industries to allow persons with visual impairment to bring their guide dogs to restaurants or board on public transport, as well as display signs of "Guide Dogs are Welcome" at the entrances of all public housing blocks.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)241

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3840)

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:

It is stated in paragraph 234(c) of the Budget Speech that the Financial Secretary has requested the relevant bureaux to review the expenditures on social welfare, healthcare and education. The recurrent expenditure on each of these three areas amounts to more than $100 billion in this financial year. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following with regard to social welfare:

1) Please set out in tabular form the total amounts of expenditure in various aspects of social welfare and the percentages they account for in the total expenditure on social welfare in the past 5 financial years (2020-21 to 2024-25); and
2) as stated in paragraph 231(a) of the Budget Speech, recurrent government expenditure has to be reduced by 2% in 2025-26. In the Supplement and Section II of Appendix B – Recurrent Government Expenditure by Policy Area Group – of the Budget Speech, however, it is stated that the estimate for social welfare in 2025-26 is approximately $130.4 billion, an increase of 8.4% in real terms over the revised estimate for 2024-25. What are the reasons for the increase?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 59)

Reply:

1) The Government's recurrent expenditure on social welfare covers various aspects including social security, services for the elderly, rehabilitation and medical social services, family and child welfare, young people, the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme, the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities ($2 Scheme), as well as services for offenders. The related costs are mainly reflected in the estimates of expenditure of the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) (Head 141), the Social Welfare Department (Head 170), the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (Head 173) and the Transport Department (Head 186). The recurrent expenditure on various aspects of social welfare and their respective percentages from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are detailed in the Annex.

2) Although the Financial Secretary announced in the 2025-26 Budget that the Productivity Enhancement Programme (PEP) will be stepped up, several expenditure items related to people's livelihood, including the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, the Social Security Allowance, the WFA and the $2 Scheme, have been exempted. After deducting these exempted items, we are required to achieve a reduction of 2% in expenditure for 2025-26 using the 2024-25 recurrent expenditure on social welfare as the basis. However, the savings from the implementation of the PEP will be offset by the introduction of new initiatives in 2025-26. These initiatives include increasing the number of Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly, enhancing the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong, increasing the number of service places under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project, and enhancing community support for persons with disabilities. Such new initiatives reflect the Government's commitment to providing assistance to the underprivileged and building a caring society.

It is incumbent on government bureaux and departments to optimise public resources and review the sustainability of the use of resources. As far as social welfare is concerned, the financial pressure arising from an ageing population is a challenge that the Government must address. In reviewing social welfare expenditure, the LWB will strive to support the grassroots and the underprivileged while seeking to innovate for making better use of public resources and ensuring fiscal sustainability.

Annex

The Government's Recurrent Expenditure on Social Welfare for the Past 5 Years Note

Aspect	**2020-21 Actual expenditure ($ billion) (%)**	**2021-22 Actual expenditure ($ billion) (%)**	**2022-23 Actual expenditure ($ billion) (%)**	**2023-24 Actual expenditure ($ billion) (%)**	**2024-25 Revised estimate ($ billion) (%)**
Social Security	58 (65%)	61.8 (64%)	66.2 (63%)	70.1 (63%)	75.4 (64%)
Services for The Elderly	11.7 (13%)	13.8 (14%)	14.5 (14%)	15 (14%)	15.7 (13%)
Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services	9.3 (10%)	10.3 (11%)	10.7 (10%)	11.1 (10%)	12 (10%)
Family and Child Welfare	3.8 (4%)	4.1 (4%)	4.5 (4%)	4.8 (4%)	5.4 (5%)
Young People	2.6 (3%)	2.6 (3%)	2.7 (3%)	2.9 (3%)	3 (2%)
WFA Scheme	2.1 (2%)	2.4 (2%)	2.4 (2%)	2.1 (2%)	2.2 (2%)
Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities	1 (1%)	1.4 (1%)	3.1 (3%)	4.1 (4%)	4.5 (4%)
Services for Offenders and Others	0.6 (1%)	0.6 (1%)	0.6 (1%)	0.6 (1%)	0.6 (1%)
Total	**89 (100%)**	**97.1 (100%)**	**104.8 (100%)**	**110.6 (100%)**	**118.7 (100%)**

Note All actual expenditure/estimate figures are presented in rounded numbers. As the amounts and percentages of increase/decrease are calculated based on detailed values, the same total amounts/percentages may not be derived from calculation based on the rounded numbers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3377)

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

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

Programme: Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following regarding the Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients (IDSP) under the Hospital Authority since its launch:

a. the details of work and staff establishment of the Discharge Planning Teams, as well as the relevant annual costs and resources allocation, with a breakdown by hospital/group of hospitals participating in the IDSP;

b. the numbers of participating cases, numbers of users, utilisation rates and the average amounts of monthly subsidy for each service user, as well as the numbers of participants who quitted the IDSP and their reasons for quitting in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by type of support service;

c. the numbers of participating cases, numbers of users, utilisation rates and the average amounts of monthly subsidy for each service user, as well as the numbers of participants who quitted the IDSP and their reasons for quitting in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by age group;

d. the method for calculating the rate of unplanned re-admission to hospital of elderly persons and the effectiveness of the IDSP in reducing the rate.

2. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following regarding the IDSP since its launch:

a. the specialties for which referrals are currently accepted under the IDSP; if there are restrictions on the specialty, whether the Government will consider extending the IDSP to cover more specialties;

b. the feedback and comments of service users on the IDSP and the channels available for giving feedback;

c. the actual effectiveness of the IDSP at present and the assessment standards adopted by the Government for the service outcome;

d. given that many service users and some healthcare staff do not have sufficient knowledge or any idea of the IDSP, does the Government have any specific plans for stepping up the promotion for the IDSP?

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

The Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients (IDSP), funded by the Labour and Welfare Bureau and operated by the Hospital Authority (HA), provides discharged patients aged 60 or above with a higher risk of emergency re-admission with transitional and integrated support services for 6 to 8 weeks. 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 and refer discharged elderly patients in need to nursing care and rehabilitation services provided by the HA (e.g. the HA's geriatric day hospitals) and/or Home Support Team (HST) services. HSTs, which are operated by community service providers commissioned by the HA, comprise mainly social workers and care workers. The services they provide include basic nursing care, personal care, meal service and household cleaning, etc.

In 2024-25, the list of public hospitals participating in the IDSP is as follows:

	Hospitals participating in the IDSP
1	Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital and Ruttonjee Hospital
2	Queen Mary Hospital
3	Kwong Wah Hospital
4	Queen Elizabeth Hospital
5	Tseung Kwan O Hospital
6	United Christian Hospital
7	Caritas Medical Centre
8	Princess Margaret Hospital and North Lantau Hospital
9	Yan Chai Hospital
10	Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital
11	North District Hospital
12	Prince of Wales Hospital
13	Tuen Mun Hospital, Pok Oi Hospital and Tin Shui Wai Hospital

The Government has expanded the IDSP since the third quarter of 2023. Compared with the 3 years prior to the IDSP expansion, the number of beneficiaries per annum has increased by 12 000, from 33 000 to about 45 000, of which the number of referrals to home care services upon discharge has increased by 2 000, from 9 000 to 11 000; and the number of attendees of carer training has increased by 3 000, from 12 000 to 15 000. The annual total expenditure of the IDSP (including the service fees paid by the HA to community service providers) is as follows:

Year	Total expenditure ($ million)
2022-23	231.5
2023-24	274.1
2024-25 (revised estimate)	323.4

Given that each case receives different services, it is difficult to calculate the average cost of each case served. The HA does not maintain statistics on the number of cases, number of users, utilisation rates, number of people who have left the IDSP and their reasons for leaving with breakdown by types of support services or age groups.

Under the IDSP, the HA makes professional judgement according to established mechanisms, such as the "Hospital Admission Risk Reduction Program for the Elderly", upon hospital admission of elderly patients to identify those in need of IDSP services. 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 training provided by the HSTs. The HA will continue to publicise the IDSP in hospitals, the community and online platforms through different channels.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3737)

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 Community Living Rooms (CLRs) which serve as one of the initiatives under the targeted poverty alleviation strategy, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the manpower and expenditure involved in the implementation of the CLRs;
2. (i) the number of members, (ii) the average attendance, (iii) the content and number of activities conducted in the CLRs in Sham Shui Po, To Kwa Wan, Nam Cheong and Hung Hom;
3. the number of cases in need identified by the CLRs and the number of referrals to other welfare services;
4. given that the CLRs are operated by different organisations, whether the Government will assist them in exchanging and learning from each other's experiences to facilitate the application of these experiences to needy households in subdivided units; and
5. given that the first CLR in Sham Shui Po commenced operation in December 2023 for a trial period of 3 years, whether the Government has any plans to conduct an interim review to optimise the programme?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

1. The Government launched the Pilot Programme on Community Living Room (the Pilot Programme) in 2023 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 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) commissioned by the Government through funding from the Community Care Fund (CCF). The Pilot Programme is implemented to provide subdivided unit (SDU) households with additional living space and help them expand social networks, thereby enhancing their living standard and sense of belonging to the community. As at end-February 2025, the estimated operational expenditure of the Sham Shui Po, To Kwa Wan, Nam Cheong and Hung Hom Community Living Rooms (CLRs) are as follows:

	Total estimated operational expenditure for 3 years (funded by the CCF) ($ million)
Sham Shui Po CLR Project	26.75
To Kwa Wan CLR Project	31.31
Hung Hom CLR Project	24.70
Nam Cheong CLR Project	17.32

The Social Welfare Department implements the Pilot Programme by deploying existing manpower. As the manpower involved is also responsible for other youth services, a breakdown of staff establishment dedicated to the implementation of the Pilot Programme is not available.

2 & 3. As at end-February 2025, 4 CLRs projects located in Sham Shui Po, To Kwa Wan, Hung Hom and Nam Cheong respectively have commenced operation for a period of 3 years each. In particular, the Sham Shui Po CLR, being the first project under the Pilot Programme, was expected to benefit 500 SDU households with an annual attendance of about 80 000 at the time of its launch in December 2023. The key service statistics of the Sham Shui Po CLR as at November 2024 are as follows:

Key service statistics	Total (as at November 2024)
Number of registered members	1 699 persons
Average daily attendance	Approximately 483 attendances per day
Cumulative attendance	176 279 attendances
Number of mutual aid groups, talks/activities on health and community resources organised	158 activities
Number of cases referred to community services	195 cases

As the To Kwa Wan, Hung Hom and Nam Cheong CLRs only commenced operation in the third quarter of 2024, the relevant statistics are not available at this juncture given their relatively short operation periods.

4. Currently, NGOs operating CLRs conduct visits to those already in service to exchange and learn from each other's experiences in providing CLR services. This ensures that CLR service requirements are met and that SDU households are provided with appropriate services.

5. The Government has set a key performance indicator for projects under the Pilot Programme, i.e. enabling no less than 70% of members to experience an enhancement in their living space, sense of belonging to the community and interpersonal networks after using the facilities in the CLRs. The Government plans to complete the evaluation of the Pilot Programme within 2025-26, including charting the way forward.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)244

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3704)

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:

At present, training for persons with disabilities is mainly provided by the Vocational Training Council, which offers relevant vocational training to equip them for open employment. Please provide information on relevant dedicated specialised training courses provided for persons with disabilities in the past 5 years, if any, and the amount of resources to be allocated for development plans over the next 5 years, with a breakdown by category and number.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 232)

Reply:

The Labour and Welfare Bureau subvents the Shine Skills Centres (SSCs) under the Vocational Training Council to provide vocational training for persons with disabilities aged 15 or above to improve their employment prospects and prepare them for open employment. The SSCs offer 1 060 training places per year covering business, information technology and service streams. Among them, 660 are full-time training places, while 400 are part-time training places. The numbers of trainees enrolled in full-time and part-time programmes of the SSCs in the past 5 academic years (AYs) are as follows:

Programme	**Number of trainees enrolled**				
	2020/21 AY	**2021/22 AY**	**2022/23 AY**	**2023/24 AY**	**2024/25 AY (Revised Estimate)**
Full-time (Note 1)	704	704	619	562	608
Part-time (Note 2)	337	138	295	373	400

Note 1: Full-time 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 2020/21 to 2022/23 AYs, some part-time programmes were cancelled or postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other reasons.

The number of training places of full-time programmes can meet the demand and waiting is not required. The SSCs will continue to review the number of training places and training venues having regard to the needs of the market and persons with disabilities as appropriate, and flexibly deploy resources to ensure that the SSCs can effectively assist them in open employment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3705)

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 Labour Department and the Social Welfare Department under the Labour and Welfare Bureau are both responsible for the employment training/counselling for persons with disabilities. In this connection, please provide information on the relevant programmes being undertaken by the two departments respectively and the allowances available.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 233)

Reply:

The Labour Department (LD) provides personalised employment services for job seekers with disabilities who are fit for open employment, including employment counselling, job matching and referral, and post-placement follow-up service for at least 6 months.

In addition, the LD implements the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme (WOPS) to encourage employers to hire persons with disabilities. Eligible employers engaging each person with disabilities under WOPS are entitled to an on-the-job training allowance of up to $60,000 during a 9-month subsidy period. Mentors appointed by the employers will also receive a cash award of $1,500 after assisting employees with disabilities in completing the 3-month work adaptation period.

The LD also implements the Counselling Scheme for Persons with Disabilities, under which registered social workers of the engaged non-governmental organisations (NGOs) provide psychological and emotional counselling to job seekers with disabilities to help alleviate emotional distress arising from their disabilities or personal problems when needed so that they can concentrate on job search.

For persons with disabilities who are unable to take up open employment, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) subvents NGOs to provide vocational rehabilitation and training services through Sheltered Workshops, Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres, Integrated Vocational Training Centres, and the Supported Employment Training for Persons with Disabilities (SET), etc. Through vocational rehabilitation services in a specially designed training environment, persons with different needs and levels of disabilities can

learn to adapt to general work requirements, including developing social skills and interpersonal relationships. Among which, SET provides individual service plans that combine counselling, job-related training, job attachment, job trial and post-placement service for persons with disabilities. During the job attachment period, persons with disabilities who have fulfilled the required attendance are granted a monthly job attachment allowance of $2,000 for up to 3 months, while employers offering job trials are granted a monthly wage subsidy of up to $4,000 for a maximum period of 6 months, with a view to encouraging employers to offer jobs to persons with disabilities.

Moreover, the SWD supports the setting up of small enterprises/businesses through the payment of grants as seed money to NGOs under the Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise Project to enhance the employment of persons with disabilities through a market-driven approach and direct creation of more employment opportunities. The maximum grant per small enterprise/business is $3 million. At least half of the total number of persons employed for the business must be persons with disabilities, so as to create more employment and on-the-job training opportunities for persons with disabilities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3708)

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:

Given the partial overlap in the employment counselling services for persons with disabilities provided by the two departments, i.e. the Social Welfare Department and the Labour Department, under the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB), will the LWB review the situation, explore inter-departmental collaboration and optimise the use of resources to achieve synergy?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 236)

Reply:

The Government is committed to promoting the employment of persons with disabilities by providing them with various employment training and support services. In this regard, the Labour Department (LD) mainly provides personalised employment services for job seekers with disabilities who are fit for open employment, while the Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides vocational rehabilitation and training services to persons with disabilities who are unable to take up open employment in order to enhance their future employment prospects. The service targets and service contents of the two departments are different without any overlap.

The Labour and Welfare Bureau, in collaboration with relevant departments, will review the provision of employment counselling services for persons with disabilities as appropriate to ensure the effective use of resources. The LD, the SWD and its subvented non-governmental organisations will also continue to work closely to promote the employment of persons with disabilities through mutual referrals of suitable job seekers with disabilities and taking forward various publicity activities.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)247

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3713)

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:

Persons with visual impairment generally rely on canes or others' assistance to get out and about daily and a few of them are assisted by guide dogs. In Hong Kong, there are about 190 000 persons with different levels of visual impairment but only about 50 guide dogs. The ratio is far lower than that of 100:1 as recommended by international organisations.
In this connection, please provide the number of persons with visual impairment who have applied for adoption of service dogs/guide dogs and the number of successful cases in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 241)

Reply:

Persons keeping dogs (including guide dogs) are required to obtain general dog licences from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). Other than that, guide dogs are not subject to the regulation of other licenses. Therefore the Government does not have the number of guide dogs across the territory or the number of complaints about them. From March 2016 onwards, the AFCD may, at the request made by relevant organisations providing guide dog services on a voluntary basis, add to dog licences the names of the organisations to which the dogs (including puppies) belong. As at end-February 2025, there were 79 dogs in total with licences bearing the names of the organisations to which they belong.

According to the Survey on Persons with Disabilities and Chronic Diseases published by the Census and Statistics Department in 2021, there were over 47 000 persons with seeing difficulty across the territory. The Government does not have information on the number of persons with visual impairment who have applied for adoption of service dogs/guide dogs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3714)

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:

Professional training of guide dogs is required before they can be put into service. Please advise the amount of funding allocated to relevant guide dog training organisations and the number of guide dogs that were successfully trained in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 242)

Reply:

Non-profit-making organisations providing guide dog services in Hong Kong are mainly operated on a self-financing basis. The Government will continue to offer appropriate support for organisations providing guide dog services to promote their services according to the actual circumstances and needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3715)

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 keeping of a guide dog incurs daily expenses to persons with visual impairment. In this connection, please advise the amount of additional funding and the number of persons with visual impairment benefitted in the past 5 years. Will the related funding be increased in the coming 5 years? Please set out with a breakdown the additional numbers of guide dogs, supporting training organisations and persons with visual impairment to be benefitted.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 243)

Reply:

Non-profit-making organisations providing guide dog services in Hong Kong are mainly operated on a self-financing basis. The Government will continue to offer appropriate support for organisations providing guide dog services to promote their services according to the actual circumstances and needs.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)250

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3855)

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:

1. What was the total number of vacancies in the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) in each of the past 5 years? Please set out the specific numbers broken down by bureau/department and rank.
2. Which grades had a larger number of vacancies in the past 5 years? What were the respective numbers of vacancies in these grades?
3. Were the public services provided by the LWB affected by the vacancies in the past 5 years? If yes, which areas were affected and to what extent?
4. What was the total amount of unused salary provision due to vacancies in the past 5 years? Was the unused provision allocated for other uses?
5. Did the LWB conduct recruitment exercises to fill the vacancies in the past 5 years? If yes, what were the target number of recruits and the number of vacancies filled in each year?
6. Did the LWB adopt any measures (e.g. temporary employment, overtime allowance, etc.) to address the impact on service delivery brought by the vacancies in the past 5 years? If yes, what was the related expenditure?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 253)

Reply:

1 & 2. The total number of vacancies, the grades involved and the respective numbers of vacancies in the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) in the past 5 years are set out in the Annex.

3 to 6. The LWB primarily addresses the vacancy situation by work reprioritisation and internal redeployment of manpower resources to ensure that the delivery of public services remain unaffected. As the vacant posts belong to the Administrative Officer Grade and the general grades, which are recruited and deployed by other bureaux/departments, the LWB does not conduct recruitment exercises for these vacant posts. Staff remuneration are covered under Subhead 000 "Operational expenses" and the financial provision under this subhead operates as a one-line

vote. The LWB has been flexibly utilising the provision to meet other expenditure incurred under this subhead.

Annex

Total Number of Vacancies,
Grades and Respective Numbers of Vacancies in the LWB

Year (as at 31 March of each year)	Total number of vacancies	Grades and respective numbers of vacancies		
		Administrative Officer Grade	Executive Officer Grade	Clerical, Secretarial and Workman II Grades
2020-21	5	1	1	3
2021-22	6	0	1	5
2022-23	7	1	2	4
2023-24	5	0	3	2
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	3	0	1	2

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4018)

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:

Would the Government promote publicity and education on guide dogs so that the public can have a better understanding as well as more tolerance and acceptance of them?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 244)

Reply:

Non-profit-making organisations providing guide dog services in Hong Kong are mainly operated on a self-financing basis. The Government will continue to offer appropriate support for organisations providing guide dog services to promote their services according to the actual circumstances and needs. The Government will also continue to, through various communication channels, remind operators and frontline staff in relevant industries to allow persons with visual impairment to bring their guide dogs to restaurants or board on public transport, as well as display signs of "Guide Dogs are Welcome" at the entrances of all public housing blocks.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3315)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 that the Labour and Welfare Bureau will prepare for the commencement of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance), oversee the enhancement of training and preparation of guidelines for practitioners in the relevant professions to facilitate early identification of child abuse cases, and strengthen support for child abuse victims and their families. Given that the Ordinance will take effect on 20 January 2026, please provide an update on the current progress of the preparatory work, details of the enhanced training for practitioners in the relevant professions, the staffing establishment for the preparation of guidelines, and details of the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

To prepare for the commencement of the Ordinance, the Government has set up an e-learning platform to provide training and information on child protection for relevant professionals. The Child Protection Online Training platform offers online self-learning courses. Module 1 was launched in February 2024 to provide training on the basic knowledge on child protection. Module 2 is scheduled for phased rollout starting in July 2025, and will cover basic knowledge on the legal and reporting matters related to the new legislation. In 2024, the Government also organised 3 webinars to provide enrichment programmes for professionals to study different topics related to child protection and to enhance cross-sectoral professional collaboration. These webinars also incorporated Q&A sessions to address training needs and encourage interactive learning. In addition, in the first quarter of 2025, the Government has commenced organising 10 seminars for management of institutions in the social welfare, education, and healthcare sectors. These seminars will introduce the key aspects of the new legislation, enabling heads of different organisations to review and, where necessary, update their internal guidelines, workflows, staff training, and devise measures to facilitate relevant professionals in fulfilling their legal obligations.

Furthermore, the Government plans to issue the Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide) in July 2025, and will organise a series of briefings for mandated reporters and related stakeholders. The Guide, including decision trees, supplementary analytical frameworks,

and sample case scenarios, provides mandated reporters with reference of making decisions on making reports, assists them to understand the principles of child protection and identify cases that must be reported under their statutory obligations. The above initiatives are jointly planned and implemented by the relevant policy bureaux and government departments. The Social Welfare Department does not maintain a breakdown of the staffing establishment or estimated expenditure involved.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)253

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3333)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

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

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Provision for 2025-26 is $7,721.2 million (9.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024-25. This is mainly due to the anticipated increase in expenditure under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme, partly offset by a decrease of 16 posts in 2025-26. In this regard, please advise:

1. the details and respective amounts of funding for various allowances under the SSA Scheme in the past 5 years; and
2. the specifics of the decrease of 16 posts in 2025-26, including their titles, ranks, duties, salary expenses, whether they are permanent or supernumerary posts, job descriptions, and the projected savings resulting from their deletion.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

1. The expenditure under the SSA Scheme from 2020-21 to 2024-25, broken down by type of allowance, is set out at Annex.
2. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will see a decrease of 16 permanent posts under Programme (2) Social Security in 2025-26, involving the Census and Survey Officer, Social Security Assistant, Clerical Assistant, and Office Assistant grades. The main duties of these posts include assisting in the 2024-25 Household Expenditure Survey for households receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and providing office support. Based on the notional annual mid-point salary value of the posts involved, it is estimated that a total of about $4.41 million can be saved this year due to the reduction of these posts.

Annex

Expenditure under the SSA Scheme from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by type of allowance

Type of allowance	Expenditure [Note 2] ($ million)				
	2020-21 (Actual)	**2021-22 (Actual)**	**2022-23 (Actual)**	**2023-24 (Actual)**	**2024-25 (Revised estimate)**
Old Age Allowance	5,198	5,530	6,021	6,535	7,133
Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) [Note 1]	27,741	28,857	31,999	35,718	39,457
Guangdong Scheme	685	686	740	951	1,058
Fujian Scheme	73	74	79	97	108
Higher Disability Allowance	871	893	920	959	1,124
Normal Disability Allowance	3,598	3,715	3,947	4,187	4,497
Total [Note 3]	**38,166**	**39,754**	**43,706**	**48,447**	**53,377**

Note 1 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.

Note 2 The actual expenditure for 2020-21 includes the payment of 1 additional month of the allowances in the year. The actual expenditures for 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24, and the revised estimate of expenditure for 2024-25 include the payment of an additional half month of the allowances in the year.

Note 3 Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3885)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26, it is mentioned that the Bureau will continue to oversee the implementation of the Ethnic Minority (EM) District Ambassador pilot scheme (EMDA pilot scheme). In this regard, please advise:

1. Since the launch of the EMDA pilot scheme in October 2020, how many EMs have participated in it? Please provide a breakdown of the number of participants by year, ethnicity, and district.
2. For EMs employed under the EMDA pilot scheme in the past 3 years, what were their minimum and maximum salaries? How long was their employment period? What was their specific scope of duties?
3. The EMDA pilot scheme was extended for another 3 years until September next year. Please elaborate on the effectiveness of the scheme.
4. When does the Government plan to review the scheme and will consideration be given to regularise it?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)

Reply:

1-3. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the EMDA 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) to enhance district centres/service units and co-ordinate communication and co-operation with relevant stakeholders. Additional resources were allocated for some service units of SWD and subvented non-governmental organisations, including medical social services units, integrated family service centres/integrated services centres, parents/relatives resource centres, district elderly community centres, district support centres for persons with disabilities, and integrated service centres for ex-offenders and their families, to enhance welfare support services for EM communities by employing an additional 46 EMs or designated persons as EMDAs. These EMDAs provide simple introductions of welfare services and basic interpretation and translation

services for EMs. A breakdown of the number of EMDAs by district is set out at Annex. The monthly salary of EMDAs is set at Master Pay Scale Point 2, which was $16,135 in 2024-25. As at December 2024, a cumulative total of 150 persons have been employed as EMDAs. SWD does not have the information on their ethnicity and length of employment.

Statistics on the services provided under the EMDA pilot scheme from October 2020 to December 2024 are tabulated as follows:

Service item	Number of times
Interpretation and translation services	25 240
Provision/facilitation of groups and programmes, as well as publicity and promotional activities	9 157
Assistance with form-filling	7 429
Visitation and escort services	1 536

4. The EMDA pilot scheme has received positive feedback and support from various stakeholders since its implementation. The Government has extended the EMDA 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 EMDA pilot scheme and examine the way forward for the services.

Annex

Number of EMDAs by district

District	**Number of EMDAs**
Central & Western	5
Islands	4
Wan Chai	5
Eastern	5
Yau Tsim Mong	5
Kowloon City	5
Kwai Tsing	4
Yuen Long	5
Sham Shui Po	6
Tuen Mun	1
Sha Tin	1
Total	**46**

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)255

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3361)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

2 cohorts of the Strive and Rise Programme (the Programme) have graduated. In this regard, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The second cohort added 1 200 more places than the first cohort, and was extended to include Secondary Four students from underprivileged families. What are the differences in financial expenditure and staffing establishments for the 2 cohorts?
2. As the third cohort commences, what are the respective numbers of supporting enterprises and organisations involved? How much money has been raised in donations? What are the estimated expenditure and detailed breakdown of it for the third cohort?
3. According to the Programme's website, group mentoring has been introduced on top of one-to-one mentor-mentee pairing in the third cohort. How does the number of mentors in the third cohort compare to the previous 2 cohorts? In addition, please provide a table listing the industries in which the mentors work and their respective fields of profession.

Asked by: Hon HO King-hong, Adrian Pedro (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

1. The Programme was implemented in October 2022. The expenditure for implementing the Programme in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 is as follows:

Expenditure ($ million)		
2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)
23.5	61.8	113.5

The Social Welfare Department implements the Programme by deploying existing manpower. As the staff involved are also responsible for other youth services, a breakdown of the staffing establishment dedicated solely to implementing the Programme is not available.

2. As at 14 March 2025, the third cohort of the Programme received support from over 380 organisations through monetary/in-kind donations, mentor nominations, and/or arrangement of group activities. A total of $18.66 million in donations has been raised. Including the surplus from the first and second cohorts, the total balance of the funds was $138 million. The funds raised for the Programme are mainly used to provide each participating mentee with a start-up sum of $5,000 and a scholarship of $5,000, and to provide alumni joining the job internship programme with transportation and meal subsidy. The administrative expenses are borne by the Government. The estimated expenditure for implementing the Programme in 2025-26 is $131 million, including the expenditure for organising the 1-year intensive foundation programme and activities of the Alumni Club by non-governmental organisations, and the publicity for the Programme, etc.

3. 2 779 and 3 263 mentors completed the first and second cohorts of the Programme respectively. As at end-February 2025, the third cohort of the Programme has recruited a total of 3 686 mentors. 3 434 of them have been matched with mentees, with some matched with 2 mentees. The industries of employment for mentors recruited in the third cohort of the Programme are tabulated as follows:

Industry of employment		Number
1.	Finance and insurance	1 452
2.	Real estate and property management	259
3.	Entrepreneur	256
4.	Social services	254
5.	Engineering and construction	249
6.	Education	237
7.	Communications/Information technology	216
8.	Commerce and retail	95
9.	Medical	93
10.	Government/Public administration	75
11.	Legal	72
12.	Transportation and logistics	65
13.	Performing arts/Art	64
14.	Hotel/Tourism	52
15.	Creative industry	34
16.	Accounting and auditing	30
17.	Sports	27
18.	Environmental protection/Green industry	27
19.	Science/Research	22
20.	Fashion and beauty	20
21.	Catering	17
22.	Disciplined services	13
23.	Others	57

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3841)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Paragraph 197 of the Budget Speech states that the Government will, in the next financial year, increase the number of Community Care Service Vouchers (CCSVs) by 1 000 to 12 000, involving an annual expenditure of about $900 million. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1) the number of recognised service providers (RSPs) (with a breakdown by operator), the numbers of day care and home care service places, the number of CCSV applicants, the number of current CCSV users, the 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 who left the CCSV Scheme and their reasons for leaving;

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 2025-26.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)

Reply:

1) The requested information is set out at Annex 1.

2) The requested information is set out at Annex 2.

3) & 4) The requested information is set out at Annex 3.

Annex 1

Table 1: Statistics on the CCSV Scheme

	No. of RSPs	No. of service places		Cumulative no. of applicants	Cumulative no. of CCSV recipients	No. of users	Subsidy amount ($ million)
		Day care services	Home care services				
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 2]	4 379	695.6
Third phase of the Pilot Scheme	264	4 206	13 589	19 923	19 820 [Note 3]	7 557	1 020.6
Upon converting into a permanent measure [Note 1] (as at end-December 2024)	297	4 246	15 615	21 845	21 626 [Note 4]	11 402	878.7 (Revised estimate of 2024-25)

N.A. – Not applicable

Note 1 The Government made the CCSV Scheme permanent in September 2023.

Note 2 Including 1 054 CCSV holders migrated from the first phase to the second phase.

Note 3 Including 6 159 CCSV holders migrated from the second phase to the third phase.

Note 4 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 (by service organisation)

	Service organisation	No. of RSPs (as at end-December 2024)
1.	Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service	5
2.	Caritas – Hong Kong	1
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	5
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	6
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
42.	Trustful Medical and Domestic Services Co. Limited	2

	Service organisation	No. of RSPs (as at end-December 2024)
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	3
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	4
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
84.	Professional Physiotherapy and Chinese Medicine Centre Limited	1

	Service organisation	No. of RSPs (as at end-December 2024)
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	3
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	4
103.	Shining Social Services Limited	5
104.	On Golden Pond Limited	2
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	2
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
127.	Healthy Link Corporation Limited	1

	Service organisation	No. of RSPs (as at end-December 2024)
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
133.	Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service	1
134.	Joyful Physiotherapy and Stretching Centre Limited	1
135.	Kam Victory Home For The Elderly Limited	1
136.	HONG KONG CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES	1
137.	I GOODCARE LIMITED	1
138.	Hing Nam Care Home (Sham Shui Po) Limited	1
139.	Fu Wah Elderly Home Limited	1
140.	Wealthy Jade Care Home (Come On) Limited	1
141.	Hing Nam Care Home (Lee On) Limited	1
142.	Hicare Private Nursing Company Limited	1
143.	Excel Rehabilitation Centre Limited	1
144.	Elegant Nursing Care Services Limited	1
145.	Best Smart Nursing Centre	1
146.	Silverlight Association Company Limited	1
147.	Finesse Healthcare Service Limited	1
148.	Pitch Global Limited	1
149.	Healthy Life Association Limited	1
150.	City Nursing Centre Limited	1
151.	C W Care	1
152.	Benevolence Rehabilitation Services Limited	1
153.	Life Extension Company Limited	1
154.	Step Forward Para-medical Services Limited	2
155.	Welfare Enterprises Association Limited	1
156.	Hygge Living Limited	1
157.	Empathy Healthcare Company Limited	1
158.	Mega Inspire Limited	1
159.	Myomotions Therapy & Wellness Company Limited	1
160.	Tin Ching Elderly Home Limited	1
161.	Absolute Rehabilitation Services Limited	1
162.	Prohab Group Limited	1
163.	Homelistic Healthcare Limited	1
164.	Sincere Care (Hong Kong) Company Limited	1
165.	Wealthy Jade Care Home (City One) Limited	1
	Total	**297**

Annex 2

Cumulative number of persons who left the CCSV Scheme and reasons

Reason [Note 1]	**No. of persons**			
	First phase	**Second phase**	**Third phase**	**Upon converting into a permanent measure** [Note 2] **(as at end-December 2024)**
Will be/have been allocated with/receiving subsidised community care services or subsidised/private residential care services	845	2 739	4 347	2 376
Being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers, etc.	264	680	698	147
Others (e.g. hospitalisation, out of town, etc.)	106	473	135	154
No suitable RSPs/ service packages	401	295	-	5
Total	**1 616**	**4 187**	**5 180**	**2 682**

Note 1 Excluding elderly persons who passed away after joining the scheme.

Note 2 The Government made the CCSV Scheme permanent in September 2023.

Annex 3

Staffing establishment and salary expenditure of CCSV Office from 2020-21 to 2025-26

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	25	15.48
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	26	17.90
2025-26 (Estimate)	26	17.90

Note The figures are based on the notional annual mid-point salary value of the posts involved.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)257

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3842)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Paragraph 197 of the Budget Speech states that the Government will, in the next financial year, increase the number of Residential Care Service Vouchers (RCSVs) by 1 000 to 6 000, involving an annual expenditure of about $1,710 million. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1) the respective numbers of RCSV applicants and recipients, as well as the number of persons who were not issued RCSVs and the reasons for this, in the past 3 years (i.e. 2022-23 to 2024-25);

2) the cumulative number of elderly persons who left the RCSV Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme) and their reasons for leaving;

3) the manpower and actual expenditure involved in the RCSV Scheme in the past 3 years (i.e. 2022-23 to 2024-25); and

4) the estimated staffing establishment for 2025-26.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 61)

Reply:

1) The relevant statistics on the RCSV Scheme from 2022-23 to 2024-25 are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex.

2) The cumulative number of elderly persons who left the RCSV Scheme and their reasons for leaving are set out in Table 3 of Annex.

3) & 4) The amount of RCSV subsidy disbursed from 2022-23 to 2024-25 is as follows:

Year	RCSV subsidy ($ million)
2022-23	465.2
2023-24	750.4
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	1,055.8

The Social Welfare Department's (SWD) RCSV Office has a total of 33 posts, including those from the Social Work Officer Grade, Social Security Officer Grade, Clerical and general supporting grades. SWD has not separately calculated the payroll costs for staff of the RCSV Scheme alone as they also handle other duties.

Annex

Table 1: Statistics on the RCSV Scheme

Year	No. of RCSV applicants	No. of RCSV recipients	No. of persons not being issued RCSVs
2022-23	2 296	1 309	981
2023-24	3 408	2 007	1 385
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	3 400	1 886	1 290

Table 2: Number of persons not being issued RCSVs and reasons

Reason	No. of persons		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Deceased	147	127	133
Withdrawn application	790	1 202	1 136
Ineligible	44	56	21
Total	**981**	**1 385**	**1 290**

Table 3: Cumulative number of elderly persons who left the RCSV Scheme and reasons

Reason [Note 1]	Cumulative no. of persons who left		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Having no immediate need for residential care services (being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers, etc.)	294	404	490
The preferred recognised service provider (RSP) was full/no suitable RSPs	143	185	210
Chose to wait for subsidised residential care places	90	129	166
Refused to accept the co-payment arrangement	46	56	60
Others (e.g. long-term hospitalisation, out of town, etc.)	59	78	94
Total	**632**	**852**	**1 020**

Note 1 Excluding elderly persons who passed away after joining the Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3843)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding child care services, please inform this Committee of the following:

1) the number of places, the service fee, and the average utilisation rate for each type of day child care service in the past 3 financial years (2022-23 to 2024-25), broken down by District Council (DC) district;

2) the number of places, the service fee, and the average utilisation rate for the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children [ASCP(PC)] in the past 3 financial years (2022-23 to 2024-25), broken down by DC district; and

3) the number of places, the number of home-based child carers and their incentive payment, the number of children served (broken down by age groups of below 3, 3 to below 6, and above 6), the service fee, and the amount of subsidy granted to each service operator of the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP) in the past 3 financial years (2022-23 to 2024-25), broken down by DC district.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 62)

Reply:

1) The service fee, the number of places, and the average utilisation rate of standalone child care centres (CCCs), CCCs attached to kindergartens (KGs), occasional child care service (OCCS), and extended hours service (EHS) in the past 3 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	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Highest monthly fee ($)	6,710	6,720	6,735
Lowest monthly fee ($)	4,385	4,385	4,485

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

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Highest monthly fee ($)	6,521	6,802	7,569
Lowest monthly fee ($)	1,831	1,831	1,831

2) The service fee, the number of places, and the average utilisation rate of ASCP(PC) in the past 3 years, broken down by DC district, are set out at Annex 2.

3) The information on NSCCP over the past 3 years, broken down by DC district, is set out at Annex 3. The incentive payment for home-based child carers under NSCCP was standardised at $25 per hour in 2022-23 and 2023-24. Starting from April 2024, the rate has been 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 other children, the rate has been increased to $40 per hour.

Annex 1

Table 1: Service fee, number of places, and average utilisation rate of standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, and EHS (2022-23)

District	Standalone CCC [Note 1]		CCC attached to KG [Note 2]		OCCS		EHS	
	Service fee		Service fee		Service fee		Service fee	
	-		-		Whole day: $64 Half day: $32 Per 2 hours: $16		Per hour: $13	
	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	210	34	2 708	23	12	37	99	30
Southern	-	N.A.	1 039	52	17	32	73	47
Islands	120	66	1 179	21	12	14	27	4
Eastern	260	49	3 219	50	22	25	175	33
Wan Chai	48	100	1 323	48	17	57	94	35
Kwun Tong	309	64	1 266	69	53	30	226	26
Wong Tai Sin	-	N.A.	558	80	35	37	210	27
Sai Kung	-	N.A.	4 442	28	23	27	94	16
Kowloon City	1 152	59	4 089	42	22	48	151	20
Yau Tsim Mong	131	81	1 857	56	23	21	139	34
Sham Shui Po	62	100	1 487	50	28	30	165	28
Sha Tin	177	98	1 948	70	30	43	135	27
Tai Po	92	20	1 430	41	20	55	111	13
North	51	100	1 087	49	17	45	82	41
Yuen Long	152	91	1 365	80	36	43	139	32
Tsuen Wan	244	45	1 048	63	19	26	98	31
Kwai Tsing	60	100	1 101	66	37	39	138	18
Tuen Mun	172	68	1 591	60	33	30	173	29
Total	**3 240**	**63**	**32 737**	**48**	**456**	**36**	**2 329**	**27**

N.A. - Not applicable

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

Note 2 Figures provided by the Education Bureau (EDB) as at September 2022.

Table 2: Service fee, number of places, and average utilisation rate of standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, and EHS (2023-24)

District	Standalone CCC [Note 1]		CCC attached to KG [Note 2]		OCCS		EHS	
	Service fee		Service fee		Service fee		Service fee	
	-		-		Whole day: $64 Half day: $32 Per 2 hours: $16		Per hour: $13	
	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	56	2 896	23	14	46	99	36
Southern	-	N.A.	1 095	46	17	42	73	68
Islands	136	69	1 241	24	12	20	27	7
Eastern	260	47	3 461	46	22	38	175	39
Wan Chai	48	100	1 420	44	17	70	94	51
Kwun Tong	309	67	1 300	62	48	44	226	50
Wong Tai Sin	-	N.A.	555	78	32	61	210	42
Sai Kung	-	N.A.	4 732	24	22	46	94	27
Kowloon City	1 152	57	4 401	39	23	48	151	30
Yau Tsim Mong	131	82	1 983	48	22	37	139	41
Sham Shui Po	62	100	1 567	48	29	55	162	43
Sha Tin	177	100	2 053	64	31	54	138	41
Tai Po	92	87	1 508	38	19	64	111	35
North	207	70	1 139	47	21	53	105	53
Yuen Long	152	81	1 469	83	39	63	139	48
Tsuen Wan	244	52	1 114	68	19	57	98	41
Kwai Tsing	60	100	1 138	59	37	41	138	24
Tuen Mun	172	76	1 677	56	34	39	173	37
Total	**3 250**	**66**	**34 749**	**44**	**458**	**50**	**2 352**	**40**

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 1 standalone CCC in Central and Western District has ceased operation in August 2023.

Note 2 Figures provided by EDB as at September 2023.

Table 3: Service fee, number of places, and average utilisation rate of standalone CCCs, CCCs attached to KGs, OCCS, and EHS (April to December 2024)

District	Standalone CCC [Note 1]		CCC attached to KG [Note 2]		OCCS		EHS	
	Service fee		Service fee		Service fee		Service fee	
	-		-		Whole day: $64 Half day: $32 Per 2 hours: $16		Per hour: $13	
	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	3 111	19	14	48	99	36
Southern	-	N.A.	1 161	49	17	61	73	73
Islands	136	90	1 315	26	12	29	27	13
Eastern	260	47	3 730	43	22	48	175	40
Wan Chai	48	100	1 530	35	17	62	88	49
Kwun Tong	397	58	1 351	58	48	55	249	50
Wong Tai Sin	-	N.A.	558	71	32	65	206	49
Sai Kung	-	N.A.	5 066	24	22	57	94	30
Kowloon City	1 152	55	4 753	35	23	53	151	38
Yau Tsim Mong	131	77	2 128	46	22	34	139	39
Sham Shui Po	162	75	1 663	42	32	69	179	53
Sha Tin	177	99	2 163	63	31	66	149	43
Tai Po	92	100	1 601	33	19	72	111	43
North	207	54	1 203	46	21	63	105	51
Yuen Long	152	90	1 559	77	39	55	144	53
Tsuen Wan	244	50	1 190	65	19	60	98	42
Kwai Tsing	60	100	1 186	53	35	48	127	38
Tuen Mun	172	75	1 779	49	34	46	172	42
Total	**3 438**	**65**	**37 047**	**41**	**459**	**56**	**2 386**	**45**

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 2 standalone CCCs in Sham Shui Po and Kwun Tong commenced service in September and October 2024, respectively.

Note 2 Figures provided by EDB as at September 2024.

Annex 2

Service fee, number of places, and average utilisation rate of ASCP(PC)

District	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (as at December 2024)	
	Service fee Note 1: $250 to $500 (per 2 weeks) $30 to $60 (per session)					
	Number of places Note 2	**Average utilisation rate (%)**	**Number of places** Note 3	**Average utilisation rate (%)**	**Number of places** Note 4	**Average utilisation rate** Note 5 **(%)**
Central & Western	-	N.A.	42	9	42	16
Southern	42	23	84	32	84	53
Islands	-	N.A.	-	N.A.	-	N.A.
Eastern	-	N.A.	-	N.A.	-	N.A.
Wan Chai	-	N.A.	-	N.A.	-	N.A.
Kwun Tong	126	43	126	52	84	57
Wong Tai Sin	42	69	42	80	42	76
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	71	126	76	126	73
Sha Tin	-	N.A.	-	N.A.	-	N.A.
Tai Po	42	41	42	46	-	N.A.
North	42	28	42	77	42	115
Yuen Long	42	42	126	52	126	83
Tsuen Wan	-	N.A.	-	N.A.	-	N.A.
Kwai Tsing	84	58	126	58	126	70
Tuen Mun	-	N.A.	-	N.A.	-	N.A.
Total	**546**	**53**	**756**	**57**	**672**	**69**

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 The fee is charged based on service hours used. Service users with social needs and financial difficulties may apply for fee waivers/reductions.

Note 2 13 centres in Southern, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sham Shui Po, Tai Po, North, Yuen Long, and Kwai Tsing districts commenced service in August 2021, February 2022, and February 2023.

Note 3 5 centres in Central and Western, Southern, Yuen Long, and Kwai Tsing districts commenced service in August 2023 and February 2024.

Note 4 All 18 centres were in operation in February 2024, but 2 of them, which commenced service in August 2021, ceased operation after March 2024. The remaining 16 centres provided a total of 672 service places (42 places per centre).

Note 5 To meet the needs of the respective districts, some centres provide additional service places at specific time slots or additional opening sessions on Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays. The average utilisation rate may exceed 100% as the headcounts for additional services are also included.

Annex 3

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 (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		2022-23 Actual expenditure 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	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 to meet the actual service demands.

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 may apply for fee waivers/reductions.

Note 3 The annual expenditure 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 (2023-24)

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		2023-24 Actual expenditure Note 3 ($ million)
			Aged below 3	Aged 3 to below 6	Aged above 6	Total	HCCS	CCG	
Central & Western	53	59	109	230	155	**494**	24	24	88.0
Wan Chai	53	67	28	146	108	**282**	22	22	
Eastern	53	103	208	170	71	**449**	22	22	
Southern	53	30	15	251	224	**490**	20	12	
Yau Tsim Mong	53	126	208	365	246	**819**	20	13	
Sham Shui Po	53	59	420	306	204	**930**	20	13	
Kowloon City	53	525	74	145	131	**350**	20	13	
Wong Tai Sin	53	112	106	268	294	**668**	18	10	
Kwun Tong	53	46	155	207	171	**533**	20	13	
Kwai Tsing	53	82	292	157	184	**633**	18	13	
Tsuen Wan	53	77	109	266	122	**497**	20	13	
Tuen Mun	53	37	278	317	227	**822**	20	13	
Yuen Long	53	67	315	460	385	**1 160**	18	13	
North	53	78	57	172	300	**529**	18	13	
Tai Po	53	77	134	235	183	**552**	20	13	
Sha Tin	53	42	146	298	319	**763**	20	13	
Sai Kung	53	83	183	280	207	**670**	20	13	
Islands	53	100	79	290	190	**559**	22	13	
Total	**954**	**1 770**	**2 916**	**4 563**	**3 721**	**11 200**	**-**	**-**	

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 to meet the actual service demands.

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 may apply for fee waivers/reductions.

Note 3 The annual expenditure 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 (2024-25) (April to December 2024)

District	Number of places Note 1	Number of home-based child carers (December 2024) Note 2	Number of children served				Basic service fee per hour Note 3		2024-25 Revised estimate Note 4 ($ million)
			Aged below 3	Aged 3 to below 6	Aged above 6	Total	HCCS	CCG	
Central & Western	92	50	80	93	111	**284**	28	20	226.6
Wan Chai	92	24	15	92	67	**174**			
Eastern	92	114	140	110	67	**317**			
Southern	92	46	25	96	83	**204**			
Yau Tsim Mong	92	98	116	230	172	**518**			
Sham Shui Po	184	38	193	133	131	**457**			
Kowloon City	92	25	33	33	41	**107**			
Wong Tai Sin	92	31	59	154	158	**371**			
Kwun Tong	184	63	140	132	142	**414**			
Kwai Tsing	92	36	203	134	77	**414**			
Tsuen Wan	92	21	41	150	100	**291**			
Tuen Mun	184	86	164	222	188	**574**			
Yuen Long	184	116	274	309	271	**854**			
North	92	26	22	87	166	**275**			
Tai Po	92	86	70	160	140	**370**			
Sha Tin	184	52	124	172	219	**515**			
Sai Kung	92	29	100	133	127	**360**			
Islands	92	102	72	237	196	**505**			
Total	**2 116**	**1 043**	**1 871**	**2 677**	**2 456**	**7 004**			

Note 1 Starting from September 2024, on the basis of 1 service team in each of the 18 districts in Hong Kong, the Social Welfare Department has added an additional service team in districts with higher service demands, namely Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Sha Tin, Tuen Mun, and Yuen Long. As a result, the number of service teams in Hong Kong has increased from 18 to 23 to provide more service places. Each service team is required to provide a minimum of 92 service places (i.e. the total number of places in all 18 districts should be at least 2 116). Service operators may flexibly increase the number of HCCS places beyond this requirement to meet the actual service demands.

Note 2 A new SA for NSCCP commenced in September 2024. Some home-based child carers are currently undergoing training, and will start service later. Therefore, the number of home-based child carers will gradually increase.

Note 3 Starting from September 2024, the service fees for HCCS and CCG are standardised at $28 and $20 per hour respectively. Service users with social needs and/or financial difficulties can approach service operators for fee waivers/reductions.

Note 4 The annual expenditure includes the operator's administrative expenses, training costs and incentive payments for home-based child carers, and subsidies granted to service users from low-income families.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3926)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs) merit society's attention. Many PWDs aspire to join the workforce. In this connection, would the Government please provide the following information regarding the employment situation of PWDs:

Please outline the publicity methods used by the Government to promote the concept of workplace inclusion for PWDs, along with the respective costs involved.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides a range of day rehabilitation services for PWDs through subvented non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Among these, supported employment training offers job analysis, job matching, and employment-related skills training to help PWDs prepare for the workforce. Through job attachment and on-the-job training, PWDs gain practical experience and develop employment skills in real work environments. Service units will engage with employers and provide post-placement follow-up services to foster workplace inclusion.

To further support the employment of PWDs, SWD also offers a one-off subsidy to employers through the Support Programme for Employees with Disabilities for the purpose of purchasing assistive devices or modifying workplaces to help employees with disabilities perform their duties more effectively and improve their work efficiency. The subsidy is capped at $40,000 per employee with disabilities.

Moreover, SWD implements the Enhancing Employment of PWDs through Small Enterprise Project (3E Project) which provides seed money to NGOs to set up small enterprises/businesses, with an aim to create employment opportunities for PWDs through a market-driven approach so that they can work in carefully planned and inclusive environments. The 3E Project also raises public awareness of social enterprises, their products, and the work capabilities of PWDs through various channels, including social media campaigns, the production of promotional videos, and by inviting funded social enterprises to participate in promotional events, such as the Hong Kong Brands and Products Expo. These efforts aim to encourage various sectors to support the employment of PWDs and promote the concept of workplace inclusion.

As SWD integrates promotional efforts for PWD employment and workplace inclusion across its services and projects, it does not maintain breakdowns of costs for specific promotional activities.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)260

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3461)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has launched the Special Subsidy Scheme for Persons with Permanent Stoma (Special Subsidy Scheme) to provide special subsidy for the needy and eligible persons with permanent stoma from low-income families to relieve their financial burdens. In this connection, please advise:

1. How many applicants were granted the special subsidy in each of the past 3 years? How many applications were rejected annually?
2. In the past year, what were the respective numbers of cases granted full rate, three-quarters rate and half rate?
3. Currently, the monthly subsidy rates are $1,000 for full rate, $750 for three-quarters rate and $500 for half rate. In view of the increasing cost of medical consumables, will the Government consider increasing the monthly subsidy rates to reduce the financial burdens on the persons concerned?
4. In each of the past 3 years, how many cases involved subsidies being cancelled due to violations of subsidy requirements? Were the affected individuals allowed to reapply immediately following the cancellation of their subsidies?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

1. The number of persons granted the subsidy and the number of rejected applications under the Special Subsidy Scheme from 2022-23 to 2024-25 are set out in Table 1 of Annex.
2. The numbers of cases receiving a full grant, three-quarters grant and half grant of the subsidy under the Special Subsidy Scheme in 2023-24 are set out in Table 2 of Annex.
3. SWD has set the upper limit of the subsidy for the Special Subsidy Scheme with reference to the monthly consumption of medical consumables by persons with permanent stoma, as assessed by Medical Officers from public hospitals. Eligible persons may receive a maximum subsidy of $1,000 per month. Apart from this scheme, SWD has implemented the Special Care Subsidy Scheme for Persons with

Severe Disabilities, providing eligible persons with severe disabilities, who are aged below 60 living in the community and receiving the Higher Disability Allowance, with a full grant of $2,500 per month for assisting them to purchase care goods, services or for other purposes related to nursing care. In addition, SWD has launched the Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities. This service provides a special subsidy of up to $2,500 per month to eligible persons who require constant attention and care but are not receiving relevant government subsidies (including the Special Subsidy) or assistance from charitable funds. The subsidy is intended for renting respiratory support medical equipment and purchasing medical consumables. It also covers medical consumables required by persons with permanent stoma.

4. SWD does not maintain statistics on the number of cases in which subsidies were cancelled due to violations of subsidy requirements. Applications for the Special Subsidy Scheme are accepted all year round and will be assessed by SWD having regard to the circumstances of each case.

Annex

Table 1: Number of persons granted the subsidy and number of rejected applications under the Special Subsidy Scheme

Financial year	No. of persons granted the subsidy	No. of rejected applications
2022-23	532	13
2023-24	577	11
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	591	3

Table 2: Numbers of cases receiving a full grant, three-quarters grant and half grant of the subsidy under the Special Subsidy Scheme in 2023-24

Grant of subsidy	No. of approved applications
Full grant ($1,000 per month)	543
Three-quarters grant ($750 per month)	28
Half grant ($500 per month)	6

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)261

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3462)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The 4 Community Parents and Children Centres (CPCCs) set up on a pilot basis by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) under the supervision of the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) will progressively commence service from 2026. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. In which districts will the 4 CPCCs be located? What is the current preparation progress for these 4 centres?
2. Will the CPCCs be directly operated by SWD, or will their management be outsourced to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) under LWB's supervision?
3. LWB has indicated that these CPCCs will be equipped with additional manpower, including social workers, child care workers, family aide workers, and nurses. What is the estimated manpower and annual operating cost for each CPCC?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

SWD will set up 4 CPCCs on a pilot basis by re-engineering existing children and youth centres located in the Eastern, Wong Tai Sin, Sha Tin, and Yuen Long districts. Operated by subvented NGOs, these CPCCs will adopt a play-based approach to promote parent-child interaction and educate parents on positive parenting methods, provide support to families with parenting needs, and refer families with other needs to appropriate government and community services. SWD will begin renovation works in the second quarter of 2025, with the 4 CPCCs scheduled to commence operations progressively starting from 2026.

The provision for these CPCCs amounts to around $96.9 million over a 5-year period, from 2025-26 to 2029-30. Subject to compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements, operators may determine their staffing establishment and remuneration in accordance with their human resources policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the required service outputs and outcomes.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)262

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3493)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding supervising the Care Teams in 18 districts, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. a breakdown of the number of households visited and contacted by each Carer Team since their establishment, the number of target carers identified, and the number of needy cases referred to social welfare organisations for follow-up;
2. a breakdown of the number of needy households referred by each Care Team for the installation of emergency alarm systems (EASs) since their establishment; and
3. whether the Government has provided Care Team members with any training so far to strengthen their interpersonal skills and ability to identify needy cases; if so, what are the details; if not, the reasons for this.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 132)

Reply:

The Government launched the District Services and Community Care Teams - Supporting Elderly and Carers Scheme (the Scheme) in March 2024. Taking Tsuen Wan and the Southern District as pilot points, Care Teams are engaged to help identify high-risk households of singleton and doubleton elderly, and carers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities (PWDs) through visits and outreach. Cases requiring assistance are then referred to social welfare service units for follow-up. They also assist in referring eligible elderly persons and PWDs to install and use emergency alarm systems (known as "Safety Bell") with government subsidy. The total expenditure of the Scheme for 2024-25 was about $9.20 million. In 2024-25, SWD's District Welfare Offices provided a total of 8 training sessions for the Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and the Southern District to equip them with the necessary skills. The numbers of needy households visited/contacted, the headcount of persons provided with follow-up support services, and the numbers of referrals made for welfare services by the Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and the Southern District are set out at Annex.

As at end-January 2025, a total of 36 Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and the Southern District have visited or contacted over 7 000 households of singleton and doubleton elderly and carers of elderly persons and PWDs, and have made over 1 190 referrals for welfare services under the Scheme. In addition, a total of 272 elderly persons and 11 PWDs have installed Safety Bells and received related subsidies through the referral of the Care Teams.

Encouraged by the positive outcomes of the Scheme during its pilot phase, the Chief Executive announced in the 2024 Policy Address that the Scheme would be extended to all 18 districts across the territory in the second quarter of 2025 to provide support to more elderly persons and carers. It is expected that in the 12-month implementation period of the Scheme, the Care Teams will contact over 60 000 households in need. The Scheme is expected to incur a total expenditure of about $107.9 million for 2025-26.

Annex

Number of households visited/contacted, headcount of persons provided with follow-up support services, and number of referrals made for welfare services by the Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and the Southern District

(as at 31 January 2025)

Item	**Tsuen Wan**	**Southern District**	**Total**
Households [Note 1] visited/contacted (number of households) [Note 2]	4 135	2 955	**7 090**
Follow-up support services provided (headcount of persons) [Note 2]	5 782	7 009	**12 791**
Referrals made for welfare services (number of referrals) [Note 2]	859	340	**1 199**

Note 1 Including households of singleton and doubleton elderly, as well as carers of elderly persons and PWDs.

Note 2 As the statistics for services rendered in January 2025 by some Care Teams were entered into the household information management platform in February, some service statistics are not reflected in the table above.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)263

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3494)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the initiative to "provide support to carers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities", would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of requests for assistance received by the Government and the progress of follow-up actions in each of the past 3 years;
2. whether the Government has allocated additional resources to cope with incidents of carers attempting self-harm or even suicide in recent years; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons for this; and
3. the annual expenditure and manpower earmarked for implementing relevant measures.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 133)

Reply:

The Government has always attached great importance to catering to the needs of elderly persons, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and their carers by providing a series of residential care, community care and support services through subvented non-governmental organisations. To enhance the support for carers, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has commissioned the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) to launch the 24-hour Designated Hotline for Carer Support (the Carer Hotline) (182 183) in September 2023. The Carer Hotline is manned by professional social workers who provide information on community support services, instant consultation and emotional support, counselling services, outreach/emergency support and referral services, as well as assisting carers in applying for respite services. As at 31 December 2024, the Carer Hotline has received a total of about 62 800 calls. Among these calls, the Carer Hotline has referred about 1 100 cases to relevant community support service units, and provided emergency support for over 90 cases through outreach services. The expenditure of the Carer Hotline is set out in Table 1 of Annex. Subject to TWGHs' compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements, it may flexibly deploy resources to achieve the required service outputs and outcomes.

Apart from the Carer Hotline, SWD launched the Information Gateway for Carers (Information Gateway) (carers.hk) in November 2023. It provides information on services for elderly persons, PWDs and their carers, caring skills, community activities and resources for carers, etc. It also links to the Carer Hotline. 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. In addition, SWD has launched a 3-year territory-wide publicity campaign called the "Care the Carers Campaign" since 2023-24, with the total expenditure of approximately $15 million for 3 years. Activities are held under different themes each 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 emphasised 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 has organised different publicity activities in line with the annual themes, including the kick-off ceremony for the "Care the Carers Campaign", the "Say Thank You to Carers" event, a thematic short video competition, "Walk with Carers at Palace Museum", etc. Over the past 2 years, the 11 District Social Welfare Offices of SWD, in collaboration with non-governmental and local organisations, held over 1 000 different kinds of district activities to support carers. Furthermore, SWD has also promoted the "Care the Carers Campaign" to the public in Hong Kong through various means, including television and radio announcements in the public interest.

To further enhance community support for households of singleton and doubleton elderly, as well as carers of elderly persons and PWDs, the District Services and Community Care Teams – Supporting Elderly and Carers Scheme (the Scheme) will be extended to all 18 districts across the territory in the second quarter of 2025. The services provided by the Care Teams under the Scheme include visiting or contacting households in need, offering ongoing care and concern through caring actions, and providing support and referral services. They also assist in referring eligible elderly persons and PWDs to install and use emergency alarm systems (known as "Safety Bell") with government subsidy. The Scheme is expected to incur a total expenditure of about $107.9 million for 2025-26.

Annex

Table 1: Expenditure of the Carer Hotline

Year	**2023-24** [Note] **(Actual) ($ million)**	**2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($ million)**
Expenditure	11.00	20.40

Note The Carer Hotline commenced operation in September 2023.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3731)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the community care and support services for the elderly and the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme) mentioned under the Programme, please provide the following information for the past 3 years:

1. the number of elderly persons participating in the GDRCS Scheme each year and the expenditure involved;
2. the numbers of applications for the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme) and CCSV recipients each year, and the expenditure involved;
3. the numbers of places provided by subvented local care-and-attention (C&A) homes and nursing homes (NHs), and the average cost per place;
4. the quota approved under the Special Scheme to Import Care Workers for Residential Care Homes (the Special Scheme); and
5. the average waiting time and number of persons waitlisted for residential care homes (RCHs) for the elderly (RCHEs), and whether the Government will promote the GDRCS Scheme to elderly persons currently waiting for residential care places (RCPs), as well as the details of the related efforts and outcomes.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) purchases services from RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme based on the actual number of elderly persons participating in the scheme. The number of elderly persons subsidised under the scheme and the expenditure incurred each year from 2022-23 to 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024) are set out at Annex 1.
2. The number of persons covered and the amount of subsidy disbursed under the CCSV Scheme are set out at Annex 2.
3. The number of places for and total expenditure on subsidised residential care services (RCS) for the elderly are set out at Annexes 3 and 4, respectively.

4. The Government launched the Special Scheme in June 2023. As at the end of December 2024, SWD completed 4 rounds of applications and granted a total of 7 188 quotas (including those for contract renewal) to import care workers to RCHEs and RCHs for persons with disabilities.

5. As at the end of December 2024, the number of persons waitlisted for various types of subsidised RCS for the elderly and their average waiting time are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 5, respectively.

SWD has been promoting the GDRCS Scheme to elderly persons and the general public through various channels. These include providing the latest information about the scheme on SWD's website, uploading introductory videos of participating RCHEs to SWD's YouTube channel, and holding briefing sessions and district coordinating committee meetings to introduce the scheme to caseworkers from referring offices who handle elderly persons' applications for long-term care (LTC) services so that they can promote the scheme to eligible elderly persons and their families. In addition, in November 2024, SWD broadcast a 4-episode promotional video series titled "灣區安老知多啲" on television. The videos have been uploaded to SWD's YouTube channel for continuous viewing, and are being shown at all LTC referring offices to ensure elderly persons and their families understand the scheme's services and the conditions of participating RCHEs. SWD will continue to publicise and promote the GDRCS Scheme.

In recent years, the response to the GDRCS Scheme from Hong Kong elderly persons has been very positive. The number of elderly participants has been steadily increasing. At the end of December 2022, during the pandemic, a total of 124 elderly persons from Hong Kong were accommodated in the 2 RCHEs under the scheme. By the end of December 2024, the total number of elderly residents reached 316 across 11 RCHEs under the scheme. SWD will continue to monitor the implementation of the scheme.

Annex 1

Cumulative number of elderly persons subsidised under the GDRCS Scheme and expenditure on the scheme

Year	**Cumulative no. of elderly persons subsidised**	**Expenditure ($ million)**
2022-23	150	13.1 (Actual)
2023-24	195	18.9 (Actual)
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	343	32.1 (Revised estimate)

Annex 2

Statistics on the CCSV Scheme

Year	**No. of CCSV applicants**	**No. of CCSV recipients**	**Subsidy amount ($ million)**
2022-23	4 375	4 396	361.7
2023-24	6 546	6 478	477.4 [Note 1]
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	6 471	6 346	687.8 [Note 2]

Note 1 The Pilot Scheme on CCSV was made permanent in September 2023. The figure includes the amount of subsidy under the Pilot Scheme and the CCSV Scheme after it was made permanent in the respective financial year.

Note 2 Revised estimate for 2024-25.

Annex 3

Number of service places for subsidised RCS for the elderly

Year	**C&A place** Note 1	**NH place** Note 2	**No. of residential care service vouchers (RCSVs)**	**Total**
2022-23	26 812	4 652	4 000	**35 464**
2023-24	27 687	5 048	4 000	**36 735**
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	27 830	5 157	5 000	**37 987**

Note 1 Including subsidised C&A places provided at contract homes, subvented C&A homes, and private RCHEs participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS), as well as subsidised C&A places provided under the GDRCS Scheme.

Note 2 Including subsidised places provided at contract homes, subvented NHs, and self-financing NHs participating in the NH Place Purchase Scheme (NHPPS), as well as subsidised NH places provided under the GDRCS Scheme.

Annex 4

Average monthly cost per place for various types of subsidised RCS for the elderly

	2022-23 ($)	**2023-24 ($)**	**2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($)**
NH operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) [Note 1]	26,025	26,971	27,456
Contract RCHE [Note 2]	23,529	23,128	24,248
C&A home operated by NGOs	18,335	18,928	19,408
Private C&A home participating in EBPS	17,471	16,413	16,513

Note 1 Including subvented NHs and subsidised NH places of NHPPS.

Note 2 Contract RCHEs provide C&A and NH places. The figures represent the average monthly cost of these 2 types of places.

Annex 5

Table 1: Average waiting time for subsidised RCS for the elderly

	Average waiting time (in months)		
	2022-23 (as at end-March 2023)	**2023-24 (as at end-March 2024)**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
C&A place	14	8	9
NH place	18	10	9

Table 2: Number of persons waitlisted for subsidised RCS for the elderly

	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
No. of persons waitlisted for C&A places [Note 1] [Note 2]	14 040	14 238	14 407
No. of persons waitlisted for NH places [Note 1] [Note 2]	2 796	2 381	2 181

Note 1 Elderly persons currently using RCSVs may be admitted to RCHEs participating in the RCSV Scheme with government subsidies, without the need to wait for a vacancy.

Note 2 Excluding elderly persons classified as "inactive cases" on the central waiting list.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)265

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3732)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the provision of various rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities (PWDs) by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. It is mentioned in the Programme that additional places for day training, vocational rehabilitation, residential and pre-school rehabilitation services, and additional places under the Work Extension Programme (WEP) in Sheltered Workshops (SWs)/Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres (IVRSCs) will be provided. What were the numbers of places, the average waiting times and the utilisation rates for various vocational rehabilitation services/day services in the past 3 years?
2. The estimated number of additional places for the above services.
3. A breakdown of the numbers of employees and employers participating in the Supported Employment Training for PWDs (SET), the number of participants who successfully completed their job attachment, the number of participants who successfully secured employment in the open market, and the amount of subsidy involved in each of the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

1. The number of places of various day training and vocational rehabilitation services for PWDs, along with their average waiting time and utilisation rates in the past 3 years are set out at Annexes 1 to 3, respectively. SWD does not have information on the utilisation rates of other day training and vocational rehabilitation services for PWDs except for Day Activity Centres (DACs) and SWs.
2. SWD's estimated number of additional places for day training and vocational rehabilitation services in 2025-26 is set out at Annex 4.
3. The number of persons who successfully secured employment for more than 6 months through SET and the amount of subsidy involved in the past 3 years are set out at Annexes 5 and 6, respectively. SWD does not have information on the numbers of employees and employers participating in SET and the number of participants who successfully completed their job attachment.

Annex 1

Number of service places of various day training and vocational rehabilitation services for PWDs from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Service type	No. of service places		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
DAC	5 865	6 276	6 351
SW	5 399	5 399	5 429
IVRSC	5 648	5 808	5 858
Integrated Vocational Training Centres (Day Service) [IVTC(Day)]	453	453	453
Supported Employment (SE) [Note]	1 633	1 633	-
On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities (OJT) [Note]	432	432	-
Sunnyway – On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities (Sunnyway) [Note]	311	311	-
SET [Note]	-	-	2 376
WEP	1 130	1 130	1 385

[Note] SE, OJT and Sunnyway were integrated as SET in April 2024.

Annex 2

Average waiting time for various day training and vocational rehabilitation services for PWDs from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Service type	**Average waiting time (in months)** [Note 1]		
	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25**
DAC	55.6	52.0	Not available yet [Note 2]
SW	14.0	14.0	Not available yet [Note 2]
IVRSC [Note 3]	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
IVTC(Day) [Note 4]	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
SE [Note 5]	2.5	3.3	-
OJT [Note 4 Note 5]	N.A.	N.A.	-
Sunnyway [Note 4 Note 5]	N.A.	N.A.	-
SET [Note 4 Note 5]	-	-	N.A.
WEP [Note 6]	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 The waiting time is affected by multiple factors, such as the applicant's preference for the location of service units, indication on specific service unit, the turnover rate of the selected service units, etc.

Note 2 As the average waiting time is calculated on a financial-year basis, spanning from 1 April of one year to 31 March of the following year, the figures for 2024-25 are not yet available.

Note 3 There is no Central Waiting List (CWL) for IVRSCs and applicants are selected from CWLs for SWs and SE.

Note 4 As this service may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have relevant statistics.

Note 5 SE, OJT and Sunnyway were integrated as SET in April 2024.

Note 6 There is no CWL for WEP and applicants are selected from SWs.

Annex 3

Utilisation rates for various day training and vocational rehabilitation services for PWDs from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Service type	Utilisation rate (%)		
	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)
DAC	97	90	95
SW	98	98	98

Annex 4

Estimated number of additional places for day training and vocational rehabilitation services in 2025-26

Service type	No. of service places
DAC	65
IVRSC	200

Annex 5

Number of persons who successfully secured employment for more than 6 months through SET from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Service type	No. of persons who successfully secured employment for more than 6 months		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
SE [Note]	271	246	-
OJT [Note]	161	178	-
Sunnyway [Note]	166	157	-
SET [Note]	-	-	260

[Note] SE, OJT and Sunnyway were integrated as SET in April 2024.

Annex 6

Amount of subsidy for SET from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Service type	**Amount of subsidy ($ million)**		
	2022-23 (Actual)	**2023-24 (Actual)**	**2024-25 (Revised estimate)**
SE [Note]	100.1	103.2	-
OJT [Note]	22.1	22.8	-
Sunnyway [Note]	16.7	17.2	-
SET [Note]	-	-	161

[Note] SE, OJT and Sunnyway were integrated as SET in April 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3733)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the implementation of the Strive and Rise Programme (the Programme), would the Government please inform this Committee:

1. of the manpower and expenditure involved in the first and second cohorts of the Programme respectively, as well as the estimated expenditure of the third cohort;
2. of the types, numbers and attendance of the activities arranged for mentees by the Programme in the past year;
3. of the current number of members in the Alumni Club (the Club), as well as the number and attendance of the whole person development and exchange activities and internship programmes offered by the Club since its establishment; and
4. given that the Programme aims to help lift students out of intergenerational poverty, whether the Government has kept track of the mentees to evaluate the effectiveness of the Programme and introduce enhancements in a timely manner.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1. The expenditure of the Programme since its implementation is as follows:

Expenditure ($ million)			
2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)	2025-26 (Estimate)
23.5	61.8	113.5	131.0

The Social Welfare Department implements the Programme by deploying existing manpower. As the staff involved are also responsible for other youth services, a breakdown of the staffing establishment dedicated solely to implementing the Programme is not available.

2. The types, numbers and attendance of activities arranged for mentees in the second cohort of the Programme are tabulated as follows:

Type of activities	Number of activities	Attendance
Orientation	30	10 403
Basic training for mentees	119	11 794
Group activities	730	31 764

3. A total of 2 630 and 3 642 mentees from the first and second cohorts of the Programme, respectively, completed the 1-year intensive foundation programme. They are automatically enrolled as members of the Club and can participate in a variety of activities and programmes it organises. As at end-February 2025, the Club has organised about 1 400 activity sessions, including orientation, whole person development activities, group activities, and exchange tours to the Mainland. It also organises job internship programmes for alumni aged 16 or older. The number and attendance of these activities, broken down by type of activity, are tabulated as follows:

Type of activities	Number of activity sessions	Attendance
Whole person development activities	1 335	11 541
Group activities (including orientation)	68	4 481
Exchange tours to the Mainland	7	266
Internship programmes	N.A.	283
Total	1 410	16 571

N.A. - Not applicable

4. The evaluation of the first cohort of the Programme was undertaken by a research team from the Department of Applied Social Sciences at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Published in May 2024, the evaluation results revealed that the first cohort of the Programme successfully achieved the key performance indicator, i.e. at least 70% of mentees who completed the 1-year Programme demonstrated improvement in personal development and positive thinking. Ongoing evaluations will be conducted for all mentees throughout the intensive foundation programme in the first year, while a 5-year longitudinal tracking study on selected mentees will also be conducted. This study will collect data from mentees, mentors and parents in order to attain a full understanding of the Programme's impact on the personal growth of the mentees.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)267

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3734)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding school social work (SSW), outreaching social work, and online and hotline services for young people, would the Government please provide the following information:

1. According to the Programme, there were 29 857 cases served and 9 166 cases closed having achieved the agreed goal under SSW. What types of problems did SSW address, what were the corresponding figures, and what was the average time to close a case in the past 3 years?2. According to the Programme, the average cost per case per month for outreaching social work was $1,115. What specific work or services were included in this?

3. It is noted that the cyber youth support teams (CYSTs) provide professional social work interventions to at-risk and hidden youths, including services such as online and offline counselling and groups/programmes. What types of activities were conducted by CYSTs, and what were the related expenditures in the past 3 years?

4. Will the Government provide additional services and support to young people, especially at-risk and hidden youths, in the future?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

1. The types of problems addressed and the corresponding numbers of cases handled by SSW in the past 3 years are tabulated below. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not maintain information on the average time required to close a case.

Major type of problems [Note]	2022-23 (figures as at 31 March 2023)	2023-24 (figures as at 31 March 2024)	2024-25 (figures as at 31 December 2024)
Emotion/mental health	7 231	7 486	7 420
Education	5 625	5 609	5 201
Family	3 150	2 962	2 857
Peer relationships	2 478	2 591	2 550
Development and adaptability	1 064	1 039	949
Sex	257	245	282

Major type of problems [Note]	2022-23 (figures as at 31 March 2023)	2023-24 (figures as at 31 March 2024)	2024-25 (figures as at 31 December 2024)
Social norms	227	196	168
Internet addiction	143	105	93
Bullying	99	104	101
Drug use	11	8	5
Others	264	186	166

[Note] As a case may involve more than 1 problem, the above figures are categorised based on the primary problem identified.

2. SWD subsidises non-governmental organisations to operate 16 district youth outreaching social work teams and 3 youth outreaching teams across Hong Kong. Through outreaching services, these teams reach out to high-risk youth who often loiter on the streets, establish connections with them, and provide them with guidance, counselling, crisis intervention, referral and other support services, to help them overcome problems and difficulties, develop their potentials, integrate into society, and prevent them from falling prey to negative elements.

3. CYSTs proactively search and approach at-risk and hidden youths through online platforms commonly used by young people and provide timely intervention, support and counselling service through online and offline modes to youths in needs (including those who are emotionally unstable and have suicidal thoughts). The expenditure of CYSTs in each of the past 3 years is as follows:

Year	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)
Expenditure ($ million)	26.2	29.3	30.8

4. In addition to the various services mentioned above, SWD plans to enhance CYSTs' services in the second quarter of 2025 by providing an online youth-emotional-support platform, offering real-time online counselling to students or young people facing emotional distress and immediate crises.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3735)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (7) Young People

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

There are currently a total of 161 children and youth centres (CYCs) and integrated children and youth services centres (ICYSCs) in Hong Kong, serving children and young people aged from 6 to 24. In this regard, would the Government please provide the following information:

1. the average expenditure of each CYC and ICYSC in the past 5 years, and the differences in services provided by these 2 types of centres;
2. the numbers of new and renewed members of CYCs and ICYSCs in each district in the past 3 years; and
3. in the light of changing demographic structures and population shifts within districts, whether there will be adjustments or consolidation of the locations and numbers of CYCs and ICYSCs according to district circumstances, and whether the development of these centres will align with community needs.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

1. The average expenditure of each ICYSC and CYC in the past 5 years is as follows:

Year	ICYSC ($ million)	CYC ($ million)
2020-21 (Actual)	8.4	3.6
2021-22 (Actual)	8.4	3.5
2022-23 (Actual)	8.6	3.6
2023-24 (Actual)	8.9	3.7
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	9.0	3.8

ICYSCs and CYCs deploy community resources to provide preventive, developmental, supportive and remedial services, with a view to meeting the multifarious welfare needs of children and youth aged 6 to 24 in specific catchment areas, particularly those from deprived families, with special needs, or from ethnic minorities. ICYSCs and CYCs also assist children and youth in developing life skills, potentials and problem-solving abilities, promote their personal development, help them strengthen interpersonal and

family relationships, and foster social competence to address the crises and challenges encountered during their growth. In addition, ICYSCs collaborate with community stakeholders to build a supportive, inclusive and responsive environment to address the needs of children and youth.

2. The number of members (including new and renewed members) of ICYSCs and CYCs in each district in the past 3 years is set out at Annex.

3. The Social Welfare Department (SWD), from time to time, reviews the service needs of ICYSCs and CYCs and makes appropriate adjustments based on demographic changes and local circumstances in various districts of Hong Kong. To strengthen the prevention of child abuse at its root, SWD will set up 4 Community Parents and Children Centres (CPCCs) on a pilot basis by re-engineering the existing 4 children and youth centres located in the Eastern, Wong Tai Sin, Sha Tin, and Yuen Long districts. These 4 CPCCs are scheduled to commence operation progressively starting from 2026, and are expected to benefit about 10 000 persons annually.

Annex

Number of members (including new and renewed members) of CYCs and ICYSCs in each district

District	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	
	ICYSC	CYC	ICYSC	CYC	ICYSC	CYC
Central & Western	6 621	-	8 677	-	8 045	-
Southern	12 225	-	16 497	-	16 253	-
Islands	1 456	2 382	1 291	2 213	1 013	2 067
Eastern	14 827	7 890	14 838	11 069	12 838	10 839
Wan Chai	2 963	1 484	3 262	1 677	2 013	1 408
Kowloon City	12 331	2 334	11 643	4 409	10 726	4 309
Yau Tsim Mong	12 704	-	12 995	-	9 917	-
Sham Shui Po	23 618	-	29 339	-	28 907	-
Kwun Tong	37 794	1 109	46 085	1 145	45 204	8 22
Wong Tai Sin	19 756	2 371	25 952	2 265	22 937	2 283
Sai Kung	16 756	1 181	21 536	1 044	21 164	1 394
Sha Tin	38 485	6 998	46 580	6 274	44 780	5 595
Tai Po	17 223	579	19 094	528	19 468	468
North	19 789	-	20 317	-	18 753	-
Tsuen Wan	14 622	-	15 426	-	13 742	-
Kwai Tsing	23 952	3 272	28 719	3 168	30 931	2 839
Tuen Mun	30 453	-	37 281	-	37 770	-
Yuen Long	27 230	1 634	27 703	1 655	24 041	1 471
Total	**332 805**	**31 234**	**387 235**	**35 447**	**368 502**	**33 495**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3304)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

According to Programme (2), the Labour and Welfare Bureau will continue to oversee the purchase of premises for the provision of welfare facilities in the next financial year. The 2019-20 Budget proposed an allocation of $20 billion to purchase 60 properties for accommodating more than 130 welfare facilities. However, as at 31 December 2024, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has purchased only 5 properties at a cost of around $240 million. Would the Government please explain the reasons behind such a slow pace in the purchasing process? Will the Government take advantage of the sluggish property market to actively purchase properties for the provision of welfare facilities? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 230)

Reply:

With the assistance of the Government Property Agency (GPA), SWD is striving to identify suitable premises for purchase through different channels. As at 28 February 2025, 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.

SWD and GPA are continuing their efforts to identify and purchase suitable premises, and have earmarked $250 million for related work in 2025-26. The progress of purchasing premises depends on the availability of suitable properties in the market and various external factors, including whether the properties for sale have suitable 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. 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 will continue to implement and review the scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3544)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched a 3-year Ethnic Minority (EM) District Ambassador pilot scheme (EMDA pilot scheme) in 9 districts with a higher EM population. Please advise the number of EMDAs in each of these 9 districts in the past financial year. Which service units have they been assigned to? How is the manpower distributed between SWD and non-governmental organisations (NGOs)? What are the number of needy EM families contacted and the number of case referrals made each year?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 72)

Reply:

SWD launched the EMDA pilot scheme in October 2020 in 9 districts with a higher EM population to enhance district centres/service units and co-ordinate communication and co-operation with relevant stakeholders. Additional resources were allocated for 6 medical social services units of SWD and 40 welfare service units operated by subvented NGOs, including integrated family service centres/integrated services centres, parents/relatives resource centres, district elderly community centres, district support centres for persons with disabilities, and integrated service centres for ex-offenders and their families, to enhance welfare support services for EM communities by employing an additional 46 EMs or designated persons as EMDAs. A breakdown of the number of EMDAs by district is set out at Annex.

In 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024), the EMDA pilot scheme contacted 10 313 EMs. The services provided by EMDAs do not include making case referrals.

Annex

Number of EMDAs by district

District	**Number of EMDAs**
Central & Western	5
Islands	4
Wan Chai	5
Eastern	5
Yau Tsim Mong	5
Kowloon City	5
Kwai Tsing	4
Yuen Long	5
Sham Shui Po	6
Tuen Mun	1
Sha Tin	1
Total	**46**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3545)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please advise whether service units assigned with Ethnic Minority (EM) District Ambassadors provide cultural sensitivity training. What is the content and format of the training? What is the number of training hours involved? What are the ranks and number of staff members who received the training?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 73)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has all along been organising EM-related training courses, including seminars and workshops, for staff of different grades and ranks (such as those providing social work, social security, and other frontline services) from both SWD and non-governmental organisations to enhance their knowledge and sensitivity towards the culture, lifestyle, and service needs of EMs. Through direct approaches such as group discussions and experience sharing, staff members can further understand and respond to the needs of EMs, thus enabling them to conduct comprehensive assessments and provide appropriate services. In 2024-25, SWD organised 23 EM-related training courses, ranging from 2 to 7 hours each, with a total attendance of about 1 400.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3546)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of times service units assigned with Ethnic Minority (EM) District Ambassadors have used translation and interpretation services. How many EM cases required translation and interpretation services, and what percentage do they represent in the total number of EM cases?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 74)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the EM District Ambassador pilot scheme (EMDA pilot scheme) in October 2020. As at the end of December 2024, translation and interpretation services were rendered for EMs under the EMDA pilot scheme for a total of 25 240 times. SWD does not have information on the percentage of cases that required translation and interpretation services out of the total number of cases under the EMDA pilot scheme.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)273

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3547)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of cases involving ethnic minorities (EMs) handled by Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 75)

Reply:

The number of cases involving EMs handled by IFSCs in the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of cases [Note]
2020-21	717
2021-22	672
2022-23	607
2023-24	670
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	736

[Note] The number of cases reflects the situation of IFSCs operated by the Social Welfare Department and non-governmental organisations at the end of the designated year. Each case involved at least 1 family member of Indonesian, Filipino, Indian, Pakistani, Nepali or Thai ethnicity.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3548)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of ethnic minority (EM) cases handled by the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) in the past 5 years. How many of these cases involved sexual abuse? Is the proportion significantly lower compared to that among ethnic Chinese individuals?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 76)

Reply:

Among cases of domestic violence (including spouse/cohabitant battering and child abuse) handled by FCPSUs of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in the past 5 years, the number of cases involving EM victims is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of cases [Note]
2020	137
2021	147
2022	152
2023	138
2024	137

[Note] Including cases involving individuals of Indonesian, Filipino, Indian, Pakistani, Nepali and Thai ethnicities. In this statistic, each case involves at least 1 EM individual.

SWD does not have a breakdown of the number of above cases that involved sexual violence.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)275

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3549)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide statistics on the use of translation and interpretation services by the Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) and the Social Security Field Units (SSFUs) of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for each of the past 5 years. How many cases involving ethnic minorities (EM) required translation and interpretation services, and what percentage do they represent in the total number of EM cases?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 77)

Reply:

Statistics on the use of translation and interpretation services by IFSCs and SSFUs of SWD in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	IFSC	SSFU	Total
2020-21	135	15	150
2021-22	113	28	141
2022-23	26	10	36
2023-24	40	5	45
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	22	3	25

SWD does not have information on the percentage of cases that required translation and interpretation services out of the total number of cases handled by IFSCs and SSFUs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3550)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please advise the amount of resources the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has earmarked for interpretation and translation services for each of the next 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 78)

Reply:

When providing services for ethnic minorities (EMs), SWD and subvented non-governmental organisations (NGOs) may arrange interpretation services as appropriate through various means. For example, the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (CHEER), operated by the Hong Kong Christian Service, provides translation and interpretation services with funding from the Home Affairs Department. If necessary, NGOs can flexibly deploy the funding provided by SWD to arrange/provide interpretation services to meet service needs and ensure service quality.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3551)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Outreaching Teams for Ethnic Minorities (OTEMs), please provide the staffing establishment of OTEMs, as well as the number of cases handled, the number of groups and programmes organised, the number of needy ethnic minority (EM) families contacted, and the number of families referred to mainstream services in the last financial year.

Further to the above, what are the number, format and number of hours of cultural sensitivity training provided by OTEMs for providers of mainstream services? What are the ranks and number of staff members who have received the training?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 79)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides subvention to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for setting up 3 OTEMs on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and the New Territories. The key service statistics of OTEMs in 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024) are tabulated as follows:

Service item	Statistics
Number of new/reactivated cases handled	411
Number of groups and programmes organised	427
Number of EMs newly contacted	1 447
Number of referrals to mainstream welfare services/mainstream services made	798
Number of training sessions (including cultural sensitivity training) organised for providers of mainstream services/welfare services [Note]	35

[Note] OTEMs have organised EM-related training courses, including seminars and workshops, for welfare service units to enhance their understanding of the culture and service needs of EMs and related service information. SWD does not have information on the number of training hours provided by OTEMs, or the ranks and number of staff members who received the training.

Subject to compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements, NGOs operating subvented welfare services may determine their staffing establishment in accordance with their own human resources policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the required service outputs and outcomes. SWD does not have information on the actual number of staff in OTEMs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3552)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Has the Social Welfare Department (SWD) earmarked funds for providing mainstream services to ethnic minorities (EMs), such as hiring EM staff, procuring interpretation and translation services and providing training for frontline workers, etc.? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure for the next 3 financial years? What support measures will be provided?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 80)

Reply:

SWD launched the EM District Ambassador pilot scheme (EMDA pilot scheme) in October 2020 in 9 districts with a higher EM population. Additional resources were allocated for some service units of SWD or subvented non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to enhance welfare support services for EM communities by employing 46 EMs or designated persons as EMDAs. The Government has extended the EMDA pilot scheme for 3 years to 2026. SWD will keep reviewing the implementation of the EMDA pilot scheme and examine the way forward for the services. In addition, SWD has all along been organising EM-related training courses for staff of different grades and ranks from both SWD and NGOs. These courses aim to enhance participants' knowledge and sensitivity towards the culture, lifestyle, and service needs of EMs, thus enabling them to conduct comprehensive assessments and provide appropriate services tailored to the needs of EMs.

When providing services for EMs, SWD and subvented NGOs may arrange interpretation services as appropriate through various means. For example, the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (CHEER), operated by the Hong Kong Christian Service, provides translation and interpretation services with funding from the Home Affairs Department. If necessary, NGOs can flexibly deploy the funding provided by SWD to arrange/provide interpretation services, so as to meet service needs and ensure service quality.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3553)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

There are 5 Parents/Relatives Resource Centres (PRCs) with specialised ethnic minorities (EM) units. How does the staffing establishment (SE) for these PRCs differ from those without specialised EM units? Moreover, how many EM families have these PRCs contacted, and how many groups and activities do they organise on an annual basis?

Further to the question above, what is the proportion of EM families, groups and activities in relation to the overall numbers of specialised EM units?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 81)

Reply:

Regarding PRCs with specialised EM units, additional social workers and support staff are included in their SE. Details are provided in Table 1 of Annex. The number of registered EM family members and the number of EM groups and activities organised in 2023-24, along with their respective proportions to the overall figures, are set out in Tables 2 and 3 of Annex, respectively.

Annex

Table 1: SE 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 The Social Welfare Department calculates the amount of subventions based on the SE. Subject to compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements, service operators may flexibly deploy resources and arrange suitable staffing.

Table 2: Number of registered members [Note] and the ratio of EM family members to the overall number of family members in PRCs with specialised EM units in 2023-24

Overall number of family members	Number of EM family members	Ratio of EM family members to the overall number
4 528	403	9%

Note Including persons with disabilities and their parents/relatives or carers.

Table 3: Number of groups and activities and the ratio of EM groups and activities to the overall number of groups and activities in PRCs with specialised EM units in 2023-24

Overall number of groups and activities	Number of EM groups and activities	Ratio of EM groups and activities to the overall number
2 602	433	17%

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3554)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of day respite service places provided by day care centres/units for the elderly (DEs/DCUs) and the utilisation rate of day respite services of each DE/DCU in the past 5 years (with a breakdown by District Council (DC) district), as well as the method for calculating the utilisation rates.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 82)

Reply:

The number of designated day respite service places provided by DEs/DCUs by DC district and their overall utilisation rates from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are set out at Annexes 1 and 2, respectively. The Social Welfare Department does not maintain the utilisation rates for individual service units.

The utilisation rate of day respite services for the elderly is calculated based on the total attendance of service users, the total number of working days provided by DEs/DCUs, and the total number of service places.

Annex 1

Number of designated day respite service places provided by DEs/DCUs by district

District	No. of service places				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Central & Western	13	13	13	11	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	41	41	41
Wong Tai Sin	14	14	14	15	15
Sai Kung	13	13	16	16	16
Kowloon City	-	-	-	-	5
Sham Shui Po	26	26	29	34	34
Yau Tsim Mong	5	5	5	3	3
Sha Tin	20	25	28	36	36
Tai Po	2	12	12	12	12
North	-	5	10	16	16
Yuen Long	13	13	13	13	13
Tsuen Wan	18	18	18	18	18
Kwai Tsing	15	15	15	19	19
Tuen Mun	23	23	28	29	29
Total	**208**	**228**	**252**	**273**	**278**

Annex 2

Overall utilisation rate of day respite services of DEs/DCUs

Year	Utilisation rate
2020-21	18.10% [Note]
2021-22	27.09% [Note]
2022-23	29.87% [Note]
2023-24	54.83%
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	51.99%

[Note] Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some elderly persons/carers avoided going out or participating in group activities. As a result, the utilisation rate of day respite services was lower during the respective financial years.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)281

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3555)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of waitlisted persons, average waiting time and average monthly cost per case for day care centres/units for the elderly (DEs/DCUs) in the past 5 years.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
No. of waitlisted persons					
Average waiting time					
Average monthly cost per case					

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 83)

Reply:

The number of persons waitlisted for DEs/DCUs and the average waiting time from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows:

Year [Note 1]	No. of waitlisted persons [Note 2]	Average waiting time (in months) (average of the past 3 months)
2019-20	4 519	11
2020-21	3 410	13
2021-22	2 371	8
2022-23	1 581	4
2023-24	1 934	4

Note 1 The figures represent the number of waitlisted persons and the average waiting time as at the end of March for the respective year.

Note 2 The number of waitlisted persons excludes elderly persons classified as inactive cases because of their participation in the Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly.

The average monthly cost per service place for DEs/DCUs from 2019-20 to 2023-24 is as follows:

Year	Average monthly cost per service place ($)
2019-20 (Actual)	10,721
2020-21 (Actual)	12,260
2021-22 (Actual)	12,083
2022-23 (Actual)	12,346
2023-24 (Actual)	12,965

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)282

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3556)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the respective numbers of service teams, service places per team and persons waitlisted for Integrated Home Care Services (Frail Cases) [IHCS(FC)] and Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) in various districts in the past 5 financial years, broken down by District Council (DC) district.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 84)

Reply:

IHCS(FC) and EHCCS provide home care services to frail elderly persons. The Social Welfare Department currently processes the allocation of these 2 services together.

The requested information is set out at Annexes 1 to 3.

Annex 1

List of IHCS(FC) operators and number of service places by district

District	Name of service operator	No. of service places	
		2020-21	2021-22 to 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Central & Western	St. James' Settlement	30	45
	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	20	30
	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	20	35
Islands	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	25	25
	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	20	20
Wan Chai	St. James' Settlement	35	45
	Methodist Centre	30	50
Eastern	Hong Kong Society for the Aged (The)	65	100
	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	40	60
	Methodist Epworth Village Community Centre, Social Welfare	40	70
	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	35	60
	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	40	70
Southern	Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre	75	105
	Caritas – Hong Kong	55	85
Wong Tai Sin	Association for Engineering and Medical Volunteer Services	45	70
	Caritas – Hong Kong	40	70
	Christian Family Service Centre	40	70
	Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (The)	40	70
	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	50	70
	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service	45	70
Sai Kung	Caritas – Hong Kong	40	70
	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	40	70
	Salvation Army (The)	25	35
Kwun Tong	Christian Family Service Centre	110	165
	Hong Kong Christian Service	65	120
	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	90	145
	Salvation Army (The)	90	145
Yau Tsim Mong	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service	30	45
	Salvation Army (The)	35	45
	Mongkok Kai-Fong Association Limited (The)	15	20
Kowloon City	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	20	35
	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	35	60
	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	35	60
Sham Shui Po	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	20	30
	Hong Kong Christian Service	20	20
	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	15	20
	Caritas – Hong Kong	20	25
	Sik Sik Yuen	30	50
	Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (The)	15	25
	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	30	40
Sha Tin	Caritas – Hong Kong	50	80
	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong	50	85
	Hong Kong Children & Youth Services	70	105
	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	60	80

District	Name of service operator	No. of service places	
		2020-21	2021-22 to 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Tai Po	Hong Kong Children & Youth Services	30	50
	Salvation Army (The)	30	50
	United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service	40	70
North	Caritas – Hong Kong	35	60
	Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited	40	70
	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	35	60
Yuen Long	Caritas – Hong Kong	35	40
	Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (The)	25	35
	Pok Oi Hospital	40	60
	Yan Oi Tong	35	40
Tsuen Wan	Hong Kong Society for the Aged (The)	50	90
	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	70	110
Kwai Tsing	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	100	145
	Hong Kong Society for the Aged (The)	70	120
	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	70	120
Tuen Mun	Yan Oi Tong	60	105
	Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (The)	55	100
	Total	**2 620**	**4 120**

Annex 2

List of EHCCS operators and number of service places by district from 2020-21 to 2024-25 (end-December 2024)

District	Name of service operator	No. of service places
Central & Western	St. James' Settlement	242
Wan Chai	St. James' Settlement	226
Eastern	St. James' Settlement	192
	Methodist Centre	235
	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	250
Southern	Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre	200
Islands	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	105
Yau Tsim Mong	Po Leung Kuk	210
	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	129
Kowloon City	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	554
Sham Shui Po	Caritas – Hong Kong	325
	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	190
	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	132
Wong Tai Sin	Christian Family Service Centre	505
	Haven of Hope Christian Service	668
Sai Kung	Haven of Hope Christian Service	552
Kwun Tong	Christian Family Service Centre	430
	Haven of Hope Christian Service	245
	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	535
Sha Tin	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong	520
	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	275
Tai Po	The Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service	175
North	Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association	190
Yuen Long	Po Leung Kuk	101
	Yan Oi Tong	225
Tuen Mun	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong	200
	Po Leung Kuk	201
Tsuen Wan	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	280
	Po Leung Kuk	183
Kwai Tsing	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	450
	Po Leung Kuk	520
	Total	**9 245**

Annex 3

Number of persons waitlisted [Note 2] for Home Care Services for Frail Elderly Persons [Note 1]

Year / District	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Central & Western	143	141	161	211	252
Eastern	440	373	455	538	806
Wan Chai	95	101	114	140	235
Southern	192	181	232	382	467
Islands	21	68	97	130	155
Kwun Tong	514	431	503	647	917
Wong Tai Sin	343	280	274	328	436
Sai Kung	203	116	168	314	438
Kowloon City	189	118	134	239	271
Sham Shui Po	211	180	210	242	300
Yau Tsim Mong	127	117	93	139	176
Sha Tin	320	489	487	767	852
Tai Po	173	188	238	337	336
North	243	129	98	178	237
Yuen Long	84	163	189	287	317
Tsuen Wan	147	152	233	329	353
Kwai Tsing	468	458	337	524	579
Tuen Mun	330	295	318	312	415
Total	**4 243**	**3 980**	**4 341**	**6 044**	**7 542**

Note 1 Including IHCS(FC) and EHCCS.

Note 2 Figures are as at the end of the respective financial years (unless otherwise specified).

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)283

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3557)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What was the average monthly cost per case for Integrated Home Care Services (Frail Cases) [IHCS(FC)] in each of the past 5 financial years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 85)

Reply:

IHCS teams were previously responsible for providing IHCS(FC), IHCS (Ordinary Cases) and Home Care and Support Services for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment. The cost of these 3 services were aggregated prior to 2023-24 by the Social Welfare Department (SWD). The relevant information is set out in Table 1 of Annex. Starting from 2023-24, SWD conducted a separate analysis of Home Care Service (HCS) for Frail Elderly Persons [including IHCS(FC) and Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS)] to gain a clearer understanding of the service situation. Relevant information is set out in Table 2 of Annex.

Annex

Table 1: Average monthly cost for IHCS from 2020-21 to 2022-23

Year	Cost ($)
2020-21	2,735
2021-22	3,133
2022-23	2,931

Table 2: Average monthly cost for HCS for Frail Elderly Persons [Note] from 2023-24 to 2024-25

Year	Cost ($)
2023-24	10,154
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	10,391

[Note] Including IHCS(FC) and EHCCS.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3558)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What was the average monthly cost per case for Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) in each of the past 5 financial years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 86)

Reply:

EHCCS provides home care services for frail elderly persons. Its average monthly cost is set out at Annex.

Annex

Table 1: Average monthly cost for EHCCS from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	**Cost ($)**
2020-21	8,337
2021-22	9,398
2022-23	9,597
2023-24 [Note]	10,154
2024-25 (Revised estimate) [Note]	10,391

[Note] Both EHCCS and Integrated Home Care Services (Frail Cases) provide home care services for frail elderly persons. Starting from 2023-24, the cost of these 2 services was aggregated.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)285

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3559)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Starting from October 2020, the Government has been providing supervisory manpower resources for allied health professionals (including occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech therapists, etc.) for the Integrated Home Care Services (Frail Cases) and Enhanced Home and Community Care Services. In this connection, please provide:

i. the ratio of supervisory staff to allied health professionals; and

ii. the amount of resources allocated for the past 5 financial years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 87)

Reply:

i. & ii. Since December 2019, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has increased the recurrent allocation to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating subvented welfare services by about $104 million for the creation of about 94 positions equivalent to the ranks of senior occupational therapists and senior physiotherapists, in order to provide professional supervision and support for frontline therapists. The increased allocation has now been included in NGOs' recurrent subvention. Under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreement and the relevant statutory requirements, NGOs may flexibly deploy their manpower in accordance with their operational needs and human resources policies. SWD does not have information on the ratio of supervisory staff to allied health professionals in NGOs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3560)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Supplementary information sheets (SISs) for Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) (Ordinary Cases) [IHCS(OC)] have been introduced since 2015 to assist IHCS teams in processing applications according to consistent standards. Would the Government please provide:

i. the number of cases where individuals were assessed by IHCS teams using the SISs in each quarter of the past 5 years;

ii. the respective numbers of applicants who were provided with immediate services, registered on the waiting list, and turned down in each quarter of the past 3 years;

iii. the respective numbers of cases where elderly persons, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and individuals and families with social needs were provided with services in each quarter of the past 5 years;

iv. the respective numbers of service places, service users and persons waitlisted for IHCS(OC) in each quarter of the past 5 years, with a breakdown by District Council district;

v. the numbers of persons waitlisted for various types of primary services in each quarter of the past 5 years;

vi. the numbers of persons using the meal service, the household cleaning service, and both services under IHCS(OC) in the past 5 years; and

vii. the average monthly cost per case for IHCS(OC) in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 88)

Reply:

The requested information is set out at Annexes 1 to 9. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the number of persons using household cleaning services under IHCS(OC) and Home Support Services (HSS).

Annex 1

Number of cases assessed by IHCS teams using the SISs [Note]

Quarter	No.
April to June 2020	3 004
July to September 2020	2 954
October to December 2020	3 303
January to March 2021	3 435
April to June 2021	3 756
July to September 2021	3 867
October to December 2021	3 724
January to March 2022	2 366
April to June 2022	3 683
July to September 2022	3 991
October to December 2022	3 975
January to March 2023	4 243
April to June 2023	4 041
July to September 2023	4 153
October to December 2023	3 980
January to March 2024	4 020
April to June 2024	4 406
July to September 2024	3 997

Note Since October 2024, SISs have been replaced by a simplified and standardised assessment tool, "interRAI™ Check-up".

Annex 2

Number of applicants for IHCS(OC) [Note]

Quarter	Provided with immediate services	Registered on the waiting list	Application turned down	Application withdrawn by applicant	Total
April to June 2020	907	1 370	116	611	**3 004**
July to September 2020	823	1 429	142	560	**2 954**
October to December 2020	902	1 630	160	611	**3 303**
January to March 2021	952	1 655	163	665	**3 435**
April to June 2021	1 025	1 967	86	678	**3 756**
July to September 2021	1 060	1 983	100	724	**3 867**
October to December 2021	975	1 924	117	708	**3 724**
January to March 2022	514	1 342	64	446	**2 366**
April to June 2022	906	1 841	51	885	**3 683**
July to September 2022	903	2 222	64	802	**3 991**
October to December 2022	756	2 192	134	893	**3 975**
January to March 2023	662	2 416	57	871	**4 006**
April to June 2023	678	2 193	62	924	**3 857**
July to September 2023	777	2 190	94	908	**3 969**
October to December 2023	614	2 229	80	850	**3 773**
January to March 2024	732	2 252	89	947	**4 020**
April to June 2024	683	2 655	74	994	**4 406**
July to September 2024	792	2 271	106	828	**3 997**

Note SWD updated the service arrangements in October 2024. The applicant categorisation mentioned in the question is therefore no longer applicable.

Annex 3

Numbers of cases [Note 1] under IHCS(OC) and HSS

Service	Quarter	Elderly persons	PWDs	Individuals and families with social needs
IHCS(OC) [Note 2]	April to June 2020	15 815	990	244
	July to September 2020	15 846	979	228
	October to December 2020	15 593	962	224
	January to March 2021	15 680	959	236
	April to June 2021	15 514	954	240
	July to September 2021	15 678	933	240
	October to December 2021	15 748	919	224
	January to March 2022	15 628	888	236
	April to June 2022	15 368	839	227
	July to September 2022	15 391	827	233
	October to December 2022	15 187	828	242
	January to March 2023	14 775	818	238
	April to June 2023	14 203	826	220
	July to September 2023	14 006	817	215
	October to December 2023	13 903	832	205
	January to March 2024	13 911	808	195
	April to June 2024	13 751	789	198
	July to September 2024	13 736	757	191
HSS [Note 3]	October to December 2024	19 731	777	192

Note 1 Figures are as at the end of the respective quarters.

Note 2 SWD merged IHCS(OC) and Home Care and Support Services for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment (HSMI) into HSS in October 2024. The figures represent the data before service integration.

Note 3 The figures represent the data after the service integration mentioned in Note 2.

Annex 4

Numbers of service places [Note 1] under IHCS(OC) and HSS

District	IHCS(OC)					HSS
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-September 2024) [Note 2]	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024) [Note 3]
Central & Western	507	509	485	463	457	397
Eastern	1 438	1 446	1 332	1 337	1 323	1 298
Wan Chai	367	375	356	353	364	488
Southern	914	909	900	823	820	598
Islands	297	299	252	238	241	288
Kwun Tong	1 703	1 714	1 660	1 723	1 804	1 974
Wong Tai Sin	1 330	1 330	1 312	1 367	1 343	1 585
Sai Kung	412	368	351	413	370	528
Kowloon City	1 180	1 164	1 130	950	953	913
Yau Tsim Mong	867	815	829	763	751	743
Sham Shui Po	1 494	1 520	1 433	1 469	1 430	1 271
Sha Tin	1 235	1 285	1 155	1 039	1 027	1 316
Tai Po	543	505	440	413	455	642
North	1 085	1 002	916	613	484	555
Yuen Long	1 031	1 026	947	836	780	811
Tuen Mun	974	934	854	598	571	1 051
Tsuen Wan	412	413	393	430	412	308
Kwai Tsing	1 086	1 138	1 086	1 086	1 099	796
Total	**16 875**	**16 752**	**15 831**	**14 914**	**14 684**	**15 562**

Note 1 Figures are as at the end of the respective financial years (unless otherwise specified).

Note 2 SWD merged IHCS(OC) and HSMI into HSS in October 2024. The figures represent the data before service integration.

Note 3 The figures represent the data after the service integration mentioned in Note 2.

Annex 5

Cumulative numbers of service users [Note 1] under IHCS(OC) and HSS

District	IHCS(OC)					HSS
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-September 2024) [Note 2]	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024) [Note 3]
Central & Western	682	696	646	645	551	544
Eastern	1 956	1 994	1 857	1 833	1 603	1 684
Wan Chai	481	481	491	500	415	454
Southern	1 242	1 272	1 271	1 220	1 011	1 073
Islands	384	394	380	374	309	355
Kwun Tong	2 261	2 302	2 327	2 308	2 072	2 898
Wong Tai Sin	1 719	1 755	1 762	1 802	1 597	2 305
Sai Kung	538	525	504	535	441	735
Kowloon City	1 509	1 571	1 470	1 332	1 071	1 151
Yau Tsim Mong	1 148	1 141	1 132	1 078	922	980
Sham Shui Po	1 945	2 044	1 995	1 924	1 722	2 002
Sha Tin	1 674	1 719	1 787	1 533	1 218	1 846
Tai Po	765	707	667	570	535	820
North	1 453	1 407	1 240	1 036	700	1 000
Yuen Long	1 369	1 415	1 297	1 180	944	1 278
Tuen Mun	1 276	1 249	1 097	930	645	1 311
Tsuen Wan	589	631	593	624	546	513
Kwai Tsing	1 617	1 742	1 698	1 670	1 362	1 486
Total	**22 608**	**23 045**	**22 214**	**21 094**	**17 664**	**22 435**

Note 1 Figures are as at the end of the respective financial years (unless otherwise specified).

Note 2 SWD merged IHCS(OC) and HSMI into HSS in October 2024. The figures represent the data before service integration.

Note 3 The figures represent the data after the service integration mentioned in Note 2.

Annex 6

Numbers of persons waitlisted [Note 1] for IHCS(OC) and HSS

District	IHCS(OC)					HSS
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-September 2024)** [Note 2]	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)** [Note 3]
Central & Western	30	118	103	150	165	217
Eastern	172	271	239	174	286	327
Wan Chai	128	129	65	31	16	30
Southern	140	115	142	206	246	260
Islands	89	52	74	21	21	10
Kwun Tong	869	931	693	653	651	695
Wong Tai Sin	693	677	596	505	438	481
Sai Kung	155	171	191	219	285	306
Kowloon City	99	112	138	258	252	309
Yau Tsim Mong	94	39	17	4	13	8
Sham Shui Po	325	363	287	305	309	317
Sha Tin	582	600	555	804	900	768
Tai Po	181	246	183	296	208	268
North	114	96	38	83	108	154
Yuen Long	157	211	229	205	284	283
Tuen Mun	394	443	411	297	569	612
Tsuen Wan	8	7	3	-	3	26
Kwai Tsing	57	40	60	-	3	181
Total	**4 287**	**4 621**	**4 024**	**4 211**	**4 757**	**5 252**

Note 1 Figures are as at the end of the respective financial years (unless otherwise specified).

Note 2 SWD merged IHCS(OC) and HSMI into HSS in October 2024. The figures represent the data before service integration.

Note 3 The figures represent the data after the service integration mentioned in Note 2.

Annex 7

Number of persons waitlisted [Note 1] for various types of primary services under IHCS(OC)

Quarter [Note 2]	Service				
	General household or domestic duties	Meal service	Escort	Personal care	Purchase and delivery of daily necessities
April to June 2020	1 280	1 854	1 258	171	63
July to September 2020	1 482	2 179	1 369	209	86
October to December 2020	2 537	1 584	1 522	236	96
January to March 2021	1 605	2 418	1 557	248	101
April to June 2021	1 528	2 441	1 522	205	93
July to September 2021	1 515	2 370	1 522	195	104
October to December 2021	2 514	1 551	1 749	197	119
January to March 2022	1 482	2 558	1 750	236	108
April to June 2022	1 242	2 178	1 624	207	124
July to September 2022	1 427	2 528	1 835	216	135
October to December 2022	1 479	2 532	1 908	195	113
January to March 2023	1 386	2 230	1 764	214	123
April to June 2023	1 428	2 131	1 744	219	116
July to September 2023	1 523	2 193	1 844	215	117
October to December 2023	1 497	2 153	1 773	201	109
January to March 2024	1 518	2 210	1 815	196	108
April to June 2024	1 676	2 417	1 937	202	96
July to September 2024	1 709	2 512	2 051	186	98

Note 1 Service users may be waitlisted for more than 1 service according to their needs. In addition, SWD updated the service arrangements in October 2024. The applicant categorisation mentioned in the question is therefore no longer applicable.

Note 2 Figures are as at the end of the respective quarters.

Annex 8

Numbers of persons using the meal service under IHCS(OC) and HSS [Note 1]

Service	Year	No. of persons
IHCS(OC)	2020-21	9 213
	2021-22	8 371
	2022-23	8 485
	2023-24	8 010
	2024-25 (as at end-September 2024) [Note 2]	8 369
HSS	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024) [Note 3]	12 095

Note 1 Figures are as at the end of the respective financial years (unless otherwise specified).

Note 2 SWD merged IHCS(OC) and HSMI into HSS in October 2024. The figure represents the data before service integration.

Note 3 The figure represents the data after the service integration mentioned in Note 2.

Annex 9

Table 1: Average monthly cost [Note] for IHCS from 2020-21 to 2022-23

Year	Cost ($)
2020-21	2,735
2021-22	3,133
2022-23	2,931
2023-24	3,326

Note Including the costs for IHCS (Frail Cases), IHCS(OC) and HSMI.

Table 2: Average monthly cost for HSS [Note] in 2024-25

Year	Cost ($)
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	4,618

Note SWD merged IHCS(OC) and HSMI into HSS in October 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3561)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of elderly persons waitlisted for Integrated Home Care Services (Frail Cases) [IHCS(FC)] and their waiting time, as well as the latest application dates with turn for placement offer in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by administrative district of the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 89)

Reply:

IHCS(FC) and Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) provide home care services to frail elderly persons. SWD currently processes the allocation of these 2 services together.

The number of elderly persons waitlisted for the services by 18 District Council districts from 2020-21 to 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024) is set out at Annex 1. The average waiting time is set out at Annex 2.

SWD does not maintain the latest application dates with turn for placement offer.

Annex 1

Number of persons [Note 2] waitlisted for Home Care Services (HCS) for Frail Elderly Persons [Note 1]

District \ Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Central & Western	143	141	161	211	252
Eastern	440	373	455	538	806
Wan Chai	95	101	114	140	235
Southern	192	181	232	382	467
Islands	21	68	97	130	155
Kwun Tong	514	431	503	647	917
Wong Tai Sin	343	280	274	328	436
Sai Kung	203	116	168	314	438
Kowloon City	189	118	134	239	271
Sham Shui Po	211	180	210	242	300
Yau Tsim Mong	127	117	93	139	176
Sha Tin	320	489	487	767	852
Tai Po	173	188	238	337	336
North	243	129	98	178	237
Yuen Long	84	163	189	287	317
Tsuen Wan	147	152	233	329	353
Kwai Tsing	468	458	337	524	579
Tuen Mun	330	295	318	312	415
Total	**4 243**	**3 980**	**4 341**	**6 044**	**7 542**

Note 1 Including IHCS(FC) and EHCCS.

Note 2 Figures are as at the end of the respective financial years (unless otherwise specified).

Annex 2

HCS for Frail Elderly Persons [Note 1]

Year	**Average waiting time [Note 2] (in months) (average of the past 3 months)**
2020-21	9
2021-22	6
2022-23	6
2023-24	8
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	11

Note 1 Including IHCS(FC) and EHCCS.

Note 2 Figures are as at the end of the respective financial years (unless otherwise specified).

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)288

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3562)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of elderly persons waitlisted for Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) and their waiting time, as well as the latest application dates with turn for placement offer in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by administrative district of the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 90)

Reply:

Integrated Home Care Services (Frail Cases) [IHCS(FC)] and EHCCS provide home care services to frail elderly persons. SWD currently processes the allocation of these 2 services together.

The number of elderly persons waitlisted for the services by 18 District Council districts from 2020-21 to 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024) is set out at Annex 1. The average waiting time is set out at Annex 2.

SWD does not maintain the latest application dates with turn for placement offer.

Annex 1

Number of persons [Note 2] waitlisted for Home Care Services (HCS) for Frail Elderly Persons [Note 1]

District \ Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Central & Western	143	141	161	211	252
Eastern	440	373	455	538	806
Wan Chai	95	101	114	140	235
Southern	192	181	232	382	467
Islands	21	68	97	130	155
Kwun Tong	514	431	503	647	917
Wong Tai Sin	343	280	274	328	436
Sai Kung	203	116	168	314	438
Kowloon City	189	118	134	239	271
Sham Shui Po	211	180	210	242	300
Yau Tsim Mong	127	117	93	139	176
Sha Tin	320	489	487	767	852
Tai Po	173	188	238	337	336
North	243	129	98	178	237
Yuen Long	84	163	189	287	317
Tsuen Wan	147	152	233	329	353
Kwai Tsing	468	458	337	524	579
Tuen Mun	330	295	318	312	415
Total	**4 243**	**3 980**	**4 341**	**6 044**	**7 542**

Note 1 Including IHCS(FC) and EHCCS.

Note 2 Figures are as at the end of the respective financial years (unless otherwise specified).

Annex 2

HCS for Frail Elderly Persons [Note 1]

Year	**Average waiting time [Note 2] (in months) (average of the past 3 months)**
2020-21	9
2021-22	6
2022-23	6
2023-24	8
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	11

Note 1 Including IHCS(FC) and EHCCS.

Note 2 Figures are as at the end of the respective financial years (unless otherwise specified).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3563)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of elderly persons waitlisted for day care centres/units for the elderly (DEs/DCUs) and their waiting time, as well as the latest application dates with turn for placement offer, with a breakdown by administrative district of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 91)

Reply:

SWD records the number of elderly persons waitlisted for DEs/DCUs based on the 18 District Council (DC) districts. Relevant information for the period from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is set out at Annex 1.

The average waiting time for DEs/DCUs during the period from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is set out at Annex 2.

SWD does not compile the above statistics by its administrative districts, nor does it maintain information on the latest application dates with turn for placement offer, broken down by DC district or its administrative districts.

Annex 1

Number of persons waitlisted for DEs/DCUs [Note]

District	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Central & Western	95	63	39	36	39
Eastern	539	301	247	244	304
Wan Chai	45	22	26	28	61
Southern	195	143	138	159	183
Islands	25	19	23	24	29
Kwun Tong	179	169	90	109	121
Wong Tai Sin	352	324	179	142	187
Sai Kung	226	127	119	105	137
Kowloon City	172	106	87	115	65
Sham Shui Po	115	83	43	50	43
Yau Tsim Mong	150	82	39	61	48
Sha Tin	622	399	212	370	269
Tai Po	131	96	17	21	50
North	164	99	36	59	50
Yuen Long	44	54	101	146	165
Tsuen Wan	96	73	55	82	87
Kwai Tsing	69	77	35	66	68
Tuen Mun	191	134	95	117	146
Total	**3 410**	**2 371**	**1 581**	**1 934**	**2 052**

Note The number of waitlisted persons excludes elderly persons classified as inactive cases because of their participation in the Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly. The figures represent the number of persons waitlisted for services as at the end of March for the respective year, except for 2024-25.

Annex 2

Average waiting time for DEs/DCUs

Year	**Average waiting time (in months)** [Note] **(average of the past 3 months)**
2020-21	13
2021-22	8
2022-23	4
2023-24	4
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	4

Note The figure represents the average waiting time as at the end of March for the respective year, except for 2024-25.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)290

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3564)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) for the Elderly (Pilot Scheme on CCSV), please indicate in the table below the number of CCSV holders, the number of persons who withdrew and the financial expenditure involved, with a breakdown by district:

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
No. of eligible applicants				
No. of participants				
No. of CCSV recipients				
No. of CCSV holders				
Amount of annual expenditure involved				
No. of persons who have used their CCSVs				
No. of persons who have not used their CCSVs				

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 92)

Reply:

The third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV ended in August 2023. Relevant information is set out at Annex. The Social Welfare Department does not have statistics on the number of persons who withdrew from the Pilot Scheme, the amount of CCSV subsidy and the number of CCSV holders who have yet to use their CCSVs by district.

Annex

Table 1: Cumulative number of eligible participants under the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV by district

District	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 [Note]
Eastern	1 425	2 034	2 335
Wan Chai	123	197	236
Central & Western	263	377	433
Southern	402	624	755
Islands	70	138	164
Kwun Tong	1 598	2 030	2 276
Wong Tai Sin	1 369	1 740	1 970
Sai Kung	653	881	995
Sham Shui Po	515	725	838
Kowloon City	629	800	923
Yau Tsim Mong	403	517	579
Sha Tin	1 524	1 968	2 236
Tai Po	655	819	912
North	485	592	651
Kwai Tsing	1 256	1 598	1 775
Tsuen Wan	535	705	821
Tuen Mun	874	1 233	1 397
Yuen Long	369	545	627
Total	**13 148**	**17 523**	**19 923**

Note Figures are as at the end of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV in August 2023.

Table 2: Cumulative number of CCSV recipients under the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV by district

District	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 [Note]
Eastern	1 413	2 012	2 322
Wan Chai	121	197	234
Central & Western	256	373	431
Southern	397	618	751
Islands	70	136	164
Kwun Tong	1 579	2 018	2 266
Wong Tai Sin	1 349	1 728	1 960
Sai Kung	650	871	989
Sham Shui Po	512	718	833
Kowloon City	620	799	918
Yau Tsim Mong	396	515	579
Sha Tin	1 502	1 955	2 221
Tai Po	651	813	909
North	480	591	645
Kwai Tsing	1 245	1 591	1 770
Tsuen Wan	532	699	818
Tuen Mun	866	1 220	1 389
Yuen Long	359	540	621
Total	**12 998**	**17 394**	**19 820**

Note Figures are as at the end of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV in August 2023.

Table 3: Number of CCSV holders [Note 1] under the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV by district

District	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 [Note 2]
Eastern	973	1 245	1 365
Wan Chai	76	126	141
Central & Western	193	242	264
Southern	265	383	457
Islands	47	78	91
Kwun Tong	1 064	1 156	1 270
Wong Tai Sin	903	952	1 047
Sai Kung	447	528	586
Sham Shui Po	319	419	467
Kowloon City	426	462	510
Yau Tsim Mong	281	295	314
Sha Tin	1 028	1 092	1 213
Tai Po	447	454	504
North	316	321	322
Kwai Tsing	882	978	1 046
Tsuen Wan	370	394	464
Tuen Mun	589	756	822
Yuen Long	229	303	345
Total	**8 855**	**10 184**	**11 228**

Note 1 Figures are as at the end of the respective financial years (unless otherwise specified).

Note 2 Figures are as at the end of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV in August 2023.

Table 4: Number of CCSV users [Note 1] under the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV by district

District [Note 2]	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 [Note 3]
Eastern	487	551	590
Wan Chai	447	602	230
Central & Western	117	157	670
Southern	200	209	234
Islands	22	25	20
Kwun Tong	802	767	786
Wong Tai Sin	651	638	668
Sai Kung	237	279	304
Sham Shui Po	333	331	407
Kowloon City	362	437	511
Yau Tsim Mong	248	379	429
Sha Tin	525	526	568
Tai Po	330	351	382
North	137	115	115
Kwai Tsing	456	489	496
Tsuen Wan	483	515	549
Tuen Mun	337	452	489
Yuen Long	102	110	109
Total	**6 276**	**6 933**	**7 557**

Note 1 Figures are as at the end of the respective financial years (unless otherwise specified).

Note 2 Broken down by district of recognised service provider.

Note 3 Figures are as at the end of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV in August 2023.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)291

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3565)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of community care service voucher (CCSV) holders under the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV for the Elderly (Pilot Scheme on CCSV), broken down by co-payment level (Level 1 to 6) and administrative district.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 93)

Reply:

The requested information is set out at Annex.

Annex

Co-payment levels of users under the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV

District [Note 1]	**No. of users** [Note 2]						
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Total
Eastern	36	344	55	67	11	77	590
Wan Chai	14	121	24	29	1	41	230
Central & Western	65	348	60	63	18	116	670
Southern	26	122	21	25	4	36	234
Islands	7	7	1	1	0	4	20
Kwun Tong	148	403	73	76	15	77	792
Wong Tai Sin	89	356	69	67	14	50	645
Sai Kung	21	153	35	42	8	45	304
Sham Shui Po	82	213	26	41	5	40	407
Kowloon City	77	292	36	58	14	57	534
Yau Tsim Mong	39	244	36	43	4	52	418
Sha Tin	63	332	51	56	11	55	568
Tai Po	51	207	38	35	5	40	376
North	19	67	8	12	2	7	115
Kwai Tsing	112	263	43	45	8	25	496
Tsuen Wan	70	312	59	53	8	58	560
Tuen Mun	93	281	40	42	10	23	489
Yuen Long	21	55	3	9	4	17	109
Total	1 033	4 120	678	764	142	820	7 557

Note 1 Broken down by the location of the recognised service providers.

Note 2 Figures are as at the end of August 2023, when the Pilot Scheme on CCSV concluded.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3566)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What is the current total subvention for residential child care services (RCCS)? What is the allocation for each service operator? Please provide a detailed breakdown of the total allocation for each service operator.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 94)

Reply:

At present, there are 21 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) receiving subvention from the Social Welfare Department (SWD) under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System (LSGSS) to operate RCCS, including foster care services, small group homes, and residential homes for children (i.e. residential child care centres, children's homes, boys'/girls' homes and boys'/girls' hostels). The provisional allocation for each NGO in 2025-26, which involves a total sum of about $1,212 million, is set out at Annex.

Under the LSGSS, subject to their compliance with the requirements of the Funding and Service Agreements and the relevant statutory staffing requirements, NGOs operating subvented welfare services may determine their staffing establishment and remuneration of their staff in accordance with their own human resource policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service outputs and outcomes required. Therefore, SWD does not have a detailed breakdown of the allocation for each service operator.

Annex

NGOs operating subvented RCCS and their provisional allocations in 2025-26

Name of NGO	**Provisional allocation in 2025-26 [Note] ($ million)**
1. Caritas - Hong Kong	41.9
2. Evangelical Free Church of China - Evangel Children's Home	16.7
3. Hong Kong Children and Youth Services	50.4
4. Hong Kong Christian Service	125.3
5. Hong Kong Juvenile Care Centre	23.7
6. Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	91.5
7. Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children	54.5
8. The Hong Kong Student Aid Society Limited	88.8
9. International Social Service Hong Kong Branch	102.1
10. Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, the Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod Limited	39.9
11. Mother's Choice Limited	21.8
12. The Mother Superior of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd of Angers at Hong Kong	28.0
13. Po Leung Kuk	186.5
14. Project Care	13.5
15. Sheng Kung Hui St. Christopher's Home Limited	86.0
16. Society of Boys' Centres	73.6
17. The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	30.3
18. The Salvation Army	30.9
19. The Superioress of the Sisters of the Precious Blood	19.3
20. Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	60.3
21. Yan Chai Hospital	26.7

Note The above allocations do not include agency-based subvention (e.g. subvention for central administration).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3567)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the unit costs (average cost per place per month) of the following service types in the past 5 financial years: residential crèche, residential nursery, children's home, boys'/girls' home, boys'/girls' hostel, children's reception centre, small group home (SGH), and foster care service.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 95)

Reply:

The average cost per place per month for foster care service, SGH, and residential home for children (RHC) (including residential crèche, residential nursery, children's home, boys'/girls' home, boys'/girls' hostel, and children's reception centre) in the past 5 financial years by type of service is tabulated as follows:

Year	**Average cost per place per month ($)**		
	Foster care service	**SGH**	**RHC**
2020-21 (Actual)	18,948	27,263	23,612
2021-22 (Actual)	19,252	27,240	22,819
2022-23 (Actual)	20,578	28,134	23,544
2023-24 (Actual)	22,776	29,737	25,598
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	32,703	31,528	27,325

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3568)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the annual funding amounts and the corresponding funding calculation methods for the following services:

i. Agency-based Enhancement of Professional Staff Support Services in Residential Care Homes (since 2014); and

ii. Agency-based Enhancement of Clinical Psychological Support Services for Children under Foster Care (since 2020).

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 96)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department determines the funding amounts for Agency-based Enhancement of Professional Staff Support Services in Residential Care Homes and Agency-based Enhancement of Clinical Psychological Support Services for Children under Foster Care according to the staffing establishments set out in the relevant Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs) and operational needs. The annual funding for Agency-based Enhancement of Professional Staff Support Services in Residential Care Homes and Agency-based Enhancement of Clinical Psychological Support Services for Children under Foster Care in the past 5 years are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex, respectively.

Under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, non-governmental organisations operating subvented welfare services may, subject to their compliance with the requirements of the FSAs and the relevant statutory staffing requirements (if applicable), determine their staffing establishment and remuneration in accordance with their human resources policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the required service outputs and outcomes.

Annex

Table 1 Annual funding for Agency-based Enhancement of Professional Staff Support Services in Residential Care Homes

Year	Amount ($ million)
2020-21 (Actual)	29.8
2021-22 (Actual)	29.4
2022-23 (Actual)	29.8
2023-24 (Actual)	31.5
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	32.7

Table 2 Annual funding for Agency-based Enhancement of Clinical Psychological Support Services for Children under Foster Care

Year	Amount ($ million)
2020-21 (Actual)	1.9
2021-22 (Actual)	3.7
2022-23 (Actual)	3.8
2023-24 (Actual)	4.1
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	4.3

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)295

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3569)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What was the number of reported cases of suspected/confirmed abuse regarding users of residential child care service (RCCS) received under the Social Welfare Department (SWD)'s mechanism of Special Incident Report over the past 5 financial years? Please set out the numbers of suspected and confirmed cases by identity of the suspected perpetrator.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 97)

Reply:

The number of special incident reports received by SWD from 2020 to 2024 in respect of suspected abuse of RCCS users, the figures on the identity of suspected perpetrators, and the number of confirmed cases are set out as follows:

Year	Identity of suspected perpetrator		Total number of cases
	Staff member/Carer (cases)	Resident (cases)	
2020	-	4 (3 confirmed)	4 (3 confirmed)
2021	13 (8 confirmed)	9 (5 confirmed)	22 (13 confirmed)
2022	16 (3 confirmed)	5 (3 confirmed)	21 (6 confirmed)
2023	14 (10 confirmed)	5 (5 confirmed)	19 (15 confirmed)
2024	7 (5 confirmed)	12 (11 confirmed)	19 (16 confirmed)

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)296

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3570)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What were the numbers of children who withdrew from residential child care services (RCCS) for reasons such as independent living, adoption, family reunion, transfer to other types of care services or other reasons, their average length of stay in days and their average age at which they withdrew from RCCS in the past 5 financial years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 98)

Reply:

Reasons for children to withdraw from RCCS and other information sought for the past 5 years are set out at Annex.

Annex

Reasons for children to withdraw from RCCS, number of children withdrawn, average length of stay in months and average age of withdrawal

Year	2020			2021			2022			2023			2024		
Reason	**Number of children withdrawn**	**Average length of stay (month)** [Note]	**Average age of withdrawal**	**Number of children withdrawn**	**Average length of stay (month)** [Note]	**Average age of withdrawal**	**Number of children withdrawn**	**Average length of stay (month)** [Note]	**Average age of withdrawal**	**Number of children withdrawn**	**Average length of stay (month)** [Note]	**Average age of withdrawal**	**Number of children withdrawn**	**Average length of stay (month)** [Note]	**Average age of withdrawal**
Independent living	20	66.8	19.1	25	83.1	18.4	20	75.8	19.1	61	63.8	19.1	29	42.3	18.9
Adoption	30	22.1	2.7	34	14.7	2.4	32	26.4	3.4	34	30.0	5.1	34	28.2	4.2
Family reunion	692	28.2	12.4	733	29.0	12.6	782	28.8	12.6	654	19.8	12.9	436	30.4	12.0
Transfer to other types of care services	463	25.6	8.9	536	22.2	9.1	459	24.0	9.4	439	26.2	10.1	504	23.3	8.3
Other reasons	64	24.5	14.3	68	30.4	14.2	51	26.1	13.1	74	17.9	12.8	66	25.4	13.8

Note The Social Welfare Department 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.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)297

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3571)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What were the number of places, the number of additional places, the average number of children waitlisted and their average waiting time, the enrolment rate, the average length of stay in days, and the average age of children receiving various types of residential child care services (RCCS) in the past 5 financial years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 99)

Reply:

The numbers of places and additional places of various types of RCCS, the average number of children waitlisted and their average waiting time, the enrolment rate, the average length of stay in days, and the average age of children receiving RCCS for the past 5 financial years are set out at Annex.

Annex

Numbers of places and additional places of various types of RCCS, average number of children waitlisted and their average waiting time, enrolment rate, average length of stay in days, and average age of children receiving RCCS

Item	Year	Ordinary service					Emergency service [Note 1]				
		Foster care service	Residential crèche/nursery	Small group home (SGH)	Children's home	Boys'/Girls' home/ hostel	Foster care (emergency) service	Residential crèche (emergency placement)	Emergency/short-term care in SGH	Children's home (emergency placement)	Children's reception centre
Number of places	2020-21	1 015	192	924	413	1 107	115	20	42	5	95
	2021-22	1 015	192	924	413	1 107	115	20	42	5	95
	2022-23	1 015	192	954	413	1 107	115	20	46	5	95
	2023-24	1 100	192	978	413	1 107	130	20	49	5	95
	2024-25 [Note 2]	1 100	192	978	413	1 125	130	20	48	5	95
Number of additional places	2020-21	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
	2021-22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2022-23	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
	2023-24	85	-	24	-	-	15	-	3	-	-
	2024-25 [Note 2]	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-
Number of children waitlisted (monthly average)	2020-21	249	38	261	33	93	N.A.				
	2021-22	314	48	363	52	124					
	2022-23	289	50	388	90	156					
	2023-24	292	60	335	77	137					
	2024-25 [Note 3]	256	41	309	64	132					
Average waiting time (day)	2020-21	56	233	167	164	44	N.A.				
	2021-22	51	259	140	114	29					
	2022-23	55	266	144	152	43					
	2023-24	62	358	195	187	75					
	2024-25 [Note 3]	53	232	179	111	47					
Enrolment rate [Note 4]	2020-21	82%	92%	92%	86%	72%	N.A.				70%
	2021-22	81%	93%	92%	88%	75%					75%
	2022-23	78%	88%	90%	90%	74%					67%
	2023-24	72%	87%	91%	88%	77%					58%
	2024-25 [Note 3]	72%	85%	92%	91%	79%					51%
Average length of stay (day) [Note 4]	2020-21	1 233	755	885	1 616	670	N.A.				208
	2021-22	948	727	1 025	1 430	636					185
	2022-23	1 062	740	982	1 495	653					217
	2023-24	1 167	787	1 079	1 298	604					213
	2024-25 [Note 3]	998	694	1 023	1 441	585					160
Average age of children receiving RCCS (year) [Note 4]	As at end-December 2020	7.1	2.8	12.4	14.0	15.1	N.A.				3.8
	As at end-December 2021	7.0	3.0	12.3	13.5	15.0					4.4
	As at end-December 2022	7.1	3.0	12.4	13.5	15.0					4.3
	As at end-December 2023	7.2	3.0	12.3	13.6	14.8					5.1
	As at end-December 2024	7.1	2.9	12.4	13.5	14.9					5.7

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 Caseworkers may directly enquire with service units that provide emergency residential services, and arrange for children to be placed as soon as vacancies are available. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have the statistics on the number of children waitlisted and their average waiting time for emergency residential services.

Note 2 Statistics as at 31 December 2024.

Note 3 Statistics from April to December 2024.

Note 4 The figures include both ordinary and emergency services. SWD does not have a breakdown of figures by these 2 types of service.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)298

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3572)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What is the current funding allocation for each organisation that operates kindergarten social work services? What is the total number of service users, and what is the service cost per user?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 100)

Reply:

The Social Work Service for Pre-primary Institutions (SWSPPI) is provided by non-governmental organisations subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) which aims at facilitating early identification of and assistance to pre-primary children and their families with welfare needs. The service currently covers about 120 000 pre-primary children and their families. The revised estimate for 2024-25 was $503 million, with each social work team receiving an annual funding of about $8.3 million. As SWSPPI covers various services and target groups, SWD does not have information on the service cost per user.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3573)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

How many kindergarten (KG) students in Hong Kong are covered by KG social work services? How many KG students remain uncovered? How will the Government ensure that these students and their families receive sufficient protection and support?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 101)

Reply:

The Social Work Service for Pre-primary Institutions (SWSPPI) is provided by non-governmental organisations subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) which aims at facilitating early identification of and assistance to pre-primary children and their families with welfare needs. The service currently covers about 120 000 pre-primary children and their families. According to the information of SWD and the Education Bureau as at February 2025, there were a total of 755 aided pre-primary institutions (including aided child care centres (CCCs), KGs and KG-cum-CCCs) in Hong Kong, and 751 of them have received SWSPPI. SWD does not have information on the number of students in respective KGs.

Individuals or families in need, regardless of whether they have benefited from SWSPPI, may seek assistance and support from the respective integrated family service centres serving their localities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3574)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What is the annual expenditure for the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs)? What is the total number of service users per year, and what is the service cost per user? What are the number of staff members, their lengths of service, and turnover rates across different positions?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 102)

Reply:

The staffing establishment of FCPSUs under the Social Welfare Department (SWD) comprises 14 Senior Social Work Officers, 155 Social Work Officers and 51 Assistant Social Work Officers. The revised estimate of expenditure for FCPSUs for 2024-25 was $325 million. SWD does not have information on the total number of service users, the service cost per user, or the length of service and turnover rate of staff in FCPSUs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3575)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 the 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.: 103)

Reply:

i. & ii. The number of service places and the headcount of service users for each type of service units providing day and residential respite services for PWDs from 2021-22 to 2024-25 are set out in Tables 1 to 4 of Annex 1. As the Social Welfare Department (SWD) only established a data system for relevant respite services in 2021-22, statistics for 2020-21 are not available. SWD does not maintain information such as the shortest, longest and average durations of stay (in days) for day and residential respite services provided for PWDs by various service units. Since service users are not required to apply for day or residential respite services through SWD's central referral system, SWD does not have information on the number of waitlisted persons and their waiting time. Service units will accord priority to service users with pressing needs based on the circumstances of each individual case.

iii., iv. & v. SWD added 71 and 48 service places for day and residential respite services for PWDs, respectively, between 2020-21 and 2024-25. The number of service places and the headcount of service users each year are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 2. The respective headcounts of service users per quarter for residential and day respite services are set out in Tables 1 to 10 of Annex 3. SWD does not maintain statistical information on the districts of residence, genders, ages or per capita costs of respite service users. Besides, SWD has not received any reports of cases where services could not be arranged.

vi. SWD will provide 33 additional places of respite services in 2024-25 and 2025-26. The distribution of the service places is set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 4.

Annex 1

Table 1: Number of service places for each type of day respite services for PWDs from 2021-22 to 2024-25

Type of service unit	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Day activity centre (DAC)	110	110	110	110
District support centre for PWDs (DSC)	40	48	48	48
Care-and-attention home for severely disabled persons (C&A/SD)	14	14	14	14
Private residential care home for PWDs (RCHD) under the Bought Place Scheme (BPS)	-	-	59	59
Total	**164**	**172**	**231**	**231**

Table 2: Number of service places for each type of residential respite services for PWDs from 2021-22 to 2024-25

Type of service unit	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
C&A/SD	29	29	31	33
Hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons (HMMH)	106	109	111	109
Hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons (HSMH)	156	158	166	168
Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons (HSPH)	11	11	13	13
Hostel for severely physically and mentally handicapped persons (HSPH/MH)	2	2	2	2
Supported hostel (SHOS)	41	46	46	44
Private RCHD under BPS	45	48	59	59
Total	**390**	**403**	**428**	**428**

Table 3: Headcount of service users for each type of day respite services for PWDs from 2021-22 to 2024-25

Type of service unit	Headcount of service users [Note]			
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
DAC	141	95	263	251
DSC	1 183	1 126	1 778	1 575
C&A/SD	-	-	-	2
Private RCHD under BPS	-	-	7	4
Total	**1 324**	**1 221**	**2 048**	**1 832**

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 2024-25

Type of service unit	Headcount of service users [Note]			
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
C&A/SD	14	23	79	89
HMMH	79	106	403	374
HSMH	177	190	737	713
HSPH	2	7	28	35
HSPH/MH	-	-	-	6
SHOS	16	41	87	97
Private RCHD under BPS	140	211	292	238
Total	**428**	**578**	**1 626**	**1 552**

Note A service user may have multiple admissions for residential respite services in a year.

Annex 2

Table 1: Number of places of day and residential respite services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	Number of places [Note]	
	Day respite services	Residential respite services
2020-21	160	380
2021-22	164	390
2022-23	172	403
2023-24	231	428
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	231	428

Note Including designated day/residential respite service places provided by private RCHDs under BPS.

Table 2: Headcount of users of day and residential respite services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	Headcount of users [Note]	
	Day respite services	Residential respite services
2020-21	896	224
2021-22	1 324	428
2022-23	1 221	578
2023-24	2 048	1 626
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	1 832	1 552

Note A service user may have multiple admissions for day or residential respite services in a year, including the utilisation of designated day/residential respite services provided by private RCHDs under BPS.

Annex 3

Table 1: Headcount of users of day 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
160	166	273	297	**896**

Table 2: Headcount of users of day 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
336	413	386	189	**1 324**

Table 3: Headcount of users of day 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
222	325	397	277	**1 221**

Table 4: Headcount of users of day respite services per quarter in 2023-24 [Note 2]

April to June 2023	July to September 2023	October to December 2023	January to March 2024	Total
375	592	533	548	**2 048**

Table 5: Headcount of users of day respite services per quarter in 2024-25 [Note 2]

April to June 2024	July to September 2024	October to December 2024	Total
533	705	594	**1 832**

Note 1 Including the utilisation of designated residential respite services under BPS for Private RCHDs.

Note 2 Including the utilisation of designated day/residential respite services under BPS for Private RCHDs.

Table 6: Headcount of 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 7: Headcount of 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 8: Headcount of 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 9: Headcount of users of residential respite services per quarter in 2023-24 [Note 2]

April to June 2023	July to September 2023	October to December 2023	January to March 2024	Total
335	377	481	433	**1 626**

Table 10: Headcount of users of residential respite services per quarter in 2024-25 [Note 2]

April to June 2024	July to September 2024	October to December 2024	Total
480	495	577	**1 552**

Note 1 Including the utilisation of designated residential respite services under BPS for Private RCHDs.

Note 2 Including the utilisation of designated day/residential respite services under BPS for Private RCHDs.

Annex 4

Table 1: Number of additional places and their distribution by district for planned day respite services for PWDs from 2024-25 to 2025-26 [Note]

District	2024-25	2025-26
Wan Chai	4	-
Kowloon City	2	-
Tuen Mun	-	2
Total	**6**	**2**

Note Including designated day/residential respite service places provided by private RCHDs under BPS.

Table 2: Number of additional places and their distribution by district for planned residential respite services for PWDs from 2024-25 to 2025-26 [Note]

District	2024-25	2025-26
Eastern	-	1
Wan Chai	4	-
Sai Kung	-	3
Kowloon City	2	-
Sha Tin	-	1
North	8	-
Tuen Mun	-	6
Total	**14**	**11**

Note Including designated day/residential respite service places provided by private RCHDs under BPS.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3576)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding day training and vocational rehabilitation services, including Sheltered Workshops (SWs), Supported Employment (SE) service, on-the-job training programmes, Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres (IVRSCs), Integrated Vocational Training Centres (Day Service) [IVTCs(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 each of 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 who refused service allocation, the length of their waiting time in years, and their reasons for refusal in the past 5 years;

v. the age distribution of service users in each service unit across 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 setting and adjusting the rate of incentive payment?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 104)

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, while the planned and actual numbers of additional service places for SWs, IVRSCs and WEP per annum during the same period are 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 a breakdown of the statistical information 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 a breakdown on the unit costs of other vocational rehabilitation services.

iii. & iv. The numbers of applicants for SWs and SE service in each of the past 5 years, broken down by administrative district of SWD and age group, are set out at Annex 5. The numbers of service users of various vocational rehabilitation services are set out at Annex 6. Since On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities (OJT), Sunnyway – On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities (Sunnyway) and IVTCs(Day) may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have information on the number of applicants, the number of persons applying for a freeze in service allocation, the number of persons who refused service allocation, the length of their waiting time, or the age distribution of service users of the relevant service units. Since the integration of relevant services into SET in 2024, service units have been registering the details of service users in the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services (CRSRehab) upon their admission, thus enabling the provision of data on the number and age distribution of service users. As services are allocated to applicants based on the order of their registration in CRSRehab without considering 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, IVRSCs and SET is set out at Annex 7. As SE service, OJT and Sunnyway were integrated as SET in April 2024, information on the age distribution of service users by the above service types is no longer available. Since IVTCs (Day) may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have information on the age distribution of service users of 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 service users of WEP.

vi. The number and geographical distribution of additional IVRSC places planned by SWD are set out at Annex 8. A total of 770 service places are expected to be added in the next 5 years.

vii. The purpose of incentive payment is to encourage persons with disabilities (PWDs) to attend 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). SWD has increased the rate of incentive payment to $33 per day starting from October 2023 in accordance with the mechanism.

Annex 1

Number of service places of various vocational rehabilitation services from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	No. of service places				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
SW	5 399	5 399	5 399	5 399	5 429
SE [Note]	1 633	1 633	1 633	1 633	-
OJT [Note]	432	432	432	432	-
Sunnyway [Note]	311	311	311	311	-
Supported Employment Training for PWDs (SET) [Note]	-	-	-	-	2 376
IVRSC	5 523	5 523	5 648	5 808	5 858
IVTC(Day)	453	453	453	453	453
WEP	1 130	1 130	1 130	1 130	1 385

[Note] SE, OJT and Sunnyway were integrated as SET in April 2024.

Annex 2

Planned and actual numbers of additional places for SWs, IVRSCs and WEP from 2020-21 to 2024-25

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**
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	0	0	160	160	0	0
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	Note	30	Note	50	Note	255

Note There will be a gradual increase of about 800 WEP places within 3 years from 2024-25.

Annex 3

Average waiting time for various vocational rehabilitation services from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	Average waiting time in 2020-21 (in months) Note 5	Average waiting time in 2021-22 (in months) Note 5	Average waiting time in 2022-23 (in months) Note 5	Average waiting time in 2023-24 (in months) Note 5	Average waiting time in 2024-25 (in months) Note 5
SW	20.6	12.6	14.0	14.0	Not yet available Note 6
SE Note 1	2.3	2.2	2.5	3.3	-
OJT Note 1 Note 2	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	-
Sunnyway Note 1 Note 2	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	-
SET Note 1 Note 2	-	-	-	-	N.A.
IVRSC Note 3	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
IVTC(Day) Note 2	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
WEP Note 4	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 SE, OJT and Sunnyway were integrated as SET in April 2024.

Note 2 As this service may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have relevant statistics.

Note 3 There is no CWL for IVRSCs and applicants are selected from CWLs for SWs and SE.

Note 4 There is no CWL for WEP and applicants are selected from SWs.

Note 5 The waiting time is affected by multiple factors, such as the applicant's preference for the location of service units, indication on specific service unit, the turnover rate of the selected service units, etc.

Note 6 As the average waiting time is calculated on a financial-year basis, spanning from 1 April of one year to 31 March of the following year, the figures for 2024-25 are not yet available.

Annex 4

Average monthly cost per SW place from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	**SW**
	Average monthly cost per place ($)
2020-21 (Actual)	5,889
2021-22 (Actual)	5,834
2022-23 (Actual)	5,913
2023-24 (Actual)	6,213
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	6,377

Annex 5

Table 1: 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 & Islands	32	50	19	21	38	12	1	0
Eastern/Wan Chai	42	40	23	24	37	16	1	0
Kwun Tong	56	66	21	30	29	8	1	0
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	87	63	33	29	45	12	1	0
Kowloon City/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/North	46	77	30	28	27	4	0	0
Yuen Long	70	49	23	19	35	2	0	0
Tsuen Wan/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 2: 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 & Islands	34	42	21	14	30	11	0	0
Eastern/Wan Chai	32	33	21	18	32	13	1	0
Kwun Tong	59	71	14	24	27	10	2	0
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	85	69	36	31	42	10	1	0
Kowloon City/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/North	54	76	32	28	31	5	0	0
Yuen Long	76	60	28	24	32	5	0	0
Tsuen Wan/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 3: 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 & Islands	24	45	25	17	23	13	0	0
Eastern/Wan Chai	29	33	22	11	34	11	2	0
Kwun Tong	67	73	16	25	27	9	2	0
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	85	92	39	33	30	12	1	0
Kowloon City/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/North	60	87	31	27	31	8	0	0
Yuen Long	83	67	32	22	33	6	0	0
Tsuen Wan/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 4: Number of applicants for SWs in 2023-24 (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 & Islands	37	40	19	18	16	10	0	0
Eastern/Wan Chai	21	31	17	17	22	8	1	0
Kwun Tong	65	77	14	19	29	8	2	0
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	100	77	37	20	21	11	0	0
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	56	38	15	11	25	4	0	0
Sham Shui Po	51	39	21	15	13	5	0	0
Sha Tin	69	41	26	33	20	8	0	0
Tai Po/North	58	79	37	35	25	10	0	0
Yuen Long	84	65	24	24	24	6	0	0
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	50	48	31	17	27	12	0	0
Tuen Mun	59	52	23	41	11	7	0	0
Total	**650**	**587**	**264**	**250**	**233**	**89**	**3**	**0**

Table 5: Number of applicants for SWs in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024) (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 & Islands	39	38	24	20	27	9	1	0
Eastern/Wan Chai	25	25	18	22	23	6	1	0
Kwun Tong	87	72	22	13	27	14	1	0
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	111	86	31	24	19	13	0	0
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	63	45	20	10	24	8	0	0
Sham Shui Po	60	35	20	15	10	7	2	0
Sha Tin	80	47	22	28	20	10	0	0
Tai Po/North	76	83	45	34	28	7	0	0
Yuen Long	83	63	19	17	20	6	0	0
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	44	48	37	18	26	14	0	0
Tuen Mun	63	51	18	21	9	3	0	0
Total	**731**	**593**	**276**	**222**	**233**	**97**	**5**	**0**

Table 6: 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 & Islands	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern/Wan Chai	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0
Kowloon City/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/North	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Yuen Long	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tsuen Wan/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 7: 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 & Islands	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0
Eastern/Wan Chai	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0
Kowloon City/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/North	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Yuen Long	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tsuen Wan/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 8: 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 & Islands	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0
Eastern/Wan Chai	0	1	2	2	3	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	0
Kowloon City/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/North	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0
Yuen Long	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tsuen Wan/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 9: Number of applicants for SE in 2023-24
(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 & Islands	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Eastern/Wan Chai	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	0
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	0	1	1	1	3	1	0	0
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sham Shui Po	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sha Tin	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tai Po/North	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Yuen Long	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Tuen Mun	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	**1**	**4**	**2**	**9**	**10**	**3**	**0**	**0**

Annex 6

Number of service users of various vocational rehabilitation services from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	No. of service users				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
SW	5 265	5 273	5 273	5 201	5 281
SE [Note]	1 987	2 033	1 954	1 983	-
OJT [Note]	411	427	432	430	-
Sunnyway [Note]	285	304	319	305	-
SET [Note]	-	-	-	-	2 359
IVRSC	5 609	5 327	5 778	5 732	5 894
IVTC(Day)	405	408	410	428	463

[Note] SE, OJT and Sunnyway were integrated as SET in April 2024.

Annex 7

Age distribution of service users of vocational rehabilitation services in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

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	42	611	1 036	1 287	1 226	897	174	8
IVRSC	45	898	1 546	1 299	1 158	808	135	5
SET [Note]	43	390	658	638	436	178	16	0

[Note] SE, OJT and Sunnyway were integrated as SET in April 2024.

Annex 8

Number and geographical distribution of planned additional IVRSC places

Service type	No. of service places	District Council district
IVRSC	120	Sham Shui Po
	80	Kowloon City
	200	North
	200	Tuen Mun
	120	Islands
	50	Yuen Long

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)303

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3577)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 received home respite service, carer training, carer emotional support services and case management services in the past 5 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 5 years, broken down by service type; 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 5 years, broken down by type of service received by carers.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 105)

Reply:

i. & ii. Home respite services are provided through DSCs, HCS and ISS. The headcount of users of home respite services for PWDs in the past 5 years is set out in Table 1 of Annex 1. In addition, DSCs, HCS, ISS, PRCs and ICCMWs also provide case management, carer training and emotional support services to PWDs and their families/carers. These services do not require referral or waitlisting under a central system. The number of cases receiving case management services under the above services in the past 5 years is set out in Table 2 of Annex 1. The Social Welfare Department does not maintain a breakdown of training and emotional support services provided for carers of PWDs.

iii. The service places for HCS and ISS from 2020-21 to 2024-25 were 3 550 and 900, respectively. There are no quotas set for DSCs, PRCs and ICCMWs. The numbers of service users and activities organised under the above services in the past 5 years are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 2.

Annex 1

Table 1: Headcount of users of home respite services under community care and support services for PWDs

Service type	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
DSC	294	495	581	773	611
HCS	11 168	14 039	12 481	16 652	14 640
ISS	6 512	6 783	5 487	5 966	4 401

Table 2: Number of cases receiving case management services [Note 1] under community care and support services for PWDs

Service type	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
DSC	1 757	1 841	2 082	2 406	2 988
HCS	4 469	4 643	4 769	4 828	4 568
ISS	1 175	1 150	1 189	1 226	1 107
PRC [Note 2]	756	1 031	1 048	1 042	1 079
ICCMW [Note 2]	2 315	2 288	2 356	2 372	1 652

Note 1 Number of cases provided with casework services.

Note 2 Including PWDs and their families/carers.

Annex 2

Table 1: Number of users of community care and support services for PWDs

Service type	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
DSC	5 808	5 763	7 079	8 673	8 998
HCS [Note]	4 997	5 549	5 771	5 482	5 072
ISS [Note]	1 463	1 498	1 477	1 580	1 347
PRC [Note]	8 859	11 352	12 121	13 312	13 598
ICCMW [Note]	4 134	5 092	5 188	5 088	4 799

[Note] Including PWDs and their families/carers.

Table 2: Number of activities organised under community care and support services for PWDs

Service type	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
DSC	590	1 099	1 569	1 808	1 280
HCS	88	151	167	109	84
ISS	48	58	48	59	40
PRC	4 891	8 052	9 712	8 856	6 714
ICCMW	706	876	854	880	701

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)304

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3578)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the services of district support centres for persons with disabilities (DSCs), would the Government please provide:

i. the total number of members in each unit in the past 5 years, broken down by type of disability, gender and age (in 10-year age groups for those aged 15 and above);

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, the per capita cost of each service unit, and the per capita cost by service type in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 106)

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 maintain a breakdown of the number of members by type of disability, gender and age.

ii. SWD does not have information on the number of persons who were refused service in each unit.

iii. As DSC service users do not need to wait for services through a central referral system, SWD does not maintain record of the average waiting time for each service unit.

iv. The annual expenditure on DSCs in the past 5 years is set out in Table 2 of Annex. SWD does not maintain a breakdown of the per capita cost by service unit or service type.

Annex

Table 1: Number of DSC service users from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by district

Service district	No. of members				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	514	507	772	1 244	1 151
Eastern & Wan Chai	238	219	275	364	358
Kwun Tong	651	686	950	1 059	1 316
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	1 053	1 036	976	1 144	1 132
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	240	351	460	527	574
Sham Shui Po	257	288	347	484	524
Sha Tin	349	365	626	936	1 055
Tai Po & North	559	570	657	674	621
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	741	686	938	1 017	834
Tuen Mun	308	308	366	412	460
Yuen Long	898	747	712	812	973
Total	**5 808**	**5 763**	**7 079**	**8 673**	**8 998**

Table 2: Annual expenditure on DSCs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	**Expenditure ($ million)**
2020-21 (Actual)	269.1
2021-22 (Actual)	263.2
2022-23 (Actual)	305.0
2023-24 (Actual)	333.1
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	482.1

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3579)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the following information for the past 5 years:

i. the numbers of Bought Place Scheme (BPS) and non-BPS places of various types of subsidised residential care services (RCS) for persons with disabilities (PWDs), the average and median waiting time, broken down by gender, age and district;

ii. the per capita cost, fees and charges and total subsidy amount as regards BPS and non-BPS places of various types of subsidised RCS for PWDs;

iii. the total number of PWDs who passed away or withdrew their applications while waiting for residential places, and their percentages out of the number of waitlisted persons, broken down by age;

iv. the number of persons who left residential care homes for PWDs (RCHDs) and their reasons for leaving, broken down by type of residential care homes; and

v. the number of surprise inspections of private RCHDs under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) conducted by the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly of the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 107)

Reply:

i. In the past 5 years, the number of places for various types of residential care services for PWDs, with a breakdown by SWD's administrative district, is set out at Annex 1. The average waiting time is set out at Annex 2. SWD does not have statistical information on the number of service places, or the average and median waiting time by gender and age.

ii. In the past 5 years, the average cost per place per month for the overall residential care services for PWDs is set out at Annex 3. SWD does not have statistical breakdown on the average cost of each type of residential places. The fees and charges for various types of subsidised residential care services are set out at Annex 4. The total subsidy amount is set out at Annex 5.

iii. In the past 5 years, the number of persons who passed away or withdrew their applications while waiting for residential rehabilitation services for PWDs and their percentages out of the number of waitlisted persons are set out at Annex 6. SWD does not have statistical breakdown by age on the number of persons who passed away or withdrew their applications while waiting for residential rehabilitation services.

iv. In the past 5 years, the number of persons who left various types of RCHDs and their reasons for leaving are set out at Annex 7.

v. In the past 5 years, the number of surprise inspections at private RCHDs under BPS conducted by the Licensing Office of RCHDs (LORCHD) of SWD is set out at Annex 8.

Annex 1

Table 1: Number of service places for various types of residential care services for PWDs in 2020-21 (by SWD's administrative district)

District	HMMH	HSMH	HSPH	C&A/ SD	C&A/ AB	SGH (MMHC) Note	SHOS	HWH	LSCH	Private RCHD under BPS
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	376	682	109	200	375	0	79	168	170	0
Eastern/Wan Chai	85	158	58	100	0	8	40	144	0	46
Kwun Tong	409	332	165	101	0	3	101	144	0	0
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	188	359	100	88	0	33	96	237	0	0
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	304	137	20	0	52	0	19	0	0	308
Sham Shui Po	131	257	0	72	78	0	50	169	200	90
Sha Tin	236	520	138	102	0	17	93	206	0	0
Tai Po/North	180	304	0	100	0	64	101	80	0	192
Yuen Long	237	158	50	100	80	0	86	104	80	27
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	218	721	25	202	0	3	83	162	525	181
Tuen Mun	436	432	50	67	243	0	36	180	612	174
Total	**2 800**	**4 060**	**715**	**1 132**	**828**	**128**	**784**	**1 594**	**1 587**	**1 018**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include integrated small group homes (ISGHs).

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

C&A/AB - care-and-attention home for the aged blind

SGH(MMHC) - small group home for mildly mentally handicapped children

SHOS - supported hostel

HWH - halfway house

LSCH - long stay care home

Private RCHD under BPS - private RCHD under the Bought Place Scheme

Table 2: Number of service places for various types of residential care services for PWDs in 2021-22 (by SWD's administrative district)

District	HMMH	HSMH	HSPH	C&A/ SD	C&A/ AB	SGH (MMHC) Note	SHOS	HWH	LSCH	Private RCHD under BPS
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	376	682	109	200	375	0	79	168	170	0
Eastern/Wan Chai	85	158	58	100	0	8	40	144	0	46
Kwun Tong	409	332	165	101	0	3	101	144	0	0
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	188	359	100	88	0	33	96	237	0	0
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	304	137	20	0	52	0	19	0	0	365
Sham Shui Po	131	257	0	72	78	0	70	169	200	100
Sha Tin	236	520	138	102	0	17	93	206	0	0
Tai Po/North	180	304	0	100	0	64	101	80	0	235
Yuen Long	237	158	50	100	80	0	86	104	80	27
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	218	721	25	202	0	3	83	162	525	309
Tuen Mun	436	432	50	67	243	0	36	180	612	182
Total	**2 800**	**4 060**	**715**	**1 132**	**828**	**128**	**804**	**1 594**	**1 587**	**1 264**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 3: Number of service places for various types of residential care services for PWDs in 2022-23 (by SWD's administrative district)

District	HMMH	HSMH	HSPH	C&A/ SD	C&A/ AB	SGH (MMHC) Note	SHOS	HWH	LSCH	Private RCHD under BPS
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	376	682	109	200	375	0	79	168	170	0
Eastern/Wan Chai	85	158	58	100	0	8	40	144	0	46
Kwun Tong	409	332	165	101	0	3	101	144	0	0
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	188	359	100	88	0	33	96	237	0	0
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	304	137	20	0	52	0	19	0	0	365
Sham Shui Po	182	309	0	72	78	0	102	169	200	100
Sha Tin	236	520	138	102	0	17	123	206	0	0
Tai Po/North	180	304	0	100	0	64	101	80	0	235
Yuen Long	237	158	50	100	80	0	86	104	80	27
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	218	721	25	202	0	3	83	162	525	424
Tuen Mun	436	432	50	67	243	0	36	180	612	182
Total	**2 851**	**4 112**	**715**	**1 132**	**828**	**128**	**866**	**1 594**	**1 587**	**1 379**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 4: Number of service places for various types of residential care services for PWDs in 2023-24 (by SWD's administrative district)

District	HMMH	HSMH	HSPH	C&A/ SD	C&A/ AB	SGH (MMHC) Note 1	SHOS	HWH	LSCH	Private RCHD under BPS
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	376	682	109	200	375	0	79	168	170	0
Eastern/Wan Chai	85	158	58	100	0	8	40	144	0	46
Kwun Tong	409	332	165	101	0	3	101	144	0	0
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	188	370	100	88	0	33	96	237	0	0
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	304	137	20	0	52	0	19	0	0	303
Sham Shui Po	182	309	0	72	78	0	102	169	200	100
Sha Tin	236	520	138	102	0	17	123	206	0	0
Tai Po/North	180	304	0	100	0	64	101	80	0	235
Yuen Long	237	158	50	100	80	0	86	104	80	27
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	218	721	25	202	0	3	83	162	525	373
Tuen Mun	511	832	125	267	243	0	36	180	1 012	182
Total	**2 926**	**4 523**	**790**	**1 332**	**828**	**128**	**866**	**1 594**	**1 987**	**1 266** Note 2

Note 1 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 2 Including the reduction of 51 service places due to the termination of the contract for 1 private RCHD under BPS in September 2023, and the reduction of 62 service places due to the termination of the contract for 1 private RCHD under BPS in January 2024.

Table 5: Number of service places for various types of residential care services for PWDs in 2024-25 (by SWD's administrative district) (as at end-December 2024)

District	HMMH	HSMH	HSPH	C&A/ SD	C&A/ AB	SGH (MMHC) Note	SHOS	HWH	LSCH	Private RCHD under BPS
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	376	682	109	200	375	0	79	168	170	0
Eastern/Wan Chai	85	158	58	100	0	8	40	144	0	46
Kwun Tong	409	332	165	101	0	3	101	144	0	127
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	188	370	100	88	0	33	96	237	0	0
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	304	137	20	0	52	0	19	0	0	329
Sham Shui Po	182	309	0	72	78	0	102	169	200	100
Sha Tin	236	520	138	102	0	17	123	206	0	0
Tai Po/North	180	354	0	140	0	64	101	80	0	235
Yuen Long	237	158	50	100	80	0	86	104	80	27
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	218	721	25	202	0	3	83	162	525	402
Tuen Mun	511	832	125	267	243	0	36	180	1 012	182
Total	**2 926**	**4 573**	**790**	**1 372**	**828**	**128**	**866**	**1 594**	**1 987**	**1 448**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Annex 2

Average waiting time for various types of residential care services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	Average waiting time (in months)				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25** Note 1
HMMH	127.6	144.8	154.1	145.1	Not yet available
HSMH	156.1	150.8	171.1	166.6	
HSPH	77.8	80.9	73.0	51.5	
C&A/SD	64.3	65.6	60.6	48.6	
C&A/AB	13.8	10.7	5.1	3.8	
SGH(MMHC) Note 2	13.1	15.1	17.5	14.7	
SHOS	71.8	63.5	78.8	65.7	
HWH	4.7	4.2	4.2	4.3	
LSCH	64.9	57.8	72.3	56.8	
Private RCHD under BPS Note 3	Not applicable				

Note 1 As the average waiting time is compiled on a financial-year basis covering from 1 April of a year to 31 March of the next year, the figures for 2024-25 are not yet available.

Note 2 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 3 There is no central waiting list or statistics on the waiting time for BPS. For applicants on the waiting list for LSCHs, HMMHs, HWHs and SHOSs under the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services, BPS places will be allocated by SWD according to the preferences of applicants who have indicated their acceptance of BPS.

Annex 3

Average cost per place per month for residential care services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	**Average cost per place per month for subsidised residential rehabilitation services ($)**	**Average cost per place per month for private RCHDs participating in BPS ($)**
2020-21 (Actual)	18,033	11,773
2021-22 (Actual)	18,011	13,131
2022-23 (Actual)	18,531	13,287
2023-24 (Actual)	20,543	13,969
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	20,811	14,107

Annex 4

Fees and charges for various types of residential care services for PWDs

Service type	Monthly fees and charges ($)	
	Adult with 50% disability	**Adult with 100% disability or disability allowance recipient**
HMMH	1,481	1,559
HSMH	1,660	1,871
HSPH	1,660	1,871
C&A/SD	1,660	1,871
C&A/AB	1,660	1,871
SGH(MMHC) [Note]	Free	
SHOS	897	977
HWH	1,220	
LSCH	1,660	1,871
Private RCHD under BPS	1,079 (medium level of care)/1,656 (high level of care)	

[Note] SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Annex 5

Total subsidy amount for various types of residential care services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	Total subsidy amount ($ million)				
	2020-21 (Actual)	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised Estimate)
HMMH	369.8	387.6	388.7	424.5	476.4
HSMH	981.2	999.1	1,018.8	1,087.9	1,194.0
HSPH	170.0	204.7	193.8	204.7	239.0
C&A/SD	317.7	331.2	341.1	358.9	428.5
C&A/AB	178.9	179.2	182.7	189.1	192.5
SGH(MMHC) [Note]	31.9	34.4	34.3	35.7	37.5
SHOS	112.0	112.2	120.2	132.3	142.3
HWH	228.8	229.6	232.7	240.7	246.1
LSCH	309.8	307.7	319.5	339.4	459.7
Private RCHD under BPS	132.1	176.5	200.0	213.6	243.8

[Note] SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Annex 6

Table 1: Number of persons who passed away while waiting for residential care services for PWDs in 2020-21

Service type	Number of waitlisted persons	Number of persons who passed away during the waiting period	Percentage of persons who passed away during the waiting period
HMMH	2 535	9	0.36%
HSMH	2 416	9	0.37%
HSPH	375	18	4.80%
C&A/SD	506	33	6.52%
C&A/AB	118	15	12.71%
SGH(MMHC) Note 1	79	-	0%
SHOS	2 247	1	0.04%
HWH	506	-	0%
LSCH	2 664	14	0.53%
Private RCHD under BPS Note 2	Not applicable		

Note 1 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 2 There is no central waiting list or statistics on the number of persons who passed away while waiting for the services for BPS.

Table 2: Number of persons who passed away while waiting for residential care services for PWDs in 2021-22

Service type	Number of waitlisted persons	Number of persons who passed away during the waiting period	Percentage of persons who passed away during the waiting period
HMMH	2 661	11	0.41%
HSMH	2 400	25	1.04%
HSPH	339	8	2.36%
C&A/SD	509	33	6.48%
C&A/AB	57	6	10.53%
SGH(MMHC) Note 1	104	0	0%
SHOS	2 353	6	0.25%
HWH	616	2	0.32%
LSCH	2 651	18	0.68%
Private RCHD under BPS Note 2	Not applicable		

Note 1 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 2 There is no central waiting list or statistics on the number of persons who passed away while waiting for the services for BPS.

Table 3: Number of persons who passed away while waiting for residential care services for PWDs in 2022-23

Service type	Number of waitlisted persons	Number of persons who passed away during the waiting period	Percentage of persons who passed away during the waiting period
HMMH	2 798	12	0.43%
HSMH	2 417	24	0.99%
HSPH	329	13	3.95%
C&A/SD	438	35	7.99%
C&A/AB	31	15	48.39%
SGH(MMHC) Note 1	108	0	0%
SHOS	2 370	13	0.55%
HWH	517	1	0.19%
LSCH	2 450	22	0.90%
Private RCHD under BPS Note 2	Not applicable		

Note 1 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 2 There is no central waiting list or statistics on the number of persons who passed away while waiting for the services for BPS.

Table 4: Number of persons who passed away while waiting for residential care services for PWDs in 2023-24

Service type	Number of waitlisted persons	Number of persons who passed away during the waiting period	Percentage of persons who passed away during the waiting period
HMMH	2 738	14	0.51%
HSMH	2 275	30	1.32%
HSPH	259	19	7.34%
C&A/SD	318	53	16.67%
C&A/AB	39	7	17.95%
SGH(MMHC) Note 1	115	0	0%
SHOS	2 319	12	0.52%
HWH	690	1	0.14%
LSCH	1 958	40	2.04%
Private RCHD under BPS Note 2	Not applicable		

Note 1 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 2 There is no central waiting list or statistics on the number of persons who passed away while waiting for the services for BPS.

Table 5: Number of persons who passed away while waiting for residential care services for PWDs in 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

Service type	Number of waitlisted persons	Number of persons who passed away during the waiting period	Percentage of persons who passed away during the waiting period
HMMH	2 852	5	0.18%
HSMH	2 215	7	0.32%
HSPH	233	6	2.58%
C&A/SD	229	23	10.04%
C&A/AB	39	6	15.38%
SGH(MMHC) [Note 1]	119	0	0%
SHOS	2 426	4	0.16%
HWH	668	6	0.90%
LSCH	1 583	27	1.71%
Private RCHD under BPS [Note 2]	Not applicable		

Note 1 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 2 There is no central waiting list or statistics on the number of persons who passed away while waiting for the services for BPS.

Table 6: Number of persons who withdrew their applications while waiting for residential care services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	Number of waitlisted persons	Number of persons who withdrew their applications during the waiting period [Note]	Percentage of persons who withdrew their applications during the waiting period
2020-21	11 446	762	6.66%
2021-22	11 690	803	6.87%
2022-23	11 458	894	7.80%
2023-24	10 711	910	8.50%
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	10 364	703	6.78%

[Note] Including the number of persons who withdrew their applications due to death during the waiting period.

Annex 7

Table 1: Number of persons who left residential care services for PWDs and their reasons for leaving in 2020-21

Reason for leaving the services	Number of persons who left residential rehabilitation services									
	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	Not applicable						0	Not applicable		
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**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 2: Number of persons who left residential care services for PWDs and their reasons for leaving in 2021-22

Reason for leaving the services	Number of persons who left residential rehabilitation services									
	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	Not applicable						5	Not applicable		
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**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 3: Number of persons who left residential care services for PWDs and their reasons for leaving in 2022-23

Reason for leaving the services	Number of persons who left residential rehabilitation services									
	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	Not applicable						0	Not applicable		
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**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 4: Number of persons who left residential care services for PWDs and their reasons for leaving in 2023-24

Reason for leaving the services	Number of persons who left residential rehabilitation services									
	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	58	27	7	8	20	27	10	295	10	79
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	1	1	0	2	5	1	0	55	2	23
Compassionate rehousing/ independent living	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	94	0	14
Family reunion	6	2	1	1	7	8	13	160	2	27
Emigration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
Death	27	75	11	53	101	3	0	3	66	20
Age limit of the service reached	Not applicable						0	Not applicable		
Breaching house rules or other reasons	2	0	0	0	0	1	10	110	3	66
Total	**94**	**107**	**19**	**64**	**133**	**45**	**33**	**719**	**83**	**230**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 5: Number of persons who left residential care services for PWDs and their reasons for leaving in 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

Reason for leaving the services	Number of persons who left residential rehabilitation services									
	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	45	27	10	9	18	22	4	249	15	35
Admission to hospital for treatment for no less than 3 months	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Residential service no longer needed according to the resident	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	36	3	19
Compassionate rehousing/ independent living	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	93	0	4
Family reunion	5	5	1	1	6	4	10	91	9	12
Emigration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Death	17	43	5	34	66	4	0	9	37	10
Age limit of the service reached	Not applicable						0	Not applicable		
Breaching house rules or other reasons	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	76	3	11
Total	**68**	**83**	**16**	**46**	**91**	**33**	**17**	**556**	**67**	**91**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Annex 8

Number of surprise inspections at private RCHDs under BPS conducted by LORCHD from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	**2020-21**	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Number of inspections	141	129	208	189	202

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3580)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons (HSMHs), hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons (HMMHs), care and attention homes for severely disabled persons (C&A/SDs), supported hostels (SHOSs), private residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) under the Bought Place Scheme (BPS) and small group homes for mildly mentally handicapped children [SGHs(MMHC)] provided for persons with intellectual disability, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

i. the number of service places, the planned and actual number of additional service places and the longest, shortest and average waiting time for these services in each of the past 5 years;

ii. the per capita service cost in each of the past 5 years;

iii. the number of applicants, the number of service users and the number of persons applying for a freeze in service allocation with a breakdown by district of residence, age group and gender in the past 5 years; and

iv. the number of persons who refused service allocation, their waiting time in years and their reasons for refusal in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 108)

Reply:

i. The numbers of service places of HSMHs, HMMHs, C&A/SDs, SHOSs, SGHs(MMHC) and private RCHDs under BPS, and the planned and actual numbers of additional service places in each of the past 5 years are set out at Annexes 1 and 2, respectively. The average waiting time for these services 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 place of the overall residential care services for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the past 5 years is set out at Annex 4. SWD does not have a breakdown of the average cost of each type of places.

iii. The number of applicants of the above residential rehabilitation services broken down by administrative district of SWD and age group in the past 5 years is set out at Annex 5. The number of service users broken down by age group in the past 5 years is set out at Annex 6. The number of applicants on the Inactive Waiting List (IWL) for various types of residential rehabilitation services for PWDs is set out at Annex 7.

SWD does not have a breakdown of the number of service users of residential rehabilitation services or the number of persons applying for a freeze in service allocation by district or age.

As services are allocated to applicants based on the sequential order of their registration in SWD's Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services without considering gender, SWD does not maintain statistics on applicants broken down by gender.

Since there is no central waiting list for BPS, statistics on the number of applicants are not available.

iv. SWD does not have a breakdown of the number of persons who refused service allocation in the past 5 years by waiting time or reasons for refusal.

Annex 1

Number of service places for various types of residential services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	No. of service places				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
HSMH	4 060	4 060	4 112	4 523	4 573
HMMH	2 800	2 800	2 851	2 926	2 926
C&A/SD	1 132	1 132	1 132	1 332	1 372
SHOS	784	804	866	866	866
SGH(MMHC) [Note 1]	128	128	128	128	128
Private RCHD under BPS	1 018	1 264	1 379	1 266 [Note 2]	1 448

Note 1 SGHs(MMHC) include integrated small group homes (ISGHs).

Note 2 Including the reduction of 51 service places due to the termination of the contract for 1 private RCHD under BPS in September 2023, and the reduction of 62 service places due to the termination of the contract for 1 private RCHD under BPS in January 2024.

Annex 2

Planned and actual number of additional service places for various types of residential services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	
	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	131	131	0	0	52	52	411	411	50	50
HMMH	142	142	0	0	51	51	75	75	0	0
C&A/SD	90	90	0	0	0	0	240	200	40	40
SHOS Note 1	60	40 Note 1	50	20 Note 1	62	62 Note 1	0	0	0	0
SGH(MMHC) Note 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private RCHD under BPS	300	0 Note 3	300	246	100	115	196	0	239	182

Note 1 Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic 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 to 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively.

Note 2 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 3 The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the plans of some private RCHDs to improve manpower, equipment, and space, making it difficult for them to vacate places scheduled to be bought under BPS, thus affecting the progress of BPS.

Annex 3

Average waiting time for various types of residential services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	**Average waiting time (in months)**				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25** [Note 1]
HSMH	156.1	150.8	171.1	166.6	Not yet available
HMMH	127.6	144.8	154.1	145.1	
C&A/SD	64.3	65.6	60.6	48.6	
SHOS	71.8	63.5	78.8	65.7	
SGH(MMHC) [Note 2]	13.1	15.1	17.5	14.7	
Private RCHD under BPS [Note 3]	N.A.[Note 3]				

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 As the average waiting time is compiled on a financial-year basis covering from 1 April of a year to 31 March of the next year, the figures for 2024-25 are not yet available.

Note 2 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 3 There is no separate central waiting list or statistics on the waiting time for BPS. For applicants on the waiting list for long stay care homes, HMMHs, halfway houses and SHOSs under the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services, BPS places will be allocated by SWD according to the preferences of applicants who have indicated their acceptance of BPS.

Annex 4

Average cost per place per month for residential services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	**Average cost per place per month for subsidised residential rehabilitation services ($)**	**Average cost per place per month for private RCHDs under BPS ($)**
2020-21 (Actual)	18,033	11,773
2021-22 (Actual)	18,011	13,131
2022-23 (Actual)	18,531	13,287
2023-24 (Actual)	20,543	13,969
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	20,811	14,107

Annex 5

Table 1: Number of applicants for HSMHs 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	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 2: Number of applicants for HSMHs 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	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 3: Number of applicants for HSMHs 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	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 4: Number of applicants for HSMHs in 2023-24 (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	57	37	14	10	21	1	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	39	80	49	18	17	11	2	0
Kwun Tong	36	91	54	16	19	13	4	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	59	108	50	16	15	15	4	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	46	76	28	19	14	2	2	0
Sham Shui Po	26	55	26	20	12	8	2	0
Sha Tin	42	53	35	10	13	15	7	1
Tai Po and North	44	87	46	11	13	2	3	0
Yuen Long	45	91	46	17	19	17	2	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	42	88	44	28	28	13	3	0
Tuen Mun	27	52	42	30	15	16	4	0
Total	**438**	**838**	**457**	**199**	**175**	**133**	**34**	**1**

Table 5: Number of applicants for HSMHs in 2024-25
(by administrative district of SWD and age group)
(as at end-December 2024)

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	56	35	15	8	19	1	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	38	74	51	13	17	13	1	0
Kwun Tong	43	85	54	18	20	12	4	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	63	104	55	15	11	14	5	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	39	73	31	20	12	3	3	0
Sham Shui Po	27	54	22	19	9	10	1	0
Sha Tin	53	45	30	9	15	13	5	1
Tai Po and North	54	76	46	16	15	6	3	0
Yuen Long	55	84	37	16	13	18	2	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	47	83	39	24	27	12	3	0
Tuen Mun	28	48	34	29	14	13	3	0
Total	**479**	**782**	**434**	**194**	**161**	**133**	**31**	**1**

Table 6: Number of applicants for HMMHs 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	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 7: Number of applicants for HMMHs 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	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 8: Number of applicants for HMMHs 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	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 9: Number of applicants for HMMHs in 2023-24 (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	28	70	35	20	15	8	1	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	18	64	70	34	23	9	1	0
Kwun Tong	55	105	45	26	25	13	1	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	81	114	70	28	25	19	0	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	49	74	48	18	20	4	0	0
Sham Shui Po	44	70	42	25	13	6	2	0
Sha Tin	58	75	74	40	15	7	2	0
Tai Po and North	49	87	58	29	25	8	1	0
Yuen Long	57	109	60	27	17	5	1	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	47	78	75	27	30	14	1	0
Tuen Mun	48	94	55	36	7	4	0	0
Total	**534**	**940**	**632**	**310**	**215**	**97**	**10**	**0**

Table 10: Number of applicants for HMMHs in 2024-25 (by administrative district of SWD and age group) (as at end-December 2024)

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	33	66	41	22	17	5	2	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	23	57	71	31	27	9	2	0
Kwun Tong	69	95	60	27	22	15	0	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	88	123	69	26	26	24	1	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	52	75	56	23	23	2	1	0
Sham Shui Po	48	69	45	23	11	5	1	0
Sha Tin	76	81	71	37	18	10	3	0
Tai Po and North	60	98	64	35	21	11	1	0
Yuen Long	58	110	57	27	18	6	1	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	45	81	70	30	27	14	2	0
Tuen Mun	47	90	53	34	6	4	1	0
Total	**599**	**945**	**657**	**315**	**216**	**105**	**15**	**0**

Table 11: Number of applicants for C&A/SDs 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	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 12: Number of applicants for C&A/SDs 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	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 13: Number of applicants for C&A/SDs 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	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 14: Number of applicants for C&A/SDs in 2023-24 (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	4	5	4	3	5	7	0	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	8	3	1	4	6	2	1	0
Kwun Tong	7	2	1	6	18	1	0	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	8	1	2	1	7	6	1	1
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	7	2	0	3	5	1	1	0
Sham Shui Po	6	3	2	0	9	2	0	0
Sha Tin	5	1	3	4	9	3	1	0
Tai Po and North	12	4	6	3	7	5	2	0
Yuen Long	10	6	0	2	9	3	0	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	3	5	2	4	17	5	1	0
Tuen Mun	7	2	3	4	7	6	1	0
Total	**77**	**34**	**24**	**34**	**99**	**41**	**8**	**1**

Table 15: Number of applicants for C&A/SDs in 2024-25 (by administrative district of SWD and age group) (as at end-December 2024)

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	4	2	3	1	5	3	0	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	4	5	1	1	3	2	1	0
Kwun Tong	6	2	0	4	11	6	0	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	8	1	1	1	6	6	1	1
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	1	2	0	2	7	0	0	0
Sham Shui Po	4	1	2	2	3	3	0	0
Sha Tin	2	1	3	4	11	1	2	1
Tai Po and North	4	2	2	0	0	3	2	0
Yuen Long	6	4	1	1	3	3	1	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	4	4	2	4	15	5	2	0
Tuen Mun	1	4	2	3	3	4	3	0
Total	**44**	**28**	**17**	**23**	**67**	**36**	**12**	**2**

Table 16: Number of applicants for SHOSs 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	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 17: Number of applicants for SHOSs 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	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 18: Number of applicants for SHOSs 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	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 19: Number of applicants for SHOSs in 2023-24 (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	11	45	56	50	48	19	0	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	5	30	39	32	28	14	1	0
Kwun Tong	35	69	51	35	33	12	2	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	31	66	96	53	34	22	0	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	12	31	23	14	13	6	3	0
Sham Shui Po	20	39	36	34	29	10	1	0
Sha Tin	13	38	70	50	33	4	0	0
Tai Po and North	16	72	63	56	23	4	1	0
Yuen Long	21	51	58	42	25	9	0	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	26	64	74	55	41	13	0	0
Tuen Mun	23	50	51	51	22	12	0	0
Total	**213**	**555**	**617**	**472**	**329**	**125**	**8**	**0**

Table 20: Number of applicants for SHOSs in 2024-25 (by administrative district of SWD and age group) (as at end-December 2024)

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	19	40	58	46	54	21	0	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	7	27	45	28	28	16	1	0
Kwun Tong	53	73	55	38	30	12	2	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	43	61	95	52	32	22	0	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	21	33	21	13	15	5	2	0
Sham Shui Po	19	41	44	32	27	13	2	0
Sha Tin	18	40	80	45	36	6	0	0
Tai Po and North	24	68	74	51	27	3	1	0
Yuen Long	26	56	61	33	26	7	0	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	27	69	72	58	46	12	0	0
Tuen Mun	25	53	51	54	18	13	0	0
Total	**282**	**561**	**656**	**450**	**339**	**130**	**8**	**0**

Table 21: Number of applicants for SGHs(MMHC) [Note] in 2020-21 (by administrative district of SWD and age group)

District	No. 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 22: Number of applicants for SGHs(MMHC) [Note] in 2021-22 (by administrative district of SWD and age group)

District	No. 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 23: Number of applicants for SGHs(MMHC) [Note] in 2022-23 (by administrative district of SWD and age group)

District	No. 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 24: Number of applicants for SGHs(MMHC) [Note] in 2023-24 (by administrative district of SWD and age group)

District	No. 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	1
Eastern and Wan Chai	2	1	4	0
Kwun Tong	1	3	9	6
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	0	7	2	1
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	2	1	4	1
Sham Shui Po	2	4	1	2
Sha Tin	4	4	8	2
Tai Po and North	2	9	7	1
Yuen Long	2	2	3	2
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	2	2	4	2
Tuen Mun	1	1	1	0
Total	**18**	**34**	**45**	**18**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 25: Number of applicants for SGHs(MMHC) [Note] in 2024-25 (by administrative district of SWD and age group) (as at end-December 2024)

District	No. 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	2	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	2	0	5	0
Kwun Tong	4	5	10	4
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	2	6	4	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	0	1	6	0
Sham Shui Po	0	4	2	1
Sha Tin	5	1	7	1
Tai Po and North	2	8	11	2
Yuen Long	1	3	3	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	2	4	4	1
Tuen Mun	1	0	2	0
Total	**21**	**33**	**56**	**9**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Annex 6

Table 1: Age distribution of service users of various types of residential services for PWDs in 2020-21

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
HSMH	N.A.			10	338	982	1 006	904	588	122	10
HMMH	N.A.			10	156	540	702	785	436	86	0
C&A/SD	N.A.			3	243	220	176	183	166	63	19
SHOS	N.A.			1	66	167	206	224	74	5	0
SGH(MMHC) [Note]	8	19	40	61	N.A.						
Private RCHD under BPS	N.A.			0	33	93	228	328	242	38	0

N.A. – Not applicable

[Note] SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs, whose service targets are mildly mentally handicapped children aged 6 to 18.

Table 2: Age distribution of service users of various types of residential services for PWDs in 2021-22

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
HSMH	N.A.			11	321	959	1 043	930	606	143	10
HMMH	N.A.			17	159	513	702	789	487	99	2
C&A/SD	N.A.			2	240	229	184	192	161	76	16
SHOS	N.A.			4	59	178	220	231	78	5	0
SGH(MMHC) [Note]	5	19	36	67	N.A.						
Private RCHD under BPS	N.A.			2	31	104	273	390	281	49	1

N.A. – Not applicable

[Note] SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs, whose service targets are mildly mentally handicapped children aged 6 to 18.

Table 3: Age distribution of service users of various types of residential services for PWDs in 2022-23

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
HSMH	N.A.			9	295	901	1 084	930	643	172	10
HMMH	N.A.			11	139	490	729	752	543	117	1
C&A/SD	N.A.			9	222	244	177	202	168	81	17
SHOS	N.A.			5	58	197	223	237	90	9	0
SGH(MMHC) [Note]	7	18	49	52	N.A.						
Private RCHD under BPS	N.A.			2	28	106	290	410	320	60	2

N.A. – Not applicable

[Note] SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs, whose service targets are mildly mentally handicapped children aged 6 to 18.

Table 4: Age distribution of service users of various types of residential services for PWDs in 2023-24

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**
HSMH	N.A.			5	273	888	1 106	951	666	205	11
HMMH	N.A.			12	141	490	752	728	565	141	4
C&A/SD	N.A.			12	215	251	171	211	174	85	18
SHOS	N.A.			5	50	199	222	234	107	9	0
SGH(MMHC) Note	12	20	35	55	N.A.						
Private RCHD under BPS	N.A.			2	23	88	288	416	341	63	3

N.A. – Not applicable

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs, whose service targets are mildly mentally handicapped children aged 6 to 18.

Table 5：Age distribution of service users of various types of residential services for PWDs in 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

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**
HSMH	N.A.			9	286	907	1 134	936	700	222	14
HMMH	N.A.			15	143	494	773	711	596	147	5
C&A/SD	N.A.			30	206	257	188	222	192	100	15
SHOS	N.A.			3	49	205	219	233	121	10	0
SGH(MMHC) Note	13	22	40	47	N.A.						
Private RCHD under BPS	N.A.			1	25	79	287	422	353	75	3

N.A. – Not applicable

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs, whose service targets are mildly mentally handicapped children aged 6 to 18.

Annex 7

Number of applicants on IWL for various types of residential services for PWDs from 2022-23 to 2024-25 [Note]

Service type	No. of applicants on IWL		
	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
HMMH	61	285	320
HSMH	250	444	509
Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons (HSPH)	25	115	137
C&A/SD	7	98	153
SHOS	42	281	321

Note Implemented in March 2023, the Inactive Waitlisting Mechanism for residential rehabilitation services for PWDs is applicable to applicants currently waitlisting for residential rehabilitation services for persons with intellectual/physically disabilities, including HMMHs, HSMHs, HSPHs, C&A/SDs and SHOSs.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)307

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3581)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of cases of persons with disabilities (PWDs) under 60 teams of Integrated Home Care Services (Ordinary Cases) [IHCS(OC)] across the territory in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by district.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 109)

Reply:

IHCS(OC) and Home Care and Support Services for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment (HSMI) were merged into Home Support Services (HSS) in October 2024 for better utilisation of resources and service enhancement. The requested information is set out at Annex.

Annex

Number of cases of PWDs under IHCS(OC) and HSS [Note 1]

District	IHCS(OC)					HSS [Note 2]
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-September 2024)**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Central & Western	5	7	7	7	7	8
Eastern	63	59	50	51	51	58
Wan Chai	16	12	11	11	11	10
Southern	62	56	40	44	46	47
Islands	12	12	12	12	10	10
Kwun Tong	62	58	53	51	52	52
Wong Tai Sin	107	122	118	109	105	111
Sai Kung	48	47	52	65	39	39
Kowloon City	23	18	22	12	12	15
Yau Tsim Mong	39	30	32	30	30	29
Sham Shui Po	85	75	82	101	98	99
Sha Tin	111	90	68	68	67	73
Tai Po	20	15	18	22	21	21
North	57	51	45	35	29	25
Yuen Long	82	80	75	73	62	64
Tuen Mun	83	75	61	49	50	47
Tsuen Wan	27	24	17	14	13	11
Kwai Tsing	57	57	55	54	54	58
Total	**959**	**888**	**818**	**808**	**757**	**777**

Note 1 Figures as at the end of the respective financial year (unless otherwise specified).

Note 2 IHCS(OC) and HSMI were merged into HSS in October 2024 for better utilisation of resources and service enhancement.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3582)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Would the Government please provide the following information regarding the rehabilitation services, including home care service for persons with severe disabilities (HCS) and integrated support service for persons with severe physical disabilities (ISS):

i. the total service cost, unit cost per capita and service cost of each service sub-type under the 2 services in the past 5 years;

ii. the total number of service places, number of service places for each service sub-type, total number of service users, and average waiting time for the 2 services in the past 5 years;

iii. for each service sub-type under the 2 services, the number of service sessions provided, waiting situation, number of service users (with a breakdown by type of disability and age group in 10-year bands from the age over 15) and number of persons who were refused services (with a breakdown by reason for refusal) in the past 5 years; and

iv. the number of persons who requested household cleaning and meal delivery services and the actual number of times such services were provided under the 2 services in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 110)

Reply:

i. 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 statistics on the unit cost per capita or service cost of each service sub-type under the 2 services.

ii. In the past 5 years, the service places for HCS and ISS were 3 550 and 900, respectively. SWD does not have a breakdown of service places by service sub-type of the 2 services. The number of service users of the 2 services from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is set out at Annex 2. As applicants do not have to waitlist for services through a central referral system, SWD does not have information on the average waiting time of the 2 services. Applications made by individuals with pressing needs will be processed with priority based on their individual circumstances.

iii & iv. The volume of services provided under HCS and ISS in the past 5 years is set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 3 respectively. SWD does not have information on the waiting situation for each service sub-type under the 2 services, breakdown on number of service users by type of disabilities and age group, number of persons who were refused services, and number of applicants for household cleaning/meal delivery services.

Annex 1

Service expenditures on HCS and ISS

Service type/ Year	2020-21 (Actual) ($ million)	2021-22 (Actual) ($ million)	2022-23 (Actual) ($ million)	2023-24 (Actual) ($ million)	2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($ million)
HCS	330.5	329.7	336.5	351.8	361.7
ISS	72.5	72.6	74.4	77.5	79.4

Annex 2

Numbers of service users of HCS and ISS

Service type/ Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
HCS	4 469	4 643	4 769	4 828	4 568
ISS	1 175	1 150	1 189	1 226	1 107

Annex 3

Table 1: Volume of various services utilised by HCS users

Service/Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Nursing care (no. of hours)	38 819	44 304	51 347	52 716	38 308
Rehabilitation training (no. of hours)	49 133	64 190	66 180	71 677	60 383
Personal care service (no. of hours/times [Note])	72 893	86 326	84 389	93 653 [Note]	91 131
Escort service (no. of hours/times [Note])	40 121	62 735	65 356	104 245 [Note]	85 466
Carer support programmes (no. of programmes)	88	151	167	109	84
Home respite service (headcount of users)	11 168	14 039	12 841	16 652	14 640
Social work service (no. of users)	4 469	4 643	4 769	4 828	4 568
Meal support service (no. of users)	155	146	184	250	137
Household cleaning service (no. of users)	44	67	97	129	141

[Note] As per the Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs) signed between SWD and service operators, the unit of measurement for the output standards (OS) of personal care and escort services has been changed from “number of hours” to “number of times”, effective 1 April 2023.

Table 2: Volume of various services utilised by ISS users

Service/Year	**2020-21**	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Nursing care (no. of hours)	14 583	13 959	16 988	19 152	14 629
Rehabilitation training (no. of hours)	19 639	19 725	18 031	21 619	13 656
Personal care service (no. of hours/times [Note])	25 224	30 547	30 763	23 367 (4-10/2023) 56 721[Note] (11/2023-3/2024)	91 723
Escort service (no. of hours/times [Note])	4 520	6 089	6 424	3 838 (4-10/2023) 4 336[Note] (11/2023-3/2024)	7 548
Carer support programmes (no. of programmes)	48	58	48	59	40
Home respite service (headcount of users)	6 512	6 783	5 487	5 966	4 401
Social work service (no. of users)	1 175	1 150	1 189	1 226	1 107
Meal support service (no. of users)	16	12	13	20	12
Household cleaning service (no. of users)	49	47	41	35	37

Note As per the FSAs signed between SWD and service operators, the unit of measurement for the OS of personal care and escort services has been changed from "number of hours" to "number of times", effective 1 November 2023.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3583)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding hostels for severely physically handicapped persons (HSPHs), hostels for severely physically and mentally handicapped persons (HSPH/MHs) and supported hostels (SHOSs) for physically handicapped persons, would the Government please provide the following information:

i. the current number of service places, the planned and actual number of additional service places, and the longest, shortest, average and median waiting time for each of the past 5 years;

ii. the per capita service cost for each of the past 5 years;

iii. the number of applicants, the number of persons served, and the number of persons applying for a freeze in service allocation in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by district of residence, age group, and gender;

iv. the number of persons having refused service allocation, the waiting time (in years), and their reasons for refusal in the past 5 years;

v. the age of service users of all service units in Hong Kong; and

vi. the number of planned service places, with a detailed breakdown by district.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 111)

Reply:

i. The respective numbers of service places, the planned and actual numbers of additional service places, as well as the average waiting time for HSPHs (including HSPH/MHs) and SHOSs (including those for severely physically handicapped persons, mentally handicapped persons, persons in mental recovery, and mentally handicapped persons with visual impairment) in each of the past 5 years are set out at Annex 1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have statistical information on the longest, shortest or median waiting time.

ii. The average cost per place per month for residential services for people with disabilities (PWDs) in the past 5 years is set out at Annex 2.

iii. & v. The respective numbers of applicants for HSPHs (including HSPH/MHs) and SHOSs (including those for severely physically handicapped persons, mentally handicapped persons, persons in mental recovery, and mentally handicapped persons with visual impairment) in the past 5 years, broken down by administrative district of SWD and age group, are set out at Annex 3. The number of service users, broken down by age group, and the number of applicants on the Inactive Waiting List (IWL) are set out at Annexes 4 and 5, respectively. SWD does not have information on the number of service users broken down by district of residence. As services are allocated to applicants on the Central Referral System of SWD in sequential order without considering gender, SWD does not maintain statistics on applicants broken down by gender.

iv. SWD does not have information on the number of persons having refused service allocation, their waiting time (in years) or their reasons for refusal, etc.

vi. The planned numbers of additional service places for HSPHs (including HSPH/MHs) and SHOSs (including those for severely physically handicapped persons, mentally handicapped persons, persons in mental recovery, and mentally handicapped persons with visual impairment) for the next 5 years, broken down by District Council (DC) district, are set out at Annex 6.

Annex 1

Table 1: Number of service places for HSPHs and SHOSs by year from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	No. of service places				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
HSPH	715	715	715	790	790
SHOS	784	804	866	866	866

Table 2: Planned and actual numbers of additional service places for HSPHs and SHOSs by year from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	
	Planned no. of additional service places	Actual no. of additional service places	Planned no. of additional service places	Actual no. of additional service places	Planned no. of additional service places	Actual no. of additional service places	Planned no. of additional service places	Actual no. of additional service places	Planned no. of additional service places	Actual no. of additional service places
HSPH	50	50	0	0	0	0	75	75	0	0
SHOS	60	40 Note 1	50	20 Note 1	62	62 Note 1	0	0	0	0

Note 1 Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic 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 to 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively.

Table 3: Average waiting time for HSPHs and SHOSs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	Average waiting time (in months) Note 2				
HSPH	77.8	80.9	73.0	51.5	Not yet available Note 3
SHOS	71.8	63.5	78.8	65.7	

Note 2 The waiting time is affected by multiple factors, such as the applicant's preference for the location of service units, indication on specific service unit, the turnover rate of the selected service units, etc.

Note 3 As the average waiting time is calculated on a financial-year basis, spanning from 1 April of one year to 31 March of the following year, the figures for 2024-25 are not yet available.

Annex 2

Average cost per place per month for residential services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	Average cost per place per month ($)
2020-21 (Actual)	18,033
2021-22 (Actual)	18,011
2022-23 (Actual)	18,531
2023-24 (Actual)	20,543
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	20,811

Annex 3

Table 1: Number of applicants for HSPHs 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 & Islands	3	12	5	5	16	4	0	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	4	11	5	3	14	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	2	3	3	7	10	3	1	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	3	5	5	11	16	2	2	0
Kowloon City & 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 & North	1	5	1	2	6	0	0	0
Yuen Long	3	5	4	7	9	1	0	0
Tsuen Wan & 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 2: Number of applicants for HSPHs 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 & Islands	4	6	3	4	13	5	0	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	4	10	3	4	9	2	0	0
Kwun Tong	1	5	1	6	8	4	1	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	2	4	4	9	16	3	1	0
Kowloon City & 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 & North	1	5	2	3	6	0	0	0
Yuen Long	0	5	1	5	9	2	0	0
Tsuen Wan & 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 3: Number of applicants for HSPHs 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 & Islands	3	5	3	4	6	4	0	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	4	6	4	3	11	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	1	5	3	8	11	3	1	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	2	7	3	8	11	5	0	0
Kowloon City & 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 & North	2	5	2	4	11	0	0	0
Yuen Long	0	5	1	4	11	2	1	0
Tsuen Wan & 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 4: Number of applicants for HSPHs in 2023-24
(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 & Islands	4	7	2	5	5	3	0	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	3	5	1	5	10	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	1	2	2	6	11	4	1	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	1	13	3	5	9	4	0	0
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	2	1	3	3	12	2	0	0
Sham Shui Po	3	4	4	1	6	3	0	0
Sha Tin	4	2	2	8	9	2	0	0
Tai Po & North	1	0	2	5	6	2	0	0
Yuen Long	0	1	1	1	7	0	0	0
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	1	6	3	3	12	4	0	0
Tuen Mun	1	0	5	9	1	5	0	0
Total	**21**	**41**	**28**	**51**	**88**	**29**	**1**	**0**

Table 5: Number of applicants for HSPHs in 2024-25
(by administrative district of SWD and age group)
(as at end-December 2024)

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 & Islands	3	7	3	4	7	3	0	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	3	3	2	7	10	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	3	2	3	4	9	5	0	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	2	11	3	3	9	5	0	0
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	3	2	4	2	9	3	0	0
Sham Shui Po	4	4	4	1	5	3	0	0
Sha Tin	5	2	3	4	8	4	0	0
Tai Po & North	1	0	3	4	6	2	0	0
Yuen Long	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	3	5	4	3	6	5	0	0
Tuen Mun	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0
Total	**28**	**36**	**30**	**35**	**73**	**31**	**0**	**0**

Table 6: Number of applicants for SHOSs 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 & Islands	7	38	55	39	35	9	1	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	3	26	36	39	27	8	1	0
Kwun Tong	26	55	54	36	34	13	1	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	24	65	87	66	56	18	0	0
Kowloon City & 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 & North	17	76	66	36	26	4	0	0
Yuen Long	19	57	57	39	28	2	0	0
Tsuen Wan & 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 7: Number of applicants for SHOSs 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 & Islands	10	43	60	45	49	15	1	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	4	33	32	45	27	9	1	0
Kwun Tong	34	63	55	35	34	15	1	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	28	66	89	63	49	21	0	0
Kowloon City & 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 & North	17	76	78	44	28	5	0	0
Yuen Long	27	51	62	35	30	2	0	0
Tsuen Wan & 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 8: Number of applicants for SHOSs 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 & Islands	10	46	57	48	41	20	2	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	3	35	36	41	27	11	1	0
Kwun Tong	38	65	54	39	36	14	2	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	25	71	93	57	34	26	0	0
Kowloon City & 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 & North	12	87	66	50	25	4	0	0
Yuen Long	19	51	62	41	31	4	0	0
Tsuen Wan & 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 9: Number of applicants for SHOSs in 2023-24 (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 & Islands	11	45	56	50	48	19	0	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	5	30	39	32	28	14	1	0
Kwun Tong	35	69	51	35	33	12	2	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	31	66	96	53	34	22	0	0
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	12	31	23	14	13	6	3	0
Sham Shui Po	20	39	36	34	29	10	1	0
Sha Tin	13	38	70	50	33	4	0	0
Tai Po & North	16	72	63	56	23	4	1	0
Yuen Long	21	51	58	42	25	9	0	0
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	26	64	74	55	41	13	0	0
Tuen Mun	23	50	51	51	22	12	0	0
Total	**213**	**555**	**617**	**472**	**329**	**125**	**8**	**0**

Table 10: Number of applicants for SHOSs in 2024-25
(by administrative district of SWD and age group)
(as at end-December 2024)

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 & Islands	19	40	58	46	54	21	0	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	7	27	45	28	28	16	1	0
Kwun Tong	53	73	55	38	30	12	2	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	43	61	95	52	32	22	0	0
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	21	33	21	13	15	5	2	0
Sham Shui Po	19	41	44	32	27	13	2	0
Sha Tin	18	40	80	45	36	6	0	0
Tai Po & North	24	68	74	51	27	3	1	0
Yuen Long	26	56	61	33	26	7	0	0
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	27	69	72	58	46	12	0	0
Tuen Mun	25	53	51	54	18	13	0	0
Total	**282**	**561**	**656**	**450**	**339**	**130**	**8**	**0**

Annex 4

Table 1: Age distribution of HSPH service users from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Financial year	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**
2020-21	0	55	120	191	172	101	22	0
2021-22	1	59	120	200	185	104	21	0
2022-23	0	58	104	207	191	117	24	1
2023-24	1	57	99	218	191	131	23	1
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	2	54	112	208	201	144	25	2

Table 2: Age distribution of SHOS service users from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Financial year	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**
2020-21	1	66	167	206	224	74	5	0
2021-22	4	59	178	220	231	78	5	0
2022-23	5	58	197	223	237	90	9	0
2023-24	5	50	199	222	234	107	9	0
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	3	49	205	219	233	121	10	0

Annex 5

Number of HSPH and SHOS applicants on IWL from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	No. of applicants on IWL				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
HSPH	N.A. [Note]		25	115	137
SHOS	N.A. [Note]		42	281	321

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note] Implemented in March 2023, the Inactive Waitlisting Mechanism for residential care services for PWDs is applicable to applicants currently waitlisting for residential rehabilitation services for persons with intellectual/physical disabilities, including hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons, hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons, HSPHs, care-and-attention homes for severely disabled persons, and SHOSs.

Annex 6

Planned numbers of additional service places for HSPHs and SHOSs for the next 5 years

(by DC district)

Service type	**2025-26**	**2026-27**	**2027-28**	**2028-29**	**2029-30**
HSPH	-	-	-	50 (Sham Shui Po)	50 (Islands)
SHOS	31 (Sai Kung) 30 (Sha Tin) 40 (Eastern) 112 (Tuen Mun)	-	-	70 (Kowloon City) 30 (North) 20 (Yuen Long)	30 (Kwun Tong) 30 (North) 20 (Sha Tin) 30 (Tsuen Wan) 40 (Islands)
Total	**213**	**-**	**-**	**170**	**200**

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3584)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 children with disabilities, and on-site pre-school rehabilitation services (OPRS), would the Government please provide the following information:

i. the respective numbers of pre-school children and primary students currently awaiting assessments of special educational needs in Hong Kong;

ii. the number of service places, the actual increase in the number of service places, the utilisation rate, the per capita service cost, as well as the median, average, longest and shortest waiting time for various types of services for each of the past 5 years;

iii. the numbers of applicants, service users and persons who applied for a freeze in service allocation in each of the past 5 years, with a breakdown by district of residence, age group (i.e. aged 0 to 2, aged 3 to 4, and aged 5 to 6) and gender of the applicants;

iv. the number of persons having refused service allocation, their waiting time (in years), and their reasons for refusal for each of the past 5 years;

v. the number of users of various service units in each district in Hong Kong, with a breakdown by age group (i.e. aged 0 to 2, aged 3 to 4, and aged 5 to 6); and

vi. the number of planned service places, with a detailed breakdown by district.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 112)

Reply:

i. The Child Assessment Service (CAS) of the Department of Health (DH) provides comprehensive professional assessment services for children under the age of 12 with suspected developmental problems. In 2024, CAS received 7 814 and 782 new case referrals (provisional figures) for pre-school children and primary students, respectively. Apart from DH, the Hospital Authority, non-governmental organisations and private recognised professionals also offer assessment services. The Government does not have statistical information on the number of children who have been assessed as requiring pre-school rehabilitation services.

All public sector ordinary primary schools have implemented the Early Identification and Intervention Programme for Primary One (P1) Students with Learning Difficulties to facilitate early identification of and support for P1 students who are suspected of having learning difficulties. Schools will consult school-based educational psychologists (EPs) regarding the educational needs of students with learning or emotional and behavioural difficulties. For students who continue to show severe or persistent difficulties despite the intervention rendered, schools will refer them to school-based EPs or other professionals for further assessment as appropriate. The Education Bureau (EDB) has all along been encouraging schools to adopt the "intervention before assessment" principle, ensuring appropriate support is provided to students displaying learning or emotional and behavioural difficulties without the need to wait for the completion of assessments. EDB does not have information on the number of students with special educational needs awaiting assessment.

ii. The number of service places, the actual number of additional service places, the utilisation rate, the average waiting time, and the average monthly cost per place for various pre-school rehabilitation services (including OPRS, EETCs, IP, SCCCs, and OCCS for children with disabilities) in each of the past 5 years are set out at Annex 1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have statistical information on the shortest, longest or median waiting time for pre-school rehabilitation services. Regarding OCCS for children with disabilities, applications can be made by parents/carers to the service operators directly or through referrals by medical social workers, family caseworkers, staff of pre-school rehabilitation service centres, etc. Therefore, SWD does not have information on the utilisation rate or average waiting time of the service.

iii. The numbers of new applicants and service users for various pre-school rehabilitation services (including OPRS, EETCs, IP, and SCCCs) in the past 5 years, broken down by administrative district of SWD 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. Regarding OCCS for children with disabilities, 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 applicants or users of the service.

iv. The number of cases where service allocation was refused for various pre-school rehabilitation services (including OPRS, EETCs, IP, and SCCCs) in the past 5 years is set out at Annex 3. SWD does not have statistical information on the length of waiting time or the reasons for refusal in these cases.

v. SWD does not have statistical information on the service users of various pre-school rehabilitation service units broken down by age across different districts in Hong Kong.

vi. The estimated number of additional service places for pre-school rehabilitation services broken down by administrative district of SWD in 2025-26 is set out at Annex 4.

Annex 1

Table 1: Number of service places for pre-school rehabilitation services from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
OPRS	8 074	9 074	10 074	10 124	10 124
EETC	3 888	4 174	4 393	4 413	4 605
IP	1 980	1 980	1 980	1 980	1 974
SCCC	2 170	2 274	2 364	2 456	2 516
OCCS for children with disabilities	102	111	117	120	120

Table 2: Actual number of additional service places for pre-school rehabilitation services from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
OPRS	1 000	1 000	1 000	50	-
EETC	117	286	219	20	192
IP	-	-	-	-	-
SCCC	150	104	90	92	60
OCCS for children with disabilities	5	9	6	3	-

Table 3: Utilisation rate of pre-school rehabilitation services from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	2020-21 (%)	2021-22 (%)	2022-23 (%)	2023-24 (%)	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024) (%)
OPRS	96.5	98.4	98.8	99.8	99.0
EETC	94.6	95.4	95.1	96.4	94.7
IP	96.3	97.9	97.2	96.2	93.4
SCCC	97.4	94.7	93.0	97.4	96.6
OCCS for children with disabilities [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 4: Average waiting time for pre-school rehabilitation services from 2019-20 to 2023-24

Service type	Average waiting time (in months) Note 1 Note 2				
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
OPRS	4.8	5.2	4.3	4.2	3.4
EETC	11.2	8	5.4	5	5
IP	7.5	8	6.3	5.3	3.6
SCCC	17.5	19.9	20.2	19.3	19.2
OCCS for children with disabilities Note 3	-	-	-	-	-

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, the figure for 2024-25 is not yet available.

Note 2 OPRS has achieved "zero waiting time" in 2024-25. Starting from 2024-25, the number of persons waitlisted is no longer applicable to OPRS.

Note 3 The service may admit service users directly or through referral and hence SWD does not have the statistics on the waiting time.

Table 5: Average monthly cost per place for pre-school rehabilitation services from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	Average cost per place per month				
	2020-21 (Actual) ($)	2021-22 (Actual) ($)	2022-23 (Actual) ($)	2023-24 (Actual) ($)	2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($)
Pre-school rehabilitation service	9,930	9,764	9,950	10,307	10,524

Annex 2

Table 1a: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for OPRS in 2020-21

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	**Aged 3 to 4**	**Aged 5 to 6**	**Total**
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	74	155	39	**268**
Eastern & Wan Chai	83	158	48	**289**
Kwun Tong	108	298	103	**509**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	101	293	74	**468**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	76	195	52	**323**
Sham Shui Po	38	170	42	**250**
Sha Tin	88	266	58	**412**
Tai Po & North	45	242	58	**345**
Yuen Long	83	288	58	**429**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	67	279	72	**418**
Tuen Mun	71	222	39	**332**
Total	**834**	**2 566**	**643**	**4 043**

Table 1b: 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 1c: 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 1d: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for OPRS in 2023-24

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	110	259	62	**431**
Eastern & Wan Chai	125	223	61	**409**
Kwun Tong	139	345	77	**561**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	159	408	102	**669**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	119	359	67	**545**
Sham Shui Po	75	195	54	**324**
Sha Tin	133	362	67	**562**
Tai Po & North	111	374	118	**603**
Yuen Long	142	437	87	**666**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	103	373	92	**568**
Tuen Mun	148	275	56	**479**
Total	**1 364**	**3 610**	**843**	**5 817**

Table 1e: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for OPRS in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	97	196	32	**325**
Eastern & Wan Chai	98	158	44	**300**
Kwun Tong	97	237	71	**405**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	140	306	81	**527**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	87	182	44	**313**
Sham Shui Po	62	146	48	**256**
Sha Tin	107	213	58	**378**
Tai Po & North	111	285	77	**473**
Yuen Long	129	249	68	**446**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	102	233	82	**417**
Tuen Mun	101	209	52	**362**
Total	**1 131**	**2 414**	**657**	**4 202**

Table 2a: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for EETCs in 2020-21

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	90	51	15	**156**
Eastern & Wan Chai	96	64	19	**179**
Kwun Tong	83	40	11	**134**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	98	69	22	**189**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	107	44	10	**161**
Sham Shui Po	61	26	7	**94**
Sha Tin	93	61	28	**182**
Tai Po & North	58	45	15	**118**
Yuen Long	81	59	24	**164**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	67	52	19	**138**
Tuen Mun	65	59	25	**149**
Total	**899**	**570**	**195**	**1 664**

Table 2b: 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 2c: 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 2d: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for EETCs in 2023-24

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	79	49	6	**134**
Eastern & Wan Chai	82	62	15	**159**
Kwun Tong	68	68	17	**153**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	103	84	24	**211**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	78	67	14	**159**
Sham Shui Po	52	45	6	**103**
Sha Tin	81	80	28	**189**
Tai Po & North	81	74	22	**177**
Yuen Long	57	62	17	**136**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	74	88	16	**178**
Tuen Mun	34	46	14	**94**
Total	**789**	**725**	**179**	**1 693**

Table 2e: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for EETCs in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	49	32	11	**92**
Eastern & Wan Chai	47	53	10	**110**
Kwun Tong	55	42	12	**109**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	73	69	26	**168**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	71	42	14	**127**
Sham Shui Po	44	27	10	**81**
Sha Tin	57	55	29	**141**
Tai Po & North	53	58	25	**136**
Yuen Long	47	52	12	**111**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	75	54	18	**147**
Tuen Mun	49	54	8	**111**
Total	**620**	**538**	**175**	**1 333**

Table 3a: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for IP in 2020-21

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	26	20	1	**47**
Eastern & Wan Chai	26	29	5	**60**
Kwun Tong	53	38	5	**96**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	48	38	5	**91**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	45	43	4	**92**
Sham Shui Po	17	24	1	**42**
Sha Tin	39	20	9	**68**
Tai Po & North	40	28	5	**73**
Yuen Long	46	52	3	**101**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	42	46	8	**96**
Tuen Mun	40	41	4	**85**
Total	**422**	**379**	**50**	**851**

Table 3b: 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 3c: 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	-	**65**
Yuen Long	62	26	-	**88**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	37	41	5	**83**
Tuen Mun	37	27	-	**64**
Total	**351**	**348**	**26**	**725**

Table 3d: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for IP in 2023-24

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	22	17	3	**42**
Eastern & Wan Chai	24	14	3	**41**
Kwun Tong	24	40	4	**68**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	39	46	5	**90**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	42	43	5	**90**
Sham Shui Po	23	24	3	**50**
Sha Tin	27	23	6	**56**
Tai Po & North	35	38	1	**74**
Yuen Long	42	35	-	**77**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	22	33	2	**57**
Tuen Mun	28	14	-	**42**
Total	**328**	**327**	**32**	**687**

Table 3e: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for IP in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	14	11	-	**25**
Eastern & Wan Chai	8	7	3	**18**
Kwun Tong	29	28	1	**58**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	31	28	-	**59**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	20	23	2	**45**
Sham Shui Po	21	11	1	**33**
Sha Tin	30	15	7	**52**
Tai Po & North	33	21	2	**56**
Yuen Long	36	19	1	**56**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	24	34	6	**64**
Tuen Mun	27	20	3	**50**
Total	**273**	**217**	**26**	**516**

Table 4a: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for SCCCs in 2020-21

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	87	43	1	**131**
Eastern & Wan Chai	96	38	3	**137**
Kwun Tong	49	36	3	**88**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	61	42	4	**107**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	60	27	1	**88**
Sham Shui Po	32	30	3	**65**
Sha Tin	45	24	4	**73**
Tai Po & North	53	38	2	**93**
Yuen Long	58	61	6	**125**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	51	33	4	**88**
Tuen Mun	44	36	6	**86**
Total	**636**	**408**	**37**	**1 081**

Table 4b: 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 4c: 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	-	**46**
Total	**587**	**394**	**34**	**1 015**

Table 4d: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for SCCCs in 2023-24

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	61	40	4	**105**
Eastern & Wan Chai	86	37	4	**127**
Kwun Tong	37	19	-	**56**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	32	21	3	**56**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	48	47	6	**101**
Sham Shui Po	24	30	2	**56**
Sha Tin	27	12	-	**39**
Tai Po & North	48	22	3	**73**
Yuen Long	46	38	1	**85**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	53	36	3	**92**
Tuen Mun	25	17	3	**45**
Total	**487**	**319**	**29**	**835**

Table 4e: District of residence and age distribution of new applicants for SCCCs in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

District	No. of new applicants			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	60	20	5	**85**
Eastern & Wan Chai	55	19	2	**76**
Kwun Tong	30	20	2	**52**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	20	20	2	**42**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	18	28	5	**51**
Sham Shui Po	12	19	4	**35**
Sha Tin	9	11	1	**21**
Tai Po & North	38	16	3	**57**
Yuen Long	31	22	1	**54**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	36	18	8	**62**
Tuen Mun	21	7	2	**30**
Total	**330**	**200**	**35**	**565**

Table 5a: Number and age distribution of service users of OPRS in 2020-21

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	11	275	284	**570**
Eastern & Wan Chai	16	319	318	**653**
Kwun Tong	1	375	530	**906**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	10	419	538	**967**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	6	314	402	**722**
Sham Shui Po	2	196	262	**460**
Sha Tin	6	363	456	**825**
Tai Po & North	9	256	411	**676**
Yuen Long	2	290	374	**666**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	1	310	473	**784**
Tuen Mun	2	247	317	**566**
Total	**66**	**3 364**	**4 365**	**7 795**

Table 5b: Number 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 5c: Number and age distribution of service users of OPRS 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	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 5d: Number and age distribution of service users of OPRS in 2023-24

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	**Aged 3 to 4**	**Aged 5 to 6**	**Total**
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	5	323	448	**776**
Eastern & Wan Chai	5	369	463	**837**
Kwun Tong	5	430	640	**1 075**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	8	516	686	**1 210**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	6	330	529	**865**
Sham Shui Po	0	236	367	**603**
Sha Tin	5	342	565	**912**
Tai Po & North	2	317	603	**922**
Yuen Long	2	365	663	**1 030**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	1	421	657	**1 079**
Tuen Mun	3	310	482	**795**
Total	**42**	**3 959**	**6 103**	**10 104**

Table 5e: Number and age distribution of service users of OPRS in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	13	360	378	**751**
Eastern & Wan Chai	9	367	454	**830**
Kwun Tong	14	444	589	**1 047**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	13	505	695	**1 213**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	16	407	455	**878**
Sham Shui Po	5	265	308	**578**
Sha Tin	12	368	545	**925**
Tai Po & North	3	332	553	**888**
Yuen Long	5	406	606	**1 017**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	8	438	638	**1 084**
Tuen Mun	6	359	444	**809**
Total	**104**	**4 251**	**5 665**	**10 020**

Table 6a: Number and age distribution of service users EETCs in 2020-21

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	58	171	149	**378**
Eastern & Wan Chai	40	140	182	**362**
Kwun Tong	71	148	137	**356**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	67	177	204	**448**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	60	158	158	**376**
Sham Shui Po	56	96	117	**269**
Sha Tin	68	136	162	**366**
Tai Po & North	58	135	125	**318**
Yuen Long	33	100	129	**262**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	59	130	156	**345**
Tuen Mun	24	75	99	**198**
Total	**594**	**1 466**	**1 618**	**3 678**

Table 6b: Number 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 6c: Number 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 6d: Number and age distribution of service users of EETCs in 2023-24

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	68	186	147	**401**
Eastern & Wan Chai	33	203	179	**415**
Kwun Tong	60	148	178	**386**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	64	226	245	**535**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	60	166	164	**390**
Sham Shui Po	49	163	127	**339**
Sha Tin	61	184	174	**419**
Tai Po & North	73	209	157	**439**
Yuen Long	35	113	117	**265**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	50	157	193	**400**
Tuen Mun	38	115	110	**263**
Total	**591**	**1 870**	**1 791**	**4 252**

Table 6e: Number and age distribution of service users of EETCs in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	83	179	142	**404**
Eastern & Wan Chai	69	185	149	**403**
Kwun Tong	86	150	146	**382**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	114	228	191	**533**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	103	165	132	**400**
Sham Shui Po	66	137	130	**333**
Sha Tin	95	208	164	**467**
Tai Po & North	99	184	163	**446**
Yuen Long	43	141	103	**287**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	66	214	167	**447**
Tuen Mun	30	144	85	**259**
Total	**854**	**1 935**	**1 572**	**4 361**

Table 7a: Number and age distribution of service users of IP in 2020-21

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	**Aged 3 to 4**	**Aged 5 to 6**	**Total**
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	13	48	70	**131**
Eastern & Wan Chai	3	58	79	**140**
Kwun Tong	3	89	114	**206**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	4	91	137	**232**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	9	96	120	**225**
Sham Shui Po	2	46	77	**125**
Sha Tin	10	50	98	**158**
Tai Po & North	6	72	94	**172**
Yuen Long	1	87	105	**193**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	4	75	106	**185**
Tuen Mun	3	60	77	**140**
Total	**58**	**772**	**1 077**	**1 907**

Table 7b: Number 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 7c: Number 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 7d: Number and age distribution of service users of IP in 2023-24

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	4	47	56	**107**
Eastern & Wan Chai	4	56	77	**137**
Kwun Tong	5	89	125	**219**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	5	90	136	**231**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	7	94	112	**213**
Sham Shui Po	-	49	83	**132**
Sha Tin	6	69	100	**175**
Tai Po & North	5	72	96	**173**
Yuen Long	10	95	87	**192**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	6	81	95	**182**
Tuen Mun	5	53	85	**143**
Total	**57**	**795**	**1 052**	**1 904**

Table 7e: Number and age distribution of service users of IP in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	3	57	48	**108**
Eastern & Wan Chai	4	56	64	**124**
Kwun Tong	14	86	99	**199**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	9	97	121	**227**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	5	104	99	**208**
Sham Shui Po	2	53	69	**124**
Sha Tin	6	79	82	**167**
Tai Po & North	5	76	86	**167**
Yuen Long	9	103	77	**189**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	9	83	91	**183**
Tuen Mun	6	77	64	**147**
Total	**72**	**871**	**900**	**1 843**

Table 8a: Number and age distribution of service users of SCCCs in 2020-21

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	7	106	100	**213**
Eastern & Wan Chai	2	62	123	**187**
Kwun Tong	4	60	146	**210**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	4	70	191	**265**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	1	67	121	**189**
Sham Shui Po	3	25	108	**136**
Sha Tin	1	56	126	**183**
Tai Po & North	-	62	155	**217**
Yuen Long	5	61	116	**182**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	4	68	147	**219**
Tuen Mun	1	29	82	**112**
Total	**32**	**666**	**1 415**	**2 113**

Table 8b: Number 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 8c: Number 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 8d: Number and age distribution of service users of SCCCs in 2023-24

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	6	80	141	**227**
Eastern & Wan Chai	3	83	130	**216**
Kwun Tong	2	62	166	**230**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	4	74	221	**299**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	5	80	155	**240**
Sham Shui Po	5	40	103	**148**
Sha Tin	3	63	145	**211**
Tai Po & North	2	76	145	**223**
Yuen Long	3	36	171	**210**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	3	60	164	**227**
Tuen Mun	3	28	130	**161**
Total	**39**	**682**	**1 671**	**2 392**

Table 8e: Number and age distribution of service users of SCCCs in 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)

District	No. of service users			
	Aged 0 to 2	Aged 3 to 4	Aged 5 to 6	Total
Central/Western/ Southern & Islands	9	91	133	**233**
Eastern & Wan Chai	3	91	118	**212**
Kwun Tong	4	56	149	**209**
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	4	100	196	**300**
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	6	66	167	**239**
Sham Shui Po	3	53	112	**168**
Sha Tin	5	55	130	**190**
Tai Po & North	2	72	157	**231**
Yuen Long	3	60	163	**226**
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	3	61	165	**229**
Tuen Mun	4	51	139	**194**
Total	**46**	**756**	**1 629**	**2 431**

Annex 3

Number of cases of various pre-school rehabilitation services allocation being refused from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
OPRS	396	437	489	429	663
EETC	555	518	402	468	443
IP	63	60	51	42	24
SCCC	298	320	352	371	406

Annex 4

Estimated number of additional service places for pre-school rehabilitation services in 2025-26

Service type	Estimated no. of additional service places in 2025-26	Administrative district of SWD
EETC	90	Kwun Tong: 90
SCCC	184	Sha Tin: 32
		Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing: 32
		Kwun Tong: 60
		Tai Po: 60

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)311

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3585)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Since 2020, the Government has allocated some $30 million to subsidise soft meals for residents of residential care homes (RCHs) for the elderly (RCHEs). What is the average daily subsidy provided for each elderly resident? Will the Government extend this policy to include residents of subvented RCHs for persons with disabilities (RCHDs)?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 113)

Reply:

Since October 2020, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been providing additional funding to subvented RCHEs, subvented nursing homes, contract RCHEs, private and self-financing RCHEs participating in the Bought Place Schemes, as well as subvented RCHDs and private RCHDs participating in Bought Place Scheme, for their flexible deployment in providing soft meals according to residents' needs. The annual expenditure involved is about $65 million for RCHEs and $52 million for RCHDs. SWD does not have information on the average subsidy for residents using soft meal service.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3586)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding long stay care homes (LSCHs), halfway houses (HWHs) and supported hostels (SHOSs) for persons in mental recovery, would the Government please provide the following information:

i. the current number of service places, the planned and actual number of additional service places, and the longest, shortest, average and median waiting time for each of the past 5 years;

ii. the per capita service cost for each of the past 5 years;

iii. the number of applicants, the number of persons served, and the number of persons applying for a freeze in service allocation in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by district of residence, age group, and gender;

iv. the number of persons having refused service allocation, their waiting time (in years), and their reasons for refusal in the past 5 years;

v. the age of service users of all service units in Hong Kong; and

vi. the number of planned service places, with a detailed breakdown by district.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 114)

Reply:

i. The respective numbers of service places, the planned and actual numbers of additional service places, as well as the average waiting time for LSCHs, HWHs and SHOSs (including those for severely physically handicapped persons, mentally handicapped persons, persons in mental recovery, and mentally handicapped persons with visual impairment) in each of the past 5 years are set out in Tables 1 to 3 of Annex 1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have statistical information on the longest, shortest or median waiting time.

ii. The average cost per place per month for residential rehabilitation services in the past 5 years is set out at Annex 2.

iii. & v. The respective numbers of applicants for LSCHs, HWHs and SHOSs (including those for severely physically handicapped persons, mentally handicapped persons,

persons in mental recovery, and mentally handicapped persons with visual impairment) in the past 5 years, broken down by administrative district of SWD and age group, are set out in Tables 1 to 15 of Annex 3. The number of service users, broken down by age group, and the number of applicants on the Inactive Waiting List (IWL) are set out in Tables 1 to 3 of Annex 4, and Annex 5, respectively. SWD does not have information on the number of service users broken down by district of residence. As services are allocated to applicants on the Central Referral System of SWD in sequential order without considering gender, SWD does not have statistical information on the applicants' gender.

iv. SWD does not have information on the number of persons having refused service allocation, their waiting time (in years) or their reasons for refusal.

vi. The planned numbers of additional service places for LSCHs, HWH and SHOSs (including those for severely physically handicapped persons, mentally handicapped persons, persons in mental recovery, and mentally handicapped persons with visual impairment) for the next 5 years, broken down by District Council (DC) district, are set out at Annex 6.

Annex 1

Table 1: Numbers of service places for LSCHs, HWHs and SHOSs by year from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	No. of service places				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
LSCH	1 587	1 587	1 587	1 987	1 987
HWH	1 594	1 594	1 594	1 594	1 594
SHOS	784	804	866	866	866

Table 2: Planned and actual numbers of additional service places for LSCHs, HWHs and SHOSs by year from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	
	Planned no. of additional service places	Actual no. of additional service places	Planned no. of additional service places s	Actual no. of additional service places	Planned no. of additional service places	Actual no. of additional service places	Planned no. of additional service places	Actual no. of additional service places	Planned no. of additional service places	Actual no. of additional service places
LSCH	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	400	0	0
HWH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SHOS [Note 1]	60	40 [Note 1]	50	20 [Note 1]	62	62 [Note 1]	0	0	0	0

Note 1 Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic 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.

Table 3: Average waiting time for LSCHs, HWHs and SHOSs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	Average waiting time (in months) [Note 2]				
LSCH	64.9	57.8	72.3	56.8	Not yet available [Note 3]
HWH	4.7	4.2	4.2	4.3	
SHOS	71.8	63.5	78.8	65.7	

Note 2 The waiting time is affected by multiple factors, such as the applicant's preference for the location of service units, indication on specific service unit, the turnover rate of the selected service units, etc.

Note 3 As the average waiting time is calculated on a financial-year basis, spanning from 1 April of one year to 31 March of the following year, the figures for 2024-25 are not yet available.

Annex 2

Average cost per place per month for residential rehabilitation services from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	Average cost per place per month for subsidised residential rehabilitation services ($)
2020-21 (Actual)	18,033
2021-22 (Actual)	18,011
2022-23 (Actual)	18,531
2023-24 (Actual)	20,543
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	20,811

Annex 3

Table 1: Number of applicants for LSCHs 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 & Islands	0	4	8	59	114	88	17	7
Eastern & Wan Chai	0	3	10	24	79	74	14	3
Kwun Tong	0	3	13	32	69	48	5	1
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	1	2	11	36	82	58	11	1
Kowloon City & 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 & North	0	0	21	38	79	69	12	0
Yuen Long	0	8	13	39	52	44	5	0
Tsuen Wan & 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 2: Number of applicants for LSCHs 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 & Islands	0	5	6	50	104	86	20	6
Eastern & Wan Chai	0	3	7	22	83	72	19	3
Kwun Tong	0	5	10	31	76	55	5	2
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	1	3	14	39	78	59	13	1
Kowloon City & 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 & North	0	0	17	32	78	75	13	1
Yuen Long	0	5	13	30	59	41	8	0
Tsuen Wan & 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 3: Number of applicants for LSCHs 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 & Islands	0	6	11	43	94	82	23	5
Eastern & Wan Chai	0	4	5	17	70	76	17	2
Kwun Tong	0	4	7	28	81	58	7	1
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	0	1	12	33	63	57	11	0
Kowloon City & 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 & North	0	1	19	25	65	68	11	1
Yuen Long	0	4	10	26	50	28	9	0
Tsuen Wan & 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 4: Number of applicants for LSCHs in 2023-24 (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 & Islands	0	5	9	31	80	67	22	2
Eastern & Wan Chai	0	3	5	14	64	64	14	2
Kwun Tong	0	3	9	25	69	48	8	2
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	1	3	11	28	52	42	12	0
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	0	1	7	29	69	40	12	0
Sham Shui Po	0	4	9	23	48	45	9	0
Sha Tin	0	3	15	58	85	86	16	0
Tai Po & North	0	0	11	28	49	51	4	0
Yuen Long	0	3	7	19	34	22	3	0
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	0	5	20	58	113	57	7	0
Tuen Mun	1	3	16	32	81	73	7	0
Total	**2**	**33**	**119**	**345**	**744**	**595**	**114**	**6**

Table 5: Number of applicants for LSCHs in 2024-25 (by administrative district of SWD and age group) (as at 31 December 2024)

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 & Islands	0	3	7	32	61	63	23	2
Eastern & Wan Chai	0	2	4	12	50	50	13	2
Kwun Tong	0	5	8	22	55	45	8	1
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	1	3	10	17	46	34	10	0
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	0	3	5	23	56	35	11	0
Sham Shui Po	0	5	12	15	49	38	10	0
Sha Tin	0	3	11	46	75	66	12	0
Tai Po & North	0	1	6	27	29	33	3	0
Yuen Long	0	0	1	11	21	17	2	0
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	0	7	15	45	97	60	10	0
Tuen Mun	0	3	4	22	53	46	6	0
Total	**1**	**35**	**83**	**272**	**592**	**487**	**108**	**5**

Table 6: Number of applicants for HWHs 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 & Islands	0	9	9	7	4	4	0	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	1	12	19	16	16	5	0	0
Kwun Tong	3	7	10	13	14	4	0	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	4	9	9	4	10	2	0	0
Kowloon City & 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 & North	0	5	14	17	10	4	1	0
Yuen Long	1	7	7	5	3	1	0	0
Tsuen Wan & 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 7: Number of applicants for HWHs 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 & Islands	1	14	7	12	11	3	0	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	2	9	17	18	20	12	0	0
Kwun Tong	1	12	11	15	15	6	0	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	4	5	13	5	15	5	0	0
Kowloon City & 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 & North	2	10	13	22	9	4	1	0
Yuen Long	2	7	12	6	4	3	1	0
Tsuen Wan & 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 8: Number of applicants for HWHs 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 & Islands	1	11	9	8	6	6	2	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	1	12	12	15	15	5	1	0
Kwun Tong	2	11	11	3	5	3	0	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	2	15	10	5	10	3	0	0
Kowloon City & 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 & North	1	5	8	16	11	2	0	0
Yuen Long	1	10	7	8	5	2	0	0
Tsuen Wan & 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 9: Number of applicants for HWHs in 2023-24
(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 & Islands	1	7	9	13	17	3	0	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	1	11	17	14	16	6	0	0
Kwun Tong	1	11	14	13	8	6	1	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	6	15	17	13	5	6	0	0
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	0	11	14	18	12	2	0	0
Sham Shui Po	3	8	16	8	9	3	0	0
Sha Tin	2	6	19	22	19	4	0	0
Tai Po & North	3	9	20	22	21	10	1	0
Yuen Long	0	10	9	11	7	3	0	0
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	1	17	20	30	34	5	0	0
Tuen Mun	0	4	12	14	14	6	0	0
Total	**18**	**109**	**167**	**178**	**162**	**54**	**2**	**0**

Table 10: Number of applicants for HWHs in 2024-25
(by administrative district of SWD and age group)
(as at 31 December 2024)

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 & Islands	1	8	13	12	10	3	0	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	0	9	17	20	11	6	0	0
Kwun Tong	5	10	19	13	13	9	0	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	2	9	16	9	12	4	1	0
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	2	11	16	12	13	4	0	0
Sham Shui Po	0	4	9	9	7	5	0	0
Sha Tin	4	11	16	16	14	3	0	0
Tai Po & North	1	16	18	16	17	4	0	0
Yuen Long	0	9	15	7	9	1	0	0
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	1	18	33	25	26	8	0	0
Tuen Mun	0	14	15	13	9	5	0	0
Total	**16**	**119**	**187**	**152**	**141**	**52**	**1**	**0**

Table 11: Number of applicants for SHOSs 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 & Islands	7	38	55	39	35	9	1	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	3	26	36	39	27	8	1	0
Kwun Tong	26	55	54	36	34	13	1	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	24	65	87	66	56	18	0	0
Kowloon City & 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 & North	17	76	66	36	26	4	0	0
Yuen Long	19	57	57	39	28	2	0	0
Tsuen Wan & 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 12: Number of applicants for SHOSs 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 & Islands	10	43	60	45	49	15	1	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	4	33	32	45	27	9	1	0
Kwun Tong	34	63	55	35	34	15	1	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	28	66	89	63	49	21	0	0
Kowloon City & 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 & North	17	76	78	44	28	5	0	0
Yuen Long	27	51	62	35	30	2	0	0
Tsuen Wan & 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 13: Number of applicants for SHOSs 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 & Islands	10	46	57	48	41	20	2	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	3	35	36	41	27	11	1	0
Kwun Tong	38	65	54	39	36	14	2	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	25	71	93	57	34	26	0	0
Kowloon City & 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 & North	12	87	66	50	25	4	0	0
Yuen Long	19	51	62	41	31	4	0	0
Tsuen Wan & 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 14: Number of applicants for SHOSs in 2023-24 (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 & Islands	11	45	56	50	48	19	0	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	5	30	39	32	28	14	1	0
Kwun Tong	35	69	51	35	33	12	2	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	31	66	96	53	34	22	0	0
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	12	31	23	14	13	6	3	0
Sham Shui Po	20	39	36	34	29	10	1	0
Sha Tin	13	38	70	50	33	4	0	0
Tai Po & North	16	72	63	56	23	4	1	0
Yuen Long	21	51	58	42	25	9	0	0
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	26	64	74	55	41	13	0	0
Tuen Mun	23	50	51	51	22	12	0	0
Total	**213**	**555**	**617**	**472**	**329**	**125**	**8**	**0**

Table 15: Number of applicants for SHOSs in 2024-25 (by administrative district of SWD and age group) (as at 31 December 2024)

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 & Islands	19	40	58	46	54	21	0	0
Eastern & Wan Chai	7	27	45	28	28	16	1	0
Kwun Tong	53	73	55	38	30	12	2	0
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	43	61	95	52	32	22	0	0
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	21	33	21	13	15	5	2	0
Sham Shui Po	19	41	44	32	27	13	2	0
Sha Tin	18	40	80	45	36	6	0	0
Tai Po & North	24	68	74	51	27	3	1	0
Yuen Long	26	56	61	33	26	7	0	0
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	27	69	72	58	46	12	0	0
Tuen Mun	25	53	51	54	18	13	0	0
Total	**282**	**561**	**656**	**450**	**339**	**130**	**8**	**0**

Annex 4

Table 1: Age distribution of service users of LSCHs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Financial year	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
2020-21	0	5	21	128	374	635	321	78
2021-22	0	2	23	112	353	626	343	75
2022-23	0	2	24	112	366	640	351	76
2023-24	0	2	29	126	393	706	388	79
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	0	6	40	163	451	773	428	81

Table 2: Age distribution of service users of HWHs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Financial year	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
2020-21	13	195	393	408	367	100	2	0
2021-22	13	192	405	380	358	108	2	0
2022-23	7	189	414	392	356	127	2	0
2023-24	13	205	415	407	342	119	3	0
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	14	198	396	412	358	127	6	0

Table 3: Age distribution of service users of SHOSs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Financial year	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
2020-21	1	66	167	206	224	74	5	0
2021-22	4	59	178	220	231	78	5	0
2022-23	5	58	197	223	237	90	9	0
2023-24	5	50	199	222	234	107	9	0
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	3	49	205	219	233	121	10	0

Annex 5

Number of LSCH, HWH and SHOS applicants on IWL [Note] from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Service type	No. of applicants on IWL				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)
LSCH	N.A. [Note]				
HWH	N.A. [Note]				
SHOS	N.A. [Note]		42	281	321

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note] Implemented in March 2023, the Inactive Waitlisting Mechanism for Residential Care Services for Persons with Disabilities is applicable to applicants currently waitlisting for residential rehabilitation services for the mentally/physically handicapped, including hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons, hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons, hostels for severely physically handicapped persons, care-and-attention homes for severely disabled persons, and SHOSs.

Annex 6

Planned numbers of additional service places for LSCHs, HWHs and SHOSs for the next 5 years (by DC district)

Service type	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
LSCH	-	-	-	200 (North) 200 (Yuen Long)	100 (Islands)
HWH	-	-	-	-	40 (Islands) 70 (Yuen Long)
SHOS	31 (Sai Kung) 30 (Sha Tin) 40 (Eastern) 112 (Tuen Mun)	-	-	70 (Kowloon City) 30 (North) 20 (Yuen Long)	30 (Kwun Tong) 30 (North) 20 (Sha Tin) 30 (Tsuen Wan) 40 (Islands)
Total	**213**	**-**	**-**	**520**	**360**

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)313

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3587)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What was the number of unemployed Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients aged 15 to 64 in the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 115)

Reply:

The number of unemployed CSSA recipients aged 15 to 64 from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is tabulated as follows.

Year	**Number of unemployed CSSA recipients**
2020-21	21 677
2021-22	20 023
2022-23	18 726
2023-24	17 295
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	16 492

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)314

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3588)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding unemployed Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients, what were their ages, durations of receiving CSSA, educational attainments, previous job positions, employment earnings, and districts of residence in the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 116)

Reply:

The numbers of unemployed CSSA recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25, broken down by age group, duration of receiving CSSA, educational attainment, occupation, monthly employment earnings and district, are set out in Tables 1 to 6 of Annex, respectively.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of unemployed CSSA recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by age group**

Age group	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
15 to 19	427	353	296	271	297
20 to 29	1 343	1 058	896	745	743
30 to 39	2 146	1 809	1 478	1 220	1 198
40 to 49	6 232	5 298	4 523	3 940	3 658
50 to 59	7 240	6 440	5 733	5 069	4 808
60 to 64	4 289	5 065	5 800	6 050	5 788
Total	**21 677**	**20 023**	**18 726**	**17 295**	**16 492**

Table 2 **Number of unemployed CSSA recipients [Note] from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by duration of receiving CSSA**

Duration of receiving CSSA	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
1 year or less	6 901	2 399	1 972	1 634	1 753
More than 1 year to 2 years	2 462	4 472	1 678	1 405	1 303
More than 2 years to 3 years	1 153	1 871	3 319	1 302	1 145
More than 3 years to 4 years	993	1 074	1 474	2 545	1 200
More than 4 years to 5 years	855	927	978	1 200	2 029
More than 5 years	9 313	9 280	9 305	9 209	9 062
Total	**21 677**	**20 023**	**18 726**	**17 295**	**16 492**

Note Unemployed CSSA recipients might have received CSSA in the past for other reasons (such as ill health or single parent), and not all of them have received CSSA all along due to unemployment.

Table 3 **Number of unemployed CSSA recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by educational attainment**

Educational attainment	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Primary or below	8 421	7 908	7 441	6 722	6 150
Secondary	12 437	11 417	10 606	9 940	9 670
Post-secondary	683	574	548	501	527
Others	136	124	131	132	145
Total	**21 677**	**20 023**	**18 726**	**17 295**	**16 492**

Table 4 **Number of unemployed CSSA recipients [Note] from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by occupation**

Occupation	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Cleaner	164	160	174	164	160
Clerk	19	11	11	13	14
Construction worker/labourer/ fitting-out worker	30	23	20	19	18
Delivery worker	90	71	82	74	75
Domestic helper/babysitter	67	70	47	50	44
Driver	54	52	43	36	31
General worker/labourer (other than those engaged in construction works)	294	228	229	243	216
Salesperson	64	61	62	68	67
Waiter/waitress	85	84	90	86	89
Watchman/guard	26	25	16	12	19
Others	338	336	375	348	360
Jobless	20 446	18 902	17 577	16 182	15 399
Total	**21 677**	**20 023**	**18 726**	**17 295**	**16 492**

Note Unemployed CSSA recipients aged 15 to 59 refer to recipients who are unemployed, those with monthly employment earnings below the "prescribed level", or those with working hours less than 120 hours per month. The "prescribed level" was $2,395, $2,455 and $2,545 from 2020-21 to 2022-23 respectively, while the "prescribed level" in 2023-24 and 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024) was $2,630. Unemployed CSSA recipients aged 60 to 64 refer to recipients who are unemployed, or those engaged in paid employment with working hours less than 60 hours per month.

Table 5 **Number of unemployed CSSA recipients [Note] from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by monthly employment earnings**

Monthly employment earnings	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
$0	20 446	18 902	17 577	16 182	15 399
$1 to less than $1,000	346	174	195	148	138
$1,000 to less than $2,630	885	947	954	965	955
Total	**21 677**	**20 023**	**18 726**	**17 295**	**16 492**

Note Unemployed CSSA recipients aged 15 to 59 refer to recipients who are unemployed, those with monthly employment earnings below the "prescribed level", or those with working hours less than 120 hours per month. The "prescribed level" was $2,395, $2,455 and $2,545 from 2020-21 to 2022-23 respectively, while the "prescribed level" in 2023-24 and 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024) was $2,630. Unemployed CSSA recipients aged 60 to 64 refer to recipients who are unemployed, or those engaged in paid employment with working hours less than 60 hours per month.

Table 6 **Number of unemployed CSSA recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by district** [Note]

District	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Central & Western	121	109	116	93	87
Eastern	686	647	588	563	542
Islands	766	673	598	530	481
Kowloon City	1 197	1 153	987	879	844
Kwai Tsing	1 676	1 606	1 530	1 397	1 366
Kwun Tong	3 101	2 901	2 721	2 544	2 446
North	1 128	1 087	1 164	1 117	1 012
Sai Kung	498	462	429	460	445
Sha Tin	1 477	1 358	1 222	1 067	1 042
Sham Shui Po	2 565	2 387	2 199	1 994	1 821
Southern	321	299	276	247	243
Tai Po	435	398	351	359	456
Tsuen Wan	588	519	493	472	447
Tuen Mun	1 375	1 211	1 226	1 110	1 086
Wan Chai	153	126	108	105	98
Wong Tai Sin	1 491	1 390	1 335	1 244	1 186
Yau Tsim Mong	1 560	1 409	1 276	1 074	965
Yuen Long	2 539	2 288	2 107	2 040	1 925
Total	**21 677**	**20 023**	**18 726**	**17 295**	**16 492**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 District Council districts.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)315

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3589)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What was the number of low-earnings Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients, broken down by occupation, in the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 117)

Reply:

The number of low-earnings CSSA recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25, broken down by occupation, is tabulated as follows.

Occupation	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Cleaner	393	383	336	291	292
Clerk	149	133	118	94	97
Construction worker/labourer/ fitting-out worker	141	129	90	89	84
Delivery worker	248	237	193	194	185
Domestic helper/babysitter	89	80	75	66	61
Driver	194	177	140	138	113
General worker/labourer (other than those engaged in construction works)	866	799	712	640	588
Salesperson	322	297	260	244	198
Waiter/waitress	306	304	288	274	238
Watchman/guard	153	125	118	87	84
Others	1 058	1 089	988	873	800
Total	3 919	3 753	3 318	2 990	2 740

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)316

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3590)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. How many Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients participated in the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance (IEAPS) in the past 5 years?
2. What were the respective numbers of persons who successfully secured employment or returned to mainstream education after participating in the IEAPS in the past 5 years?
3. What was the number of cases in which the recipients left the CSSA net after participating in the IEAPS in the past 5 years?
4. What were the numbers and percentages of various categories of recipients (unemployed CSSA recipients, as well as single parents and child carers on CSSA with their youngest child aged 12 to 14) who secured employment or returned to mainstream education (for at least 1 month and 3 months) after participating in the IEAPS in the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 118)

Reply:

1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) currently implements the Support for Self-reliance Scheme, including the Employment Support Services (EmSS). The headcounts of persons who received EmSS in 2023-24 and 2024-25 are tabulated below. SWD does not have a breakdown of the headcounts by year prior to April 2023.

Year	**Headcount of persons who received EmSS**
2023-24	16 480
2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)	14 022

2. Among the recipients of EmSS, the headcounts of persons who secured employment and those who returned to mainstream education for at least 1 month in 2023-24 and 2024-25 are tabulated below. SWD does not have a breakdown of the headcounts by year prior to April 2023.

Year	Headcount of persons who secured employment for at least 1 month	Headcount of persons who returned to mainstream education for at least 1 month
2023-24	1 891	110
2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)	1 307	93

3. Among the recipients of EmSS, the headcounts of persons who left the CSSA net owing to securing employment and those who left owing to returning to mainstream education in 2023-24 and 2024-25 are tabulated below. SWD does not have a breakdown of the headcounts by year prior to April 2023.

Year	Headcount of persons who left the CSSA net owing to securing employment	Headcount of persons who left the CSSA net owing to returning to mainstream education
2023-24	489	37
2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)	311	42

4. The headcounts and percentages of persons who received EmSS and secured employment or returned to mainstream education for at least 1 month or 3 months, respectively, in 2023-24 and 2024-25, broken down by category of recipients, are set out at Annex. SWD does not have a breakdown of the headcounts by year and the relevant percentages prior to April 2023.

Annex

Headcounts and percentages of persons who received EmSS and secured employment or returned to mainstream education for at least 1 month or 3 months respectively in 2023-24 and 2024-25, broken down by category of recipients

Category of recipients	Year	Headcount of persons who received the services	Headcount of persons who secured employment [Note 2] or returned to mainstream education [Note 3] for at least 1 month (%)	Headcount of persons who secured employment [Note 2] or returned to mainstream education [Note 3] for at least 3 months (%)
Unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 15 to 64 [Note 1]	**2023-24**	15 267 (100%)	1 758 (11.5%)	1 586 (10.4%)
	2024-25 [Note 4]	12 961 (100%)	1 207 (9.3%)	1 045 (8.1%)
Single parents and child carers on CSSA with their youngest child aged 12 to 14 [Note 1]	**2023-24**	1 213 (100%)	243 (20.0%)	218 (18.0%)
	2024-25 [Note 4]	1 061 (100%)	193 (18.2%)	158 (14.9%)

Note 1 Unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 60 to 64 may receive EmSS on a voluntary basis.

Note 2 For unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 15 to 59, having secured employment refers to securing employment with monthly earnings no less than the prescribed level ($2,665 per month with effect from 1 February 2025) and working hours no less than 120 hours per month. For single parents and child carers on CSSA with their youngest child aged 12 to 14, having secured employment refers to securing paid employment with working hours no less than 32 hours per month.

Note 3 Returning to mainstream education refers to CSSA recipients aged below 22 returning to full-time education.

Note 4 Up to the end of December 2024.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)317

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3591)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What was the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases involving able-bodied adults aged 60 to 64 in the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 119)

Reply:

The number of CSSA cases involving households with able-bodied adult recipients aged 60 to 64 from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is tabulated as follows.

Year	**Number of CSSA cases**
2020-21	5 652
2021-22	6 770
2022-23	7 754
2023-24	8 161
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	7 769

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)318

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3592)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What were the respective numbers of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases involving ill-health and disabled adults aged 60 to 64 in the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 120)

Reply:

The number of CSSA cases involving households with disabled or ill-health recipients aged between 60 and 64 from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is tabulated as follows.

Year	**Number of CSSA cases**	
	Households with disabled recipients aged between 60 and 64 [Note]	**Households with ill-health recipients aged between 60 and 64**
2020-21	12 244	528
2021-22	12 313	623
2022-23	12 749	721
2023-24	12 887	732
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	12 878	695

Note Disabled CSSA recipients refer to those receiving the standard rate for 50% disabled, 100% disabled or requiring constant attendance, but do not include 50% disabled recipients aged 65 or above, or 50% disabled recipients aged between 60 and 64 who were already receiving elderly CSSA before 1 February 2019.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3593)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What were the standard rates for various categories of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients in the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 121)

Reply:

The standard rates for various categories of CSSA recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are set out in Tables 1 to 5 of Annex.

Annex

Standard rates for various categories of CSSA recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Table 1 2020-21 (effective 1 February 2020)

Category		Standard rate ($ per person per month)	
		Single person	**Family member**
Elderly person aged 65 or above Note	Able-bodied/ 50% disabled	3,715	3,495
	100% disabled	4,490	3,970
	Requiring constant attendance	6,315	5,790
Ill-health/ Disabled adult aged under 65	Ill-health/ 50% disabled	3,715	3,495
	100% disabled	4,490	3,970
	Requiring constant attendance	6,315	5,790
Disabled child	50% disabled	4,175	3,635
	100% disabled	4,950	4,425
	Requiring constant attendance	6,770	6,250

		Single person	**In a family comprising not more than 2 able-bodied adults/children**	**In a family comprising not more than 3 able-bodied adults/children**	**In a family comprising 4 or more able-bodied adults/children**
Able-bodied adult aged under 65	Single parent/ Family carer	N.A.	2,840	2,565	2,275
	Other adult	2,615	2,330	2,105	1,875
Able-bodied child		3,145	2,605	2,335	2,090

N.A. - Not applicable

Note Persons aged between 60 and 64 who have been receiving elderly CSSA before 1 February 2019 may continue to receive the standard rates applicable to elderly persons aged 65 or above.

Table 2 **2021-22 (effective 1 February 2021)**

Category		Standard rate ($ per person per month)	
		Single person	**Family member**
Elderly person aged 65 or above Note	Able-bodied/ 50% disabled	3,815	3,590
	100% disabled	4,610	4,075
	Requiring constant attendance	6,485	5,945
Ill-health/ Disabled adult aged under 65	Ill-health/ 50% disabled	3,815	3,590
	100% disabled	4,610	4,075
	Requiring constant attendance	6,485	5,945
Disabled child	50% disabled	4,290	3,735
	100% disabled	5,085	4,545
	Requiring constant attendance	6,955	6,420

		Single person	**In a family comprising not more than 2 able-bodied adults/children**	**In a family comprising not more than 3 able-bodied adults/children**	**In a family comprising 4 or more able-bodied adults/children**
Able-bodied adult aged under 65	Single parent/ Family carer	N.A.	2,915	2,635	2,335
	Other adult	2,685	2,395	2,160	1,925
Able-bodied child		3,230	2,675	2,400	2,145

N.A. - Not applicable

Note Persons aged between 60 and 64 who have been receiving elderly CSSA before 1 February 2019 may continue to receive the standard rates applicable to elderly persons aged 65 or above.

Table 3 2022-23 (effective 1 February 2022)

Category		Standard rate ($ per person per month)	
		Single person	**Family member**
Elderly person aged 65 or above Note	Able-bodied/ 50% disabled	3,915	3,685
	100% disabled	4,730	4,180
	Requiring constant attendance	6,655	6,100
Ill-health/ Disabled adult aged under 65	Ill-health/ 50% disabled	3,915	3,685
	100% disabled	4,730	4,180
	Requiring constant attendance	6,655	6,100
Disabled child	50% disabled	4,400	3,830
	100% disabled	5,215	4,665
	Requiring constant attendance	7,135	6,585

		Single person	**In a family comprising not more than 2 able-bodied adults/children**	**In a family comprising not more than 3 able-bodied adults/children**	**In a family comprising 4 or more able-bodied adults/children**
Able-bodied adult aged under 65	Single parent/ Family carer	N.A.	2,990	2,705	2,395
	Other adult	2,755	2,455	2,215	1,975
Able-bodied child		3,315	2,745	2,460	2,200

N.A. - Not applicable

Note Persons aged between 60 and 64 who have been receiving elderly CSSA before 1 February 2019 may continue to receive the standard rates applicable to elderly persons aged 65 or above.

Table 4 **2023-24 (effective 1 February 2023)**

Category		Standard rate ($ per person per month)	
		Single person	**Family member**
Elderly person aged 65 or above Note	Able-bodied/ 50% disabled	4,060	3,820
	100% disabled	4,905	4,335
	Requiring constant attendance	6,900	6,325
Ill-health/ Disabled adult aged under 65	Ill-health/ 50% disabled	4,060	3,820
	100% disabled	4,905	4,335
	Requiring constant attendance	6,900	6,325
Disabled child	50% disabled	4,565	3,970
	100% disabled	5,410	4,840
	Requiring constant attendance	7,400	6,830

		Single person	**In a family comprising not more than 2 able-bodied adults/children**	**In a family comprising not more than 3 able-bodied adults/children**	**In a family comprising 4 or more able-bodied adults/children**
Able-bodied adult aged under 65	Single parent/ Family carer	N.A.	3,100	2,805	2,485
	Other adult	2,855	2,545	2,295	2,050
Able-bodied child		3,440	2,845	2,550	2,280

N.A. - Not applicable

Note Persons aged between 60 and 64 who have been receiving elderly CSSA before 1 February 2019 may continue to receive the standard rates applicable to elderly persons aged 65 or above.

<u>Table 5</u> **2024-25 (effective 1 February 2024)**

Category		**Standard rate ($ per person per month)**	
		Single person	**Family member**
Elderly person aged 65 or above	Able-bodied/ 50% disabled	4,195	3,945
	100% disabled	5,065	4,480
	Requiring constant attendance	7,130	6,535
Ill-health/ Disabled adult aged under 65	Ill-health/ 50% disabled	4,195	3,945
	100% disabled	5,065	4,480
	Requiring constant attendance	7,130	6,535
Disabled child	50% disabled	4,715	4,100
	100% disabled	5,590	5,000
	Requiring constant attendance	7,645	7,055

		Single person	**In a family comprising not more than 2 able-bodied adults/children**	**In a family comprising not more than 3 able-bodied adults/children**	**In a family comprising 4 or more able-bodied adults/children**
Able-bodied adult aged under 65	Single parent/ Family carer	N.A.	3,200	2,900	2,565
	Other adult	2,950	2,630	2,370	2,120
Able-bodied child		3,555	2,940	2,635	2,355

N.A. - Not applicable

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)320

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3594)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What was the monthly maximum rent allowance (MRA) under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme in the past 5 years, broken down by number of eligible household members?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 122)

Reply:

The monthly MRA under the CSSA Scheme from 2020-21 to 2024-25, broken down by number of eligible household members, is tabulated as follows.

Number of eligible household members	MRA per month under CSSA ($)					
	2020-21 (with effect from 1 February 2020)	2020-21 (with effect from 1 July 2020)	2021-22 (with effect from 1 February 2021)	2022-23 (with effect from 1 February 2022)	2023-24 (with effect from 1 February 2023)	2024-25 (with effect from 1 February 2024)
1	1,945	2,475	2,515	2,515	2,515	2,515
2	3,915	4,370	4,440	4,440	4,440	4,440
3	5,115	5,245	5,330	5,330	5,330	5,330
4	5,445	5,910	6,005	6,005	6,005	6,005
5	5,460	6,590	6,695	6,695	6,695	6,695
6 or above	6,820	7,675	7,800	7,800	7,800	7,800

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3595)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What were the numbers of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases and recipients by case nature, and the total number of household members involved in the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 123)

Reply:

From 2020-21 to 2024-25, the numbers of CSSA cases and recipients by case nature are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex, respectively, while the number of CSSA cases by number of eligible household members is set out in Table 3 of Annex.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of CSSA cases from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by case nature**

Case nature	Year				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Old age	128 863	123 470	115 453	111 633	110 535
Permanent disability	17 502	17 464	17 246	17 104	16 758
Ill health	26 289	27 010	27 411	27 855	27 780
Single parent	24 826	23 672	21 935	20 192	19 166
Low-earnings	2 422	2 183	1 808	1 530	1 395
Unemployment	19 810	18 866	17 823	16 943	16 173
Others	4 080	4 023	3 916	3 948	3 889
Total	**223 792**	**216 688**	**205 592**	**199 205**	**195 696**

Table 2 **Number of CSSA recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by case nature**

Case nature	Year				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Old age	151 750	142 440	132 747	126 823	125 032
Permanent disability	23 045	22 619	22 173	21 503	20 939
Ill health	38 294	38 188	38 163	38 427	37 945
Single parent	60 677	57 847	53 967	49 714	47 093
Low-earnings	7 964	6 971	5 808	4 868	4 405
Unemployment	31 758	29 173	27 264	25 222	23 734
Others	5 703	5 361	5 131	4 883	4 804
Total	**319 191**	**302 599**	**285 253**	**271 440**	**263 952**

Table 3 **Number of CSSA cases from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by number of eligible household members**

Number of eligible household members	Year				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
1	142 125	138 092	133 784	132 321	132 654
2	41 483	39 276	36 582	34 015	32 635
3	16 285	15 071	13 714	12 467	11 630
4	6 703	6 027	5 486	4 937	4 526
5	2 284	2 036	1 834	1 661	1 565
6 or above	1 047	960	908	836	770
Total	**209 927**	**201 462**	**192 308**	**186 237**	**183 780**

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)322

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3596)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the numbers of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases and recipients in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by age, case nature and duration of CSSA receipt (for less than 1 year, 1 year to less than 3 years, 3 years to less than 5 years, and 5 years or above).

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 124)

Reply:

From 2020-21 to 2024-25, the numbers of CSSA recipients who have been on CSSA for less than 1 year, 1 year to less than 3 years, 3 years to less than 5 years, and 5 years or above, broken down by age group and case nature, are set out in Tables 1 to 4 of Annex, respectively. The numbers of cases where CSSA has been received for less than 1 year, 1 year to less than 3 years, 3 years to less than 5 years, and 5 years or above, broken down by case nature, are set out in Tables 5 to 8 of Annex, respectively. As CSSA is payable on a household basis and the age groups of household members vary from case to case, statistics on the duration of CSSA receipt by cases cannot be broken down by age group.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of CSSA recipients who have been on CSSA for less than 1 year from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by age group and case nature**

(i) 2020-21

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	189	97	116	255	353	349	7 337
Permanent disability	204	105	289	339	442	216	51
Ill health	686	235	793	906	1 493	834	173
Single parent	3 801	763	1 435	1 022	291	72	77
Low-earnings	233	58	126	96	55	24	26
Unemployment	1 984	638	1 566	1 846	2 339	2 146	220
Others	517	205	153	117	79	34	31
Total	**7 614**	**2 101**	**4 478**	**4 581**	**5 052**	**3 675**	**7 915**

(ii) 2021-22

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	159	63	50	123	207	212	6 576
Permanent disability	145	74	229	243	316	175	54
Ill health	447	217	494	627	1 072	585	132
Single parent	2 620	399	900	638	151	32	74
Low-earnings	142	44	68	52	26	12	14
Unemployment	714	195	488	568	788	892	96
Others	484	183	111	49	45	18	13
Total	**4 711**	**1 175**	**2 340**	**2 300**	**2 605**	**1 926**	**6 959**

(iii) 2022-23

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	117	57	49	118	191	195	7 712
Permanent disability	121	71	217	215	289	164	34
Ill health	422	165	473	583	966	642	130
Single parent	2 254	350	755	568	128	26	58
Low-earnings	96	26	48	33	17	10	9
Unemployment	624	140	410	448	635	843	65
Others	451	165	84	57	55	22	17
Total	**4 085**	**974**	**2 036**	**2 022**	**2 281**	**1 902**	**8 025**

(iv) 2023-24

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	112	41	39	90	157	149	7 772
Permanent disability	89	63	214	213	259	147	40
Ill health	390	183	429	585	987	653	126
Single parent	2 107	342	670	506	130	29	48
Low-earnings	79	11	32	19	6	14	2
Unemployment	544	123	303	362	493	769	60
Others	419	175	76	74	43	25	8
Total	**3 740**	**938**	**1 763**	**1 849**	**2 075**	**1 786**	**8 056**

(v) 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	102	56	45	87	182	124	8 334
Permanent disability	90	59	194	187	273	166	34
Ill health	392	215	456	584	1 033	689	152
Single parent	2 002	323	632	485	124	27	54
Low-earnings	108	30	40	36	12	9	12
Unemployment	525	131	356	354	555	806	67
Others	459	193	98	65	49	24	17
Total	**3 678**	**1 007**	**1 821**	**1 798**	**2 228**	**1 845**	**8 670**

Table 2 Number of CSSA recipients who have been on CSSA for 1 year to less than 3 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by age group and case nature

(i) 2020-21

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	398	178	142	332	501	1 436	12 108
Permanent disability	359	147	520	481	667	289	72
Ill health	1 067	357	1 023	1 268	2 017	1 007	200
Single parent	6 375	1 131	2 220	1 663	425	90	145
Low-earnings	394	84	153	155	71	28	27
Unemployment	1 556	352	866	974	1 227	1 217	111
Others	795	231	112	92	68	49	43
Total	**10 944**	**2 480**	**5 036**	**4 965**	**4 976**	**4 116**	**12 706**

(ii) 2021-22

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	316	176	134	361	534	517	12 954
Permanent disability	353	150	511	532	713	382	112
Ill health	1 072	356	1 102	1 366	2 255	1 381	305
Single parent	6 395	1 278	2 243	1 854	478	95	158
Low-earnings	343	81	162	140	70	29	31
Unemployment	2 041	505	1 257	1 524	2 062	2 638	267
Others	724	261	111	107	88	52	54
Total	**11 244**	**2 807**	**5 520**	**5 884**	**6 200**	**5 094**	**13 881**

(iii) 2022-23

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	278	164	90	294	430	400	12 458
Permanent disability	295	142	401	455	637	405	102
Ill health	925	361	897	1 218	1 998	1 321	307
Single parent	5 369	1 050	1 829	1 535	413	68	139
Low-earnings	266	76	126	110	51	20	28
Unemployment	1 474	342	893	1 075	1 606	2 342	234
Others	688	271	93	65	71	43	32
Total	**9 295**	**2 406**	**4 329**	**4 752**	**5 206**	**4 599**	**13 300**

(iv) 2023-24

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	220	135	63	184	309	265	12 662
Permanent disability	213	107	345	364	502	338	88
Ill health	724	284	697	882	1 682	1 109	284
Single parent	4 121	762	1 261	1 164	288	39	119
Low-earnings	214	35	95	63	36	24	19
Unemployment	940	199	493	575	813	1 411	159
Others	671	255	67	59	48	32	24
Total	**7 103**	**1 777**	**3 021**	**3 291**	**3 678**	**3 218**	**13 355**

(v) 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	187	79	64	165	271	273	13 261
Permanent disability	167	106	333	335	463	286	73
Ill health	660	264	652	864	1 664	1 118	237
Single parent	3 791	714	1 150	1 045	299	38	99
Low-earnings	192	32	75	72	22	15	13
Unemployment	860	167	442	462	714	1 326	156
Others	691	244	72	66	56	33	24
Total	**6 548**	**1 606**	**2 788**	**3 009**	**3 489**	**3 089**	**13 863**

<u>Table 3</u> Number of CSSA recipients who have been on CSSA for 3 years to less than 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by age group and case nature

(i) 2020-21

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	453	245	121	345	491	1 941	12 161
Permanent disability	261	114	376	421	531	151	55
Ill health	818	286	696	1 006	1 452	465	144
Single parent	5 177	1 104	1 586	1 692	356	52	112
Low-earnings	375	69	145	145	47	11	26
Unemployment	927	210	464	537	686	259	37
Others	517	161	56	70	43	25	22
Total	**8 528**	**2 189**	**3 444**	**4 216**	**3 606**	**2 904**	**12 557**

(ii) 2021-22

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	349	208	101	269	416	1 379	10 883
Permanent disability	285	115	364	373	530	198	53
Ill health	817	263	657	921	1 397	666	142
Single parent	4 994	1 117	1 547	1 613	411	49	125
Low-earnings	327	79	112	136	50	10	21
Unemployment	866	187	402	520	682	450	46
Others	503	162	53	66	46	23	23
Total	**8 141**	**2 131**	**3 236**	**3 898**	**3 532**	**2 775**	**11 293**

(iii) 2022-23

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	259	170	79	226	337	574	9 689
Permanent disability	285	103	368	377	515	290	79
Ill health	762	275	624	922	1 444	917	162
Single parent	4 738	1 079	1 461	1 527	429	54	119
Low-earnings	285	73	92	118	56	14	24
Unemployment	969	220	458	578	730	987	97
Others	467	167	51	53	45	30	27
Total	**7 765**	**2 087**	**3 133**	**3 801**	**3 556**	**2 866**	**10 197**

(iv) 2023-24

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	240	153	70	250	334	271	10 691
Permanent disability	238	102	354	389	513	325	89
Ill health	796	286	701	991	1 628	1 168	262
Single parent	4 580	1 062	1 417	1 585	451	72	127
Low-earnings	242	78	113	90	52	19	23
Unemployment	1 063	292	556	782	1 180	1 791	208
Others	463	153	52	49	40	37	32
Total	**7 622**	**2 126**	**3 263**	**4 136**	**4 198**	**3 683**	**11 432**

(v) 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	189	162	57	213	340	241	10 695
Permanent disability	231	122	310	378	506	339	105
Ill health	715	281	664	915	1 535	1 082	285
Single parent	4 085	939	1 221	1 391	414	64	127
Low-earnings	206	53	99	56	41	18	17
Unemployment	870	219	441	634	1 013	1 629	221
Others	441	168	40	37	29	28	26
Total	**6 737**	**1 944**	**2 832**	**3 624**	**3 878**	**3 401**	**11 476**

<u>Table 4</u> Number of CSSA recipients who have been on CSSA for 5 years or above from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by age group and case nature

(i) 2020-21

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	1 629	1 924	884	1 753	2 755	8 427	94 830
Permanent disability	953	920	2 285	3 959	6 050	1 869	919
Ill health	2 100	1 730	2 119	4 214	7 645	2 505	1 055
Single parent	11 278	6 917	2 963	6 216	2 807	395	512
Low-earnings	1 564	985	568	1 176	746	221	356
Unemployment	1 918	1 603	968	2 105	3 349	1 248	405
Others	979	621	106	177	151	79	170
Total	**20 421**	**14 700**	**9 893**	**19 600**	**23 503**	**14 744**	**98 247**

(ii) 2021-22

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	1 306	1 834	841	1 615	2 593	5 989	92 275
Permanent disability	869	812	2 148	3 725	5 928	2 330	900
Ill health	2 042	1 706	2 075	4 099	7 594	3 277	1 121
Single parent	11 203	6 750	2 924	6 169	2 767	376	487
Low-earnings	1 322	917	489	1 030	718	221	325
Unemployment	1 968	1 527	963	2 082	3 256	1 793	396
Others	945	596	101	178	138	82	145
Total	**19 655**	**14 142**	**9 541**	**18 898**	**22 994**	**14 068**	**95 649**

(iii) 2022-23

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	1 073	1 619	745	1 461	2 321	3 557	88 084
Permanent disability	818	801	2 016	3 585	5 632	2 877	879
Ill health	2 010	1 686	2 088	4 108	7 393	4 239	1 125
Single parent	10 988	6 639	2 829	5 925	2 809	367	461
Low-earnings	1 121	773	410	879	604	168	275
Unemployment	1 838	1 464	937	1 914	3 135	2 415	391
Others	917	624	92	173	130	95	146
Total	**18 765**	**13 606**	**9 117**	**18 045**	**22 024**	**13 718**	**91 361**

(iv) 2023-24

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	838	1 398	660	1 314	2 064	1 437	84 905
Permanent disability	779	740	1 908	3 370	5 470	3 330	914
Ill health	2 032	1 784	2 066	4 041	7 334	5 014	1 309
Single parent	10 607	6 326	2 692	5 631	2 820	326	432
Low-earnings	962	657	349	735	529	141	229
Unemployment	1 737	1 357	884	1 752	2 919	3 010	447
Others	881	592	90	160	125	94	139
Total	**17 836**	**12 854**	**8 649**	**17 003**	**21 261**	**13 352**	**88 375**

(v) 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

Case nature	Age group						
	Below 15	**15 to 24**	**25 to 39**	**40 to 49**	**50 to 59**	**60 to 64**	**65 or above**
Old age	734	1 144	635	1 207	1 950	1 297	82 938
Permanent disability	737	705	1 820	3 305	5 274	3 276	1 065
Ill health	1 952	1 686	2 045	3 908	7 302	5 076	1 519
Single parent	10 485	5 949	2 630	5 380	2 902	308	415
Low-earnings	849	580	307	676	480	156	199
Unemployment	1 639	1 272	869	1 680	2 777	3 042	507
Others	839	559	87	132	122	86	119
Total	**17 235**	**11 895**	**8 393**	**16 288**	**20 807**	**13 241**	**86 762**

Table 5 **Number of CSSA cases where CSSA has been received for less than 1 year from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by case nature**

Case nature	Year				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (end-December 2024)
Old age	6 946	6 229	7 267	7 372	7 888
Permanent disability	1 120	893	822	784	780
Ill health	3 319	2 384	2 316	2 326	2 522
Single parent	2 797	1 717	1 441	1 323	1 244
Low-earnings	161	85	53	35	50
Unemployment	6 346	2 273	1 919	1 638	1 753
Others	713	629	629	581	648
Total	**21 402**	**14 210**	**14 447**	**14 059**	**14 885**

Table 6 **Number of CSSA cases where CSSA has been received for 1 year to less than 3 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by case nature**

Case nature	Year				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (end-December 2024)
Old age	12 124	12 059	11 574	11 749	12 377
Permanent disability	1 699	1 878	1 720	1 439	1 309
Ill health	4 436	5 167	4 620	3 816	3 755
Single parent	4 410	4 661	3 834	2 752	2 539
Low-earnings	179	203	159	107	91
Unemployment	3 473	6 178	4 941	2 794	2 496
Others	860	895	863	823	839
Total	**27 181**	**31 041**	**27 711**	**23 480**	**23 406**

Table 7 **Number of CSSA cases where CSSA has been received for 3 years to less than 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by case nature**

Case nature	Year				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (end-December 2024)
Old age	12 395	10 764	8 987	9 690	9 755
Permanent disability	1 288	1 249	1 337	1 394	1 393
Ill health	2 941	2 980	3 287	3 823	3 614
Single parent	3 685	3 582	3 486	3 480	3 043
Low-earnings	162	147	135	138	115
Unemployment	1 465	1 582	2 245	3 632	3 198
Others	527	527	506	525	512
Total	**22 463**	**20 831**	**19 983**	**22 682**	**21 630**

Table 8 **Number of CSSA cases where CSSA has been received for 5 years or above from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by case nature**

Case nature	Year				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (end-December 2024)
Old age	90 533	86 360	80 613	76 089	74 493
Permanent disability	12 730	12 783	12 778	12 866	12 680
Ill health	13 869	14 515	15 289	16 009	16 174
Single parent	12 509	12 313	11 967	11 467	11 142
Low-earnings	1 567	1 412	1 189	1 009	915
Unemployment	6 292	6 663	6 965	7 269	7 198
Others	1 381	1 334	1 365	1 307	1 257
Total	**138 881**	**135 380**	**130 166**	**126 016**	**123 859**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3597)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What was the number of employable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by age group and educational attainment?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 125)

Reply:

The number of employable CSSA recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25, broken down by age group and educational attainment, is set out at Annex.

Annex

Number of employable CSSA recipients [Note] from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by age group and educational attainment

Year	Age group	Educational attainment				
		Primary or below	Secondary	Post-secondary	Others	Total
2020-21	15 to 19	72	413	7	16	**508**
	20 to 29	240	1 220	302	57	**1 819**
	30 to 39	533	2 074	100	13	**2 720**
	40 to 49	2 768	4 856	143	21	**7 788**
	50 to 59	3 629	4 441	204	33	**8 307**
	60 to 64	2 565	1 787	83	19	**4 454**
	Total	**9 807**	**14 791**	**839**	**159**	**25 596**
2021-22	15 to 19	58	352	3	12	**425**
	20 to 29	223	1 009	281	51	**1 564**
	30 to 39	438	1 803	81	13	**2 335**
	40 to 49	2 327	4 319	128	12	**6 786**
	50 to 59	3 238	3 987	183	31	**7 439**
	60 to 64	2 918	2 188	92	29	**5 227**
	Total	**9 202**	**13 658**	**768**	**148**	**23 776**
2022-23	15 to 19	45	318	7	11	**381**
	20 to 29	194	810	254	49	**1 307**
	30 to 39	355	1 499	65	17	**1 936**
	40 to 49	1 881	3 773	122	17	**5 793**
	50 to 59	2 768	3 690	165	33	**6 656**
	60 to 64	3 273	2 560	108	30	**5 971**
	Total	**8 516**	**12 650**	**721**	**157**	**22 044**
2023-24	15 to 19	55	261	5	11	**332**
	20 to 29	144	705	210	45	**1 104**
	30 to 39	292	1 242	67	14	**1 615**
	40 to 49	1 539	3 377	110	17	**5 043**
	50 to 59	2 400	3 384	134	32	**5 950**
	60 to 64	3 218	2 865	120	38	**6 241**
	Total	**7 648**	**11 834**	**646**	**157**	**20 285**
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	15 to 19	44	298	5	6	**353**
	20 to 29	144	662	235	38	**1 079**
	30 to 39	270	1 200	70	16	**1 556**
	40 to 49	1 368	3 172	103	21	**4 664**
	50 to 59	2 152	3 284	140	37	**5 613**
	60 to 64	2 991	2 812	112	52	**5 967**
	Total	**6 969**	**11 428**	**665**	**170**	**19 232**

Note Employable recipients might have received CSSA in the past for other reasons (such as ill health or single parent).

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)324

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3598)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

How many Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients were children born in Hong Kong with both parents being Mainland residents in the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 126)

Reply:

The number of CSSA recipients who were children born in Hong Kong with both parents being Mainland residents from 2020 to 2024 is tabulated as follows.

Year (as at end-December of each year)	Number of recipients
2020	321
2021	297
2022	278
2023	236
2024	181

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3599)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

In the past 5 years, how many children born in Hong Kong with both parents being Mainland residents and having social workers from the Social Welfare Department (SWD) as their guardians have successfully applied for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA)?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 127)

Reply:

The number of CSSA recipients who were children born in Hong Kong with both parents being Mainland residents from 2020 to 2024 is tabulated as follows. SWD does not have separate figures for those recipients whose guardians are SWD social workers.

Year (as at end-December of each year)	**Number of recipients**
2020	321
2021	297
2022	278
2023	236
2024	181

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)326

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3600)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What was the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) fraud and abuse cases (including suspected cases reported, established fraud cases and prosecuted cases) for each of the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 128)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) adopts a multifaceted approach to combat CSSA fraud. The number of fraud cases related to CSSA from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is tabulated below.

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to end-December 2024)
Number of suspected cases reported by members of the public	1 685	1 143	1 968	2 322	1 523
Number of established fraud cases upon SWD's in-depth investigation (the percentage out of the total CSSA cases as at end-March of the year)	370 (0.2%)	323 (0.1%)	367 (0.2%)	589 (0.3%)	344 (0.2%)
Number of prosecuted cases	45	24	21	24	17

The above figures indicate that CSSA fraud is not common as a matter of fact. SWD will conduct in-depth investigation and take follow-up action on all suspected fraud cases, while referring more serious cases to law enforcement agencies for further investigation. SWD will require all persons concerned to repay the overpayments (if any) as soon as possible. Anyone who knowingly or wilfully provides false statements or withholds any information to obtain CSSA by deception commits an offence. Apart from being disqualified from CSSA, he/she may be prosecuted under the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210), liable to a maximum penalty of 14 years of imprisonment upon conviction.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)327

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3601)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the respective numbers of cases of various types of social security, including the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA), the Higher OALA, the Disability Allowance (DA), and the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), with a breakdown by 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 129)

Reply:

As at the end of December 2024, the numbers of OALA and DA cases, broken down by district, are set out in Table 1 of Annex, while the number of CSSA cases, broken down by district, is set out in Table 2 of Annex.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of OALA cases (excluding those under the Guangdong Scheme and the Fujian Scheme) and DA cases as at end-December 2024 by district** [Note 1]

District	OALA [Note 2]	DA
Central & Western	10 683	4 670
Eastern	51 282	14 815
Islands	14 030	3 891
Kowloon City	32 116	8 514
Kwai Tsing	70 965	13 456
Kwun Tong	90 689	16 006
North	34 704	8 750
Sai Kung	42 160	9 546
Sha Tin	78 460	17 488
Sham Shui Po	44 622	10 255
Southern	25 637	8 142
Tai Po	33 178	8 260
Tsuen Wan	25 357	6 417
Tuen Mun	62 667	13 685
Wan Chai	5 438	2 643
Wong Tai Sin	58 488	10 452
Yau Tsim Mong	19 470	5 862
Yuen Long	56 892	15 536
Total	**756 838**	**178 388**

Note 1 The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 District Council (DC) districts.

Note 2 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.

Table 2 **Number of CSSA cases (excluding those under the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme) as at end-December 2024 by district** [Note]

District	Number of CSSA cases
Central & Western	2 200
Eastern	9 292
Islands	3 291
Kowloon City	10 927
Kwai Tsing	18 749
Kwun Tong	25 379
North	10 572
Sai Kung	6 083
Sha Tin	14 101
Sham Shui Po	18 519
Southern	6 007
Tai Po	7 160
Tsuen Wan	5 720
Tuen Mun	16 022
Wan Chai	1 350
Wong Tai Sin	13 436
Yau Tsim Mong	7 799
Yuen Long	18 352
Total	**194 959**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3602)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the respective numbers of recipients, with a breakdown by age group (aged under 18, aged 18 to 64, and aged 65 or above) and 18 districts, of the following types of social security: the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA), the Higher OALA, the Disability Allowance (DA), and the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA).

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 130)

Reply:

As at the end of December 2024, the number of OALA recipients broken down by district is set out in Table 1 of Annex; while the numbers of DA and CSSA recipients broken down by age group and district are set out in Tables 2 and 3 of Annex, respectively.

Annex

Table 1 Number of OALA [Note 2] recipients (excluding those under the Guangdong Scheme and the Fujian Scheme) as at end-December 2024 by district [Note 1]

District	Number of OALA recipients
Central & Western	10 683
Eastern	51 282
Islands	14 030
Kowloon City	32 116
Kwai Tsing	70 965
Kwun Tong	90 689
North	34 704
Sai Kung	42 160
Sha Ting	78 460
Sham Shui Po	44 622
Southern	25 637
Tai Po	33 178
Tsuen Wan	25 357
Tuen Mun	62 667
Wan Chai	5 438
Wong Tai Sin	58 488
Yau Tsim Mong	19 470
Yuen Long	56 892
Total	**756 838**

Note 1 The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 District Council (DC) districts.

Note 2 OALA applicants must be aged 65 or above. 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.

Table 2 Number of DA recipients as at end-December 2024 by age group [Note 1] and district [Note 2]

District	Number of DA recipients	
	Aged below 65	Aged 65 or above
Central & Western	2 826	1 844
Eastern	10 353	4 462
Islands	3 260	629
Kowloon City	6 065	2 448
Kwai Tsing	10 981	2 474
Kwun Tong	13 230	2 776
North	7 103	1 647
Sai Kung	7 526	2 019
Sha Tin	13 868	3 617
Sham Shui Po	8 117	2 138
Southern	6 010	2 132
Tai Po	6 591	1 669
Tsuen Wan	4 736	1 681
Tuen Mun	11 149	2 534
Wan Chai	1 449	1 194
Wong Tai Sin	8 453	1 998
Yau Tsim Mong	4 015	1 846
Yuen Long	13 034	2 502
Total	**138 766**	**39 610**

Note 1 SWD only has the breakdown figures for 2 age groups, namely “below 65” and “65 or above”.

Note 2 The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

<u>Table 3</u> Number of CSSA recipients (excluding those under the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme) as at end-December 2024 by age group [Note 1] and district [Note 2]

District	Number of CSSA recipients	
	Aged below 65	Aged 65 or above
Central & Western	1 080	1 366
Eastern	5 884	6 076
Islands	3 441	1 819
Kowloon City	7 403	6 477
Kwai Tsing	13 353	12 031
Kwun Tong	17 868	17 765
North	9 192	6 093
Sai Kung	4 210	3 653
Sha Tin	11 099	8 934
Sham Shui Po	13 871	11 141
Southern	3 502	3 653
Tai Po	5 522	4 388
Tsuen Wan	3 903	3 611
Tuen Mun	11 418	9 717
Wan Chai	689	757
Wong Tai Sin	9 742	8 774
Yau Tsim Mong	5 111	3 810
Yuen Long	15 892	10 148
Total	**143 180**	**120 213**

Note 1 SWD only has the breakdown figures for 2 age groups, namely “below 65” and “65 or above”.

Note 2 The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)329

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3603)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the numbers of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases and recipients by case nature (including old age, disability, ill health, single parent, low-earnings, unemployment, and others), with a breakdown by 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 131)

Reply:

The numbers of CSSA cases and recipients, broken down by case nature and district, as at end-December 2024 are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex, respectively.

Annex

Table 1 Number of CSSA cases [Note 2] as at end-December 2024 by case nature and district [Note 1]

District [Note 1]	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low-earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Central & Western	1 407	238	233	131	13	140	38	**2 200**
Eastern	5 614	988	1 110	690	66	604	220	**9 292**
Islands	1 576	236	427	472	51	445	84	**3 291**
Kowloon City	6 520	736	1 437	1 160	75	856	143	**10 927**
Kwai Tsing	11 047	2 061	2 328	1 457	209	1 364	283	**18 749**
Kwun Tong	15 523	1 604	3 174	2 452	191	2 105	330	**25 379**
North	5 511	816	1 404	1 477	57	1 035	272	**10 572**
Sai Kung	3 320	628	1 008	428	51	438	210	**6 083**
Sha Tin	7 858	1 279	2 030	1 742	84	868	240	**14 101**
Sham Shui Po	10 157	1 215	3 029	1 936	101	1 821	260	**18 519**
Southern	3 476	885	809	286	38	342	171	**6 007**
Tai Po	3 851	631	1 165	858	35	439	181	**7 160**
Tsuen Wan	3 366	599	593	604	33	442	83	**5 720**
Tuen Mun	8 723	1 957	2 389	1 487	90	1 037	339	**16 022**
Wan Chai	800	57	142	80	8	153	110	**1 350**
Wong Tai Sin	7 963	805	1 919	1 289	133	1 077	250	**13 436**
Yau Tsim Mong	3 928	439	1 449	656	19	1 131	177	**7 799**
Yuen Long	9 283	1 582	3 077	1 952	139	1 861	458	**18 352**
Total	**109 923**	**16 756**	**27 723**	**19 157**	**1 393**	**16 158**	**3 849**	**194 959**

Note 1 The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 District Council (DC) districts.

Note 2 Excluding the number of cases under the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme.

Table 2 Number of CSSA recipients [Note 2] as at end-December 2024 by case nature and district [Note 1]

District [Note 1]	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low-earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Central & Western	1 350	258	265	316	58	152	47	**2 446**
Eastern	6 144	1 234	1 628	1 693	178	821	262	**11 960**
Islands	1 852	352	678	1 169	184	923	102	**5 260**
Kowloon City	6 709	882	1 830	2 795	239	1 172	253	**13 880**
Kwai Tsing	12 574	2 531	3 294	3 726	732	2 163	364	**25 384**
Kwun Tong	18 678	2 299	4 487	5 963	552	3 220	434	**35 633**
North	6 383	1 038	2 049	3 647	157	1 670	341	**15 285**
Sai Kung	3 775	751	1 348	1 056	137	604	192	**7 863**
Sha Tin	9 310	1 605	2 983	4 261	290	1 274	310	**20 033**
Sham Shui Po	11 473	1 562	3 977	4 752	337	2 531	380	**25 012**
Southern	3 780	998	990	676	137	432	142	**7 155**
Tai Po	4 387	830	1 706	2 053	109	592	233	**9 910**
Tsuen Wan	3 633	700	824	1 505	92	625	135	**7 514**
Tuen Mun	10 051	2 244	3 118	3 572	265	1 501	384	**21 135**
Wan Chai	752	52	163	184	21	167	107	**1 446**
Wong Tai Sin	9 108	1 152	2 686	3 264	386	1 625	295	**18 516**
Yau Tsim Mong	3 793	454	1 558	1 567	38	1 297	214	**8 921**
Yuen Long	10 722	1 997	4 360	4 894	493	2 965	609	**26 040**
Total	**124 474**	**20 939**	**37 944**	**47 093**	**4 405**	**23 734**	**4 804**	**263 393**

Note 1 The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Note 2 Excluding the number of recipients under the PCSSA Scheme.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)330

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3604)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

How many Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases and recipients are there in each public housing estate across the territory?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 132)

Reply:

The numbers of CSSA cases and recipients as at the end of December 2024, broken down by public housing estate, are set out at Annex.

Annex

Numbers of CSSA cases and recipients as at end-December 2024 by public housing estate [Note]

Public housing estate	Number of CSSA cases	Number of CSSA recipients
Ap Lei Chau Estate	379	555
Bo Shek Mansion	28	34
Broadview Garden	19	25
Butterfly Estate	725	1 006
Chai Wan Estate	289	358
Chak On Estate	308	434
Cheung Ching Estate	484	783
Cheung Fat Estate	176	232
Cheung Hang Estate	345	539
Cheung Hong Estate	840	1 268
Cheung Kwai Estate	35	49
Cheung Lung Wai Estate	205	340
Cheung On Estate	289	345
Cheung Sha Wan Estate	279	384
Cheung Shan Estate	108	166
Cheung Wah Estate	338	471
Cheung Wang Estate	512	639
Ching Ho Estate	1 131	1 588
Ching Tin Estate	702	1 237
Cho Yiu Chuen	149	230
Choi Fai Estate	100	152
Choi Fook Estate	637	962
Choi Ha Estate	115	138
Choi Hung Estate	837	1 245
Choi Ming Court	354	463
Choi Tak Estate	742	1 013
Choi Wan (I) Estate	466	749
Choi Wan (II) Estate	213	340
Choi Ying Estate	575	762
Choi Yuen Estate	798	1 162
Chuk Yuen (North) Estate	308	382
Chuk Yuen (South) Estate	886	1 223
Chun Seen Mei Chuen	95	123
Chun Shek Estate	248	366
Chun Yeung Estate	487	834
Chung On Estate	299	421
Clague Garden Estate	51	69
Easeful Court	26	45
Fai Ming Estate	114	211
Fortune Estate	530	662
Fu Cheong Estate	1 100	1 388
Fu Heng Estate	398	553
Fu Shan Estate	255	382
Fu Shin Estate	378	554
Fu Tai Estate	512	826
Fu Tip Estate	877	1 533
Fu Tung Estate	122	202
Fuk Loi Estate	357	511
Fung Tak Estate	348	411
Fung Wah Estate	67	77

Public housing estate	Number of CSSA cases	Number of CSSA recipients
Fung Wo Estate	261	367
Grandeur Terrace	267	602
Hau Tak Estate	426	634
Healthy Village	108	147
Heng On Estate	195	302
High Prosperity Terrace	33	87
Hin Fat Estate	96	154
Hin Keng Estate	209	301
Hin Yiu Estate	123	160
Hing Man Estate	192	316
Hing Tin Estate	78	104
Hing Tung Estate	182	263
Hing Wah (I) Estate	289	403
Hing Wah (II) Estate	456	612
Ho Man Tin Estate	730	1 011
Hoi Fu Court	465	636
Hoi Lai Estate	418	801
Hoi Tat Estate	293	634
Hoi Ying Estate	157	298
Hong Tung Estate	137	150
Hung Fuk Estate	682	1 073
Hung Hom Estate	512	670
Jat Min Chuen	350	461
Ka Fuk Estate	225	330
Ka Wai Chuen	184	249
Kai Ching Estate	777	1 126
Kai Chuen Court	106	204
Kai Tin Estate	294	410
Kai Yip Estate	644	884
Kam Peng Estate	31	42
Kin Ming Estate	798	1 072
Kin Sang Estate	107	143
King Lam Estate	400	477
Ko Cheung Court	108	212
Ko Yee Estate	188	261
Kwai Chung Estate	1 900	2 526
Kwai Fong Estate	804	1 308
Kwai Hing Estate	80	96
Kwai Luen Estate	383	630
Kwai Shing East Estate	922	1 301
Kwai Shing West Estate	476	702
Kwai Tsui Estate	88	162
Kwong Fuk Estate	629	948
Kwong Tin Estate	226	345
Kwong Yuen Estate	273	354
Kwun Lung Lau	184	248
Kwun Tong Garden Estate	403	559
Lai King Estate	443	668
Lai Kok Estate	473	681
Lai On Estate	184	285
Lai Tak Tsuen	196	280
Lai Tsui Court	119	272
Lai Yiu Estate	314	541

Public housing estate	Number of CSSA cases	Number of CSSA recipients
Lakeside Garden	13	25
Lam Tin Estate	438	601
Lee On Estate	410	630
Lei Cheng Uk Estate	267	358
Lei Muk Shue Estate	1 135	1 601
Lei Tung Estate	369	480
Lei Yue Mun Estate	495	685
Lek Yuen Estate	376	565
Leung King Estate	483	626
Lin Tsui Estate	27	44
Lok Fu Estate	492	683
Lok Man Sun Chuen	307	425
Lok Wah (North) Estate	209	358
Lok Wah (South) Estate	1 164	1 568
Long Ching Estate	61	94
Long Ping Estate	450	663
Long Shin Estate	160	276
Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate	590	886
Lower Wong Tai Sin (I) Estate	500	717
Lower Wong Tai Sin (II) Estate	553	876
Lung Hang Estate	316	514
Lung Tin Estate	80	116
Lung Yat Estate	108	205
Ma Hang Estate	62	76
Ma Tau Wai Estate	280	462
Mei Lam Estate	487	714
Mei Tin Estate	943	1 332
Mei Tung Estate	266	384
Ming Tak Estate	149	203
Ming Wa Dai Ha	216	332
Model Housing Estate	55	115
Moon Lok Dai Ha	88	136
Mun Tung Estate	321	721
Nam Cheong Estate	123	158
Nam Shan Estate	382	572
Nga Ning Court	40	60
Ngan Wan Estate	51	89
Oi Man Estate	552	899
Oi Tung Estate	773	1 036
On Tai Estate	890	1 696
On Tat Estate	1 058	1 707
On Tin Estate	36	81
On Ting Estate	675	946
On Yam Estate	511	1 002
Pak Tin Estate	1 279	1 783
Ping Shek Estate	384	576
Ping Tin Estate	806	1 082
Po Heung Estate	64	115
Po Lam Estate	289	406
Po Shek Wu Estate	81	168
Po Tat Estate	995	1 441
Po Tin Estate	1 479	1 632
Pok Hong Estate	237	336

Public housing estate	Number of CSSA cases	Number of CSSA recipients
Prosperous Garden	56	65
Queens Hill Estate	1 143	2 349
Sai Wan Estate	44	103
Sam Shing Estate	171	271
Sau Mau Ping (South) Estate	561	778
Sau Mau Ping Estate	1 709	2 530
Sha Kok Estate	830	1 185
Sha Tau Kok Chuen	38	58
Shan King Estate	785	1 100
Shatin Pass Estate	142	197
Shek Kip Mei Estate	1 636	2 366
Shek Lei (I) Estate	608	960
Shek Lei (II) Estate	1 101	1 562
Shek Mun Estate	628	1 063
Shek Pai Wan Estate	577	785
Shek Wai Kok Estate	635	927
Shek Yam East Estate	310	454
Shek Yam Estate	345	506
Sheung Lok Estate	109	124
Sheung Tak Estate	626	867
Shin Ming Estate	314	436
Shui Chuen O Estate	1 415	2 327
Shui Pin Wai Estate	388	552
Shun Lee Estate	437	681
Shun On Estate	359	532
Shun Tin Estate	790	1 165
Siu Sai Wan Estate	498	853
So Uk Estate	825	1 547
Sun Chui Estate	676	1 000
Sun Tin Wai Estate	301	458
Tai Hang Tung Estate	410	535
Tai Hing Estate	1 210	1 724
Tai Ping Estate	32	50
Tai Wo Estate	389	531
Tai Wo Hau Estate	862	1 328
Tai Yuen Estate	548	947
Tak Long Estate	1 166	1 679
Tak Tin Estate	485	608
Tin Chak Estate	532	776
Tin Ching Estate	1 043	1 521
Tin Heng Estate	375	917
Tin King Estate	114	164
Tin Ping Estate	202	291
Tin Shui Estate	702	1 193
Tin Tsz Estate	480	625
Tin Wah Estate	535	763
Tin Wan Estate	443	599
Tin Yan Estate	1 223	1 493
Tin Yat Estate	211	481
Tin Yiu Estate	828	1 375
Tin Yuet Estate	621	914
Tsing Yi Estate	141	192
Tsui Lam Estate	164	261

Public housing estate	Number of CSSA cases	Number of CSSA recipients
Tsui Lok Estate	85	114
Tsui Ping (South) Estate	393	559
Tsui Ping (North) Estate	807	1 080
Tsui Wan Estate	109	132
Tsz Ching Estate	1 219	1 639
Tsz Hong Estate	169	330
Tsz Lok Estate	756	1 098
Tsz Man Estate	221	366
Tui Min Hoi Chuen	21	30
Tung Tau Estate	477	624
Tung Wui Estate	437	571
Un Chau Estate	1 324	1 803
Upper Ngau Tau Kok Estate	1 295	1 685
Upper Wong Tai Sin Estate	811	1 119
Verbena Heights	138	153
Wah Fu Estate	728	1 099
Wah Ha Estate	12	27
Wah Kwai Estate	240	290
Wah Lai Estate	150	205
Wah Ming Estate	303	427
Wah Sum Estate	185	293
Wan Hon Estate	296	386
Wan Tau Tong Estate	151	191
Wan Tsui Estate	367	526
Wang Tau Hom Estate	572	862
Wing Cheong Estate	237	370
Wo Che Estate	594	1 010
Wo Lok Estate	242	354
Wo Tin Estate	580	1 033
Wu King Estate	278	490
Yan On Estate	366	501
Yan Tin Estate	490	907
Yat Tung Estate	1 163	2 096
Yau Lai Estate	1 309	1 828
Yau Oi Estate	846	1 297
Yau Tong Estate	536	781
Yee Ming Estate	259	426
Ying Tung Estate	322	533
Yip Wong Estate	62	106
Yiu On Estate	190	264
Yiu Tung Estate	541	770
Yue Kwong Chuen	44	53
Yue Wan Estate	308	460
Yung Shing Court	255	358
Total	**111 490**	**165 224**

Note Including public rental housing estates under the Hong Kong Housing Authority, estates under the Tenants Purchase Scheme, and rental estates under the Hong Kong Housing Society.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)331

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3605)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What are the respective numbers of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases and recipients in each public housing estate, broken down by case nature (including old age, disability, ill health, single parent, low-earnings, unemployment, and others)?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 133)

Reply:

The numbers of CSSA cases and recipients as at the end of December 2024, broken down by public housing estate and case nature, are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex, respectively.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of CSSA cases as at end-December 2024 by public housing estate [Note] and case nature**

Public housing estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low-earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Ap Lei Chau Estate	187	47	57	41	2	31	14	**379**
Bo Shek Mansion	25	-	3	-	-	-	-	**28**
Broadview Garden	10	2	1	2	1	3	-	**19**
Butterfly Estate	464	43	78	88	2	46	4	**725**
Chai Wan Estate	197	22	32	17	1	19	1	**289**
Chak On Estate	206	12	35	27	-	25	3	**308**
Cheung Ching Estate	257	20	63	73	12	52	7	**484**
Cheung Fat Estate	117	24	14	5	2	13	1	**176**
Cheung Hang Estate	215	32	32	34	3	23	6	**345**
Cheung Hong Estate	543	65	81	75	7	64	5	**840**
Cheung Kwai Estate	16	2	5	5	-	7	-	**35**
Cheung Lung Wai Estate	123	13	14	31	1	20	3	**205**
Cheung On Estate	202	27	22	7	-	18	13	**289**
Cheung Sha Wan Estate	174	13	43	30	1	16	2	**279**
Cheung Shan Estate	61	8	17	12	2	7	1	**108**
Cheung Wah Estate	191	26	60	22	2	31	6	**338**
Cheung Wang Estate	319	48	59	25	5	55	1	**512**
Ching Ho Estate	682	63	134	119	8	119	6	**1 131**
Ching Tin Estate	304	28	88	203	13	59	7	**702**
Cho Yiu Chuen	102	7	14	10	5	11	-	**149**
Choi Fai Estate	52	7	18	6	3	12	2	**100**
Choi Fook Estate	332	17	82	125	5	65	11	**637**
Choi Ha Estate	74	6	20	5	-	7	3	**115**
Choi Hung Estate	476	34	119	108	12	77	11	**837**
Choi Ming Court	231	29	47	9	5	31	2	**354**
Choi Tak Estate	449	31	95	85	4	73	5	**742**
Choi Wan (I) Estate	248	22	63	71	10	49	3	**466**
Choi Wan (II) Estate	120	13	26	19	5	28	2	**213**
Choi Ying Estate	349	15	75	61	7	67	1	**575**
Choi Yuen Estate	465	48	00	85	-	94	6	**798**
Chuk Yuen (North) Estate	178	11	63	16	-	35	5	**308**
Chuk Yuen (South) Estate	530	42	136	87	7	72	12	**886**
Chun Seen Mei Chuen	67	5	4	8	-	11	-	**95**
Chun Shek Estate	150	9	44	28	-	15	2	**248**
Chun Yeung Estate	183	24	67	125	4	79	5	**487**
Chung On Estate	169	37	32	33	1	23	4	**299**
Clague Garden Estate	39	3	2	-	2	5	-	**51**
Easeful Court	10	1	4	7	-	4	-	**26**
Fai Ming Estate	33	3	20	30	-	27	1	**114**
Fortune Estate	330	42	89	23	3	40	3	**530**

Public housing estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low-earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Fu Cheong Estate	750	53	60	50	5	77	5	**1 100**
Fu Heng Estate	226	30	81	25	-	24	12	**398**
Fu Shan Estate	143	13	20	50	4	25	-	**255**
Fu Shin Estate	206	42	61	26	3	26	14	**378**
Fu Tai Estate	257	44	108	38	7	49	9	**512**
Fu Tip Estate	292	41	143	306	8	79	8	**877**
Fu Tung Estate	65	5	29	10	1	9	3	**122**
Fuk Loi Estate	201	27	39	54	3	32	1	**357**
Fung Tak Estate	228	21	53	6	3	33	4	**348**
Fung Wah Estate	41	6	9	3	-	7	1	**67**
Fung Wo Estate	127	18	39	52	2	21	2	**261**
Grandeur Terrace	89	13	59	48	5	47	6	**267**
Hau Tak Estate	241	39	60	37	6	36	7	**426**
Healthy Village	73	6	12	8	2	4	3	**108**
Heng On Estate	125	16	20	18	4	7	5	**195**
High Prosperity Terrace	14	-	7	7	2	3	-	**33**
Hin Fat Estate	42	6	9	28	1	9	1	**96**
Hin Keng Estate	123	19	34	14	-	11	8	**209**
Hin Yiu Estate	75	11	17	11	-	9	-	**123**
Hing Man Estate	92	21	34	25	4	15	1	**192**
Hing Tin Estate	37	6	17	7	2	8	1	**78**
Hing Tung Estate	110	27	26	11	3	3	2	**182**
Hing Wah (I) Estate	187	28	32	17	2	21	2	**289**
Hing Wah (II) Estate	270	37	58	42	1	43	5	**456**
Ho Man Tin Estate	432	55	109	58	7	60	9	**730**
Hoi Fu Court	301	23	64	36	3	35	3	**465**
Hoi Lai Estate	175	30	101	44	11	51	6	**418**
Hoi Tat Estate	72	14	45	122	3	32	5	**293**
Hoi Ying Estate	44	5	37	47	1	19	4	**157**
Hong Tung Estate	107	12	11	3	-	2	2	**137**
Hung Fuk Estate	327	44	95	141	2	68	5	**682**
Hung Hom Estate	325	31	78	39	3	33	3	**512**
Jat Min Chuen	269	15	34	12	-	19	1	**350**
Ka Fuk Estate	136	13	33	22	1	18	2	**225**
Ka Wai Chuen	132	6	25	6	-	15	-	**184**
Kai Ching Estate	428	35	96	116	12	81	9	**777**
Kai Chuen Court	26	3	17	36	-	22	2	**106**
Kai Tin Estate	180	21	43	14	4	31	1	**294**
Kai Yip Estate	460	26	69	52	3	32	2	**644**
Kam Peng Estate	19	-	7	4	-	1	-	**31**
Kin Ming Estate	394	64	163	73	10	87	7	**798**
Kin Sang Estate	63	12	17	6	2	5	2	**107**
King Lam Estate	255	21	74	13	-	37	-	**400**
Ko Cheung Court	37	14	21	13	6	12	5	**108**
Ko Yee Estate	136	4	17	16	2	11	2	**188**
Kwai Chung Estate	1 053	228	210	176	10	206	17	**1 900**
Kwai Fong Estate	401	71	151	70	12	89	10	**804**
Kwai Hing Estate	47	7	10	6	-	10	-	**80**
Kwai Luen Estate	173	22	54	66	11	50	7	**383**

Public housing estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low-earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Kwai Shing East Estate	564	58	134	61	15	80	10	**922**
Kwai Shing West Estate	281	28	45	61	7	53	1	**476**
Kwai Tsui Estate	35	2	9	28	1	11	2	**88**
Kwong Fuk Estate	357	64	82	71	5	44	6	**629**
Kwong Tin Estate	121	19	35	12	7	29	3	**226**
Kwong Yuen Estate	165	47	34	12	-	11	4	**273**
Kwun Lung Lau	90	19	25	27	3	20	-	**184**
Kwun Tong Garden Estate	276	20	50	15	1	35	6	**403**
Lai King Estate	276	23	56	45	2	37	4	**443**
Lai Kok Estate	272	35	72	56	2	31	5	**473**
Lai On Estate	101	10	36	20	2	15	-	**184**
Lai Tak Tsuen	116	12	25	24	1	18	-	**196**
Lai Tsui Court	37	2	20	35	2	22	1	**119**
Lai Yiu Estate	155	18	40	54	8	33	6	**314**
Lakeside Garden	6	-	5	1	-	1	-	**13**
Lam Tin Estate	280	20	52	35	3	48	-	**438**
Lee On Estate	222	45	69	43	-	27	4	**410**
Lei Cheng Uk Estate	161	21	39	22	-	19	5	**267**
Lei Muk Shue Estate	642	113	127	103	13	130	7	**1 135**
Lei Tung Estate	222	36	48	18	3	31	11	**369**
Lei Yue Mun Estate	302	35	66	38	5	47	2	**495**
Lek Yuen Estate	196	19	62	64	1	27	7	**376**
Leung King Estate	285	36	78	24	4	37	19	**483**
Lin Tsui Estate	8	3	2	10	1	3	-	**27**
Lok Fu Estate	269	29	108	45	6	34	1	**492**
Lok Man Sun Chuen	194	8	48	28	2	25	2	**307**
Lok Wah (North) Estate	113	9	30	29	3	22	3	**209**
Lok Wah (South) Estate	842	32	105	96	4	80	5	**1 164**
Long Ching Estate	30	3	4	12	-	11	1	**61**
Long Ping Estate	268	31	72	34	1	32	12	**450**
Long Shin Estate	79	7	17	38	1	14	4	**160**
Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate	334	21	82	69	4	75	5	**590**
Lower Wong Tai Sin (I) Estate	260	34	99	45	6	50	6	**500**
Lower Wong Tai Sin (II) Estate	268	35	107	82	5	51	5	**553**
Lung Hang Estate	181	17	53	40	3	18	4	**316**
Lung Tin Estate	53	-	12	6	-	9	-	**80**
Lung Yat Estate	48	7	11	30	-	11	1	**108**
Ma Hang Estate	33	5	8	4	2	10	-	**62**
Ma Tau Wai Estate	137	22	34	57	1	23	6	**280**
Mei Lam Estate	272	37	75	63	2	30	8	**487**
Mei Tin Estate	484	63	163	129	9	82	13	**943**
Mei Tung Estate	153	8	31	35	1	37	1	**266**
Ming Tak Estate	90	9	32	6	1	9	2	**149**

Public housing estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low-earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Ming Wa Dai Ha	132	10	25	22	5	20	2	**216**
Model Housing Estate	21	7	6	8	2	11	-	**55**
Moon Lok Dai Ha	58	8	7	8	1	5	1	**88**
Mun Tung Estate	74	20	48	110	8	55	6	**321**
Nam Cheong Estate	76	8	24	6	1	7	1	**123**
Nam Shan Estate	212	28	51	52	5	32	2	**382**
Nga Ning Court	19	4	2	6	2	5	2	**40**
Ngan Wan Estate	26	2	9	6	1	7	-	**51**
Oi Man Estate	291	41	86	69	13	45	7	**552**
Oi Tung Estate	474	112	96	51	1	32	7	**773**
On Tai Estate	392	37	94	209	14	138	6	**890**
On Tat Estate	562	49	111	234	9	86	7	**1 058**
On Tin Estate	8	5	8	10	1	2	2	**36**
On Ting Estate	410	55	84	73	3	46	4	**675**
On Yam Estate	257	40	81	47	30	49	7	**511**
Pak Tin Estate	785	73	158	107	8	131	17	**1 279**
Ping Shek Estate	228	20	43	51	4	33	5	**384**
Ping Tin Estate	467	70	125	51	8	78	7	**806**
Po Heung Estate	24	4	16	18	-	2	-	**64**
Po Lam Estate	173	22	47	26	3	17	1	**289**
Po Shek Wu Estate	24	4	9	30	1	10	3	**81**
Po Tat Estate	652	48	107	62	14	104	8	**995**
Po Tin Estate	830	130	263	41	5	204	6	**1 479**
Pok Hong Estate	142	11	47	17	2	16	2	**237**
Prosperous Garden	50	-	2	2	-	2	-	**56**
Queens Hill Estate	329	46	148	425	10	171	14	**1 143**
Sai Wan Estate	20	3	8	7	2	3	1	**44**
Sam Shing Estate	110	6	28	11	1	12	3	**171**
Sau Mau Ping (South) Estate	364	19	58	65	3	48	4	**561**
Sau Mau Ping Estate	1 024	109	235	116	20	182	23	**1 709**
Sha Kok Estate	521	45	112	89	4	52	7	**830**
Sha Tau Kok Chuen	14	3	6	4	-	10	1	**38**
Shan King Estate	489	73	89	57	8	60	9	**785**
Shatin Pass Estate	72	6	17	22	2	22	1	**142**
Shek Kip Mei Estate	921	87	222	202	17	173	14	**1 636**
Shek Lei (I) Estate	360	45	67	73	10	47	6	**608**
Shek Lei (II) Estate	652	77	140	98	18	102	14	**1 101**
Shek Mun Estate	253	50	95	154	7	61	8	**628**
Shek Pai Wan Estate	320	49	80	51	9	57	11	**577**
Shek Wai Kok Estate	384	56	55	69	2	62	7	**635**
Shek Yam East Estate	181	23	35	14	8	44	5	**310**
Shek Yam Estate	210	27	49	31	5	20	3	**345**
Sheung Lok Estate	89	3	5	6	1	5	-	**109**
Sheung Tak Estate	374	27	123	36	7	48	11	**626**
Shin Ming Estate	174	17	46	41	4	31	1	**314**
Shui Chuen O Estate	721	43	183	342	18	100	8	**1 415**
Shui Pin Wai Estate	229	20	56	42	3	35	3	**388**

Public housing estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low-earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Shun Lee Estate	280	20	48	44	2	38	5	**437**
Shun On Estate	233	16	31	46	2	29	2	**359**
Shun Tin Estate	514	39	80	66	4	78	9	**790**
Siu Sai Wan Estate	221	49	88	67	15	50	8	**498**
So Uk Estate	327	32	129	216	13	90	18	**825**
Sun Chui Estate	417	43	82	76	7	44	7	**676**
Sun Tin Wai Estate	179	16	39	32	2	29	4	**301**
Tai Hang Tung Estate	262	18	59	32	1	34	4	**410**
Tai Hing Estate	783	93	121	128	4	70	11	**1 210**
Tai Ping Estate	18	2	4	-	-	6	2	**32**
Tai Wo Estate	233	35	61	22	2	28	8	**389**
Tai Wo Hau Estate	484	100	89	96	8	72	13	**862**
Tai Yuen Estate	235	45	135	80	6	36	11	**548**
Tak Long Estate	606	62	145	188	10	140	15	**1 166**
Tak Tin Estate	331	25	73	19	2	33	2	**485**
Tin Chak Estate	298	37	98	35	1	57	6	**532**
Tin Ching Estate	554	54	164	140	8	113	10	**1 043**
Tin Heng Estate	108	22	81	59	23	72	10	**375**
Tin King Estate	57	14	21	11	-	4	7	**114**
Tin Ping Estate	123	9	26	12	2	23	7	**202**
Tin Shui Estate	335	60	115	73	9	88	22	**702**
Tin Tsz Estate	286	42	75	26	6	39	6	**480**
Tin Wah Estate	312	43	86	26	4	59	5	**535**
Tin Wan Estate	261	34	67	24	7	42	8	**443**
Tin Yan Estate	795	52	159	67	7	134	9	**1 223**
Tin Yat Estate	86	14	32	35	5	37	2	**211**
Tin Yiu Estate	397	53	158	104	15	76	25	**828**
Tin Yuet Estate	352	38	99	45	9	70	8	**621**
Tsing Yi Estate	100	15	8	7	1	9	1	**141**
Tsui Lam Estate	85	5	37	16	1	18	2	**164**
Tsui Lok Estate	54	8	7	10	-	5	1	**85**
Tsui Ping (South) Estate	246	28	52	25	7	34	1	**393**
Tsui Ping (North) Estate	481	47	118	59	4	86	12	**807**
Tsui Wan Estate	63	16	16	6	-	7	1	**109**
Tsz Ching Estate	804	71	151	73	14	95	11	**1 219**
Tsz Hong Estate	90	7	25	23	4	20	-	**169**
Tsz Lok Estate	448	57	113	55	10	67	6	**756**
Tsz Man Estate	115	13	36	28	3	23	3	**221**
Tui Min Hoi Chuen	8	3	8	1	-	-	1	**21**
Tung Tau Estate	304	27	66	33	5	38	4	**477**
Tung Wui Estate	271	15	62	38	3	44	4	**437**
Un Chau Estate	799	84	204	103	9	115	10	**1 324**
Upper Ngau Tau Kok Estate	856	74	169	68	7	113	8	**1 295**
Upper Wong Tai Sin Estate	466	58	137	74	10	60	6	**811**
Verbena Heights	85	15	24	-	-	13	1	**138**
Wah Fu Estate	389	54	103	76	10	74	22	**728**

Public housing estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low-earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Wah Ha Estate	2	1	1	6	1	1	-	**12**
Wah Kwai Estate	151	21	33	12	-	15	8	**240**
Wah Lai Estate	83	11	30	14	1	10	1	**150**
Wah Ming Estate	174	33	35	20	4	26	11	**303**
Wah Sum Estate	109	17	21	19	2	15	2	**185**
Wan Hon Estate	229	8	19	25	1	11	3	**296**
Wan Tau Tong Estate	93	17	25	8	-	6	2	**151**
Wan Tsui Estate	193	34	57	39	3	35	6	**367**
Wang Tau Hom Estate	290	39	113	65	7	47	11	**572**
Wing Cheong Estate	123	5	45	36	-	27	1	**237**
Wo Che Estate	297	51	105	71	6	51	13	**594**
Wo Lok Estate	146	11	37	29	3	16	-	**242**
Wo Tin Estate	226	35	72	176	5	63	3	**580**
Wu King Estate	147	23	36	39	3	21	9	**278**
Yan On Estate	214	16	51	49	1	35	-	**366**
Yan Tin Estate	216	26	65	124	6	48	5	**490**
Yat Tung Estate	547	79	143	148	30	195	21	**1 163**
Yau Lai Estate	792	64	174	148	6	115	10	**1 309**
Yau Oi Estate	505	49	107	97	10	68	10	**846**
Yau Tong Estate	316	42	86	30	7	52	3	**536**
Yee Ming Estate	126	15	39	54	7	17	1	**259**
Ying Tung Estate	144	8	44	87	1	33	5	**322**
Yip Wong Estate	21	1	7	28	-	4	1	**62**
Yiu On Estate	111	21	29	14	-	11	4	**190**
Yiu Tung Estate	317	64	77	30	10	39	4	**541**
Yue Kwong Chuen	29	3	7	2	-	1	2	**44**
Yue Wan Estate	145	30	42	45	3	41	2	**308**
Yung Shing Court	158	22	31	17	-	22	5	**255**
Total	**63 017**	**7 320**	**15 606**	**12 735**	**1 122**	**10 408**	**1 282**	**111 490**

Note Including public rental housing estates under the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA), estates under the Tenants Purchase Scheme (TPS), and rental estates under the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS).

\- No cases.

Table 2 **Number of CSSA recipients as at end-December 2024 by public housing estate [Note] and case nature**

Public housing estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low-earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Ap Lei Chau Estate	246	76	85	91	7	36	14	**555**
Bo Shek Mansion	29	-	5	-	-	-	-	**34**
Broadview Garden	12	2	2	4	2	3	-	**25**
Butterfly Estate	586	50	108	195	4	59	4	**1 006**
Chai Wan Estate	220	25	53	36	-	22	2	**358**
Chak On Estate	262	19	45	64	-	36	8	**434**
Cheung Ching Estate	364	24	82	185	46	69	13	**783**
Cheung Fat Estate	147	30	22	15	3	15	-	**232**
Cheung Hang Estate	271	42	63	101	9	44	9	**539**
Cheung Hong Estate	723	96	131	184	24	102	8	**1 268**
Cheung Kwai Estate	16	2	13	10	-	8	-	**49**
Cheung Lung Wai Estate	167	24	29	75	3	38	4	**340**
Cheung On Estate	238	33	27	15	-	20	12	**345**
Cheung Sha Wan Estate	208	20	53	71	5	23	4	**384**
Cheung Shan Estate	79	12	28	29	4	12	2	**166**
Cheung Wah Estate	245	40	91	41	-	43	11	**471**
Cheung Wang Estate	374	59	76	61	11	58	-	**639**
Ching Ho Estate	827	79	201	273	21	183	4	**1 588**
Ching Tin Estate	379	47	166	485	41	109	10	**1 237**
Cho Yiu Chuen	123	12	25	27	23	20	-	**230**
Choi Fai Estate	66	14	32	15	12	13	-	**152**
Choi Fook Estate	428	25	115	274	12	92	16	**962**
Choi Ha Estate	82	11	26	9	-	7	3	**138**
Choi Hung Estate	616	51	184	247	26	103	18	**1 245**
Choi Ming Court	263	43	74	21	6	52	4	**463**
Choi Tak Estate	545	39	125	197	13	89	5	**1 013**
Choi Wan (I) Estate	322	30	94	186	28	83	6	**749**
Choi Wan (II) Estate	164	20	43	59	17	36	1	**340**
Choi Ying Estate	406	16	113	130	10	85	2	**762**
Choi Yuen Estate	599	70	163	183	-	142	5	**1 162**
Chuk Yuen (North) Estate	197	13	87	41	-	41	3	**382**
Chuk Yuen (South) Estate	654	60	193	186	25	89	16	**1 223**
Chun Seen Mei Chuen	75	10	4	21	-	13	-	**123**
Chun Shek Estate	189	16	66	64	-	26	5	**366**
Chun Yeung Estate	231	47	120	302	21	104	9	**834**
Chung On Estate	203	51	54	77	4	27	5	**421**
Clague Garden Estate	47	3	6	-	7	6	-	**69**
Easeful Court	14	1	8	12	-	10	-	**45**
Fai Ming Estate	55	5	36	69	-	45	1	**211**
Fortune Estate	363	57	106	67	17	50	2	**662**
Fu Cheong Estate	858	69	214	134	10	92	11	**1 388**
Fu Heng Estate	273	46	131	58	-	29	16	**553**
Fu Shan Estate	170	21	26	121	15	29	-	**382**
Fu Shin Estate	266	69	91	64	7	31	26	**554**

Public housing estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low-earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Fu Tai Estate	316	66	192	111	32	99	10	**826**
Fu Tip Estate	396	63	236	684	29	110	15	**1 533**
Fu Tung Estate	85	13	52	28	2	18	4	**202**
Fuk Loi Estate	250	32	56	125	4	43	1	**511**
Fung Tak Estate	254	30	61	12	9	39	6	**411**
Fung Wah Estate	44	7	14	5	-	7	-	**77**
Fung Wo Estate	149	21	49	121	2	22	3	**367**
Grandeur Terrace	159	28	133	135	20	116	11	**602**
Hau Tak Estate	291	53	87	106	24	64	9	**634**
Healthy Village	97	8	11	23	2	3	3	**147**
Heng On Estate	162	35	36	40	9	12	8	**302**
High Prosperity Terrace	27	-	18	25	11	6	-	**87**
Hin Fat Estate	63	7	15	56	2	9	2	**154**
Hin Keng Estate	161	31	56	30	-	14	9	**301**
Hin Yiu Estate	89	12	24	24	-	11	-	**160**
Hing Man Estate	115	37	64	54	14	32	-	**316**
Hing Tin Estate	45	11	25	11	2	9	1	**104**
Hing Tung Estate	136	38	44	27	11	5	2	**263**
Hing Wah (I) Estate	209	43	56	52	5	33	5	**403**
Hing Wah (II) Estate	323	49	81	95	3	51	10	**612**
Ho Man Tin Estate	494	74	163	156	16	87	21	**1 011**
Hoi Fu Court	350	31	98	87	5	62	3	**636**
Hoi Lai Estate	233	53	222	127	48	112	6	**801**
Hoi Tat Estate	133	26	94	294	11	65	11	**634**
Hoi Ying Estate	56	12	71	119	4	28	8	**298**
Hong Tung Estate	111	16	12	5	-	2	4	**150**
Hung Fuk Estate	393	76	153	328	7	110	6	**1 073**
Hung Hom Estate	375	40	115	84	6	44	6	**670**
Jat Min Chuen	336	21	47	28	-	27	2	**461**
Ka Fuk Estate	169	18	58	57	5	21	2	**330**
Ka Wai Chuen	162	12	40	14	-	21	-	**249**
Kai Ching Estate	508	44	133	276	41	101	23	**1 126**
Kai Chuen Court	42	3	26	92	-	39	2	**204**
Kai Tin Estate	221	39	56	40	14	38	2	**410**
Kai Yip Estate	594	29	97	110	10	43	1	**884**
Kam Peng Estate	22	-	9	11	-	-	-	**42**
Kin Ming Estate	442	97	231	160	16	113	13	**1 072**
Kin Sang Estate	78	14	18	15	7	8	3	**143**
King Lam Estate	279	21	101	33	-	43	-	**477**
Ko Cheung Court	55	43	37	25	20	24	8	**212**
Ko Yee Estate	163	5	24	48	7	14	-	**261**
Kwai Chung Estate	1 220	291	315	398	18	261	23	**2 526**
Kwai Fong Estate	482	109	253	211	54	187	12	**1 308**
Kwai Hing Estate	54	8	9	12	-	13	-	**96**
Kwai Luen Estate	207	42	82	162	38	82	17	**630**
Kwai Shing East Estate	663	86	210	167	39	123	13	**1 301**
Kwai Shing West Estate	348	47	65	156	20	64	2	**702**
Kwai Tsui Estate	53	3	18	66	3	15	4	**162**
Kwong Fuk Estate	477	100	127	155	10	68	11	**948**
Kwong Tin Estate	142	33	53	36	28	50	3	**345**

Public housing estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low-earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Kwong Yuen Estate	194	59	50	30	-	15	6	**354**
Kwun Lung Lau	93	26	33	60	10	26	-	**248**
Kwun Tong Garden Estate	348	32	82	38	2	46	11	**559**
Lai King Estate	359	29	85	107	9	73	6	**668**
Lai Kok Estate	330	56	116	128	7	37	7	**681**
Lai On Estate	106	23	60	59	10	27	-	**285**
Lai Tak Tsuen	142	15	39	61	5	18	-	**280**
Lai Tsui Court	52	5	56	94	4	58	3	**272**
Lai Yiu Estate	193	31	69	145	23	72	8	**541**
Lakeside Garden	9	-	12	3	-	1	-	**25**
Lam Tin Estate	352	35	84	82	5	43	-	**601**
Lee On Estate	286	69	113	112	-	44	6	**630**
Lei Cheng Uk Estate	203	31	52	45	-	25	2	**358**
Lei Muk Shue Estate	755	145	202	260	37	189	13	**1 601**
Lei Tung Estate	265	58	64	40	9	33	11	**480**
Lei Yue Mun Estate	380	45	92	88	10	67	3	**685**
Lek Yuen Estate	250	26	101	145	4	30	9	**565**
Leung King Estate	339	47	95	63	13	47	22	**626**
Lin Tsui Estate	8	3	3	26	1	3	-	**44**
Lok Fu Estate	310	32	141	121	16	62	1	**683**
Lok Man Sun Chuen	240	10	64	69	9	29	4	**425**
Lok Wah (North) Estate	152	12	58	78	15	37	6	**358**
Lok Wah (South) Estate	1 090	49	127	189	12	91	10	**1 568**
Long Ching Estate	40	4	3	33	-	14	-	**94**
Long Ping Estate	368	46	108	77	3	45	16	**663**
Long Shin Estate	109	12	32	87	5	25	6	**276**
Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate	445	39	119	163	13	101	6	**886**
Lower Wong Tai Sin (I) Estate	312	51	151	107	15	72	9	**717**
Lower Wong Tai Sin (II) Estate	335	62	167	198	18	88	8	**876**
Lung Hang Estate	238	26	99	118	3	26	4	**514**
Lung Tin Estate	60	-	15	18	-	23	-	**116**
Lung Yat Estate	72	13	18	74	-	21	7	**205**
Ma Hang Estate	35	3	10	12	9	7	-	**76**
Ma Tau Wai Estate	186	36	50	138	4	37	11	**462**
Mei Lam Estate	339	53	116	146	9	40	11	**714**
Mei Tin Estate	573	97	239	271	25	109	18	**1 332**
Mei Tung Estate	183	18	48	80	2	53	-	**384**
Ming Tak Estate	108	11	55	14	4	10	1	**203**
Ming Wa Dai Ha	161	15	49	59	16	28	4	**332**
Model Housing Estate	27	18	16	23	7	24	-	**115**
Moon Lok Dai Ha	78	12	17	20	4	5	-	**136**
Mun Tung Estate	122	35	115	280	31	121	17	**721**
Nam Cheong Estate	96	10	30	12	4	5	1	**158**
Nam Shan Estate	278	50	79	116	10	37	2	**572**
Nga Ning Court	21	4	1	15	3	13	3	**60**
Ngan Wan Estate	35	3	25	11	2	13	-	**89**

Public housing estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low-earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Oi Man Estate	372	70	143	173	48	82	11	**899**
Oi Tung Estate	571	143	142	122	-	45	13	**1 036**
On Tai Estate	528	80	204	540	48	276	20	**1 696**
On Tat Estate	722	92	162	549	22	149	11	**1 707**
On Tin Estate	12	12	15	30	5	4	3	**81**
On Ting Estate	519	65	124	164	9	61	4	**946**
On Yam Estate	331	70	185	135	143	114	24	**1 002**
Pak Tin Estate	939	102	206	270	21	220	25	**1 783**
Ping Shek Estate	282	31	61	133	10	50	9	**576**
Ping Tin Estate	534	104	188	137	19	91	9	**1 082**
Po Heung Estate	32	4	31	43	-	5	-	**115**
Po Lam Estate	222	37	60	57	5	24	1	**406**
Po Shek Wu Estate	40	7	15	86	2	15	3	**168**
Po Tat Estate	844	77	142	160	36	170	12	**1 441**
Po Tin Estate	909	137	271	85	10	210	10	**1 632**
Pok Hong Estate	182	15	72	42	6	16	3	**336**
Prosperous Garden	55	-	3	4	-	3	-	**65**
Queens Hill Estate	516	98	287	1 045	38	343	22	**2 349**
Sai Wan Estate	26	6	23	26	11	7	4	**103**
Sam Shing Estate	155	11	56	23	3	12	11	**271**
Sau Mau Ping (South) Estate	438	32	89	150	6	59	4	**778**
Sau Mau Ping Estate	1 227	168	387	310	53	353	32	**2 530**
Sha Kok Estate	659	63	160	212	9	73	9	**1 185**
Sha Tau Kok Chuen	20	7	8	10	-	12	1	**58**
Shan King Estate	652	111	118	116	21	80	12	**1 110**
Shatin Pass Estate	77	12	20	54	9	23	2	**197**
Shek Kip Mei Estate	1 125	127	320	469	53	244	28	**2 366**
Shek Lei (I) Estate	480	82	86	187	35	82	8	**960**
Shek Lei (II) Estate	753	111	209	248	60	159	22	**1 562**
Shek Mun Estate	308	66	163	384	24	103	15	**1 063**
Shek Pai Wan Estate	389	59	108	120	38	60	11	**785**
Shek Wai Kok Estate	481	84	82	160	9	98	13	**927**
Shek Yam East Estate	203	36	66	35	34	67	13	**454**
Shek Yam Estate	248	46	76	71	19	41	5	**506**
Sheung Lok Estate	95	3	7	8	4	7	-	**124**
Sheung Tak Estate	453	33	173	96	18	84	10	**867**
Shin Ming Estate	207	24	63	91	14	37	-	**436**
Shui Chuen O Estate	854	66	322	819	68	185	13	**2 327**
Shui Pin Wai Estate	283	25	89	91	12	47	5	**552**
Shun Lee Estate	377	32	85	112	6	60	9	**681**
Shun On Estate	285	21	63	112	7	41	3	**532**
Shun Tin Estate	671	62	113	164	15	125	15	**1 165**
Siu Sai Wan Estate	288	74	164	187	43	80	17	**853**
So Uk Estate	435	64	238	544	40	186	40	**1 547**
Sun Chui Estate	556	58	118	179	19	59	11	**1 000**
Sun Tin Wai Estate	237	26	66	80	9	36	4	**458**
Tai Hang Tung Estate	299	22	84	73	5	46	6	**535**
Tai Hing Estate	1 000	136	173	308	4	89	14	**1 724**
Tai Ping Estate	28	2	6	-	-	12	2	**50**
Tai Wo Estate	289	46	98	46	8	37	7	**531**

Public housing estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low-earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Tai Wo Hau Estate	621	148	172	246	19	110	12	**1 328**
Tai Yuen Estate	311	85	265	198	24	44	20	**947**
Tak Long Estate	730	93	200	426	32	175	23	**1 679**
Tak Tin Estate	379	38	94	45	2	47	3	**608**
Tin Chak Estate	363	52	153	89	-	109	10	**776**
Tin Ching Estate	686	80	270	290	22	155	18	**1 521**
Tin Heng Estate	180	56	180	165	95	216	25	**917**
Tin King Estate	75	19	33	26	-	6	5	**164**
Tin Ping Estate	169	15	45	23	-	32	7	**291**
Tin Shui Estate	451	105	204	191	35	179	28	**1 193**
Tin Tsz Estate	326	55	100	67	20	52	5	**625**
Tin Wah Estate	386	58	119	70	7	114	9	**763**
Tin Wan Estate	313	39	89	66	24	63	5	**599**
Tin Yan Estate	886	68	197	147	14	170	11	**1 493**
Tin Yat Estate	145	38	88	86	18	101	5	**481**
Tin Yiu Estate	525	73	293	278	47	118	41	**1 375**
Tin Yuet Estate	453	47	145	131	30	93	15	**914**
Tsing Yi Estate	131	22	10	14	2	11	2	**192**
Tsui Lam Estate	128	9	57	33	3	24	7	**261**
Tsui Lok Estate	59	12	14	22	-	5	2	**114**
Tsui Ping (South) Estate	299	46	73	68	26	45	2	**559**
Tsui Ping (North) Estate	594	60	159	128	13	111	15	**1 080**
Tsui Wan Estate	74	22	18	11	-	6	1	**132**
Tsz Ching Estate	891	123	205	208	47	152	13	**1 639**
Tsz Hong Estate	128	14	51	75	16	46	-	**330**
Tsz Lok Estate	525	94	168	158	24	117	12	**1 098**
Tsz Man Estate	150	27	56	73	9	46	5	**366**
Tui Min Hoi Chuen	11	2	10	5	-	-	2	**30**
Tung Tau Estate	354	35	88	74	11	56	6	**624**
Tung Wui Estate	303	21	75	89	5	73	5	**571**
Un Chau Estate	956	119	273	255	31	159	10	**1 803**
Upper Ngau Tau Kok Estate	979	102	220	163	28	186	7	**1 685**
Upper Wong Tai Sin Estate	547	84	196	167	30	87	8	**1 119**
Verbena Heights	96	18	25	-	-	13	1	**153**
Wah Fu Estate	491	94	166	184	34	104	26	**1 099**
Wah Ha Estate	2	2	3	12	5	3	-	**27**
Wah Kwai Estate	167	27	44	27	-	18	7	**290**
Wah Lai Estate	102	13	36	32	1	19	2	**205**
Wah Ming Estate	221	47	63	43	10	30	13	**427**
Wah Sum Estate	142	28	36	53	11	19	4	**293**
Wan Hon Estate	272	18	29	44	5	11	7	**386**
Wan Tau Tong Estate	108	22	32	19	-	6	4	**191**
Wan Tsui Estate	228	45	97	94	5	47	10	**526**
Wang Tau Hom Estate	351	55	181	164	22	68	21	**862**
Wing Cheong Estate	155	9	71	81	-	52	2	**370**
Wo Che Estate	380	85	182	203	33	108	19	**1 010**
Wo Lok Estate	185	14	54	74	9	18	-	**354**

Public housing estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low-earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Wo Tin Estate	279	64	139	423	23	101	4	**1 033**
Wu King Estate	205	49	73	104	13	35	11	**490**
Yan On Estate	260	19	69	109	-	44	-	**501**
Yan Tin Estate	286	42	151	310	12	96	10	**907**
Yat Tung Estate	670	149	243	365	121	509	39	**2 096**
Yau Lai Estate	946	107	240	338	12	170	15	**1 828**
Yau Oi Estate	641	67	197	225	24	127	16	**1 297**
Yau Tong Estate	399	68	123	76	15	89	11	**781**
Yee Ming Estate	160	24	65	124	24	28	1	**426**
Ying Tung Estate	178	16	79	199	5	50	6	**533**
Yip Wong Estate	33	1	9	56	-	5	2	**106**
Yiu On Estate	142	22	43	34	-	20	3	**264**
Yiu Tung Estate	366	97	118	89	21	75	4	**770**
Yue Kwong Chuen	36	2	9	4	-	2	-	**53**
Yue Wan Estate	181	45	73	97	6	53	5	**460**
Yung Shing Court	176	32	58	50	-	36	6	**358**
Total	**77 706**	**10 913**	**24 195**	**30 830**	**3 552**	**16 098**	**1 930**	**165 224**

Note Including public rental housing estates under HA, TPS estates, and rental estates under HKHS.

\- No cases.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)332

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3606)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients by year of residence in Hong Kong (less than 1 year, 1 year to less than 7 years, and 7 years or more), as well as the number of CSSA cases involving families with members of varying lengths of residence in Hong Kong, broken down by the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 134)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) only maintains information on the year of residence in Hong Kong for non-Hong Kong-born CSSA recipients. As at the end of December 2024, the number of such CSSA recipients who had resided in Hong Kong for less than 1 year, 1 year to less than 7 years, and 7 years or more was 206, 7 620, and 130 867, respectively. SWD does not have the other information sought.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)333

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3607)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) households receiving rent allowance in the past 5 years, please provide:

i. the numbers of cases and recipients, and the median actual rent;

ii. the number of CSSA cases with the actual rent not exceeding the maximum rent allowance (MRA);

iii. the number of CSSA cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA, and the percentage of such cases out of all CSSA cases receiving rent allowance;

iv. the median rent of CSSA cases with the actual rent not exceeding MRA; and

v. the median rent of CSSA cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 135)

Reply:

The numbers of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates or private housing, along with the number of recipients and their median actual rent from 2020-21 to 2024-25, are set out in Table 1 of Annex. The numbers of these cases with actual rent less than, equal to, or exceeding MRA, their respective percentages out of all CSSA cases receiving rent allowance, and their median actual rent are set out in Table 2 of Annex.

Annex

<u>Table 1</u> Numbers of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates [Note 1] or private housing, along with the number of recipients and their median actual rent from 2020-21 to 2024-25 [Note 2]

Year	Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance	Number of CSSA recipients receiving rent allowance	Median actual rent ($)
2020-21	150 293	255 732	1,498
2021-22	144 185	242 025	1,509
2022-23	137 686	227 814	1,501
2023-24	131 108	213 706	1,713
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	128 056	205 831	1,713

Note 1 Including public rental housing estates under the Housing Authority, estates under the Tenants Purchase Scheme and rental estates under the Hong Kong Housing Society.

Note 2 The figures do not include CSSA cases where the recipients are residing in residential care homes (RCHs) and receiving rent allowance.

<u>Table 2</u> **Numbers of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates [Note 1] or private housing with actual rent less than, equal to, or exceeding MRA, their respective percentages out of all CSSA cases receiving rent allowance, and median actual rent from 2020-21 to 2024-25 [Note 2]**

Year	Actual rent less than or equal to MRA		Actual rent exceeding MRA	
	Number of cases and its percentage out of all CSSA cases receiving rent allowance	Median actual rent ($)	Number of cases and its percentage out of all CSSA cases receiving rent allowance	Median actual rent ($)
2020-21	133 727 (89.0%)	1,416	16 566 (11.0%)	4,500
2021-22	126 309 (87.6%)	1,418	17 876 (12.4%)	4,500
2022-23	120 475 (87.5%)	1,406	17 211 (12.5%)	4,200
2023-24	112 603 (85.9%)	1,584	18 505 (14.1%)	4,000
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	110 332 (86.2%)	1,589	17 724 (13.8%)	3,829

Note 1 Including public rental housing estates under the Housing Authority, estates under the Tenants Purchase Scheme and rental estates under the Hong Kong Housing Society.

Note 2 The figures do not include CSSA cases where the recipients are residing in RCHs and receiving rent allowance.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)334

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3608)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) households receiving rent allowance in the past 5 years, please provide the following information, broken down by household size:

i. the numbers of cases and recipients, and the median actual rent;

ii. the number of CSSA cases with the actual rent not exceeding the maximum rent allowance (MRA);

iii. the number of CSSA cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA, and the percentage of such cases out of all CSSA cases receiving rent allowance;

iv. the median rent of CSSA cases with the actual rent not exceeding MRA; and

v. the median rent of CSSA cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 136)

Reply:

From 2020-21 to 2024-25, the number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates and private housing and the median actual rents of these cases, broken down by number of eligible household members, are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex, respectively. The number of cases with the actual rent less than, equal to or exceeding MRA, along with the percentage of these cases out of all cases receiving rent allowance, is set out in Table 3 of Annex. The median actual rents of cases with the actual rent less than, equal to or exceeding MRA are set out in Table 4 of Annex.

Some household members in individual CSSA cases may not be eligible for rent allowance. The Social Welfare Department maintains only the number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance but not the number of recipients.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates [Note 1] and private housing from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by number of eligible household members [Note 2]**

Number of eligible household members	Number of cases receiving rent allowance				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
1	84 991	82 978	81 031	78 887	78 476
2	39 729	37 754	35 260	32 829	31 525
3	15 788	14 608	13 327	12 102	11 323
4	6 512	5 891	5 370	4 831	4 428
5	2 238	2 004	1 800	1 631	1 543
6 or more	1 035	950	898	828	761
Total	**150 293**	**144 185**	**137 686**	**131 108**	**128 056**

Note 1 Including public rental housing estates under the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA), estates under the Tenants Purchase Scheme (TPS), and rental estates under the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS).

Note 2 The listed figures do not include CSSA cases where the recipients are residing in residential care homes (RCHs) and receiving rent allowance.

Table 2 **Median actual rents of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates [Note 1] and private housing from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by number of eligible household members [Note 2]**

Number of eligible household members	Median actual rents of cases receiving rent allowance ($)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
1	1,331	1,347	1,348	1,554	1,559
2	1,765	1,775	1,763	2,029	2,018
3	2,435	2,477	2,427	2,774	2,777
4	2,684	2,769	2,658	3,041	2,971
5	2,893	2,968	2,942	3,332	3,361
6 or more	3,094	3,184	3,134	3,527	3,559

Note 1 Including public rental housing estates under HA, TPS estates, and rental estates under HKHS.

Note 2 The listed figures do not include CSSA cases where the recipients are residing in RCHs and receiving rent allowance.

Table 3 **Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates [Note 1] and private housing with the actual rent less than, equal to or exceeding MRA and the percentage of these cases out of all cases receiving rent allowance from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by number of eligible household members [Note 2]**

Number of eligible household members	Number of cases with the actual rent less than or equal to MRA and the percentage of these cases out of all cases receiving rent allowance				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
1	76 132	73 015	70 931	67 266	67 000
2	35 502	33 312	31 249	28 917	28 021
3	13 516	12 333	11 340	10 186	9 557
4	5 656	5 050	4 597	4 113	3 778
5	1 984	1 742	1 549	1 385	1 308
6 or more	937	857	809	736	668
Total	**133 727 (89.0%)**	**126 309 (87.6%)**	**120 475 (87.5%)**	**112 603 (85.9%)**	**110 332 (86.2%)**
Number of eligible household members	**Number of cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA and the percentage of these cases out of all cases receiving rent allowance**				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
1	8 859	9 963	10 100	11 621	11 476
2	4 227	4 442	4 011	3 912	3 504
3	2 272	2 275	1 987	1 916	1 766
4	856	841	773	718	650
5	254	262	251	246	235
6 or more	98	93	89	92	93
Total	**16 566 (11.0%)**	**17 876 (12.4%)**	**17 211 (12.5%)**	**18 505 (14.1%)**	**17 724 (13.8%)**

Note 1 Including public rental housing estates under HA, TPS estates, and rental estates under HKHS.

Note 2 The listed figures do not include CSSA cases where the recipients are residing in RCHs and receiving rent allowance.

Table 4 **Median actual rents of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates [Note 1] and private housing with the actual rent less than, equal to or exceeding MRA from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by number of eligible household members [Note 2]**

Number of eligible household members	Median actual rents of cases with the actual rent less than or equal to MRA ($)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
1	1,281	1,285	1,283	1,453	1,461
2	1,696	1,709	1,687	1,935	1,935
3	2,205	2,211	2,119	2,437	2,459
4	2,456	2,491	2,459	2,774	2,763
5	2,725	2,769	2,714	3,105	3,105
6 or more	3,020	3,095	3,036	3,432	3,396
Number of eligible household members	**Median actual rents of cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA ($)**				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
1	3,167	3,200	3,200	3,271	3,271
2	5,000	5,000	5,015	5,100	5,200
3	6,200	6,200	6,300	6,250	6,300
4	7,300	7,500	7,500	7,573	7,625
5	8,050	8,300	8,500	8,500	8,450
6 or more	9,000	9,000	9,300	9,250	9,500

Note 1 Including public rental housing estates under HA, TPS estates, and rental estates under HKHS.

Note 2 The listed figures do not include CSSA cases where the recipients are residing in RCHs and receiving rent allowance.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)335

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3609)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) households residing in private and public housing and receiving rent allowance in the past 5 years, please provide the following information, broken down by household size:

i. the numbers of cases and recipients, and the median actual rent;

ii. the number of CSSA cases with the actual rent not exceeding the maximum rent allowance (MRA);

iii. the number of CSSA cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA, and the percentage of such cases in its own type of housing (i.e. public/private housing);

iv. the median rent of CSSA cases with the actual rent not exceeding MRA; and

v. the median rent of CSSA cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 137)

Reply:

From 2020-21 to 2024-25, the number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance, and the median actual rents, broken down by number of eligible household members and type of housing, are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex, respectively. The number of cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA, the percentage of these cases out of the number of cases receiving rent allowance in respective types of housing, and the median actual rents, are set out in Tables 3 and 4 of Annex, respectively. The number of cases with the actual rent less than or equal to MRA, the percentage of these cases out of the number of cases receiving rent allowance in respective types of housing, and the median actual rents, are set out in Tables 5 and 6 of Annex, respectively.

Some recipients in individual CSSA cases may not be eligible for rent allowance. The Social Welfare Department maintains only the number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance but not the number of recipients.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by number of eligible household members and type of housing**

Number of eligible household members	**Number of cases where the recipients are residing in public housing estates** [Note]				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
1	70 113	68 248	67 021	65 455	65 054
2	31 223	29 647	28 360	26 458	25 744
3	11 195	10 412	9 838	8 860	8 293
4	4 676	4 275	3 986	3 575	3 323
5	1 717	1 542	1 400	1 253	1 177
6 or more	852	791	764	686	624
Total	**119 776**	**114 915**	**111 369**	**106 287**	**104 215**
Number of eligible household members	**Number of cases where the recipients are residing in private housing**				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
1	14 878	14 730	14 010	13 432	13 422
2	8 506	8 107	6 900	6 371	5 781
3	4 593	4 196	3 489	3 242	3 030
4	1 836	1 616	1 384	1 256	1 105
5	521	462	400	378	366
6 or more	183	159	134	142	137
Total	**30 517**	**29 270**	**26 317**	**24 821**	**23 841**

Note Including public rental housing estates under the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA), estates under the Tenants Purchase Scheme (TPS), and rental estates under the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS).

Table 2 **Median actual rents of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by number of eligible household members and type of housing**

Number of eligible household members	Median actual rents of cases where the recipients are residing in public housing estates [Note] ($)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
1	1,265	1,276	1,279	1,465	1,467
2	1,645	1,666	1,664	1,919	1,919
3	1,988	2,019	1,987	2,257	2,269
4	2,270	2,314	2,288	2,583	2,600
5	2,522	2,589	2,570	2,928	2,955
6 or more	2,950	3,022	3,019	3,380	3,347
Number of eligible household members	**Median actual rents of cases where the recipients are residing in private housing ($)**				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
1	2,500	2,600	2,700	2,800	2,700
2	4,365	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
3	5,300	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
4	6,000	6,200	6,325	6,500	6,500
5	6,590	7,000	7,150	7,500	7,250
6 or more	8,000	8,100	8,500	8,300	8,500

Note Including public rental housing estates under HA, TPS estates, and rental estates under HKHS.

<u>Table 3</u> **Number of CSSA cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA and the percentage of these cases out of the number of cases receiving rent allowance in respective types of housing from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by number of eligible household members and type of housing**

Number of eligible household members	**Number of cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA in public housing estates [Note] and the percentage of these cases out of the number of cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates**				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
1	2 059	2 299	2 442	3 921	4 016
2	188	190	169	352	346
3	59	48	39	87	70
4	16	21	14	20	15
5	6	6	6	10	9
6 or more	-	-	-	4	4
Total	**2 328 (1.9%)**	**2 564 (2.2%)**	**2 670 (2.4%)**	**4 394 (4.1%)**	**4 460 (4.3%)**
Number of eligible household members	**Number of cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA in private housing and the percentage of these cases out of the number of cases receiving rent allowance in private housing**				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
1	6 800	7 664	7 658	7 700	7 460
2	4 039	4 252	3 842	3 560	3 158
3	2 213	2 227	1 948	1 829	1 696
4	840	820	759	698	635
5	248	256	245	236	226
6 or more	98	93	89	88	89
Total	**14 238 (46.7%)**	**15 312 (52.3%)**	**14 541 (55.3%)**	**14 111 (56.9%)**	**13 264 (55.6%)**

Note Including public rental housing estates under HA, TPS estates, and rental estates under HKHS.

\- No cases.

Table 4 **Median actual rents of CSSA cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by number of eligible household members and type of housing**

Number of eligible household members	Median actual rents of cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA in public housing estates [Note] ($)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
1	2,880	2,900	2,900	2,986	2,986
2	4,956	5,037	5,021	4,805	4,789
3	5,991	6,000	5,922	5,746	5,786
4	7,000	6,800	6,900	7,500	6,624
5	7,829	7,521	7,240	7,709	7,711
6 or more	-	-	-	7,920	8,197
Number of eligible household members	**Median actual rents of cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA in private housing ($)**				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
1	3,400	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
2	5,000	5,000	5,015	5,200	5,300
3	6,200	6,200	6,300	6,300	6,300
4	7,300	7,500	7,500	7,600	7,700
5	8,150	8,300	8,500	8,550	8,500
6 or more	9,000	9,000	9,300	9,300	9,500

Note Including public rental housing estates under HA, TPS estates, and rental estates under HKHS.

\- No cases.

Table 5 **Number of CSSA cases with the actual rent less than or equal to MRA and the percentage of these cases out of the number of cases receiving rent allowance in respective types of housing from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by number of eligible household members and type of housing**

Number of eligible household members	Number of cases with the actual rent less than or equal to MRA in public housing estates [Note] and the percentage of these cases out of the number of cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
1	68 054	65 949	64 579	61 534	61 038
2	31 035	29 457	28 191	26 106	25 398
3	11 136	10 364	9 799	8 773	8 223
4	4 660	4 254	3 972	3 555	3 308
5	1 711	1 536	1 394	1 243	1 168
6 or more	852	791	764	682	620
Total	**117 448 (98.1%)**	**112 351 (97.8%)**	**108 699 (97.6%)**	**101 893 (95.9%)**	**99 755 (95.7%)**
Number of eligible household members	**Number of cases with the actual rent less than or equal to MRA in private housing and the percentage of these cases out of the number of cases receiving rent allowance in private housing**				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
1	8 078	7 066	6 352	5 732	5 962
2	4 467	3 855	3 058	2 811	2 623
3	2 380	1 969	1 541	1 413	1 334
4	996	796	625	558	470
5	273	206	155	142	140
6 or more	85	66	45	54	48
Total	**16 279 (53.3%)**	**13 958 (47.7%)**	**11 776 (44.7%)**	**10 710 (43.1%)**	**10 577 (44.4%)**

Note Including public rental housing estates under HA, TPS estates, and rental estates under HKHS.

Table 6 **Median actual rents of CSSA cases with the actual rent less than or equal to MRA from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by number of eligible household members and type of housing**

Number of eligible household members	Median actual rents of cases with the actual rent less than or equal to MRA in public housing estates [Note] ($)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
1	1,247	1,257	1,257	1,422	1,431
2	1,641	1,663	1,660	1,905	1,905
3	1,986	2,009	1,986	2,246	2,267
4	2,258	2,305	2,286	2,581	2,586
5	2,522	2,589	2,568	2,921	2,924
6 or more	2,950	3,022	3,019	3,376	3,338
Number of eligible household members	**Median actual rents of cases with the actual rent less than or equal to MRA in private housing ($)**				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
1	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,200
2	3,600	3,600	3,500	3,600	3,600
3	4,600	4,700	4,800	4,800	4,900
4	5,135	5,200	5,366	5,500	5,500
5	5,500	5,500	5,600	5,950	6,000
6 or more	6,400	6,450	6,200	6,500	6,698

Note Including public rental housing estates under HA, TPS estates, and rental estates under HKHS.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)336

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3610)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) households residing in private and public housing and receiving rent allowance in the past 5 years, please provide the following information, broken down by case nature:

i. the numbers of cases and recipients, and the median actual rent;

ii. the number of CSSA cases with the actual rent not exceeding the maximum rent allowance (MRA);

iii. the number of CSSA cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA, and the percentage of such cases in its own type of housing (i.e. public/private housing);

iv. the median rent of CSSA cases with the actual rent not exceeding MRA; and

v. the median rent of CSSA cases with the actual rent exceeding MRA.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 138)

Reply:

From 2020-21 to 2024-25, the number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance, broken down by case nature and type of housing, is set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex, respectively. The median actual rents of these cases are set out in Tables 3 and 4 of Annex, respectively.

Some recipients in individual CSSA cases may not be eligible for rent allowance. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) maintains only the number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance but not the number of recipients. SWD also does not have a breakdown, by case nature or type of housing, of the number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance with the actual rent less than, equal to or exceeding MRA, the percentage of these cases out of the number of cases receiving rent allowance in respective types of housing, or the median actual rent of these cases.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates [Note] from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by case nature**

Case nature	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Old age	71 699	67 648	64 290	60 933	60 111
Permanent disability	7 305	7 254	7 188	7 026	6 856
Ill health	13 718	13 969	14 428	14 575	14 390
Single parent	14 292	13 679	13 396	12 282	11 872
Low-earnings	1 623	1 456	1 238	1 033	949
Unemployment	10 252	10 096	10 069	9 761	9 399
Others	887	813	760	677	638
Total	**119 776**	**114 915**	**111 369**	**106 287**	**104 215**

Note Including public rental housing estates under the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA), estates under the Tenants Purchase Scheme (TPS), and rental estates under the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS).

Table 2 **Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in private housing from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by case nature**

Case nature	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Old age	9 653	9 231	8 243	7 787	7 711
Permanent disability	1 595	1 617	1 573	1 482	1 423
Ill health	4 422	4 504	4 345	4 314	4 319
Single parent	8 468	8 049	6 859	6 334	5 798
Low-earnings	413	370	283	242	204
Unemployment	5 231	4 798	4 356	3 983	3 698
Others	735	701	658	679	688
Total	**30 517**	**29 270**	**26 317**	**24 821**	**23 841**

Table 3 **Median actual rents of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates [Note] from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by case nature**

Case nature	Median actual rent ($)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Old age	1,331	1,341	1,340	1,543	1,543
Permanent disability	1,389	1,399	1,396	1,589	1,589
Ill health	1,407	1,402	1,398	1,589	1,601
Single parent	1,779	1,789	1,776	2,041	2,040
Low-earnings	2,422	2,441	2,429	2,743	2,706
Unemployment	1,421	1,414	1,406	1,576	1,576
Others	1,636	1,707	1,610	1,846	1,914

Note Including public rental housing estates under HA, TPS estates, and rental estates under HKHS.

<u>Table 4</u> Median actual rents of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in private housing from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by case nature

Case nature	Median actual rent ($)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Old age	2,300	2,500	2,500	2,552	2,515
Permanent disability	3,000	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,000
Ill health	3,300	3,500	3,400	3,400	3,300
Single parent	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,200	5,300
Low-earnings	6,000	6,200	6,500	6,500	6,695
Unemployment	3,200	3,300	3,200	3,200	3,100
Others	4,100	4,200	4,000	4,000	4,000

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)337

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3611)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) households residing in private and public housing and receiving rent allowance in the past 5 years, please provide the numbers of cases and recipients, and the median actual rent, broken down by 18 districts and household size.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 139)

Reply:

From 2020-21 to 2024-25, the number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance, broken down by district, number of eligible household members and type of housing, are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex, respectively. The median actual rents of these cases are set out in Tables 3 and 4 of Annex, respectively.

Some recipients in individual CSSA cases may not be eligible for rent allowance. The Social Welfare Department maintains only the number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance but not the number of recipients.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates [Note 1] from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by district and number of eligible household members**

(i) 2020-21

District [Note 2]	Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Central & Western	125	56	27	21	9	1
Eastern	3 257	1 258	433	189	59	38
Islands	1 038	623	375	232	96	80
Kowloon City	3 037	1 306	474	182	60	26
Kwai Tsing	8 195	3 297	1 162	514	240	133
Kwun Tong	13 488	6 147	2 029	845	319	116
North	2 535	1 277	478	178	57	15
Sai Kung	2 801	935	380	136	46	28
Sha Tin	5 821	3 228	1 237	501	129	45
Sham Shui Po	6 921	2 772	1 001	443	150	64
Southern	1 768	804	283	88	28	18
Tai Po	1 531	871	289	106	27	11
Tsuen Wan	1 470	748	241	89	37	18
Tuen Mun	5 720	2 583	757	309	111	49
Wan Chai	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wong Tai Sin	6 747	2 640	917	411	164	68
Yau Tsim Mong	348	126	33	15	5	3
Yuen Long	5 310	2 552	1 079	417	180	139
Overall	**70 113**	**31 223**	**11 195**	**4 676**	**1 717**	**852**

Note 1 Including public rental housing estates under the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA), estates under the Tenants Purchase Scheme (TPS), and rental estates under the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS).

Note 2 The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 District Council (DC) districts.

\- No cases.

(ii) 2021-22

District [Note]	Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Central & Western	128	55	27	15	7	1
Eastern	3 177	1 191	406	174	56	40
Islands	1 041	602	343	204	86	60
Kowloon City	2 950	1 236	435	184	53	18
Kwai Tsing	7 982	3 090	1 057	462	214	127
Kwun Tong	13 067	5 820	1 842	741	264	120
North	2 505	1 323	497	203	57	29
Sai Kung	2 691	889	323	124	48	23
Sha Tin	5 805	3 089	1 135	434	123	45
Sham Shui Po	6 804	2 639	1 008	425	134	67
Southern	1 726	755	253	77	27	17
Tai Po	1 446	838	282	91	23	11
Tsuen Wan	1 472	695	220	87	34	12
Tuen Mun	5 441	2 414	706	263	100	41
Wan Chai	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wong Tai Sin	6 539	2 517	877	396	156	61
Yau Tsim Mong	337	124	27	15	4	3
Yuen Long	5 136	2 370	974	380	156	116
Overall	**68 248**	**29 647**	**10 412**	**4 275**	**1 542**	**791**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

\- No cases.

(iii) 2022-23

District [Note]	Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6 or more**
Central & Western	114	53	26	18	4	1
Eastern	3 075	1 103	375	181	52	36
Islands	1 059	548	308	172	70	60
Kowloon City	2 924	1 139	408	162	55	15
Kwai Tsing	7 671	2 886	970	437	178	128
Kwun Tong	12 693	5 410	1 659	635	224	114
North	2 669	1 596	629	232	71	33
Sai Kung	2 563	824	288	113	41	20
Sha Tin	5 704	2 884	1 043	382	118	43
Sham Shui Po	6 618	2 492	944	409	117	64
Southern	1 663	725	216	62	26	17
Tai Po	1 422	798	267	87	18	11
Tsuen Wan	1 450	638	209	73	28	18
Tuen Mun	5 733	2 579	864	270	108	45
Wan Chai	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wong Tai Sin	6 329	2 351	776	381	150	56
Yau Tsim Mong	324	108	26	16	4	3
Yuen Long	5 009	2 226	830	356	136	100
Overall	**67 021**	**28 360**	**9 838**	**3 986**	**1 400**	**764**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

\- No cases.

(iv) 2023-24

District [Note]	Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6 or more**
Central & Western	111	49	27	10	6	1
Eastern	3 006	1 045	370	144	49	37
Islands	1 059	485	265	157	65	49
Kowloon City	2 874	1 075	377	161	47	13
Kwai Tsing	7 391	2 688	873	423	157	114
Kwun Tong	12 415	5 024	1 497	549	199	97
North	2 636	1 475	561	195	58	29
Sai Kung	2 510	759	267	107	36	20
Sha Tin	5 623	2 697	917	326	109	35
Sham Shui Po	6 401	2 372	814	377	113	59
Southern	1 640	683	196	53	21	18
Tai Po	1 439	791	243	82	17	10
Tsuen Wan	1 450	571	179	76	23	12
Tuen Mun	5 515	2 394	772	250	87	41
Wan Chai	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wong Tai Sin	6 132	2 193	715	332	131	55
Yau Tsim Mong	329	105	27	11	4	2
Yuen Long	4 923	2 052	760	322	131	94
Overall	**65 455**	**26 458**	**8 860**	**3 575**	**1 253**	**686**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

\- No cases.

(v) 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

District [Note]	Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Central & Western	122	45	24	8	7	1
Eastern	2 967	1 022	355	127	50	31
Islands	1 047	478	235	138	66	47
Kowloon City	2 849	1 057	341	139	42	11
Kwai Tsing	7 338	2 654	849	391	171	109
Kwun Tong	12 256	4 716	1 413	492	184	82
North	2 588	1 426	491	174	58	23
Sai Kung	2 480	714	267	100	31	16
Sha Tin	5 614	2 589	841	317	92	34
Sham Shui Po	6 354	2 274	748	354	106	53
Southern	1 615	635	179	61	21	14
Tai Po	1 664	1 035	302	104	19	13
Tsuen Wan	1 439	556	171	64	16	11
Tuen Mun	5 438	2 383	707	227	78	41
Wan Chai	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wong Tai Sin	6 095	2 089	645	318	120	47
Yau Tsim Mong	321	109	21	8	6	1
Yuen Long	4 866	1 962	704	301	110	90
Overall	**65 054**	**25 744**	**8 293**	**3 323**	**1 177**	**624**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

\- No cases.

Table 2 Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in private housing from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by district and number of eligible household members

(i) 2020-21

District [Note]	Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in private housing					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Central & Western	346	135	66	19	5	4
Eastern	734	418	179	62	22	6
Islands	238	122	74	31	4	5
Kowloon City	1 093	608	359	161	49	21
Kwai Tsing	311	306	183	80	21	14
Kwun Tong	512	475	283	125	33	14
North	1 062	883	513	205	66	16
Sai Kung	138	99	47	13	4	1
Sha Tin	326	265	144	49	11	4
Sham Shui Po	2 534	1 094	463	181	61	10
Southern	99	76	42	17	4	1
Tai Po	516	459	271	108	29	8
Tsuen Wan	479	336	228	75	23	9
Tuen Mun	709	504	299	114	31	12
Wan Chai	345	101	45	16	5	1
Wong Tai Sin	303	288	158	63	22	5
Yau Tsim Mong	3 108	1 018	459	159	51	15
Yuen Long	2 025	1 319	780	358	80	37
Overall	**14 878**	**8 506**	**4 593**	**1 836**	**521**	**183**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

(ii) 2021-22

District [Note]	Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in private housing					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6 or more**
Central & Western	339	128	55	23	4	4
Eastern	726	423	160	42	16	4
Islands	240	118	65	30	5	5
Kowloon City	1 074	579	334	140	36	19
Kwai Tsing	318	298	185	67	23	11
Kwun Tong	506	461	262	99	25	18
North	1 019	825	477	186	49	11
Sai Kung	132	109	32	11	8	-
Sha Tin	331	259	143	49	6	4
Sham Shui Po	2 488	1 023	415	151	54	12
Southern	110	72	33	12	3	2
Tai Po	510	435	242	88	24	7
Tsuen Wan	488	347	214	83	20	8
Tuen Mun	679	460	253	90	35	10
Wan Chai	318	103	39	14	7	-
Wong Tai Sin	290	268	151	57	13	6
Yau Tsim Mong	3 145	961	411	151	47	11
Yuen Long	2 017	1 238	725	323	87	27
Overall	**14 730**	**8 107**	**4 196**	**1 616**	**462**	**159**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

\- No cases.

(iii) 2022-23

District [Note]	Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in private housing					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6 or more**
Central & Western	333	128	56	21	5	4
Eastern	743	373	150	39	15	2
Islands	237	110	65	28	5	3
Kowloon City	977	534	275	118	31	14
Kwai Tsing	313	269	152	70	22	8
Kwun Tong	489	430	232	92	25	14
North	923	623	391	145	34	12
Sai Kung	128	89	36	12	8	-
Sha Tin	326	258	119	39	6	6
Sham Shui Po	2 378	908	375	146	50	13
Southern	101	57	24	9	2	3
Tai Po	472	328	181	79	16	6
Tsuen Wan	454	312	206	67	20	4
Tuen Mun	580	329	170	69	25	11
Wan Chai	301	92	32	14	6	1
Wong Tai Sin	273	250	131	55	14	4
Yau Tsim Mong	2 927	809	363	127	42	9
Yuen Long	2 055	1 001	531	254	74	20
Overall	**14 010**	**6 900**	**3 489**	**1 384**	**400**	**134**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

\- No cases.

(iv) 2023-24

District [Note]	Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in private housing					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6 or more**
Central & Western	287	118	49	19	6	4
Eastern	716	337	130	37	18	5
Islands	225	87	60	23	5	3
Kowloon City	904	474	235	104	27	13
Kwai Tsing	319	228	139	60	24	10
Kwun Tong	458	362	208	81	25	12
North	876	614	364	143	33	12
Sai Kung	191	97	53	6	7	-
Sha Tin	308	238	120	37	5	5
Sham Shui Po	2 141	798	343	116	46	15
Southern	104	56	29	11	3	3
Tai Po	468	309	159	83	11	6
Tsuen Wan	452	307	192	63	18	5
Tuen Mun	564	302	156	60	19	10
Wan Chai	273	87	34	13	2	2
Wong Tai Sin	284	242	130	57	10	4
Yau Tsim Mong	2 606	713	316	96	47	10
Yuen Long	2 256	1 002	525	247	72	23
Overall	**13 432**	**6 371**	**3 242**	**1 256**	**378**	**142**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

\- No cases.

(v) 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

District [Note]	Number of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in private housing					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6 or more**
Central & Western	257	102	40	14	5	7
Eastern	676	321	101	29	14	4
Islands	200	79	53	19	8	3
Kowloon City	909	512	240	98	22	11
Kwai Tsing	306	217	139	51	26	10
Kwun Tong	489	320	191	64	21	11
North	893	517	359	128	27	11
Sai Kung	239	114	78	12	9	1
Sha Tin	332	240	115	40	5	3
Sham Shui Po	1 979	681	292	95	32	15
Southern	99	55	22	12	2	4
Tai Po	621	270	145	69	11	7
Tsuen Wan	413	271	176	53	20	4
Tuen Mun	540	274	142	56	22	8
Wan Chai	258	88	28	12	7	1
Wong Tai Sin	295	196	124	48	10	5
Yau Tsim Mong	2 412	596	261	87	43	9
Yuen Long	2 504	928	524	218	82	23
Overall	**13 422**	**5 781**	**3 030**	**1 105**	**366**	**137**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 3 **Median actual rents of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in public housing estates [Note 1] from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by district and number of eligible household members**

(i) 2020-21

District [Note 2]	Median actual rent ($)					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Central & Western	1,635	1,809	1,729	1,815	1,821	2,182
Eastern	1,345	1,742	1,873	2,091	2,414	2,856
Islands	971	1,368	1,779	2,114	2,161	3,278
Kowloon City	1,326	1,812	2,500	2,511	3,060	3,280
Kwai Tsing	1,330	1,726	2,123	2,429	2,662	3,020
Kwun Tong	1,390	1,788	2,498	2,908	3,061	3,310
North	1,029	1,225	1,722	1,760	2,085	2,161
Sai Kung	1,164	1,561	2,141	2,141	2,596	2,676
Sha Tin	1,202	1,644	2,305	2,217	2,347	2,456
Sham Shui Po	1,364	1,762	2,457	2,841	2,943	3,580
Southern	1,445	1,628	1,875	1,993	2,830	2,560
Tai Po	1,048	1,287	1,565	1,722	1,756	1,894
Tsuen Wan	1,417	1,555	1,809	1,859	1,997	2,651
Tuen Mun	984	1,115	1,370	1,529	1,806	1,975
Wan Chai	1,614	-	-	-	-	-
Wong Tai Sin	1,380	1,770	2,012	2,218	2,642	2,912
Yau Tsim Mong	1,352	1,817	2,763	3,241	3,567	3,567
Yuen Long	938	1,309	1,734	1,975	2,272	2,634
Overall	**1,265**	**1,645**	**1,988**	**2,270**	**2,522**	**2,950**

Note 1 Including public rental housing estates under HA, TPS estates, and rental estates under HKHS.

Note 2 The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

\- No cases.

(ii) 2021-22

District [Note]	Median actual rent ($)					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Central & Western	1,654	1,737	1,737	1,823	1,829	2,491
Eastern	1,358	1,753	1,985	2,319	2,589	3,080
Islands	976	1,396	1,802	2,173	2,337	3,293
Kowloon City	1,335	1,821	2,513	2,524	3,137	3,226
Kwai Tsing	1,338	1,738	2,150	2,436	2,752	3,104
Kwun Tong	1,399	1,796	2,512	2,917	3,138	3,362
North	1,037	1,251	1,742	2,040	2,078	2,330
Sai Kung	1,169	1,568	2,158	2,169	2,712	2,929
Sha Tin	1,211	1,660	2,369	2,346	2,398	2,862
Sham Shui Po	1,369	1,771	2,500	2,915	3,054	3,733
Southern	1,465	1,634	1,882	2,000	2,150	2,880
Tai Po	1,168	1,296	1,581	1,723	1,843	1,907
Tsuen Wan	1,431	1,564	1,820	1,877	2,009	3,599
Tuen Mun	989	1,121	1,379	1,524	1,721	1,989
Wan Chai	1,630	-	-	-	-	-
Wong Tai Sin	1,387	1,777	2,019	2,239	2,732	3,089
Yau Tsim Mong	1,329	2,250	2,900	2,986	3,570	3,733
Yuen Long	942	1,318	1,730	1,986	2,282	2,837
Overall	**1,276**	**1,666**	**2,019**	**2,314**	**2,589**	**3,022**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

\- No cases.

(iii) 2022-23

District [Note]	Median actual rent ($)					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Central & Western	1,654	1,737	1,785	1,901	2,014	2,191
Eastern	1,353	1,779	1,939	2,484	2,547	3,184
Islands	976	1,567	1,802	2,151	2,182	3,136
Kowloon City	1,335	1,823	2,513	2,523	3,137	3,226
Kwai Tsing	1,338	1,737	2,155	2,452	2,789	3,115
Kwun Tong	1,399	1,798	2,512	2,928	3,139	3,275
North	1,037	1,254	1,762	2,078	2,078	2,330
Sai Kung	1,169	1,568	2,156	2,218	2,714	2,710
Sha Tin	1,212	1,663	2,392	2,362	2,398	2,911
Sham Shui Po	1,370	1,774	2,500	2,900	3,036	3,733
Southern	1,465	1,636	1,883	1,961	1,979	3,184
Tai Po	1,168	1,296	1,581	1,692	1,907	1,886
Tsuen Wan	1,431	1,564	1,788	1,877	2,010	2,796
Tuen Mun	927	1,196	1,670	1,670	1,947	2,445
Wan Chai	1,621	-	-	-	-	-
Wong Tai Sin	1,387	1,779	2,018	2,320	2,802	2,909
Yau Tsim Mong	1,419	2,171	2,819	3,407	3,733	5,084
Yuen Long	942	1,311	1,743	1,984	2,282	2,619
Overall	**1,279**	**1,664**	**1,987**	**2,288**	**2,570**	**3,019**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

\- No cases.

(iv) 2023-24

District [Note]	Median actual rent ($)					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Central & Western	1,912	2,018	2,083	2,308	2,294	2,520
Eastern	1,559	2,087	2,344	2,841	2,875	3,347
Islands	1,123	1,651	2,049	2,379	2,671	3,468
Kowloon City	1,559	2,081	2,672	2,877	3,428	3,697
Kwai Tsing	1,498	1,989	2,488	2,774	3,158	3,451
Kwun Tong	1,559	2,059	2,867	3,271	3,526	3,637
North	1,199	1,446	2,033	2,397	2,397	2,557
Sai Kung	1,348	1,818	2,509	2,520	3,067	3,087
Sha Tin	1,401	1,935	2,689	2,714	2,763	3,282
Sham Shui Po	1,559	2,070	2,867	3,291	3,427	4,114
Southern	1,692	1,889	2,165	2,218	3,086	3,559
Tai Po	1,321	1,660	1,854	1,948	2,187	2,216
Tsuen Wan	1,632	1,740	2,046	2,096	2,290	2,782
Tuen Mun	1,088	1,348	1,903	1,903	2,235	3,118
Wan Chai	1,980	-	-	-	-	-
Wong Tai Sin	1,559	2,021	2,397	2,617	3,101	3,463
Yau Tsim Mong	1,708	2,485	3,271	3,784	4,114	4,871
Yuen Long	1,031	1,472	1,919	2,175	2,513	3,062
Overall	**1,465**	**1,919**	**2,257**	**2,583**	**2,928**	**3,380**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

\- No cases.

(v) 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

District [Note]	Median actual rent ($)					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Central & Western	1,912	2,018	2,108	2,520	2,096	2,520
Eastern	1,559	2,087	2,346	2,875	2,918	3,295
Islands	1,123	1,624	2,049	2,375	2,671	3,828
Kowloon City	1,559	2,081	2,614	2,877	3,382	3,735
Kwai Tsing	1,498	1,990	2,535	2,723	3,167	3,409
Kwun Tong	1,559	2,065	2,879	3,160	3,526	4,003
North	1,199	1,446	2,033	2,397	2,397	2,557
Sai Kung	1,348	1,818	2,509	2,520	3,046	3,180
Sha Tin	1,401	1,935	2,734	2,626	2,779	3,282
Sham Shui Po	1,559	2,070	2,867	3,286	3,427	4,114
Southern	1,692	1,874	2,218	2,218	2,246	4,114
Tai Po	1,190	1,810	1,948	2,343	2,187	2,325
Tsuen Wan	1,632	1,729	2,046	2,107	2,290	3,197
Tuen Mun	1,097	1,348	1,903	1,910	2,235	2,591
Wan Chai	1,980	-	-	-	-	-
Wong Tai Sin	1,559	2,023	2,406	2,706	2,982	3,670
Yau Tsim Mong	1,708	2,743	3,271	3,836	4,114	5,481
Yuen Long	1,031	1,472	1,919	2,175	2,543	3,121
Overall	**1,467**	**1,919**	**2,269**	**2,600**	**2,955**	**3,347**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

\- No cases.

Table 4 Median actual rents of CSSA cases receiving rent allowance in private housing from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by district and number of eligible household members

(i) 2020-21

District [Note]	Median actual rent ($)					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Central & Western	2,500	4,500	5,500	7,000	5,700	9,000
Eastern	2,500	4,500	5,600	6,300	8,988	9,250
Islands	2,400	4,200	5,300	6,000	5,500	8,300
Kowloon City	2,500	4,370	5,395	6,000	6,700	7,000
Kwai Tsing	2,500	4,400	5,300	6,000	6,000	8,500
Kwun Tong	2,500	4,300	5,300	6,100	7,000	8,000
North	2,800	4,500	5,300	5,800	6,000	7,300
Sai Kung	1,186	1,338	4,800	7,000	7,850	7,500
Sha Tin	1,167	3,800	5,550	6,000	8,500	6,164
Sham Shui Po	2,500	4,400	5,200	5,600	6,400	8,000
Southern	2,600	4,500	5,000	5,910	8,400	9,000
Tai Po	2,750	4,500	5,400	6,000	6,000	7,000
Tsuen Wan	2,700	4,500	5,200	6,200	6,900	6,800
Tuen Mun	2,500	4,000	5,300	6,003	7,500	8,600
Wan Chai	2,500	4,500	5,500	7,500	7,000	3,119
Wong Tai Sin	2,300	4,400	5,500	5,700	6,000	8,000
Yau Tsim Mong	2,500	4,300	5,200	6,200	6,500	8,100
Yuen Long	2,500	4,300	5,300	6,000	6,400	8,000
Overall	**2,500**	**4,365**	**5,300**	**6,000**	**6,590**	**8,000**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

(ii) 2021-22

District [Note]	Median actual rent ($)					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Central & Western	2,600	4,500	5,800	6,005	5,750	10,500
Eastern	2,725	4,500	5,800	7,100	8,500	9,250
Islands	2,500	4,420	5,500	6,700	6,000	8,300
Kowloon City	2,700	4,500	5,500	6,450	7,550	8,400
Kwai Tsing	2,800	4,500	5,500	6,000	7,000	9,300
Kwun Tong	2,650	4,500	5,400	6,200	7,300	8,400
North	3,000	4,600	5,500	6,000	5,800	7,600
Sai Kung	1,327	1,574	4,900	7,200	8,000	-
Sha Tin	1,268	4,100	6,000	7,000	7,750	10,250
Sham Shui Po	2,550	4,500	5,300	5,900	6,900	7,200
Southern	2,700	4,550	5,200	6,000	10,000	8,400
Tai Po	3,000	4,500	5,500	6,005	6,808	8,000
Tsuen Wan	2,800	4,500	5,500	6,000	6,950	6,550
Tuen Mun	2,500	4,200	5,500	6,500	7,535	8,600
Wan Chai	2,500	4,500	5,600	6,003	7,200	-
Wong Tai Sin	2,500	4,500	5,500	6,000	6,800	7,500
Yau Tsim Mong	2,600	4,500	5,300	6,300	6,300	9,500
Yuen Long	2,800	4,500	5,500	6,300	7,000	7,000
Overall	**2,600**	**4,500**	**5,500**	**6,200**	**7,000**	**8,100**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

\- No cases.

(iii) 2022-23

District [Note]	Median actual rent ($)					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Central & Western	2,800	4,500	5,950	7,000	6,800	8,825
Eastern	2,900	4,700	5,500	6,800	9,000	12,050
Islands	2,500	4,800	5,500	7,150	7,000	6,400
Kowloon City	2,800	4,520	5,500	6,500	7,400	8,450
Kwai Tsing	2,800	4,500	5,600	6,550	7,200	8,400
Kwun Tong	2,800	4,500	5,500	6,250	7,300	8,900
North	3,000	4,800	5,600	6,300	6,600	8,250
Sai Kung	1,302	1,499	5,000	6,550	7,750	-
Sha Tin	1,327	4,290	6,000	6,400	8,750	12,400
Sham Shui Po	2,700	4,500	5,330	6,000	7,400	8,000
Southern	3,000	4,500	5,415	7,000	9,050	8,500
Tai Po	3,000	4,500	5,500	6,000	7,200	9,000
Tsuen Wan	3,000	4,500	5,500	6,000	7,300	6,150
Tuen Mun	2,515	4,300	5,500	6,800	8,300	9,000
Wan Chai	2,515	4,850	5,925	7,400	6,800	8,500
Wong Tai Sin	2,500	4,500	5,600	6,500	6,900	8,600
Yau Tsim Mong	2,700	4,500	5,500	6,300	6,750	8,100
Yuen Long	2,750	4,500	5,500	6,500	7,000	8,700
Overall	**2,700**	**4,500**	**5,500**	**6,325**	**7,150**	**8,500**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

\- No cases.

(iv) 2023-24

District [Note]	Median actual rent ($)					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Central & Western	2,800	4,550	5,580	7,000	7,400	8,825
Eastern	3,000	4,600	5,500	7,300	8,650	9,500
Islands	2,500	4,800	5,500	7,300	7,000	6,400
Kowloon City	2,870	4,606	5,500	6,500	8,000	8,500
Kwai Tsing	2,800	4,500	6,000	6,900	8,000	6,650
Kwun Tong	2,800	4,500	5,500	6,500	7,300	8,150
North	3,000	4,800	5,600	6,400	7,500	8,150
Sai Kung	2,500	1,919	5,330	6,900	7,500	-
Sha Tin	1,701	4,290	6,000	7,500	9,000	11,300
Sham Shui Po	2,800	4,500	5,400	6,005	7,650	8,000
Southern	3,000	4,500	5,600	5,100	9,000	8,500
Tai Po	3,000	4,500	5,500	6,000	6,800	6,550
Tsuen Wan	3,000	4,500	5,500	6,005	7,450	6,000
Tuen Mun	2,600	4,400	5,500	6,900	8,000	8,850
Wan Chai	2,600	5,000	5,950	7,000	9,040	5,642
Wong Tai Sin	2,515	4,500	5,500	6,300	6,950	8,600
Yau Tsim Mong	2,750	4,600	5,500	6,500	6,800	9,100
Yuen Long	2,700	4,440	5,330	6,200	6,695	8,400
Overall	**2,800**	**4,500**	**5,500**	**6,500**	**7,500**	**8,300**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

\- No cases.

(v) 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

District [Note]	Median actual rent ($)					
	Number of eligible household members					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Central & Western	3,000	4,550	5,500	7,500	6,800	10,500
Eastern	3,000	4,500	5,500	7,000	8,900	10,000
Islands	2,625	4,500	5,500	7,500	7,050	6,400
Kowloon City	2,705	4,595	5,600	6,150	7,900	8,500
Kwai Tsing	2,800	4,600	6,000	6,600	7,000	7,500
Kwun Tong	2,800	4,503	5,500	7,000	7,000	8,300
North	3,000	4,800	5,700	6,500	7,000	8,500
Sai Kung	2,515	3,056	5,330	6,253	7,500	10,000
Sha Tin	1,783	4,365	6,000	7,650	7,300	13,500
Sham Shui Po	2,800	4,500	5,500	6,005	8,300	6,800
Southern	3,000	4,700	5,330	6,000	7,848	8,650
Tai Po	2,515	4,475	5,500	6,005	6,800	7,800
Tsuen Wan	3,000	4,500	5,500	6,155	7,600	7,800
Tuen Mun	2,600	4,400	5,500	7,200	8,000	9,400
Wan Chai	2,600	5,000	5,600	7,600	6,695	8,000
Wong Tai Sin	2,515	4,500	5,500	6,375	7,250	9,200
Yau Tsim Mong	2,750	4,600	5,500	6,550	6,800	9,500
Yuen Long	2,515	4,440	5,330	6,250	6,695	9,000
Overall	**2,700**	**4,500**	**5,500**	**6,500**	**7,250**	**8,500**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

\- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)338

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3612)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the total number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases in each of the 3 categories, namely "able-bodied/50% disabled", "100% disabled" and "requiring constant attendance", and the percentage of cases in each category out of all cases in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 140)

Reply:

The respective numbers of CSSA cases involving households with recipients who are 50% disabled, 100% disabled and requiring constant attendance from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are tabulated as follows. Since there may be overlaps among the different categories of cases mentioned above, the Social Welfare Department does not have the percentage of cases in each category in relation to the total number of cases.

Year	**Number of CSSA cases**		
	Households with recipients who are 50% disabled [Note]	**Households with recipients who are 100% disabled**	**Households with recipients requiring constant attendance**
2020-21	5 062	83 757	22 179
2021-22	5 047	82 849	21 128
2022-23	4 991	82 087	20 474
2023-24	4 722	81 758	21 160
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	4 501	81 763	22 154

Note Disabled CSSA recipients refer to those receiving the standard rate for 50% disabled, 100% disabled or requiring constant attendance, but do not include 50% disabled recipients aged 65 or above, or 50% disabled recipients aged between 60 and 64 who were already receiving elderly CSSA before 1 February 2019.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)339

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3613)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases in the past 5 years by the following categories:

i. Households with members aged 65 or above

ii. Households with members aged 15 or below

iii. Households with disabled members

iv. Households with ill-health members

v. Households with able-bodied adults

vi. Households with members with full-time/long-term employment

vii. Households with members with part-time/casual employment

viii. Households with unemployed members

ix. Households with members who have resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 141)

Reply:

From 2020-21 to 2024-25, the respective numbers of CSSA cases involving households with members aged below 15 or aged 65 or above are set out in Table 1 of Annex; the respective numbers of CSSA cases involving households with disabled, ill-health or able-bodied adult recipients are set out in Table 2 of Annex; and the number of CSSA cases involving households with recipients who have resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years is set out in Table 3 of Annex.

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not maintain information on the employment status of household members for CSSA cases.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of CSSA cases involving households with members aged below 15 or aged 65 or above from 2020-21 to 2024-25**

Year	Number of CSSA cases	
	Households with members aged below 15	Households with members aged 65 or above
2020-21	31 727	116 996
2021-22	29 335	114 161
2022-23	26 701	110 238
2023-24	24 177	109 320
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	22 746	109 318

Table 2 **Number of CSSA cases involving households with disabled, ill-health or able-bodied adult recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25**

Year	Number of CSSA cases		
	Households with disabled recipients Note	Households with ill-health recipients	Households with able-bodied adult recipients
2020-21	109 160	3 748	47 477
2021-22	107 149	3 507	44 491
2022-23	105 672	3 170	41 158
2023-24	105 748	2 854	37 728
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	106 521	2 607	35 356

Note Disabled CSSA recipients refer to those receiving the standard rate for 50% disabled, 100% disabled or being in need of constant attendance, excluding cases involving recipients aged 65 or above being 50% disabled, and cases involving recipients aged between 60 and 64 being 50% disabled who were receiving elderly CSSA before 1 February 2019.

Table 3 **Number of CSSA cases involving households with recipients who have resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years Note from 2020-21 to 2024-25**

Year	Number of CSSA cases
2020-21	10 600
2021-22	9 331
2022-23	7 946
2023-24	6 278
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	5 567

Note SWD only maintains information on the year of residence in Hong Kong for non-Hong Kong born CSSA recipients.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)340

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3614)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients over the past 5 years by the following categories:

i. CSSA recipients aged 65 or above

ii. CSSA recipients aged 15 or below

iii. Disabled persons

iv. Ill-health persons

v. Able-bodied adults

vi. CSSA recipients with full-time/long-term employment

vii. CSSA recipients with part-time/casual employment

viii. Unemployed CSSA recipients

ix. Members who have resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 142)

Reply:

From 2020-21 to 2024-25, the numbers of CSSA recipients aged below 15 and those aged 65 or above are set out in Table 1 of Annex; the numbers of CSSA recipients who are disabled, ill-health and able-bodied adults are set out in Table 2 of Annex; the number of CSSA recipients with a breakdown by full-time and part-time/casual employment is set out in Table 3 of Annex; the number of unemployed CSSA recipients is set out in Table 4 of Annex; and the number of CSSA recipients having resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years is set out in Table 5 of Annex.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of CSSA recipients aged below 15 and those aged 65 or above from 2020-21 to 2024-25**

Year	Aged below 15	Aged 65 or above
2020-21	47 507	131 425
2021-22	43 751	127 782
2022-23	39 910	122 883
2023-24	36 301	121 218
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	34 198	120 771

Table 2 **Number of CSSA recipients who are disabled, ill-health and able-bodied adults from 2020-21 to 2024-25**

Year	Disabled Note	Ill-health	Able-bodied adults
2020-21	116 786	3 780	53 972
2021-22	114 932	3 533	50 108
2022-23	113 669	3 195	46 093
2023-24	113 956	2 876	41 967
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	114 914	2 621	39 341

Note Disabled CSSA recipients refer to those receiving the standard rate for 50% disabled, 100% disabled or being in need of constant attendance, but do not include recipients aged 65 or above who are 50% disabled, as well as recipients aged between 60 and 64 who have received elderly CSSA before 1 February 2019 while being 50% disabled.

Table 3 **Number of CSSA recipients with a breakdown by full-time and part-time/casual employment from 2020-21 to 2024-25**

Year	Full-time employment Note 1	Part-time/casual employment Note 2
2020-21	3 340	9 313
2021-22	3 145	9 096
2022-23	2 733	8 967
2023-24	2 361	9 125
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	2 174	9 010

Note 1 CSSA recipients with full-time employment refer to those with working hours no less than 120 hours per month.

Note 2 CSSA recipients with part-time/casual employment refer to those with working hours less than 120 hours per month.

Table 4 **Number of unemployed CSSA recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25**

Year	Number of unemployed CSSA recipients [Note]
2020-21	21 677
2021-22	20 023
2022-23	18 726
2023-24	17 295
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	16 492

Note Unemployed CSSA recipients aged 15 to 59 refer to recipients who are unemployed, those with monthly employment earnings below the "prescribed level", or those with working hours less than 120 hours per month. The "prescribed level" was $2,395, $2,455 and $2,545 from 2020-21 to 2022-23 respectively, while the "prescribed level" in 2023-24 and 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024) was $2,630. Unemployed CSSA recipients aged 60 to 64 refer to recipients who are unemployed, or those engaged in paid employment with working hours less than 60 hours per month.

Table 5 **Number of CSSA recipients having resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years [Note] from 2020-21 to 2024-25**

Year	Number of CSSA recipients having resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years
2020-21	14 905
2021-22	12 964
2022-23	11 074
2023-24	8 786
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	7 826

Note The Social Welfare Department only maintains information on the year of residence in Hong Kong for non-Hong Kong born CSSA recipients.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)341

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3615)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients over the past 5 years by the following categories, with a breakdown by the 18 districts in Hong Kong:

i. CSSA recipients aged 65 or above

ii. CSSA recipients aged 15 or below

iii. Disabled persons

iv. Ill-health persons

v. Able-bodied adults

vi. CSSA recipients with full-time/long-term employment

vii. CSSA recipients with part-time/casual employment

viii. Unemployed CSSA recipients

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 143)

Reply:

From 2020-21 to 2024-25, the number of CSSA recipients aged 65 or above, broken down by district, is set out in Table 1 of Annex; the number of CSSA recipients aged below 15 is set out in Table 2 of Annex; the number of disabled CSSA recipients is set out in Table 3 of Annex; the number of ill-health CSSA recipients is set out in Table 4 of Annex; the number of able-bodied adult CSSA recipients is set out in Table 5 of Annex; and the number of unemployed CSSA recipients is set out in Table 6 of Annex.

The Social Welfare Department does not have a breakdown of the number of CSSA recipients with full-time or part-time/casual employment by district.

Annex

Table 1 Number of CSSA recipients [Note 2] aged 65 or above from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by district [Note 1]

District [Note 1]	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Central & Western	1 672	1 573	1 487	1 389	1 366
Eastern	6 812	6 577	6 244	6 141	6 076
Islands	1 849	1 883	1 863	1 821	1 819
Kowloon City	7 339	7 121	6 660	6 539	6 477
Kwai Tsing	13 126	12 746	12 289	12 084	12 031
Kwun Tong	20 199	19 326	18 532	18 029	17 765
North	6 350	6 232	6 152	6 146	6 093
Sai Kung	3 830	3 785	3 634	3 605	3 653
Sha Tin	9 309	9 232	9 064	8 974	8 934
Sham Shui Po	11 916	11 705	11 357	11 192	11 141
Southern	4 208	4 040	3 782	3 694	3 653
Tai Po	4 554	4 315	4 059	4 086	4 388
Tsuen Wan	3 971	3 895	3 687	3 696	3 611
Tuen Mun	10 239	9 889	9 841	9 700	9 717
Wan Chai	701	718	746	760	757
Wong Tai Sin	9 871	9 603	9 121	8 936	8 774
Yau Tsim Mong	3 808	3 857	3 760	3 814	3 810
Yuen Long	10 770	10 500	9 950	10 043	10 148
Total	**130 524**	**126 997**	**122 228**	**120 649**	**120 213**

Note 1 The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 District Council (DC) districts.

Note 2 Excluding the number of CSSA recipients under the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme.

Table 2 Number of CSSA recipients aged below 15 from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by district [Note]

District [Note]	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Central & Western	329	328	313	273	249
Eastern	1 681	1 578	1 483	1 383	1 270
Islands	1 587	1 427	1 283	1 099	988
Kowloon City	2 696	2 434	2 104	1 885	1 806
Kwai Tsing	3 984	3 625	3 284	3 019	3 005
Kwun Tong	6 346	5 692	5 041	4 467	4 050
North	2 989	2 976	3 114	2 876	2 632
Sai Kung	1 029	940	870	819	833
Sha Tin	3 918	3 588	3 237	2 892	2 710
Sham Shui Po	4 675	4 473	4 099	3 687	3 324
Southern	765	722	612	540	521
Tai Po	1 638	1 469	1 258	1 235	1 435
Tsuen Wan	1 419	1 337	1 209	1 136	1 031
Tuen Mun	3 208	2 814	3 020	2 653	2 546
Wan Chai	245	227	223	218	212
Wong Tai Sin	3 146	2 980	2 767	2 529	2 327
Yau Tsim Mong	1 954	1 842	1 609	1 377	1 170
Yuen Long	5 898	5 299	4 384	4 213	4 089
Total	**47 507**	**43 751**	**39 910**	**36 301**	**34 198**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 3 Number of disabled CSSA recipients [Note 2] from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by district [Note 1]

District [Note 1]	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Central & Western	1 875	1 764	1 681	1 590	1 578
Eastern	6 692	6 518	6 380	6 299	6 263
Islands	1 847	1 884	1 842	1 764	1 744
Kowloon City	7 068	6 958	6 563	6 394	6 476
Kwai Tsing	11 351	11 196	10 987	11 079	11 275
Kwun Tong	13 334	13 122	13 087	13 043	13 011
North	6 019	5 942	6 094	6 131	6 103
Sai Kung	3 431	3 391	3 360	3 410	3 472
Sha Tin	8 668	8 591	8 586	8 477	8 463
Sham Shui Po	10 313	10 282	10 363	10 473	10 569
Southern	4 990	4 778	4 595	4 515	4 484
Tai Po	4 673	4 496	4 317	4 441	4 728
Tsuen Wan	3 615	3 556	3 512	3 624	3 514
Tuen Mun	9 752	9 457	9 587	9 574	9 840
Wan Chai	758	758	790	811	829
Wong Tai Sin	7 406	7 411	7 375	7 358	7 327
Yau Tsim Mong	4 193	4 318	4 310	4 429	4 401
Yuen Long	10 699	10 450	10 186	10 484	10 772
Total	**116 684**	**114 872**	**113 615**	**113 896**	**114 849**

Note 1 The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Note 2 Excluding the number of CSSA recipients under the PCSSA Scheme.

Note 3 Disabled CSSA recipients refer to those receiving the standard rate for 50% disabled, 100% disabled or being in need of constant attendance, but do not include recipients aged 65 or above who are 50% disabled, as well as recipients aged between 60 and 64 who have received elderly CSSA before 1 February 2019 while being 50% disabled.

Table 4 Number of ill-health CSSA recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by district [Note]

District [Note]	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Central & Western	15	11	16	14	11
Eastern	52	46	32	34	26
Islands	90	71	64	57	46
Kowloon City	178	160	136	125	118
Kwai Tsing	347	321	268	252	224
Kwun Tong	586	547	494	460	433
North	209	225	239	200	179
Sai Kung	231	209	177	161	139
Sha Tin	245	256	241	229	226
Sham Shui Po	341	316	307	263	220
Southern	37	26	23	19	22
Tai Po	224	219	218	192	221
Tsuen Wan	88	90	82	77	73
Tuen Mun	249	221	215	191	171
Wan Chai	8	7	5	3	5
Wong Tai Sin	422	375	301	267	206
Yau Tsim Mong	144	144	128	91	83
Yuen Long	314	289	249	241	218
Total	**3 780**	**3 533**	**3 195**	**2 876**	**2 621**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 5 **Number of able-bodied adult CSSA recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by district** [Note]

District [Note]	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Central & Western	349	315	292	264	229
Eastern	1 872	1 753	1 638	1 543	1 430
Islands	1 758	1 555	1 385	1 199	1 098
Kowloon City	2 906	2 704	2 393	2 145	2 051
Kwai Tsing	4 430	4 152	3 882	3 575	3 509
Kwun Tong	7 616	7 076	6 482	5 861	5 455
North	3 172	3 151	3 215	2 987	2 671
Sai Kung	1 284	1 191	1 058	1 061	1 037
Sha Tin	4 196	3 849	3 467	3 054	2 884
Sham Shui Po	5 727	5 424	4 963	4 467	4 015
Southern	873	818	730	686	640
Tai Po	1 527	1 405	1 197	1 135	1 374
Tsuen Wan	1 508	1 413	1 324	1 202	1 077
Tuen Mun	3 499	3 119	3 272	2 908	2 756
Wan Chai	300	247	218	204	194
Wong Tai Sin	3 647	3 435	3 277	3 003	2 771
Yau Tsim Mong	2 778	2 534	2 189	1 856	1 628
Yuen Long	6 530	5 967	5 110	4 817	4 522
Total	**53 972**	**50 108**	**46 092**	**41 967**	**39 341**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 6 **Number of unemployed CSSA recipients from 2020-21 to 2024-25 by district** [Note]

District [Note]	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Central & Western	121	109	116	93	87
Eastern	686	647	588	563	542
Islands	766	673	598	530	481
Kowloon City	1 197	1 153	987	879	844
Kwai Tsing	1 676	1 606	1 530	1 397	1 366
Kwun Tong	3 101	2 901	2 721	2 544	2 446
North	1 128	1 087	1 164	1 117	1 012
Sai Kung	498	462	429	460	445
Sha Tin	1 477	1 358	1 222	1 067	1 042
Sham Shui Po	2 565	2 387	2 199	1 994	1 821
Southern	321	299	276	247	243
Tai Po	435	398	351	359	456
Tsuen Wan	588	519	493	472	447
Tuen Mun	1 375	1 211	1 226	1 110	1 086
Wan Chai	153	126	108	105	98
Wong Tai Sin	1 491	1 390	1 335	1 244	1 186
Yau Tsim Mong	1 560	1 409	1 276	1 074	965
Yuen Long	2 539	2 288	2 107	2 040	1 925
Total	**21 677**	**20 023**	**18 726**	**17 295**	**16 492**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3616)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number and percentage of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) households residing in private rental housing (i.e. non-public housing units) and receiving CSSA rent allowance, while being eligible for the Subsidy for CSSA Recipients Living in Rented Private Housing implemented by the Community Care Fund (CCF), with actual rent exceeding the maximum rent allowance (MRA) by $0 to $300, $301 to $600, and $601 or above.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 144)

Reply:

CCF launched an assistance programme to provide a subsidy to CSSA households residing in private rental housing and paying rent that exceeds MRA under the CSSA Scheme. The monthly subsidy is either 50% of the portion of the eligible CSSA household's rental amount exceeding the applicable MRA or 15% of the applicable MRA, whichever is less. The assistance programme ended on 30 April 2021. The number of CSSA cases where the recipients were eligible for the CCF subsidy and were receiving CSSA rent allowance, with actual rent exceeding the total subsidy amount [Note] in 2020-21, broken down by number of eligible household members, along with the percentage of these cases out of the number of cases where the recipients were residing in private rental housing and receiving CSSA rent allowance, is set out at Annex.

Note Total subsidy amount refers to the sum of MRA corresponding to the number of eligible household members under the CSSA Scheme and the average monthly subsidy provided by CCF for cases of the same category.

Annex

Number of CSSA cases where the recipients were eligible for the CCF subsidy, with actual rent exceeding the total subsidy amount [Note] in 2020-21, broken down by number of eligible household members, and the percentage of these cases out of the number of cases where the recipients were residing in private rental housing and receiving CSSA rent allowance

Number of eligible household members	**Number of cases where the actual rent exceeded the total subsidy amount and the percentage of these cases out of the number of cases where the recipients were residing in private rental housing and receiving CSSA rent allowance**			
	Less than $301	**$301 to $600**	**$601 or above**	**Total**
1	2 615	748	3 214	6 577 (52%)
2	2 020	817	1 041	3 878 (55%)
3	687	682	738	2 107 (51%)
4	201	192	407	800 (47%)
5	54	41	139	234 (49%)
6 or more	25	26	42	93 (54%)
Total	**5 602**	**2 506**	**5 581**	**13 689 (52%)**

Note Total subsidy amount refers to the sum of MRA corresponding to the number of eligible household members under the CSSA Scheme and the average monthly subsidy provided by CCF for cases of the same category.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)343

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3617)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients with employment earnings in the past 5 years (year-end figures), with a breakdown by employment earnings ($1,200 or below, $1,201 to $2,500, $2,501 to $5,000, $5,001 to $6,800, $6,801 to $10,000, and $10,000 or above).

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 145)

Reply:

The number of CSSA recipients with employment earnings from 2020-21 to 2024-25, with a breakdown by monthly employment earnings, is tabulated as follows.

Monthly employment earnings	**2020-21**	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
$1,200 or below	5 235	4 984	4 951	4 926	4 927
$1,201 to $2,500	1 842	1 787	1 655	1 713	1 661
$2,501 to $5,000	2 843	2 598	2 327	2 167	2 066
$5,001 to $6,800	1 271	1 254	1 222	1 250	1 112
$6,801 to $10,000	908	1 042	1 001	938	949
$10,001 or above	554	576	544	492	469

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3618)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases with employment earnings in the past 5 years (year-end figures), with a breakdown by total household employment earnings ($1,200 or below, $1,201 to $2,500, $2,501 to $5,000, $5,001 to $6,800, $6,801 to $10,000, and $10,000 or above) and household size (1 member, 2 members, 3 members, 4 members or more).

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 146)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department does not maintain a breakdown of CSSA cases by total household employment earnings but maintains a breakdown of CSSA recipients by employment earnings. Please refer to the reply to Question Serial No. 3617 for details.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3619)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Labour and Welfare Bureau announced in 2021 that the Task Force appointed by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare had completed the review on the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System (LSGSS) and released its Review Report. The Task Force considered that the LSGSS, including the prevailing method of calculating subvention to non-governmental organisations (NGOs), should be retained, and made 30 recommendations under 5 domains to enhance the system. Regarding the recommendations:

1. Has any funding been earmarked for implementing the recommendations in the 5 domains? If so, how much has been earmarked, and what are the details?
2. How much funding per year has the Government provided to NGOs in the form of Lump Sum Grant (LSG) in the past 10 years?
3. At present, how many social workers are being paid less than the mid-point salaries of the pay system of the social welfare sector, and what percentage do they represent of all contract social workers?
4. For the following 17 types of services, please provide the notional subvented staffing establishment set by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), the actual staffing establishment of the NGOs, and the salary expenditure projected with reference to relevant civil service pay scales in the past 5 years

   Notional subvented staffing establishment set by SWD

   Actual subvented staffing establishment of the NGOs

   Notional and actual salary expenditure calculated with reference to starting-point salaries

   Notional and actual salary expenditure calculated with reference to mid-point salaries

   Notional and actual salary expenditure calculated with reference to maximum-point salaries

   1. Hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons (HMMH)
   2. Small group home (SGH)

3. Neighbourhood elderly centre (NEC)
4. Hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons (HSMH)
5. Care-and-attention home for the elderly (C&A)
6. Integrated children and youth services centre (ICYSC)
7. Integrated family service centre (IFSC)
8. Integrated community centre for mental wellness (ICCMW)
9. Special child care centre (SCCC)
10. Early education and training centre (EETC)
11. Day care centre for the elderly (DE)
12. Home care service for persons with severe disabilities (HCS)
13. Integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre (IVRSC)
14. Day activity centre (DAC)
15. Foster care (FC)
16. District youth outreaching social work team (DYOT)
17. District elderly community centre (DECC)

5. Some NGOs have established their own salary structures and pay scales for employees, resulting in a situation of "unequal pay for equal work". Furthermore, when employees switch jobs or start a new position, their seniority may not always be fully recognised. Will the Government consider stepping up its review of the subvention benchmark at mid-point salaries so as to align the salaries of NGO employees with the salary structures and pay scales of the Government?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 147)

Reply:

1. The review on the enhancement of the LSGSS was completed in July 2021. The Review Report made 30 recommendations under 5 domains, namely (1) quality of welfare services; (2) staffing establishment, subvention benchmark and human resource management matters; (3) financial planning; (4) relevance of utilising LSG subvention; and (5) accountability and corporate governance of NGOs. SWD has been implementing the recommendations from 2022-23 onwards. For recommendations that involve additional financial resources, SWD will seek the required resources in accordance with the established procedures where the financial conditions of the Government permit.

2. The amount of LSG allocated by SWD to NGOs operating subvented services under the LSGSS in each of the past 5 years is tabulated below:

Year	Amount of LSG ($ billion)
2020-21 (Actual)	18.541
2021-22 (Actual)	19.603
2022-23 (Actual)	20.050
2023-24 (Actual)	21.953
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	23.710

3. & 4. The 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 resource policies, and flexibly deploy resources and employ staff to achieve the service outputs and outcomes required. SWD does not have information on the actual staffing establishments of NGOs or their staff remuneration. For staffing establishment of individual service areas, please refer to SWD's website (https://www.swd.gov.hk/en/ngo/subventions/suballoc/subvention/).

5. Under the LSGSS, the subvention benchmark at mid-point salaries is adopted by SWD to calculate individual NGOs' funding. It is not intended to prescribe NGOs' pay practices. The existing arrangement aims to allow NGOs to exercise the flexibility to deploy resources and employ staff, and, in line with their human resource management and service development strategies, respond to service needs swiftly and provide welfare services efficiently.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3655)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Despite operating under fiscal deficits, the Government has historically provided additional allowances to recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA), the Old Age Allowance (OAA), and the Disability Allowance (DA) in past Budgets. However, last year, these recipients received only half the standard rate of the additional allowance. Does this indicate that there will be no additional allowances or a further reduction in the amount in this year's Budget?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 183)

Reply:

The Financial Secretary announced in the 2025-26 Budget that an extra allowance equal to one half of the monthly payment or allowance would be provided to eligible recipients of social security payments, including recipients of CSSA standard rate, OAA, OALA, and DA.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)347

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3658)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the number of dementia patients, broken down by district, as well as the number of those receiving community services such as residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), hospital care, home care services, etc., in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 186)

Reply:

The number of dementia patients receiving treatment in each hospital cluster under the Hospital Authority (HA) in the past 5 years is set out at Annex 1.

The Government has regularised the Dementia Community Support Scheme (DCSS) since February 2019, extending its services to all 7 HA clusters and all the 41 district elderly community centres across the territory to provide cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary support services for elderly persons with mild or moderate dementia and their carers in the community. From April 2020 to the end of 2024, DCSS has cumulatively served more than 8 600 elderly persons. In addition, 214 elderly centres subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) across the territory also provide a wide range of community support services to elderly persons and their carers.

SWD provides support for frail elderly persons (including those with dementia) through RCHEs, day care centres/units for the elderly (DEs/DCUs), home care services teams, the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme) and the Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) Scheme for the Elderly. In addition, SWD disburses a Dementia Supplement to about 290 subvented RCHEs and private RCHEs participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme to provide additional support to dementia patients. SWD also provides special supplement to RCSV users (including dementia patients) living in care-and-attention homes based on their care needs. Moreover, subvented community care service (CCS) units for the elderly and recognised service providers (RSPs) under the CCSV Scheme provide services such as reminiscence therapy, reality orientation and cognitive training etc. for elderly patients with dementia, while RSPs specialising in serving elderly persons with dementia concentrate their resources on designing service content tailored to the needs of patients. From 2020-21 to 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024), the number of persons who received dementia services provided by subvented CCS units is set out at Annex 2.

Annex 1

Number of dementia patients [Note 1] receiving treatment in each hospital cluster under the HA

Year	Hospital cluster							HA overall [Note 2]
	HKEC	HKWC	KCC	KEC	KWC	NTEC	NTWC	
2020	11 200	7 700	18 700	12 700	20 100	15 300	9 900	79 400
2021	11 800	8 300	19 600	13 500	21 100	15 900	10 400	82 200
2022	12 200	8 800	19 900	14 000	24 200	16 400	11 100	84 100
2023	12 200	9 000	20 200	14 300	22 500	16 700	10 500	83 900
2024 [Note 3]	12 300	9 300	20 600	14 500	22 400	17 100	10 700	85 500

Note 1 Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

Note 2 The figures for each hospital cluster may not add up to the total as patients may be treated in more than one hospital cluster.

Note 3 The figures represent a full-year projection.

Abbreviations

HKEC – Hong Kong East Cluster
HKWC – Hong Kong West Cluster
KCC – Kowloon Central Cluster
KEC – Kowloon East Cluster
KWC – Kowloon West Cluster
NTEC – New Territories East Cluster
NTWC – New Territories West Cluster

Annex 2

Numbers of persons who received dementia services provided by subvented CCS units for the elderly

Year	**Integrated Home Care Services (Frail Cases)**	**Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS)**	**DE/DCU**
2020-21	1 405	4 545 [Note]	4 379
2021-22	2 495	6 212	6 306
2022-23	2 688	6 674	6 182
2023-24	2 883	7 363	6 919
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	2 568	7 187	6 593

[Note] The contract-based funding mode of EHCCS was changed to a lump sum grant subvention in September 2020. This figure covers the period from September 2020 to March 2021.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3659)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of the social welfare and medical expenses allocated for dementia patients in the past 5 years by category.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 187)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides support to elderly persons in need (including those with dementia) and their carers by subsidising residential care homes for the elderly, day care centres/units for the elderly (DEs/DCUs), home care service teams, elderly centres, Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly, and the Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) Scheme for the Elderly, etc. The key measures and related expenditures are as follows:

Since February 2019, the Government has regularised the Dementia Community Support Scheme, which now covers 7 Hospital Authority (HA) clusters and all 41 district elderly community centres (DECCs) across the territory. The Scheme provides cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary support services to elderly persons with mild or moderate dementia living in the community, as well as their carers. The Scheme is expected to serve over 2 000 elderly persons each year. To this end, SWD has allocated an additional annual provision of approximately $84 million to DECCs to enhance support for elderly persons with dementia;

Since October 2018, SWD has allocated additional resources to all neighbourhood elderly centres (NECs) across Hong Kong to recruit more staff, in order to facilitate the early identification of elderly persons suspected of having dementia, while also enhancing public education and strengthening support services for dementia patients living in the community and their carers. At the same time, SWD has provided additional resources to all DEs/DCUs and home care service teams to recruit more staff, with a view to improving care for dementia patients, as well as strengthening support for their carers. The additional annual provision amounts to approximately $104 million for NECs and $57 million for day care and home care services, respectively;

SWD provides Dementia Supplement to subsidised residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs). RCHEs receiving the supplement can use it to recruit additional professionals, such as occupational therapists, nurses, and social workers, or to procure related professional

services. Prior to 2024-25, SWD disbursed approximately $380 million in Dementia Supplement each year. Since 2024-25, the Government has incorporated the Dementia Supplement for subvented care and attention homes into the Lump Sum Grant. As a result, SWD does not have the relevant expenditure figures;

The RCSV Scheme involves an annual expenditure of approximately $1.71 billion, which includes the provision of Special Supplement to meet the care needs of voucher users residing in nursing home places (including those with dementia); and

The CCSV Scheme involves an annual expenditure of approximately $900 million. Services under the CCSV Scheme include reminiscence therapy, reality orientation, and cognitive training for elderly persons with dementia. Recognised service providers specialising in dementia care for the elderly also focus their resources on designing services tailored to the needs of dementia patients.

Regarding medical services, dementia patients commonly suffer from multiple chronic diseases (for example, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular diseases), as well as physical deterioration (for example, memory loss, falls and continence). To flexibly utilise resources, HA will refer patients to different specialist out-patient clinics under HA, including medicine, geriatrics, psychogeriatrics and memory clinics, according to their needs, allowing patients to receive joint consultation and treatment. As dementia patients often require services from different specialist out-patient clinics, the health expenditure arising from the provision of treatment and care services to dementia patients cannot be separately quantified.

The table below sets out the expenditure of HA on providing medical services to patients aged 65 or above from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

	2020-21 (Actual) ($ million)	2021-22 (Actual) ($ million)	2022-23 (Actual) ($ million)	2023-24 (Actual) ($ million)	2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($ million)
Expenditure of HA on providing medical services to patients aged 65 or above	40,082.2	42,734.2	47,298.5	49,955.9	52,329.9

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)349

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3678)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 CSSA cases where the households concerned are residing in private rental housing with the 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 CSSA cases where the households concerned are residing in public rental housing with the 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 benefited 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 amount of DE for CSSA cases benefited from the DE arrangement:

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 categorised 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 categorised 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 categorised 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 categorised 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 categorised 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 categorised 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												

12) the number of CSSA recipients residing in non-subsidised 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												

13) the number of recipients under the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme in Guangdong (GD) Province:

Aged 60-64	Aged 65-74	Aged 75 or above

14) the number of recipients under the PCSSA Scheme in Fujian (FJ) Province:

Aged 60-64	Aged 65-74	Aged 75 or above

15) a list of dental clinics designated by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) under the current CSSA system.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 206)

Reply:

1) & 2) The number of CSSA cases where the recipients are receiving rent allowance with the actual rent exceeding MRA from 2022-23 to 2024-25, broken down by number of eligible household members and type of housing, is set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex. SWD does not have information on the number of cases by district.

3) The number of CSSA cases benefited from the provision of DE from 2022-23 to 2024-25 is set out in Table 3 of Annex. SWD does not have information on the number of cases by district and number of eligible household members.

4) The average monthly DE of each CSSA recipient benefited from the DE arrangement from 2022-23 to 2024-25 is set out in Table 4 of Annex. SWD does not have information on the average monthly DE by district and number of eligible household members.

5) to 10) The number of CSSA recipients from 2022-23 to 2024-25, broken down by district and case nature, is set out in Table 5 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 2022-23 to 2024-25, broken down by age group and type of residential care places (RCPs), is set out in Table 6 of Annex. SWD does not have information on the number of CSSA recipients by district and the requested age group.

13) to 14) The number of PCSSA recipients from 2022-23 to 2024-25, broken down by province of residence and age group, is set out in Table 7 of Annex.

15) The CSSA Scheme provides a dental grant for its recipients to pay for dental treatment services (including scaling and polishing, fillings, tooth extraction, crown, bridge, post, post and core, root canal treatment, and denture). Eligible CSSA recipients may approach the 80 dental clinics (including 2 mobile dental vans) designated by SWD for dental examination. The dentists of the 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. The amount of the dental grant payable is the cost estimated by the designated clinic, or the actual cost charged by the clinic, or the ceiling amount of the dental treatment item set by SWD, whichever is less. A list of the dental clinics designated by SWD to provide dental examination and cost estimate for CSSA recipients as at the end of December 2024 is set out in Table 8 of Annex.

Annex

Table 1 **Number of CSSA cases where the recipients are residing in private rental housing with the actual rent exceeding MRA from 2022-23 to 2024-25 by number of eligible household members**

Number of eligible household members	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
1	7 439	7 498	7 259
2	3 721	3 434	3 048
3	1 861	1 749	1 624
4	710	661	604
5	231	223	213
6 or above	82	86	86
Total	**14 044**	**13 651**	**12 834**

Table 2 **Number of CSSA cases where the recipients are residing in public housing estates [Note] with the actual rent exceeding MRA from 2022-23 to 2024-25 by number of eligible household members**

Number of eligible household members	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
1	2 442	3 921	4 016
2	169	352	346
3	39	87	70
4	14	20	15
5	6	10	9
6 or above	-	4	4
Total	**2 670**	**4 394**	**4 460**

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 cases benefited from the provision of DE from 2022-23 to 2024-25**

Year	Number of CSSA cases benefited from the provision of DE
2022-23	11 248
2023-24	11 077
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	10 759

Table 4 **Average monthly DE of each CSSA recipient benefited from the DE arrangement from 2022-23 to 2024-25**

Year	Average monthly DE ($)
2022-23	1,794
2023-24	1,774
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	1,751

Table 5 **Number of CSSA recipients from 2022-23 to 2024-25 by district [Note 1] and case nature [Note 2]**

District [Note 1]	2022-23					
	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**

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 5 does not include the number of old age CSSA recipients.

District [Note 1]	2023-24					
	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low-earnings	Unemployment	Others
Central &Western	284	262	350	62	171	40
Eastern	1 299	1 652	1 873	233	852	231
Islands	355	730	1 310	175	981	113
Kowloon City	935	1 846	2 780	252	1 313	230
Kwai Tsing	2 540	3 327	3 725	725	2 246	385
Kwun Tong	2 329	4 606	6 463	605	3 459	462
North	1 105	2 120	3 952	206	1 870	317
Sai Kung	776	1 358	1 014	150	603	214
Sha Tin	1 643	3 078	4 469	342	1 379	317
Sham Shui Po	1 611	3 985	5 268	447	2 843	408
Southern	1 029	1 008	747	141	458	143
Tai Po	836	1 471	1 676	97	522	241
Tsuen Wan	749	880	1 641	153	657	152
Tuen Mun	2 241	3 104	3 675	280	1 545	359
Wan Chai	54	159	184	22	180	110
Wong Tai Sin	1 189	2 833	3 522	426	1 692	328
Yau Tsim Mong	493	1 613	1 845	47	1 458	214
Yuen Long	2 035	4 395	5 220	505	2 993	619
Total	**21 503**	**38 427**	**49 714**	**4 868**	**25 222**	**4 883**

District [Note 1]	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)					
	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low-earnings	Unemployment	Others
Central &Western	258	265	316	58	152	47
Eastern	1 234	1 628	1 693	178	821	262
Islands	352	678	1 169	184	923	102
Kowloon City	882	1 830	2 795	239	1 172	253
Kwai Tsing	2 531	3 294	3 726	732	2 163	364
Kwun Tong	2 299	4 487	5 963	552	3 220	434
North	1 038	2 049	3 647	157	1 670	341
Sai Kung	751	1 348	1 056	137	604	192
Sha Tin	1 605	2 983	4 261	290	1 274	310
Sham Shui Po	1 562	3 977	4 752	337	2 531	380
Southern	998	990	676	137	432	142
Tai Po	830	1 706	2 053	109	592	233
Tsuen Wan	700	824	1 505	92	625	135
Tuen Mun	2 244	3 118	3 572	265	1 501	384
Wan Chai	52	163	184	21	167	107
Wong Tai Sin	1 152	2 686	3 264	386	1 625	295
Yau Tsim Mong	454	1 558	1 567	38	1 297	214
Yuen Long	1 997	4 360	4 894	493	2 965	609
Total	**20 939**	**37 944**	**47 093**	**4 405**	**23 734**	**4 804**

Table 6 Number of CSSA recipients residing in RCHs from 2022-23 to 2024-25 by age group and type of RCPs

Year	Subsidised RCP		Non-subsidised RCP	
	Aged below 60	Aged 60 or above	Aged below 60	Aged 60 or above
2022-23	9 235	17 085	3 393	18 995
2023-24	9 317	17 838	3 273	19 479
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	9 436	18 049	3 295	20 122

Table 7 Number of PCSSA recipients from 2022-23 to 2024-25 by province of residence and age group [Note]

Year	GD Province			FJ Province			Total
	Aged 60 to 64	Aged 65 to 74	Aged 75 or above	Aged 60 to 64	Aged 65 to 74	Aged 75 or above	
2022-23	2	61	525	-	3	61	**652**
2023-24	-	52	463	-	4	49	**568**
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	-	61	447	-	2	45	**555**

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 8 **List of dental clinics designated by SWD to provide dental examination and cost estimate for CSSA recipients (as at end-December 2024)**

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
Community Elderly and Special Care Dental Clinic
Emmanuel Medical Mission
Fu Heng Community Health Centre
Haven of Hope King Lam Clinic
Haven of Hope S K Yee Hau Tak Clinic
Haven of Hope S K Yee Tiu Keng Leng Clinic
Haven of Hope S K Yee Verbena Heights Clinic
HK & KLN Senior Citizens' Welfare Association Dental Clinic (Reclamation Street)
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 Cheng Wan Man Wai Medical 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
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
Tak Shun Dental Clinic
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 (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 Chai Hospital Mr. & Mrs. Ho Tak Sum Dental Clinic
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 -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)350

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3679)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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, with a breakdown by District Council (DC) district:

1) the number of Old Age Allowance (OAA) applicants:

	Aged 70 to 75	Aged 76 to 80	Aged 81 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 Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) applicants:

	Aged 65 to 70	Aged 70 to 75	Aged 76 to 80	Aged 81 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 OAA applicants under the Guangdong Scheme (GD Scheme):

Aged 70 to 75	Aged 76 to 80	Aged 81 or above

4) the number of OALA applicants under the GD Scheme:

Aged 65 to 70	Aged 70 to 75	Aged 76 to 80	Aged 81 or above

5) the number of OAA applicants under the Fujian Scheme (FJ Scheme):

Aged 70 to 75	Aged 76 to 80	Aged 81 or above

6) the number of OALA applicants under the FJ Scheme:

Aged 65 to 70	Aged 70 to 75	Aged 76 to 80	Aged 81 or above

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 207)

Reply:

From 2022-23 to 2024-25, the numbers of OAA and OALA recipients (excluding those under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme), broken down by age group and district, are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex, respectively; while the numbers of OAA and OALA recipients under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme, broken down by age group, are set out in Tables 3 and 4 of Annex, respectively.

Annex

Table 1 Number of OAA recipients (excluding those under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme) from 2022-23 to 2024-25 by age group and district

District [Note]	2022-23			
	Number of OAA recipients			
	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			
	Number of OAA recipients			
	Aged 70 to 74	Aged 75 to 79	Aged 80 or above	Total
Central & Western	7 604	5 008	5 610	**18 222**
Eastern	18 725	12 116	13 020	**43 861**
Islands	3 244	1 784	1 450	**6 478**
Kowloon City	10 217	6 855	8 607	**25 679**
Kwai Tsing	7 809	4 909	4 252	**16 970**
Kwun Tong	10 175	5 897	6 276	**22 348**
North	6 151	2 915	2 501	**11 567**
Sai Kung	9 305	5 034	4 090	**18 429**
Sha Tin	16 502	8 882	6 811	**32 195**
Sham Shui Po	7 762	4 751	5 462	**17 975**
Southern	6 894	4 302	4 174	**15 370**
Tai Po	7 431	3 622	2 788	**13 841**
Tsuen Wan	7 370	4 459	3 944	**15 773**
Tuen Mun	9 826	4 632	3 132	**17 590**
Wan Chai	5 197	3 747	5 055	**13 999**
Wong Tai Sin	6 843	3 882	4 293	**15 018**
Yau Tsim Mong	7 467	5 378	5 969	**18 814**
Yuen Long	11 010	5 570	4 635	**21 215**
Total	**159 532**	**93 743**	**92 069**	**345 344**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

District [Note]	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)			
	Number of OAA recipients			
	Aged 70 to 74	Aged 75 to 79	Aged 80 or above	Total
Central & Western	7 493	5 530	5 644	**18 667**
Eastern	18 557	13 293	13 182	**45 032**
Islands	3 335	2 000	1 506	**6 841**
Kowloon City	10 166	7 429	8 684	**26 279**
Kwai Tsing	7 884	5 193	4 374	**17 451**
Kwun Tong	10 275	6 291	6 282	**22 848**
North	6 320	3 250	2 588	**12 158**
Sai Kung	9 633	5 578	4 216	**19 427**
Sha Tin	16 839	9 875	7 112	**33 826**
Sham Shui Po	7 884	5 112	5 473	**18 469**
Southern	7 040	4 712	4 245	**15 997**
Tai Po	7 728	4 001	2 885	**14 614**
Tsuen Wan	7 469	4 855	4 159	**16 483**
Tuen Mun	10 206	5 161	3 281	**18 648**
Wan Chai	5 173	4 072	5 015	**14 260**
Wong Tai Sin	7 088	4 097	4 242	**15 427**
Yau Tsim Mong	7 249	5 736	6 097	**19 082**
Yuen Long	11 466	6 157	4 799	**22 422**
Total	**161 805**	**102 342**	**93 784**	**357 931**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 2 Number of OALA recipients (excluding those under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme) from 2022-23 to 2024-25 by age group and district

District [Note]	2022-23				
	Number of OALA recipients				
	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				
	Number of OALA recipients				
	Aged 65 to 69	**Aged 70 to 74**	**Aged 75 to 79**	**Aged 80 or above**	**Total**
Central & Western	2 259	2 621	2 026	3 464	**10 370**
Eastern	11 682	13 045	10 301	15 018	**50 046**
Islands	4 504	3 770	2 327	2 704	**13 305**
Kowloon City	7 346	7 944	6 246	9 811	**31 347**
Kwai Tsing	19 418	18 395	13 660	17 107	**68 580**
Kwun Tong	23 881	23 728	17 203	23 441	**88 253**
North	11 826	9 486	5 127	6 312	**32 751**
Sai Kung	12 454	11 144	7 484	9 083	**40 165**
Sha Tin	21 434	22 401	14 941	16 782	**75 558**
Sham Shui Po	13 015	12 095	7 366	10 943	**43 419**
Southern	5 896	6 440	4 853	7 883	**25 072**
Tai Po	10 631	9 295	5 192	6 150	**31 268**
Tsuen Wan	5 992	6 400	5 065	7 338	**24 795**
Tuen Mun	19 657	19 313	10 673	9 848	**59 491**
Wan Chai	1 032	1 260	986	2 038	**5 316**
Wong Tai Sin	15 688	14 308	9 942	16 418	**56 356**
Yau Tsim Mong	4 975	5 144	3 655	5 369	**19 143**
Yuen Long	20 268	15 542	8 398	9 639	**53 847**
Total	**211 958**	**202 331**	**135 445**	**179 348**	**729 082**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

District [Note]	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)				
	Number of OALA recipients				
	Aged 65 to 69	**Aged 70 to 74**	**Aged 75 to 79**	**Aged 80 or above**	**Total**
Central & Western	2 270	2 679	2 259	3 475	**10 683**
Eastern	11 515	13 110	11 340	15 317	**51 282**
Islands	4 634	4 005	2 599	2 792	**14 030**
Kowloon City	7 310	7 997	6 699	10 110	**32 116**
Kwai Tsing	19 591	18 927	14 474	17 973	**70 965**
Kwun Tong	24 018	24 214	18 488	23 967	**90 687**
North	12 034	10 342	5 760	6 568	**34 704**
Sai Kung	12 834	11 569	8 226	9 531	**42 160**
Sha Tin	21 380	23 025	16 458	17 593	**78 456**
Sham Shui Po	13 042	12 485	8 075	11 019	**44 621**
Southern	5 814	6 625	5 208	7 989	**25 636**
Tai Po	10 924	10 014	5 883	6 357	**33 178**
Tsuen Wan	5 988	6 417	5 345	7 607	**25 357**
Tuen Mun	19 955	20 085	12 176	10 451	**62 667**
Wan Chai	1 065	1 279	1 035	2 059	**5 438**
Wong Tai Sin	16 069	14 877	10 886	16 653	**58 485**
Yau Tsim Mong	4 890	5 199	3 917	5 464	**19 470**
Yuen Long	21 104	16 471	9 262	10 055	**56 892**
Total	**214 437**	**209 320**	**148 090**	**184 980**	**756 827**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 3 Number of OAA and OALA recipients under the GD Scheme from 2022-23 to 2024-25 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**
2022-23	2 850	2 234	2 924	**8 008**	3 503	4 001	2 612	3 910	**14 026**
2023-24	3 106	2 360	2 848	**8 314**	4 319	4 769	3 317	4 292	**16 697**
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	2 773	2 620	3 022	**8 415**	3 816	4 938	3 842	4 725	**17 321**

Table 4 Number of OAA and OALA recipients under the FJ Scheme from 2022-23 to 2024-25 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**
2022-23	220	204	212	**636**	277	280	284	639	**1 480**
2023-24	243	234	204	**681**	323	359	345	739	**1 766**
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	212	254	201	**667**	288	349	359	812	**1 808**

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)351

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3680)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Social Security Allowance Scheme, please provide the following information by District Council (DC) district for the past 3 years:

1) The number of Normal Disability Allowance (NDA) recipients:

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
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 Higher Disability Allowance (HDA) recipients:

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
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 recipients of full-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
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 number of recipients of 3/4-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
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 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
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.: 208)

Reply:

1) & 2) The numbers of NDA and HDA recipients aged below 65 from 2022-23 to 2024-25, broken down by district, are set out in Table 1 of Annex. The Social Welfare Department does not have the requested information on the number of recipients broken down by age group.

3) to 5) The Special Care Subsidy Scheme for Persons with Severe Disabilities (Subsidy Scheme) has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme in October 2023. The subsidy is granted at full rate, 3/4 rate or half rate. A total of 3 379 and 3 538 persons have received the subsidy under the Subsidy Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively. The breakdowns on numbers of recipients of full-rate, 3/4-rate and half-rate subsidy by district are set out in Tables 2 to 7 of Annex respectively.

Annex

Table 1 **Numbers of NDA and HDA recipients aged below 65 from 2022-23 to 2024-25 by district** [Note]

District [Note]	NDA			HDA		
	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
Central & Western	2 628	2 583	2 627	198	196	199
Eastern	9 485	9 641	9 744	591	609	609
Islands	2 834	2 970	3 085	143	157	175
Kowloon City	5 280	5 487	5 631	409	425	434
Kwai Tsing	9 791	9 925	10 268	649	649	713
Kwun Tong	11 787	12 258	12 368	852	855	862
North	6 198	6 488	6 621	455	477	482
Sai Kung	6 635	6 793	6 912	588	596	614
Sha Tin	12 496	12 725	12 865	951	984	1 003
Sham Shui Po	7 207	7 572	7 588	500	527	529
Southern	5 417	5 535	5 649	369	375	361
Tai Po	5 810	5 905	6 161	380	411	430
Tsuen Wan	4 100	4 238	4 377	321	344	359
Tuen Mun	10 131	10 304	10 483	588	650	666
Wan Chai	1 331	1 342	1 344	103	102	105
Wong Tai Sin	7 584	7 689	7 894	539	546	559
Yau Tsim Mong	3 518	3 667	3 714	284	285	301
Yuen Long	11 489	11 938	12 141	827	850	893
Total	**123 721**	**127 060**	**129 472**	**8 747**	**9 038**	**9 294**

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 2 **Number of recipients of full-rate subsidy under the Subsidy Scheme in 2023-24 by district and age**

District [Note 2]	2023-24 [Note 1]						
	Number of recipients of full-rate subsidy						
	Aged 0-5	Aged 6-11	Aged 12-18	Aged 19-29	Aged 30-39	Aged 40-49	Aged 50-59
Central & Western	4	3	4	3	15	13	27
Wan Chai	1	1	2	1	5	7	11
Eastern	8	12	6	32	37	29	87
Southern	2	4	9	8	19	17	36
Sham Shui Po	6	21	18	33	31	26	67
Yau Tsim Mong	2	3	7	10	8	11	22
Kowloon City	2	13	7	23	16	15	44
Wong Tai Sin	4	16	18	36	37	30	73
Kwun Tong	17	34	41	50	34	51	130
Kwai Tsing	7	16	20	39	35	35	89
Tsuen Wan	6	12	8	11	14	28	42
Tuen Mun	11	17	29	32	28	35	75
Yuen Long	7	27	21	58	44	46	100
North	9	11	16	35	31	24	49
Tai Po	3	7	11	19	29	24	42
Sha Tin	14	29	36	36	44	45	112
Sai Kung	5	18	16	31	37	29	71
Islands	2	8	10	6	5	6	11
Total	**110**	**252**	**279**	**463**	**469**	**471**	**1 088**
	3 132						

Note 1 Statistics from October 2023.

Note 2 The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 3 **Number of recipients of full-rate subsidy under the Subsidy Scheme in 2024-25 by district and age**

District [Note]	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)						
	Number of recipients of full-rate subsidy						
	Aged 0-5	Aged 6-11	Aged 12-18	Aged 19-29	Aged 30-39	Aged 40-49	Aged 50-59
Central & Western	4	3	4	3	15	14	28
Wan Chai	1	1	3	1	5	7	12
Eastern	8	13	6	32	36	29	93
Southern	3	4	9	9	19	17	37
Sham Shui Po	6	22	18	34	32	27	68
Yau Tsim Mong	3	3	7	10	8	11	22
Kowloon City	4	15	6	23	19	16	45
Wong Tai Sin	6	17	19	37	37	32	77
Kwun Tong	17	36	44	56	33	50	135
Kwai Tsing	8	16	21	38	37	36	99
Tsuen Wan	8	12	8	12	15	28	43
Tuen Mun	12	19	31	32	28	35	80
Yuen Long	7	27	25	60	46	48	108
North	9	11	18	36	31	24	50
Tai Po	5	9	13	19	29	26	42
Sha Tin	15	31	36	36	46	48	118
Sai Kung	7	19	19	32	37	30	77
Islands	3	8	10	6	5	6	11
Total	**126**	**266**	**297**	**476**	**478**	**484**	**1 145**
	3 272						

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 4 **Number of recipients of 3/4-rate subsidy under the Subsidy Scheme in 2023-24 by district and age**

District [Note 2]	2023-24 [Note 1]						
	Number of recipients of 3/4-rate subsidy						
	Aged 0-5	Aged 6-11	Aged 12-18	Aged 19-29	Aged 30-39	Aged 40-49	Aged 50-59
Central & Western	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
Wan Chai	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Eastern	1	1	3	2	2	3	5
Southern	0	1	2	2	3	1	1
Sham Shui Po	1	1	2	1	2	2	2
Yau Tsim Mong	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Kowloon City	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
Wong Tai Sin	0	5	0	2	1	0	3
Kwun Tong	1	2	3	0	2	1	4
Kwai Tsing	0	1	1	2	2	1	4
Tsuen Wan	0	2	0	2	1	0	2
Tuen Mun	1	3	2	3	0	1	5
Yuen Long	2	4	3	2	2	2	3
North	0	1	2	2	2	1	2
Tai Po	0	0	1	1	2	1	2
Sha Tin	0	3	3	3	5	1	7
Sai Kung	3	4	1	1	3	2	5
Islands	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**12**	**29**	**24**	**25**	**28**	**18**	**50**
	186						

Note 1 Statistics from October 2023.

Note 2 The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 5 **Number of recipients of 3/4-rate subsidy under the Subsidy Scheme in 2024-25 by district and age**

District [Note]	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)						
	Number of recipients of 3/4-rate subsidy						
	Aged 0-5	Aged 6-11	Aged 12-18	Aged 19-29	Aged 30-39	Aged 40-49	Aged 50-59
Central & Western	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
Wan Chai	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Eastern	1	1	3	2	2	3	5
Southern	0	1	2	2	3	1	2
Sham Shui Po	1	2	3	1	3	2	2
Yau Tsim Mong	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Kowloon City	1	0	2	2	0	0	3
Wong Tai Sin	0	5	0	2	1	0	3
Kwun Tong	1	2	3	0	2	1	4
Kwai Tsing	0	1	1	2	2	1	4
Tsuen Wan	0	2	0	2	1	0	2
Tuen Mun	2	3	3	3	0	1	5
Yuen Long	2	4	3	2	2	2	3
North	0	1	2	2	2	2	2
Tai Po	0	0	1	1	2	1	2
Sha Tin	1	3	3	4	6	2	7
Sai Kung	3	4	1	1	4	2	6
Islands	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**14**	**30**	**27**	**27**	**31**	**20**	**52**
	201						

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 6 **Number of recipients of half-rate subsidy under the Subsidy Scheme in 2023-24 by district and age**

District [Note 2]	2023-24 [Note 1]						
	Number of recipients of half-rate subsidy						
	Aged 0-5	Aged 6-11	Aged 12-18	Aged 19-29	Aged 30-39	Aged 40-49	Aged 50-59
Central & Western	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Wan Chai	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
Southern	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sham Shui Po	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Kowloon City	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Wong Tai Sin	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
Kwun Tong	1	2	1	1	1	1	0
Kwai Tsing	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tsuen Wan	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Tuen Mun	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Yuen Long	0	0	2	3	1	1	0
North	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tai Po	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sha Tin	1	1	0	0	3	2	5
Sai Kung	0	2	1	2	0	0	1
Islands	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**4**	**9**	**11**	**7**	**10**	**7**	**13**
	61						

Note 1 Statistics from October 2023.

Note 2 The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 7 **Number of recipients of half-rate subsidy under the Subsidy Scheme in 2024-25 by district and age**

District [Note]	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)						
	Number of recipients of half-rate subsidy						
	Aged 0-5	**Aged 6-11**	**Aged 12-18**	**Aged 19-29**	**Aged 30-39**	**Aged 40-49**	**Aged 50-59**
Central & Western	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Wan Chai	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern	0	0	2	0	0	1	1
Southern	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sham Shui Po	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Kowloon City	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Wong Tai Sin	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
Kwun Tong	1	2	1	1	1	1	0
Kwai Tsing	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tsuen Wan	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Tuen Mun	1	0	0	1	2	1	1
Yuen Long	0	0	2	3	1	1	0
North	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tai Po	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sha Tin	1	1	0	0	3	2	5
Sai Kung	0	2	1	2	0	0	1
Islands	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**5**	**9**	**11**	**7**	**11**	**8**	**14**
	65						

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)352

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3681)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-Income Carers of Persons with Disabilities (Scheme for Carers of PWDs), please provide the following information for the past 3 years, with a breakdown by District Council (DC) district:

1) the current number of persons receiving the allowance under the Scheme for Carers of PWDs;

	Aged 16 to 18	Aged 19 to 20	Aged 21 to 29	Aged 30 to 39	Aged 40 to 49	Aged 50 to 59	Aged 60 to 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								

2) the current number of cases broken down by duration of continuous receipt of the allowance under the Scheme for Carers of PWDs; and

	0 to 2 years	3 to 4 years	5 to 6 years	7 years 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 reasons for carers to leave the Scheme for Carers of PWDs in the past and the number of cases involved.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 209)

Reply:

1) & 2) The Scheme for Carers of PWDs was incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme in October 2023. At present, all cases have been receiving the allowance continuously for less than 2 years. In 2023-24 and 2024-25, 3 213 and 3 697 carers respectively were granted the allowance under the Scheme for Carers of PWDs. Breakdown on the number of carers with the allowance granted by district and age is set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 1.

3) The number of persons who withdrew from the Scheme for Carers of PWDs and the reasons for their withdrawal are set out at Annex 2.

Annex 1

Table 1: Number of carers with the allowance granted under the Scheme for Carers of PWDs in 2023-24 by district and age

District [Note 2]	2023-24 [Note 1]							
	No. of carers with the allowance granted							
	Aged 16 to 18	Aged 19 to 20	Aged 21 to 29	Aged 30 to 39	Aged 40 to 49	Aged 50 to 59	Aged 60 to 64	Aged 65 or above
Central & Western	0	1	2	7	20	7	5	12
Wan Chai	0	0	0	6	10	3	2	3
Eastern	0	0	2	41	61	36	25	38
Southern	0	0	3	13	23	24	12	10
Sham Shui Po	0	0	6	58	63	54	20	25
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	0	24	16	17	13	12
Kowloon City	0	0	0	30	39	27	8	20
Wong Tai Sin	0	0	4	43	74	69	36	21
Kwun Tong	0	0	6	69	124	83	39	45
Kwai Tsing	0	0	3	55	93	59	25	26
Tsuen Wan	0	0	2	14	19	16	14	8
Tuen Mun	0	0	6	54	85	55	39	33
Yuen Long	0	0	6	83	108	82	35	31
North	0	0	3	41	60	45	26	20
Tai Po	0	0	0	34	35	22	27	28
Sha Tin	0	0	3	43	100	53	33	42
Sai Kung	0	0	6	34	44	39	32	15
Islands	0	0	3	20	24	8	9	2
Total	**0**	**1**	**55**	**669**	**998**	**699**	**400**	**391**
	3 213							

Note 1 Statistics from October 2023.

Note 2 The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Table 2: Number of carers with the allowance granted under the Scheme for Carers of PWDs in 2024-25 by district and age

District [Note]	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)							
	No. of carers with the allowance granted							
	Aged 16 to 18	Aged 19 to 20	Aged 21 to 29	Aged 30 to 39	Aged 40 to 49	Aged 50 to 59	Aged 60 to 64	Aged 65 or above
Central & Western	0	1	3	11	22	10	5	14
Wan Chai	0	0	0	8	13	3	3	3
Eastern	0	0	4	52	68	39	28	41
Southern	0	0	3	16	29	27	15	11
Sham Shui Po	0	0	7	65	69	56	24	26
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	1	32	21	18	15	14
Kowloon City	0	0	3	38	40	30	10	24
Wong Tai Sin	0	0	5	46	80	76	41	22
Kwun Tong	0	0	7	82	142	99	45	46
Kwai Tsing	0	0	7	69	105	61	28	29
Tsuen Wan	0	0	6	17	24	22	15	8
Tuen Mun	0	0	8	65	97	67	45	36
Yuen Long	0	0	8	99	122	91	41	32
North	0	0	3	45	72	53	29	23
Tai Po	0	0	1	42	40	27	31	28
Sha Tin	0	0	5	51	111	61	39	46
Sai Kung	0	0	7	38	49	45	37	16
Islands	0	0	3	23	31	13	10	3
Total	**0**	**1**	**81**	**799**	**1 135**	**798**	**461**	**422**
	3 697							

Note The boundaries of the 18 districts in the table may differ from those of the 18 DC districts.

Annex 2

Number of persons who withdrew from the Scheme for Carers of PWDs and reasons for their withdrawal

Reason for withdrawal	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)**
The person under care has been admitted to residential care services	23	85
The person under care passed away	13	6
The carer has been granted the Old Age Living Allowance/Comprehensive Social Security Assistance	17	44
Changes in circumstances of the carer/ person under care (e.g. emigration to other places; the carer exceeded the household income limits, or the carer was granted the Disability Allowance, etc.)	33	77
Other reasons (e.g. consolidation of cases, or reason not provided, etc.)	8	0
Total	**94**	**212**

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)353

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3682)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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), please provide the following information for the past 3 years, broken down by District Council (DC) district:

1) the current number of persons receiving the allowance under the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons; and

	Aged 16 to 18	Aged 19 to 20	Aged 21 to 29	Aged 30 to 39	Aged 40 to 49	Aged 50 to 59	Aged 60 to 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								

2) the current number of cases, broken down by the duration of continuous receipt of the allowance under the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons.

	0 to 2 years	3 to 4 years	5 to 6 years	7 to 8 years	9 years 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					

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 210)

Reply:

1) The Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons was made a permanent measure by the Government in October 2023. The respective numbers of carers granted the allowance in 2023-24 and 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024) are set out at Annex.

2) Currently, all cases under the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons have been receiving the allowance continuously for less than 2 years.

Annex

Table 1: Number of carers granted the allowance under the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons by district and age

District	2023-24 [Note]							
	No. of persons							
	Aged 16 to 18	Aged 19 to 20	Aged 21 to 29	Aged 30 to 39	Aged 40 to 49	Aged 50 to 59	Aged 60 to 64	Aged 65 or above
Central & Western	0	0	0	2	1	29	20	29
Wan Chai	0	0	0	1	4	18	16	29
Eastern	0	0	2	9	31	89	86	115
Southern	0	0	2	4	14	58	31	43
Sham Shui Po	0	0	2	9	30	87	59	56
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	0	4	13	46	25	49
Kowloon City	0	0	1	3	17	58	33	58
Wong Tai Sin	0	0	2	17	45	163	151	90
Kwun Tong	0	0	3	13	69	192	137	115
Kwai Tsing	0	1	2	9	51	130	84	72
Tsuen Wan	0	0	4	4	18	65	40	56
Tuen Mun	0	1	6	19	38	63	47	72
Yuen Long	0	0	4	7	17	63	49	52
North	0	0	3	3	16	50	36	33
Tai Po	0	0	0	10	21	37	41	56
Sha Tin	0	0	6	12	52	126	125	100
Sai Kung	0	0	1	13	31	85	67	69
Islands	0	0	1	0	8	11	13	14
Total	**0**	**2**	**39**	**139**	**476**	**1 370**	**1 060**	**1 108**
	4 194							

Note Starting from October 2023.

Table 2: Number of carers granted the allowance under the Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons by district and age

District	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)							
	No. of persons							
	Aged 16 to 18	Aged 19 to 20	Aged 21 to 29	Aged 30 to 39	Aged 40 to 49	Aged 50 to 59	Aged 60 to 64	Aged 65 or above
Central & Western	0	0	0	3	3	34	27	44
Wan Chai	0	0	0	2	5	24	19	33
Eastern	0	0	2	13	47	133	111	166
Southern	0	1	3	4	22	89	49	56
Sham Shui Po	0	0	2	11	35	103	68	62
Yau Tsim Mong	1	0	1	4	17	58	33	68
Kowloon City	0	0	2	4	22	76	51	69
Wong Tai Sin	0	0	7	25	60	195	177	106
Kwun Tong	0	0	4	19	86	235	165	131
Kwai Tsing	1	1	5	13	66	165	100	90
Tsuen Wan	0	0	5	5	23	76	57	66
Tuen Mun	0	1	7	23	49	89	58	92
Yuen Long	0	0	5	8	25	84	62	66
North	0	0	3	7	22	62	42	44
Tai Po	0	0	0	12	27	48	53	66
Sha Tin	0	1	6	17	71	163	153	144
Sai Kung	0	0	3	17	41	108	86	85
Islands	0	0	1	0	14	17	17	14
Total	**2**	**4**	**56**	**187**	**635**	**1759**	**1328**	**1402**
	5 373							

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Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)354

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3684)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the following information for the past 3 years:

1. the number of Bought Place Scheme (BPS) and non-BPS places of subsidised residential care services (RCS) for the elderly, average waiting time and number of elderly persons freezing their service allocation, broken down by gender, age and 18 District Council (DC) districts;
2. the per capita costs, fees and charges, and total subsidies for BPS and non-BPS places of various subsidised RCS for the elderly;
3. the respective total numbers of elderly persons who passed away or withdrew their applications while waiting for subsidised care-and-attention (C&A) places and nursing home (NH) places, and their number as a percentage of those waitlisted, broken down by age; and
4. the number of elderly persons waitlisted for BPS and non-BPS places of various subsidised RCS for the elderly, broken down by gender, age and 18 DC districts; and

	Aged 60 to 65	Aged 65 to 70	Aged 70 to 75	Aged 76 to 80	Aged 81 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 users of BPS and non-BPS places of various subsidised RCS for the elderly, broken down by gender, age and 18 DC districts.

	Aged 60 to 65	Aged 65 to 70	Aged 70 to 75	Aged 76 to 80	Aged 81 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					

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 212)

Reply:

1. & 4. The number of various types of subsidised RCS places from 2022-23 to 2024-25, broken down by DC district, is set out at Annexes 1 to 3. The average waiting time for various types of subsidised RCS for the elderly and number of elderly persons waitlisted for the services, broken down by gender and age group, are set out at Annexes 4 and 5, respectively.

Since elderly persons waitlisted for subsidised RCS are not required to update their personal particulars such as their address, with the Social Welfare Department (SWD), SWD has not conducted any statistical analysis on their district of residence.

The number of applicants on the central waiting list for subsidised RCS with an application status of "inactive cases" from 2022-23 to 2024-25 is as follows:

2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
31 600	33 719	36 375

Note Prior to SWD updating the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services (SCNAMES) in July 2021, only applicants who were using subsidised community care services (CCS) could have their status of subsidised RCS application changed to "inactive cases". After SWD updated SCNAMES, those who are waiting for subsidised RCS for the elderly may have their status of subsidised RCS application changed to "inactive cases", irrespective of whether they are waiting for, using or have already withdrawn from subsidised CCS.

2. The average monthly cost per place, monthly fees and charges, and total expenditure on various types of subsidised RCS for the elderly from 2022-23 to 2024-25 are set out at Annexes 6 to 9.

3. The numbers and percentages of elderly persons who passed away or withdrew their applications while waiting for subsidised C&A places are as follows:

	2022	2023	2024
No. of elderly persons who passed away	4 752	3 089	2 968
Percentage of elderly persons who passed away out of the no. of waitlisted applicants	13.0%	9.2%	9.0%
No. of elderly persons who withdrew their applications	2 148	1 841	1 664
Percentage of elderly persons who withdrew their applications out of the no. of waitlisted applicants	5.9%	5.5%	5.0%

The numbers and percentages of elderly persons who passed away or withdrew their applications while waiting for subsidised NH places are set out as follows:

	2022	2023	2024
No. of elderly persons who passed away	1 863	1 299	1 024
Percentage of elderly persons who passed away out of the no. of waitlisted applicants	23.1%	18.8%	17.2%
No. of elderly persons who withdrew their applications	576	479	417
Percentage of elderly persons who withdrew their applications out of the no. of waitlisted applicants	7.1%	6.9%	7.0%

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 residential care places.

5. The number of users of various subsidised RCS for the elderly from 2022-23 to 2024-25 is set out at Annex 10. SWD does not have information on the number of elderly persons using subsidised RCS for the elderly broken down by gender, age and DC district.

Annex 1

Number of subsidised RCS places (2022-23)

District	Subvented home operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and self-financing home Note 1	Private residential care home for the elderly (RCHE) participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) Note 2	Contract RCHE Note 3	Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme)	Total
Eastern	448	527	180	Not applicable (N.A.)	1 155
Wan Chai	462	224	60		746
Central & Western	236	637	212		1 085
Islands	302	-	145		447
Southern	1 465	617	-		2 082
Sham Shui Po	825	425	513		1 763
Kowloon City	648	1 806	110		2 564
Yau Tsim Mong	98	931	272		1 301
Wong Tai Sin	1 342	417	208		1 967
Sai Kung	1 277	-	-		1 277
Kwun Tong	1 381	791	284		2 456
Sha Tin	1 354	184	281		1 819
Tai Po	1 236	288	-		1 524
North	1 224	355	80		1 659
Yuen Long	943	975	149		2 067
Tuen Mun	1 204	848	60		2 112
Tsuen Wan	922	977	175		2 074
Kwai Tsing	1 741	1 259	375		3 375
Total	**17 108**	**11 261**	**3 104**	**4 000**	**35 473**

Note 1 Including home for the aged (H/A) places, C&A places, C&A places providing continuum of care (CoC), NH places and places purchased under the NH Place Purchase Scheme (NHPPS).

Note 2 Excluding designated residential respite places.

Note 3 Including C&A places providing CoC and NH places.

Annex 2

Number of subsidised RCS places
(2023-24)

District	Subvented home operated by NGOs and self-financing home Note 1	Private RCHE participating in EBPS Note 2	Contract RCHE Note 3	RCSV Scheme	Total
Eastern	448	561	180	N.A.	1 189
Wan Chai	462	268	60		790
Central & Western	236	669	221		1 126
Islands	302	-	145		447
Southern	1 466	611	-		2 077
Sham Shui Po	825	455	513		1 793
Kowloon City	648	1 827	110		2 585
Yau Tsim Mong	98	902	272		1 272
Wong Tai Sin	1 346	429	208		1 983
Sai Kung	1 277	-	-		1 277
Kwun Tong	1 383	820	284		2 487
Sha Tin	1 354	266	281		1 901
Tai Po	1 236	338	80		1 654
North	1 224	48	1 172		2 444
Yuen Long	943	993	149		2 085
Tuen Mun	1 204	845	60		2 109
Tsuen Wan	922	918	175		2 015
Kwai Tsing	1 745	1 243	375		3 363
Total	**17 119**	**11 193**	**4 285**	**4 000**	**36 597**

Note 1 Including H/A places, C&A places, C&A places providing CoC, NH places and places purchased under NHPPS.

Note 2 Excluding designated residential respite places.

Note 3 Including C&A places providing CoC and NH places.

Annex 3

Number of subsidised RCS places
(2024-25 (as at end-December 2024))

District	Subvented home operated by NGOs and self-financing home Note 1	Private RCHE participating in EBPS Note 2	Contract RCHE Note 3	RCSV Scheme	Total
Central & Western	232	671	221	N.A.	1 124
Eastern	448	571	180		1 199
Wan Chai	462	269	60		791
Southern	1 470	596	-		2 066
Islands	292	-	145		437
Kwun Tong	1 384	868	284		2 536
Wong Tai Sin	1 346	446	208		2 000
Sai Kung	1 278	-	-		1 278
Kowloon City	648	1 759	110		2 517
Sham Shui Po	825	471	513		1 809
Yau Tsim Mong	98	881	272		1 251
Sha Tin	1 354	266	281		1 901
Tai Po	1 236	334	80		1 650
North	1 228	48	1 266		2 542
Yuen Long	943	1 001	149		2 093
Tsuen Wan	922	905	175		2 002
Kwai Tsing	1 760	1 231	375		3 366
Tuen Mun	1 204	847	60		2 111
Total	**17 130**	**11 164**	**4 379**	**5 000**	**37 673**

Note 1 Including H/A places, C&A places, C&A places providing CoC, NH places and places purchased under NHPPS.

Note 2 Excluding designated residential respite places.

Note 3 Including C&A places providing CoC and NH places.

Annex 4

Average waiting time for subsidised RCS for the elderly

	Average waiting time (in months) [Note 1]		
	2022-23 (as at end-March 2023)	**2023-24 (as at end-March 2024)**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
C&A home			
- Subvented/contract RCHE	31	17	19
- Private RCHE participating in EBPS	4	4	5
- RCSV Scheme	N.A. [Note 2]	N.A. [Note 2]	N.A. [Note 2]
Overall	14	8	9
NH [Note 3]	18	10	9

Note 1 The figures represent the average waiting time (in months) for applications submitted during the last 3 months of the respective year (except for 2024-25).

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

Note 3 Including subsidised NH places provided by subvented NHs, self-financing homes and contract homes.

Annex 5

Number of elderly persons waitlisted for subsidised RCS by gender and age group

Table 1: 2022-23

Age group	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
60 to 69	1 128	698	**1 826**
70 to 79	2 083	1 772	**3 855**
80 to 89	2 981	3 809	**6 790**
90 or above	1 486	2 879	**4 365**
Total	**7 678**	**9 158**	**16 836**

Table 2: 2023-24

Age group	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
60 to 69	1 081	676	**1 757**
70 to 79	2 205	1 774	**3 979**
80 to 89	2 945	3 556	**6 501**
90 or above	1 518	2 864	**4 382**
Total	**7 749**	**8 870**	**16 619**

Table 3: 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

Age group	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
60 to 69	1 043	690	**1 733**
70 to 79	2 310	1 815	**4 125**
80 to 89	3 004	3 564	**6 568**
90 or above	1 403	2 759	**4 162**
Total	**7 760**	**8 828**	**16 588**

Annex 6

Average monthly cost per place for various types of subsidised RCS for the elderly

	2022-23 ($)	**2023-24 ($)**	**2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($)**
NH operated by NGOs [Note 1]	26,025	26,971	27,456
Contract RCHE [Note 2]	23,529	23,128	24,248
C&A home operated by NGOs	18,335	18,928	19,408
Private C&A home participating in EBPS	17,471	16,413	16,513

Note 1 Including subvented NHs and subsidised NH places of NHPPS.

Note 2 Contract RCHEs provide C&A and NH places. The figures represent the average monthly cost of these 2 types of places.

Annex 7

Monthly service charges for various types of subsidised RCS for the elderly

	2022-23 ($)	**2023-24 ($)**	**2024-25 ($)**
NH operated by NGOs - Subvented NH - NHPPS	 2,054 2,060	 2,054 2,060	 2,054 2,060
Contract RCHE	2,060	2,060	2,060
C&A home operated by NGOs	2,060	2,060	2,060
Private C&A home participating in EBPS - EA1 place - EA2 place	 1,763 1,656	 1,763 1,656	 1,763 1,656

Annex 8

The co-payment amount of RCSV users by co-payment level (2022-23 to 2024-25)

Co-payment level [Note 1]		**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 ($)	2022-23 C&A places (effective from 1 April 2022)	-	1,604	3,207	4,811	6,414	8,018	10,023	12,027
	2023-24 C&A places (effective from 1 April 2023)	-	1,616	3,232	4,848	6,464	8,081	10,101	12,121
	2024-25 C&A places (effective from 1 April 2024)	-	1,644	3,287	4,931	6,574	8,218	10,272	12,326
	2024-25 NH places (effective from 11 June 2024) Note 2		2,123	4,246	6,370	8,493	10,616	13,270	15,924

Note 1 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.

Note 2 The coverage of RCSV has been extended to NH places since the second quarter of 2024.

Annex 9

Financial expenditure on subsidised RCS for the elderly

Year	**Expenditure ($ billion)**
2022-23 (Actual)	7.4035
2023-24 (Actual)	8.4943
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	9.1890

Annex 10

Number of users of various types of RCS for the elderly

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
C&A home providing CoC [Note 1]	14 484	14 502	14 736
NH [Note 2]	1 757	1 781	1 793
Private RCHE participating in EBPS	9 827	10 513	10 854
Contract RCHE [Note 3]	2 769	4 041	4 241

Note 1 Including C&A places and C&A places providing CoC, but excluding places provided under the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong.

Note 2 Including subvented NHs and subsidised NH places of NHPPS.

Note 3 C&A places providing CoC and NH places.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)355

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3685)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 had undergone assessment;
2. the number of elderly persons assessed as eligible by the Community Care Fund (CCF);
3. the number of elderly persons who were 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 declined to use the service;
5. the number of elderly persons who withdrew from the service and the reasons for their 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.: 213)

Reply:

HSMI was launched on a pilot basis in December 2017 with funding from CCF and was made a regular measure in January 2023. Subsequently, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) merged HSMI and IHCS(OC) into Home Support Services (HSS) in October 2024 for better utilisation of resources.

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. SWD does not have the number of eligible persons who declined to use the services.

5. The requested information is set out at Annex 1.

6. As at the end of December 2024, SWD trained a total of 767 accredited assessors.

7. The total expenditure of the Pilot Scheme amounted to about $250 million.

8. The requested information is set out at Annexes 2 and 3.

Annex 1

Number of persons who left the Pilot Scheme on HSMI [Note 1]

Reason [Note 2]			
Admitted to residential care services	**Receiving government subsidised community care services**	**Others** [Note 3]	**Total**
387	550	1 125	**2 062**

Note 1 Figures are as at the end of December 2022, when the Pilot Scheme concluded.

Note 2 Excluding elderly persons who passed away after joining the scheme.

Note 3 Including reasons such as hospitalisation and changes in family support arrangements, etc.

Annex 2

Numbers of persons [Note 1] using IHCS(OC) and HSS

District	IHCS(OC)			HSS [Note 2]
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-September 2024)	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Central & Western	476	455	449	510
Eastern	1 266	1 270	1 259	1 509
Wan Chai	344	340	351	395
Southern	859	776	770	916
Islands	240	226	231	308
Kwun Tong	1 563	1 634	1 716	2 593
Wong Tai Sin	1 178	1 247	1 228	2 025
Sai Kung	299	345	329	612
Kowloon City	1 098	929	934	1 045
Yau Tsim Mong	793	728	718	863
Sham Shui Po	1 338	1 353	1 316	1 726
Sha Tin	1 079	967	955	1 667
Tai Po	407	381	416	730
North	833	553	436	911
Yuen Long	848	744	701	1 105
Tuen Mun	773	531	503	1 164
Tsuen Wan	373	413	395	402
Kwai Tsing	1 008	1 019	1 029	1 250
Total	**14 775**	**13 911**	**13 736**	**19 731**

Note 1 Figures are as at the end of the respective financial years (unless otherwise specified).

Note 2 SWD merged HSMI and IHCS(OC) into HSS in October 2024.

Annex 3

Numbers of persons waitlisted [Note 1] for IHCS(OC) and HSS

District	IHCS(OC)			HSS [Note 2]
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-September 2024)	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Central & Western	97	150	164	213
Eastern	224	164	281	320
Wan Chai	61	30	15	30
Southern	137	196	237	251
Islands	70	20	20	10
Kwun Tong	655	623	625	679
Wong Tai Sin	562	486	409	458
Sai Kung	181	210	276	297
Kowloon City	131	245	235	296
Yau Tsim Mong	16	4	13	8
Sham Shui Po	271	300	296	303
Sha Tin	538	789	873	749
Tai Po	169	276	196	249
North	35	72	104	145
Yuen Long	217	192	269	269
Tuen Mun	369	276	531	574
Tsuen Wan	3	-	3	26
Kwai Tsing	57	-	3	179
Total	**3 793**	**4 033**	**4 550**	**5 056**

Note 1 Figures are as at the end of the respective financial years (unless otherwise specified).

Note 2 SWD integrated HSMI and IHCS(OC) into HSS in October 2024.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)356

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3686)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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 persons who left, as well as the expenditure involved since the launch of the 3 pilot schemes;
2. the average time it takes for elderly persons to receive services from the date they apply for the 3 pilot schemes;
3. the average time it takes for elderly persons 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 who left the 3 pilot schemes by reason for leaving; 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.: 214)

Reply:

1. & 4. As at the end of December 2024, there were a total of 11 402 CCSV users and 297 RSPs. The revised estimate for the CCSV Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme) for 2024-25 was about $687.8 million. The total number of CCSVs was 11 000, and will be increased to 12 000 in 2025-26.

As at the end of December 2024, there were a total of 4 807 RCSV users and 221 RSPs. The revised estimate for the RCSV Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme) for 2024-25 was about $1.0558 billion. The total number of RCSVs increased to 5 000, and will be further increased to 6 000 in 2025-26.

HSMI was launched on a pilot basis in December 2017 and implemented by 61 Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) teams across Hong Kong. The cumulative total expenditure on the Pilot Scheme on HSMI amounted to about $250 million. HSMI was made a regular measure in January 2023, providing a total of 4 000 service places. Subsequently, in October 2024, HSMI and IHCS (Ordinary Cases) were merged into Home Support Services for better utilisation of resources and service enhancement.

The numbers of 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 2024, the average processing time for issuing CCSVs to elderly persons upon receipt of application was about 12 days. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the average 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 2024, the average processing time for issuing RCSVs to elderly persons upon receipt of an application was about 1.9 months, while the average time from the date of issuance to using the services was about 17 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 numbers of elderly person using the above 3 schemes, broken down by co-payment level, are set out at Annex 2.

Annex 1

Table 1: Number of persons who left the CCSV Scheme and reasons

Reason [Note 1]	No. of persons			
	Pilot Scheme			Upon converting into a permanent measure [Note 2] (as at end-December 2024)
	First phase	Second phase	Third phase	
Will be/have been allocated with/ receiving subsidised community care services (CCS) or subsidised/ private residential care services (RCS)	845	2 739	4 347	2 376
Being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers, etc.	264	680	698	147
Others (e.g. hospitalisation, out of town, etc.)	106	473	135	154
No suitable RSPs/service packages	401	295	0	5
Total	**1 616**	**4 187**	**5 180**	**2 682**

Note 1 Excluding elderly persons who passed away after joining the scheme.

Note 2 The CCSV Scheme was made permanent in September 2023.

Table 2: Number of elderly persons who left the RCSV Scheme and reasons (as at end-December 2024)

Reason for leaving [Note 1]	No. of persons who left [Note 2]
Having no immediate need for RCS (e.g. being taken care of by family members or domestic helpers, etc.)	490
The preferred RSP was full/no suitable RSPs	210
Chose to wait for subsidised residential care places	166
Refused to accept the co-payment arrangement	60
Others (e.g. long-term hospitalisation, out of town, etc.)	94
Total	**1 020**

Note 1 Excluding elderly persons who passed away after joining the scheme.

Note 2 The RCSV Scheme was made permanent in April 2023.

Table 3: Number of persons who left the Pilot Scheme on HSMI and reasons

Reason for leaving [Note 1]	Admitted to RCS	Admitted to government subsidised CCS	Others [Note 2]	Total
No. of persons	387	550	1 125	**2 062**

Note 1 Excluding elderly persons who passed away after joining the scheme.

Note 2 Mainly including reasons such as hospitalisation and changes in family support arrangements, etc.

Annex 2

Table 1: Cumulative number of CCSV holders by co-payment level under the first phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV

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 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: Cumulative number of CCSV holders by co-payment level under the second phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV

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 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: Cumulative number of CCSV holders by co-payment level under the third phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV

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 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: Cumulative number of CCSV holders by co-payment level after the CCSV Scheme was made permanent [Note 1] (as at end-December 2024)

Co-payment level [Note 2]	No. of person
I	2 786
II	11 517
III	1 714
IV	2 084
V	406
VI	3 119
Total	**21 626**

Note 1 The CCSV Scheme was made permanent in September 2023.

Note 2 After the CCSV Scheme was made permanent, the amounts of co-payment payable by CCSV holders 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 2024-25 range from $4,372 to $10,455 per month.

Table 5: Cumulative number of RCSV holders by co-payment level (as at end-December 2024)

Co-payment level [Note 1]	**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 ($) (Care-and-attention (C&A) places)	-	1,644	3,287	4,931	6,574	8,218	10,272	12,326
Co-payment amount ($) (Nursing home (NH) places)	-	2,123	4,246	6,370	8,493	10,616	13,270	15,924
No. of RCSV holders (C&A places)	7 506	849	33	19	8	8	-	422
No. of RCSV holders (NH places) [Note 2]	124	17	1	-	-	-	-	9

Note 1 As at the end of December 2024, there were a cumulative total of 8 996 elderly persons holding RCSVs (including 8 845 holders under C&A category and 151 holders under NH category). The RCSV values for C&A places and NH places are set at $16,435 per month (effective from 1 April 2024) and $21,232 per month (effective from 11 June 2024), respectively. 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, those at Levels 1 to 7 are required to pay for a portion of the voucher value based on their respective co-payment percentages.

Note 2 The coverage of RCSV has been extended to NH places since the second quarter of 2024.

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 the Pilot Scheme on HSMI at the end of December 2022, HSMI was made a regular measure in January 2023.

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 -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)357

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3687)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

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

1) the number of participants in the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services (Navigation Scheme);

2) the number of participants who graduated from the Navigation Scheme and the number of those who dropped out from it, along with their reasons for dropping out; and

3) the per capita cost of the Navigation Scheme.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 215)

Reply:

1) & 2) Since the enhancement of the Navigation Scheme in 2020-21, a total of 1 377 trainees have been recruited as at the end of December 2024. Among these trainees, 486 have graduated, 221 are still undergoing training, and 670 have dropped out for various reasons, including pursuing further studies and moving on to other jobs, etc.

3) As trainees join the Navigation Scheme at different times, the actual admission capacity of each service operator varies yearly, and suitable staffing is flexibly arranged accordingly. Hence, no information on the per capita cost can be provided.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)358

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3693)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the following information for the past 3 years:

1. the quota for various day care and community care services for persons with disabilities (PWDs) (including residential respite, day respite and home-based support services) and the average waiting time, with a breakdown by age and 18 District Council (DC) districts;
2. the per capita costs, fees and charges, and total amount of subsidies as regards various day care and community care services for PWDs (including residential respite, day respite and home-based support services);
3. the numbers of users of various day care and community care services for PWDs (including residential respite, day respite and home-based support services), with a breakdown by gender, age and 18 DC districts; and

	Aged under 18	Aged 18 to 30	Aged 31 to 40	Aged 41 to 50	Aged 51 to 60	Aged 61 to 70	Aged 71 to 80	Aged 81 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 numbers of persons waitlisted for various day care and community care services for PWDs (including residential respite, day respite and home-based support services), with a breakdown by gender, age and 18 DC districts.

	Aged under 18	Aged 18 to 30	Aged 31 to 40	Aged 41 to 50	Aged 51 to 60	Aged 61 to 70	Aged 71 to 80	Aged 81 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								

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 221)

Reply:

1. The numbers of service places and attendances by service users of day and residential respite services for PWDs in the past 3 years are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 1 respectively. Meanwhile, the numbers of service places of integrated support service for persons with severe physical disabilities (ISS) and home care service for persons with severe disabilities (HCS) are set out in Table 3 of Annex 1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the average waiting time for day and residential respite services, ISS and HCS by age and 18 administrative districts.

2. The charges for day and residential respite services for PWDs, HCS and ISS are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 2. The respective total amounts of subsidies for day respite services for PWDs, ISS and HCS are set out in Table 3 of Annex 2. As residential respite services for PWDs are part of the residential care services for PWDs, SWD does not independently calculate and maintain separate records regarding the total amount of subsidies for residential respite services for PWDs or per capita costs of various services.

3. & 4. SWD does not have information on the number of users of or persons waiting for various day care and community care services for PWDs (including day and residential respite services, ISS and home-based support services) by gender, age and 18 administrative districts.

Annex 1

Table 1: Numbers of places for day and residential respite services for PWDs from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Year	No. of places [Note]	
	Day respite service	Residential respite service
2022-23	172	403
2023-24	231	428
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	231	428

Note Including designated day/residential respite service places under the Bought Place Scheme (BPS) for private residential care homes for PWDs (RCHDs).

Table 2: Numbers of attendances of day and residential respite services for PWDs from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Year	No. of attendances [Note]	
	Day respite service	Residential respite service
2022-23	1 221	578
2023-24	2 048	1 626
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	1 832	1 552

Note 1 service user may use day or residential respite services multiple times in the same year. For example, he/she may use the designated day/residential respite service under BPS for private RCHDs.

Table 3: Numbers of service places for ISS and HCS from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Year	No. of service places	
	ISS	HCS
2022-23	900	3 550
2023-24	900	3 550
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	900	3 550

Annex 2

Table 1: Charges for day and residential respite services for PWDs from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Day respite service	**Hourly charge ($)**	
	Service user receiving Disability Allowance (DA)	**Service user not receiving DA**
Day activity centre	5.1	
District support centre for PWDs	5.1	
Care-and-attention (C&A) home for severely disabled persons	5.1	
Private RCHD under BPS (providing medium level of care)	5.1 [Note 1]	5.1 [Note 2]
Private RCHD under BPS (providing high level of care)	5.1 [Note 3]	5.1 [Note 4]
Type of RCP	**Daily charge [Note 5] ($)**	
	Service user receiving DA	**Service user not receiving DA**
Hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons	52	49
Private RCHD under BPS (providing medium level of care)		
Hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons	62	55
Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons		
Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons with mental handicap		
C&A home for severely disabled persons		
Private RCHD under BPS (providing 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 prior approval from SWD, individual service organisations/units may charge higher rates depending on the circumstances of service provision.

Table 2: Charges for HCS and ISS from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Charge category of HCS and ISS	Service charge
Full service package Note 1	$1,002 (monthly charge ceiling)
Individual service	
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
Other service	
Transportation service	$10/trip

Note 1 The full service package includes personal care services, escort services, home respite services, 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 3: Total amount of subsidies for various day care and community care services for PWDs

Service type	2022-23 (Actual) ($ million)	2023-24 (Actual) ($ million)	2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($ million)
Day respite service	8.2	8.9	9.2
HCS	336.5	351.8	361.7
ISS	74.4	77.5	79.4

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)359

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3694)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

For each of the next 3 years, please provide:

1. the estimated number of additional places for various types of residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs), broken down by year of service commencement and 18 District Council (DC) districts; and
2. the estimated number of additional places for various types of day care and community care services (including residential and day respite services) for persons with disabilities (PWDs), broken down by year of service commencement and 18 DC districts.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 222)

Reply:

1. The total estimated number of additional service places for various residential services for PWDs, including hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons (HMMH), hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons (HSMH), care and attention home for severely disabled persons (C&A/SD) and supported hostel (SHOS), in the next 3 years is 484. The estimated number of additional service places, broken down by DC district, is set out at Annex 1.
2. The total estimated number of additional service places for residential respite service for PWDs in the next 3 years is 31. The estimated number of additional service places, broken down by DC district, is set out at Annex 2.

Annex 1

Estimated number of additional service places for various residential services for PWDs from 2025-26 to 2027-28 (by DC district)

Service type	**2025-26**	**2026-27**	**2027-28**
HMMH	11 (Central & Western)	-	-
HSMH	50 (Tuen Mun)	50 (Kwun Tong)	50 (Yuen Long) 60 (Tai Po)
C&A/SD	-	-	50 (Yuen Long)
SHOS	31 (Sai Kung) 30 (Sha Tin) 40 (Eastern) 112 (Tuen Mun)	-	-
Total	**274**	**50**	**160**

Annex 2

Estimated number of additional service places for residential respite service for PWDs from 2025-26 to 2027-28 (by DC district)

District	**2025-26**	**2026-27**	**2027-28**
Eastern	1	-	-
Kwun Tong	-	6	-
Sai Kung	3	-	-
Sha Tin	1	-	-
Tai Po	-	2	4
Yuen Long	-	-	6
Tuen Mun	8	-	-
Total	**13**	**8**	**10**

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)360

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3695)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities (ISS), please provide the following information for the past 3 years:

a) the respective numbers of applications received and approved for the 2 cash assistance programmes under ISS, and a breakdown of the approved applications by the amount of subsidy granted;

b) the age distribution of applicants (in 10-year bands);

c) the amount of subsidy granted; and

d) the estimated total number of eligible applicants.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 223)

Reply:

ISS is comprised of 2 parts, cash subsidy and integrated home-based support service. There are 2 types of cash subsidies, namely the Special Subsidy for Renting Respiratory Support Medical Equipment (Subsidy for RSME) and the Special Subsidy for Purchasing Medical Consumables (Subsidy for Consumables). The numbers of applicants and recipients of these 2 cash subsidies in the past 3 years are set out in Table 1 of Annex, while the annual expenditure on these 2 cash subsidies is set out in Table 2 of Annex. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have a breakdown of the amount of subsidy granted, the age distribution of applicants or the estimated total number of eligible applicants.

Annex

Table 1: Numbers of applicants and recipients of Subsidy for RSME and Subsidy for Consumables

Year / Type of subsidy	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	
	No. of new applicants Note 1	**No. of recipients**	**No. of new applicants** Note 1	**No. of recipients**	**No. of new applicants** Note 1	**No. of recipients**
Subsidy for RSME	58	232	79	232	64	211
Subsidy for Consumables		249		247		225
Total	**58**	**249** Note 2	**79**	**247** Note 2	**64**	**225** Note 2

Note 1 SWD does not have the respective numbers of applicants for these 2 special subsidies.

Note 2 The total number includes applicants receiving only the Subsidy for RSME, applicants receiving only the Subsidy for Consumables, and applicants receiving both special subsidies.

Table 2: Annual expenditure on Subsidy for RSME and Subsidy for Consumables

Year	Expenditure ($ million)
2022-23	6.34
2023-24	6.23
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	4.31

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3696)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the following information for each of the past 3 years by District Council district:

1) the number, age distribution, and amount of subsidy granted to recipients under the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) launched by the Community Care Fund (CCF);

2) the number, age distribution, and amount of subsidy granted to recipients under the Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled launched by CCF;

3) the number, age distribution, and amount of subsidy granted to recipients under the Pilot Scheme on Providing Subsidy for Higher Disability Allowance Recipients in Paid Employment to Hire Carers launched by CCF; and

4) the number of beneficiaries under the Pilot Scheme on Raising the Maximum Level of Disregarded Earnings (DE) for Recipients with Disabilities under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (Pilot Scheme on Raising the Maximum Level of DE) under CCF.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 224)

Reply:

1) The Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of PWDs (Scheme for Carers of PWDs) has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes since October 2023. The funding allocation for 2024-25 was $215.8 million. The number of allowance recipients in 2023-24 and 2024-25 was 3 213 and 3 697, respectively. A breakdown of the number of allowance recipients by district and age is set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 1. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have a breakdown of the amount of allowance granted by district under the Scheme for Carers of PWDs.

2) The Special Care Subsidy Scheme for Persons with Severe Disabilities (the Subsidy Scheme) has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes since October 2023. The amount of subsidy granted under the Subsidy Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024) was $36.16 million and $66.48 million,

respectively, while the number of successful applicants in the 2 financial years was 3 379 and 3 538, respectively. A breakdown of the number of successful applicants by district and age is set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 2. SWD does not have a breakdown of the amount of subsidy granted by district under the Subsidy Scheme.

3) The Scheme on Providing Subsidy for Higher Disability Allowance Recipients in Paid Employment to Hire Carers (the Scheme to Hire Carers) has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes since October 2023. The amount of subsidy granted under the Scheme to Hire Carers in 2023-24 and 2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024) was $1.01 million and $1.82 million, respectively, while the number of successful applicants in the 2 financial years was 40 and 50, respectively. A breakdown of the number of successful applicants by district and age is set out in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 3. SWD does not have a breakdown of the amount of subsidy granted by district under the Scheme to Hire Carers.

4) The Pilot Scheme on Raising the Maximum Level of DE under CCF was launched in 2016 and has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes since February 2021. Under the Pilot Scheme on Raising the Maximum Level of DE, a total of 9 820 beneficiaries received subsidies.

Annex 1

Table 1: Number of allowance recipients under the Scheme for Carers of PWDs in 2023-24 by district and age

District	2023-24 [Note]							
	No. of allowance recipients							
	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	0	1	2	7	20	7	5	12
Wan Chai	0	0	0	6	10	3	2	3
Eastern	0	0	2	41	61	36	25	38
Southern	0	0	3	13	23	24	12	10
Islands	0	0	3	20	24	8	9	2
Sham Shui Po	0	0	6	58	63	54	20	25
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	0	24	16	17	13	12
Kowloon City	0	0	0	30	39	27	8	20
Kwun Tong	0	0	6	69	124	83	39	45
Wong Tai Sin	0	0	4	43	74	69	36	21
Sai Kung	0	0	6	34	44	39	32	15
Kwai Tsing	0	0	3	55	93	59	25	26
Tsuen Wan	0	0	2	14	19	16	14	8
Tuen Mun	0	0	6	54	85	55	39	33
Yuen Long	0	0	6	83	108	82	35	31
Sha Tin	0	0	3	43	100	53	33	42
Tai Po	0	0	0	34	35	22	27	28
North	0	0	3	41	60	45	26	20
Total	**0**	**1**	**55**	**669**	**998**	**699**	**400**	**391**

Note Starting from October 2023.

Table 2: Number of allowance recipients under the Scheme for Carers of PWDs in 2024-25 by district and age

District	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)							
	No. of allowance recipients							
	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	0	1	3	11	22	10	5	14
Wan Chai	0	0	0	8	13	3	3	3
Eastern	0	0	4	52	68	39	28	41
Southern	0	0	3	16	29	27	15	11
Islands	0	0	3	23	31	13	10	3
Sham Shui Po	0	0	7	65	69	56	24	26
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	1	32	21	18	15	14
Kowloon City	0	0	3	38	40	30	10	24
Kwun Tong	0	0	7	82	142	99	45	46
Wong Tai Sin	0	0	5	46	80	76	41	22
Sai Kung	0	0	7	38	49	45	37	16
Kwai Tsing	0	0	7	69	105	61	28	29
Tsuen Wan	0	0	6	17	24	22	15	8
Tuen Mun	0	0	8	65	97	67	45	36
Yuen Long	0	0	8	99	122	91	41	32
Sha Tin	0	0	5	51	111	61	39	46
Tai Po	0	0	1	42	40	27	31	28
North	0	0	3	45	72	53	29	23
Total	**0**	**1**	**81**	**799**	**1 135**	**798**	**461**	**422**

Annex 2

Table 1: Number of successful applicants under the Subsidy Scheme in 2023-24 by district and age

District	2023-24 [Note]						
	No. of successful applicants						
	Aged 0-5	Aged 6-11	Aged 12-18	Aged 19-29	Aged 30-39	Aged 40-49	Aged 50-59
Central & Western	5	4	5	3	17	14	29
Wan Chai	1	1	2	1	5	7	12
Eastern	9	13	11	34	39	32	93
Southern	2	6	11	10	22	18	37
Islands	3	9	10	6	5	6	11
Sham Shui Po	7	23	21	34	33	28	69
Yau Tsim Mong	3	3	8	11	9	13	22
Kowloon City	3	13	8	24	17	15	47
Kwun Tong	19	38	45	51	37	53	134
Wong Tai Sin	4	21	20	38	38	30	77
Sai Kung	8	24	18	34	40	31	77
Kwai Tsing	8	17	21	41	38	36	93
Tsuen Wan	6	15	8	13	15	29	46
Tuen Mun	12	20	31	36	29	37	81
Yuen Long	9	31	26	63	47	49	103
Sha Tin	15	33	39	39	52	48	124
Tai Po	3	7	12	20	31	25	44
North	9	12	18	37	33	25	52
Total	**126**	**290**	**314**	**495**	**507**	**496**	**1 151**

Note Starting from October 2023.

Table 2: Number of successful applicants under the Subsidy Scheme in 2024-25 by district and age

District	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)						
	No. of successful applicants						
	Aged 0-5	Aged 6-11	Aged 12-18	Aged 19-29	Aged 30-39	Aged 40-49	Aged 50-59
Central & Western	5	4	5	3	17	15	30
Wan Chai	1	1	3	1	5	7	13
Eastern	9	14	11	34	38	33	99
Southern	3	6	11	11	22	18	39
Islands	4	9	10	6	5	6	11
Sham Shui Po	7	25	22	35	35	29	71
Yau Tsim Mong	4	3	8	11	9	13	22
Kowloon City	5	15	8	25	20	16	48
Kwun Tong	19	40	48	57	36	52	139
Wong Tai Sin	6	22	21	39	38	32	81
Sai Kung	10	25	21	35	41	32	84
Kwai Tsing	9	17	22	40	40	37	103
Tsuen Wan	8	15	8	14	16	29	47
Tuen Mun	15	22	34	36	30	37	86
Yuen Long	9	31	30	65	49	51	111
Sha Tin	17	35	39	40	55	52	130
Tai Po	5	9	14	20	31	27	44
North	9	12	20	38	33	26	53
Total	**145**	**305**	**335**	**510**	**520**	**512**	**1 211**

Annex 3

Table 1: Number of successful applicants under the Scheme to Hire Carers in 2023-24 by district and age

District	2023-24 [Note]						
	No. of successful applicants						
	Aged 15-18	Aged 19-29	Aged 30-39	Aged 40-49	Aged 50-59	Aged 60-69	Aged 70 or above
Central & Western	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Wan Chai	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Eastern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern	0	0	1	0	2	1	0
Islands	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Sham Shui Po	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Kowloon City	0	0	2	4	2	0	0
Kwun Tong	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Wong Tai Sin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sai Kung	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Kwai Tsing	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tsuen Wan	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Tuen Mun	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Yuen Long	0	0	2	2	1	0	0
Sha Tin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tai Po	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North	0	0	2	2	2	0	0
Total	**0**	**0**	**9**	**11**	**11**	**7**	**2**

Note Starting from October 2023.

Table 2: Number of successful applicants under the Scheme to Hire Carers in 2024-25 by district and age

District	2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)						
	No. of successful applicants						
	Aged 15-18	Aged 19-29	Aged 30-39	Aged 40-49	Aged 50-59	Aged 60-69	Aged 70 or above
Central & Western	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Wan Chai	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Southern	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sham Shui Po	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Kowloon City	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Kwun Tong	0	0	2	2	2	0	0
Wong Tai Sin	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sai Kung	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Kwai Tsing	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
Tsuen Wan	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Tuen Mun	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Yuen Long	0	0	1	1	2	1	0
Sha Tin	0	1	3	4	2	0	0
Tai Po	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
North	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	**0**	**2**	**10**	**13**	**12**	**7**	**6**

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)362

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3697)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide a detailed breakdown of the progress and expected completion dates of the projects under the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses (Special Sites Scheme), as well as the number of places for various types of services these projects will provide.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 225)

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 expand the supply of 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 projects were withdrawn by the applicant NGOs or removed from the Special Sites Scheme because they could not proceed further due to various reasons including site constraints. As at the end of February 2025, 6 projects have been completed and put into service, 3 projects are at the construction stage, 11 projects are at the detailed design stage, and 23 projects are undergoing technical feasibility studies (TFS). Details of these 43 Special Sites Scheme projects are provided at Annex. The remaining 22 projects are currently at the project formulation and preliminary planning stage. The Social Welfare Department will support the relevant NGOs in proceeding with TFS, taking into account the actual progress of individual projects.

Annex

Completed projects and projects at construction, detailed design or TFS stages under the Special Sites Scheme

Project	Estimated number of 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)
3 projects at construction stage (estimated to be completed in 2025-2028)	
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. 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
9. 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)
11 projects at detailed design stage (estimated to be completed by phases in 2028-2032)	
10. Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong Development on a vacant site in Tai Chung Hau, Sai Kung	CoC Home (250 places); DE (60 places)

Project	Estimated number of additional welfare service places
11. The Evangelical Gospel Lutheran Church Limited Development on a site at Ma Tin Road, Yuen Long	CoC Home (180 places)
12. Helping Hand Development on a vacant area of Cheung Muk Tau Holiday Centre for the Elderly	CoC Home (200 places)
13. 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 (120 places); DE (60 places); SCCC (60 places)
14. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited Extension of a Nursing Home at Chun Yan Street, Wong Tai Sin	NH (120 places); DE (60 places)
15. 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
16. 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
17. 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)
18. 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
19. Stewards Redevelopment of Stewards Peace Clinic Building at 145 Hong Ning Road, Kwun Tong	SCCC (78 places); DAC (50 places); HSMH (50 places); Parents/Relatives Resource Centre
20. Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Redevelopment of Jockey Club Care and Attention Home for the Elderly at 9 Sandy Bay Road, Pokfulam	CoC Home (176 places); DE (40 places); Care and Attention Home for Severely Disabled Persons (C&A/SD) (150 places); HSMH (88 places); HMMH (88 places); IVRSC (120 places); DAC (88 places); SCCC (60 places)
23 projects at TFS stage (completion date to be confirmed)	
21. 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
22. Asbury Methodist Social Service Partial redevelopment of a site at 1 Sheung Kok Street, Kwai Chung	DE (40 places); Day CCC (100 places); SGH (30 places); Dementia Centre for the Elderly

Project	Estimated number of additional welfare service places
23. 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)
24. Caritas – Hong Kong Development on a vacant site at Sha Tau Kok Road - Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling	CoC Home (250 places)
25. Chinse 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)
26. 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)
27. 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)
28. Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service Hong Kong Development on a vacant area at Area 58, Man Tung Road, Tung Chung	CoC Home (150 places); DE (40 places); HSMH (40 places); DAC (40 places); SCCC (60 places)
29. 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); C&A/SD (120 places)
30. 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)
31. 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)
32. 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
33. 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 (36 places); DAC (36 places); SCCC (90 places); Day CCC (100 places); Office Base of On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services (OPRS); School Social Work Office

Project	Estimated number of additional welfare service places
34. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited Redevelopment of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Holy Nativity Church Social Service Centre at 6 A Kung Ngam Road, Shau Kei Wan	CoC Home (210 places); DE (80 places); HSMH (100 places); HMMH (100 places); DAC (100 places); IVRSC (120 places); SCCC (90 places); Day CCC (100 places); Office Base of OPRS; Integrated Elderly and Carer Support Health Management Services Centre
35. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited Redevelopment of St. Thomas' Church at 43 Berwick Street, Sham Shui Po	DE (40 places); Day CCC (60 places); SCCC (30 places); Integrated Elderly Rehabilitation Services Centre
36. 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); Day CCC (65 places); SGH (30 places); Foster Care Services and Agency-based Enhancement of Professional Staff Support Services in Residential Care Homes
37. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited Redevelopment of HKSKH Lady MacLehose Centre at 22 Wo Yi Hop Road, Kwai Chung	DE (100 places); SCCC (90 places); Day CCC (93 places); Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centre (KG-cum-CCC) (52 places)
38. 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); Day CCC (59 places)
39. Pok Oi Hospital Development of a Day Care Centre for the Elderly at Fuk Hang Tsuen Road, Lam Tei, Tuen Mun	DE (160 places)
40. 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); Day CCC (66 places); Office Base of OPRS; Children Section (20 places); Kindergarten-cum-Nursery (76 places)
41. 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)
42. 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)
43. 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 -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)363

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3698)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please tabulate the following information for the past 3 years:

1) the number of abuse cases involving the elderly, youth, children, women, and spouses/cohabitants;

2) a breakdown of the number of referrals made by teachers, police officers, medical professionals, relatives, or others in these cases;

3) the age distribution, types of abuse, usual places of occurrence, and duration of continued abuse for each type of abuse case;

4) an overview of the relationships between the perpetrators and victims of abuse known to the Social Welfare Department (SWD);

5) support services that are in place to support victims of abuse and their families; and

6) the average waiting time for victims of abuse to receive support services after contacting SWD, and the per capita cost incurred.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 226)

Reply:

1) to 4) The numbers of newly reported spouse/cohabitant battering cases, child protection cases (including cases with high-risk/maltreated children) and elder abuse cases over the past 3 years, with a breakdown by age, gender, and reporting/referring agency, are set out at Annex. SWD does not have information on the duration of continued abuse in respect of these cases. Information on case types, residential districts of the victims/usual places of occurrence and relationships between perpetrators and victims, etc. has been uploaded to SWD's website (addresses as below):

Support for Victims of Child Abuse, Spouse/Cohabitant Battering and Sexual Violence

https://www.swd.gov.hk/vs/index_e.html#s3

Statistics on Elder Abuse Cases

https://www.swd.gov.hk/en/pubsvc/elderly/elderly_info/protectep/stat_eac/

5) SWD provides a wide range of preventive, supportive and specialised services to combat domestic violence and support victims of domestic violence and families in need. These services are provided through integrated family service centres (IFSCs)/integrated services centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units (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.

6) Victims of domestic violence, child maltreatment, spouse/cohabitant battering or elder abuse cases do not have to wait to receive the above emergency support services. SWD does not have information on the per capita cost for handling abuse cases.

Annex

Table 1: Newly reported spouse/cohabitant battering cases [Note 1]

(1) Age and gender distribution of victims

Age	2022			2023			2024		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
17-18	1	5	**6**	1	8	**9**	0	4	**4**
19-20	1	11	**12**	1	10	**11**	0	8	**8**
21-25	10	68	**78**	4	62	**66**	2	49	**51**
26-30	15	170	**185**	12	146	**158**	8	123	**131**
31-35	32	310	**342**	28	256	**284**	21	220	**241**
36-40	52	339	**391**	42	326	**368**	27	292	**319**
41-45	32	274	**306**	45	274	**319**	36	245	**281**
46-50	40	216	**256**	28	201	**229**	34	163	**197**
51-55	24	124	**148**	29	130	**159**	24	125	**149**
56-59	26	62	**88**	19	80	**99**	16	60	**76**
60-64	34	70	**104**	22	63	**85**	13	59	**72**
65-69	23	49	**72**	15	33	**48**	16	49	**65**
70-74	17	34	**51**	20	32	**52**	13	31	**44**
75-79	10	10	**20**	12	17	**29**	6	12	**18**
80-84	5	6	**11**	12	1	**13**	1	2	**3**
85 or above	5	2	**7**	6	3	**9**	4	3	**7**
Total	**327**	**1 750**	**2 077**	**296**	**1 642**	**1 938**	**221**	**1 445**	**1 666**

(2) Type of reporting agency [Note 2]

Reporting agency	2022	2023	2024
SWD	963	900	916
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	218	249	246
Hospital Authority	65	76	37
Legal Aid Department	-	-	-
Hong Kong Police Force	831	713	467
Department of Health	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-
Total	**2 077**	**1 938**	**1 666**

Note 1 The figures on newly reported spouse/cohabitant battering cases come from the Central Information System on Spouse/Cohabitant Battering and Sexual Violence Cases. If the victim is aged 60 or above, the case is also registered in the Central Information System on Elder Abuse Cases. As such, the number of cases involving victims aged 60 or above in Table 1(1) is also reflected in the figures in Table 3(1).

Note 2 If more than 1 agency reports the same case, the first agency to provide the information will be recorded as the reporting agency.

Table 2: Child protection cases

(1) Age distribution of high-risk and maltreated children newly registered in the Child Protection Registry

Age	2022	2023	2024
0-2	230	190	183
3-5	142	135	132
6-8	200	194	203
9-11	273	291	291
12-14	383	412	449
15-17	211	235	246
Total	**1 439**	**1 457**	**1 504**

(2) Number of child protection cases newly received by FCPSUs with a breakdown by source of referral

Source of referral	2022	2023	2024
Medical professionals and medical social workers	225	207	206
Schools (including teachers and school social workers)	298	323	349
The Police	138	163	145
Social service units (including other service units under SWD, IFSCs, and NGOs, etc.)	498	458	508
Members of the public/media/SWD hotlines	2	2	4
Courts/other government departments	8	6	4
The person concerned	14	9	11
Others	16	6	8
Total Note 3	**1 199**	**1 174**	**1 235**

Note 3 As each case may involve more than 1 high-risk/maltreated child, the number of child protection cases newly received by FCPSUs does not tally with the total number of high-risk/maltreated children newly registered in the Child Protection Registry of the year.

Table 3: Elder abuse cases [Note 4]

(1) Age and gender distribution of victims

Age	2022			2023			2024		
	Male	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
60-64	37	77	**114**	26	73	**99**	13	71	**84**
65-69	27	61	**88**	22	38	**60**	18	55	**73**
70-74	24	45	**69**	23	42	**65**	15	46	**61**
75-79	13	16	**29**	15	25	**40**	10	15	**25**
80-84	8	14	**22**	14	7	**21**	4	9	**13**
85 or above	7	11	**18**	12	21	**33**	12	15	**27**
Total	**116**	**224**	**340**	**112**	**206**	**318**	**72**	**211**	**283**

(2) Type of reporting agency

Reporting agency	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**
SWD	160	141	157
NGO	64	54	76
Hospital Authority	6	14	9
Department of Health	-	-	-
Hong Kong Police Force	110	109	41
Housing Department	-	-	-
Total	**340**	**318**	**283**

Note 4 The figures on elder abuse cases in Table 3 come from the Central Information System on Elder Abuse Cases. If the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim is spouse/intimate partner, the case is also registered in the Central Information System on Spouse/Cohabitant Battering and Sexual Violence Cases. As such, the number of elder abuse cases in Table 3 also includes the number of cases involving victims aged 60 or above in Table 1.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)364

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3699)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide in tabular form the number of persons or families who have successfully resolved their housing issues through Compassionate Rehousing (CR) in the past 3 years, along with their reasons for applying for CR.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 227)

Reply:

The number of CR cases recommended by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to the Housing Department in the past 3 years (2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (as at December 2024)) was 387, 277 and 201, respectively.

SWD does not have a breakdown of statistics on the reasons applicants provide for seeking a CR recommendation.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)365

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3700)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Services for The Elderly

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services (SCNAMES), please advise:

The annual number of cases referred for assessment under SCNAMES, the number of cases that completed the assessment, the number of accredited assessors under SCNAMES, the number of cases in which the service users requested pre-appeal mediation, and the number of appeal cases lodged by service users over the past 5 years, with a breakdown by service unit.

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)		

For elderly persons who have been assessed and confirmed to require long term care (LTC) services, their applications may be placed on a Central Waiting List for Subsidised LTC Services to await the 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 respective numbers of applicants assessed as 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.: 228)

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 2020 to 2024 are set out at Annexes 1 to 4.

From 2020 to 2024, there were no appeal cases related to assessments under SCNAMES.

The number of elderly persons assessed as "suitable for RCS", "suitable for CCS" or "dual option" from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are as follows:

LTC service matching	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
Suitable for RCS	10 151	5 297	29 160	28 909	21 609
Suitable for CCS	267	4 377	8 115	8 230	6 458
Dual option	19 908	21 336	N.A. [Note]	N.A. [Note]	N.A. [Note]

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note] The Social Welfare Department (SWD) updated SCNAMES in July 2021, which included upgrading the assessment tool, the interRAI-Home Care (interRAI-HC), from version 2.0 to version 9.3, as well as updating the service matching mechanism. Under the new mechanism, "dual option" is no longer available.

Annex 1

Number of cases referred for standardised care need assessment

Organisation	Service type	No. of cases				
		2020	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**
SWD	Placement Unit under Standardised Care Need Assessment Management Offices (Elderly Services) [SCNAMO(ES)]	5 049	6 064	6 349	6 284	5 406
	Medical Social Services Unit (MSSU)	3 007	3 902	3 819	4 388	4 371
	Integrated Family Service Centre (IFSC)	894	1 039	1 257	1 152	1 129
	Others (e.g. Family and Child Protective Services Unit (FCPSU))	312	485	97	93	133
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.)	18 489	24 207	21 583	25 824	26 453
	IFSC	710	877	894	1 117	1 131
Hospital Authority (HA)	MSSU	2 976	3 212	3 349	3 401	2 997
Total		**31 437**	**39 786**	**37 348**	**42 259**	**41 620**

Annex 2

Number of standardised care need assessments completed

Organisation	Service type	No. of cases				
		2020	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**
SWD	SCNAMO(ES)	11 526	15 916	13 584	16 854	15 066
	MSSU	2 782	3 837	3 867	4 573	4 467
	IFSC	789	1 482	1 067	1 131	1 122
	Others (e.g. FCPSU)	283	532	72	61	86
NGOs	Elderly Services Unit (e.g. DECC, NEC, DE, IHCS Team, etc.)	9 523	13 429	12 560	14 914	16 069
	IFSC	560	765	746	975	968
HA	MSSU	228	272	271	294	347
Total		**25 691**	**36 233**	**32 167**	**38 802**	**38 125**

Annex 3

Number of trained and accredited assessors

As at end-December 2020	As at end-December 2021 [Note]	As at end-December 2022	As at end-December 2023	As at end-December 2024
3 469	1 982	2 094	2 334	2 549

Note SWD updated SCNAMES in July 2021, which included upgrading the assessment tool, interRAI-HC, from version 2 to version 9.3, as well as updating the service matching mechanism. Serving accredited assessors are required to complete a bridging training programme to use the upgraded assessment tool.

Annex 4

Number of cases for pre-appeal mediation

Party showing disagreement towards assessment results	**No. of cases**				
	2020	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**
Service user	24	41	31	52	43
Service provider (RCHE)	23	12	7	5	5
Service provider (CCS unit)	2	2	2	1	2
Total	**49**	**55**	**40**	**58**	**50**

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)366

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3701)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide the following information for the past 5 years:

the numbers of Bought Place Scheme (BPS) and non-BPS places of various subsidised residential care services (RCS) for persons with disabilities (PWDs), the average waiting time, the number of persons who applied for a freeze on service allocation and the number of persons who withdrew from the service and the reasons for withdrawal, with a breakdown by age and 18 District Council (DC) districts;

the per capita costs, fees and charges, and total amount of subsidies as regards BPS and non-BPS places of various subsidised RCS for PWDs;

the total number of PWDs who passed away or withdrew their applications while waiting for residential places and their percentages out of the number of waitlisted PWDs, with a breakdown by age;

the number of persons waitlisted for BPS and non-BPS places of various subsidised RCS for PWDs, with a breakdown by age (aged 18 to 30, 31 to 40, 41 to 50, 51 to 60, 61 to 70, 71 to 80, 81 or above) and 18 DC districts; and

the number of users of BPS and non-BPS places of various subsidised RCS for PWDs, with a breakdown by age (aged 18 to 30, 31 to 40, 41 to 50, 51 to 60, 61 to 70, 71 to 80, 81 or above) and 18 DC districts.

Regarding the elderly services provided by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), please inform this Committee of the following:

the number of residential care home (RCH) places provided or subsidised by SWD, along with the expenditure involved in the past 5 years; and

the numbers of homes and service places for the above service, with a breakdown by 18 districts, the number of elderly persons currently waitlisted for RCH places, average waiting time in years, and longest waiting time in years.

At present, the Government provides insufficient subsidised RCH places for the elderly and PWDs, resulting in long waiting time. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

the following information on subsidised RCS for the past 5 years: (i) the numbers of subsidised RCH places for the elderly and PWDs; (ii) the numbers of elderly persons and PWDs waitlisted for subsidised RCH places; (iii) the average waiting time for subsidised RCH places; (iv) 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 (NH), and their percentages out of the number of waitlisted elderly persons, with a breakdown by age; and

the number of "Government, Institution or Community" sites earmarked for the construction of subsidised RCH for the elderly (RCHEs) and RCH for PWDs (RCHDs), and the number of places expected to be provided in the next 5 years; and

the information on the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses (Special Sites Scheme) since its launch: (i) the number of applications received; (ii) the names of non-governmental organisation (NGO) applicants, (iii) the approval dates and current progress of each project; and (iv) whether the Government has put in place any support measures to facilitate applicants in completing their projects sooner; If so, of the details; if not, the reasons for this.

Regarding the regulation of RCHEs and RCHDs, will the Government please inform this Committee of:

the details of the inspections conducted by SWD's staff at various types of RCHEs and RCHDs (i.e. private RCHEs, subsidised RCHEs, private RCHDs and subsidised RCHDs) in 2024-25, including: (i) the number of regular inspections; (ii) the number of surprise inspections; and (iii) the number and types of suspected non-compliance cases found during inspections;

the number and categories of complaints against various types of RCHEs and RCHDs received by SWD, and the number of substantiated complaints in each of the past 5 years; and

the number of warning letters issued by SWD to RCHEs and RCHDs, both (i) single and (ii) multiple warnings, and whether any RCHEs and RCHDs have failed to take remedial actions after receiving warnings in the past 5 years, and if so, the follow-up actions taken by SWD.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 229)

Reply:

The number of service places for various types of residential services for PWDs by administrative district of SWD in the past 5 years is set out at Annex 1, the average waiting time is set out at Annex 2, while the number of applicants on the Inactive Waiting List (IWL) is set out at Annex 3. The number of persons having left residential care services for PWDs and their reasons for leaving are set out at Annex 4. SWD does not have statistics on the number of service places, the average waiting time or the number of applicants on IWL by age and district.

The average cost per place per month for the overall residential rehabilitation services for PWDs in the past 5 years is set out at Annex 5. SWD does not have information on the average cost of each type of residential places for PWDs. The fees and charges for various types of subsidised residential services for PWDs is set out at Annex 6, while the total subsidy amount is set out at Annex 7.

The number of persons who passed away or withdrew their applications while waiting for residential services for PWDs, along with their percentages out of the number of waitlisted PWDs in the past 5 years, is set out at Annex 8. SWD does not have statistics on the number of persons who passed away or withdrew their applications while waiting for residential services for PWDs broken down by age.

A breakdown of the number of applicants for various types of residential services for PWDs by administrative district of SWD and age group in the past 5 years is set out at Annex 9. As there is no central waiting list (CWL) for BPS for private RCHDs, no statistics on the number of applicants is available.

A breakdown of the number of service users of various types of residential services for PWDs by age group in the past 5 years is set out at Annex 10. SWD does not have statistics on the number of service users broken down by district and age.

From 2020-21 to 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024), the number of RCHEs providing subsidised RCS, along with their respective service places, is set out at Annexes 11 and 12 respectively; while the financial expenditure and the average monthly cost per place for various types of subsidised RCS are set out at Annex 13 and Annex 14 respectively.

The waiting time for subsidised RCS is affected by a number of factors, including applicants' preferences for the location, dietary options and religious background of the RCHEs, whether they opt for a specific RCHE, whether they accept subsidised places provided under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS)/Nursing Home Place Purchase Scheme (NHPPS), and whether they request to join family members and/or relatives in a specific RCHE, etc. SWD does not have statistics on the longest waiting time for subsidised RCS.

As at the end of December 2024, the average waiting time and number of persons waitlisted for subsidised RCS are set out at Annex 15. The number of elderly persons who passed away or withdrew their applications while waiting for subsidised RCH places and NH places, along with their percentages out of the number of waitlisted elderly persons, is set out at Annex 16.

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 residential places.

Among the development projects implemented by the Government, 28 RCHEs are expected to be completed between 2025-26 and 2029-30, providing a total of about 4 080 RCHE places (including both subsidised and non-subsidised places). The number of places that can be provided each year may vary, subject to factors including the work progress. In addition, the Government is taking forward 29 development projects for RCHDs, which are expected to provide about 2 180 additional service places over the next 5 years.

The Government launched Phase One and Phase Two of the Special Sites Scheme in September 2013 and April 2019, respectively, to encourage NGOs to provide or expand the supply of 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 projects were withdrawn by the applicant NGOs or removed from the Special Sites Scheme because they could not proceed further due to various reasons, including site constraints. As at the end of February 2025, 6 projects have been completed and put into service, 3 projects are at the construction stage, 11 projects are at the detailed design stage, and 23 projects are undergoing technical feasibility studies (TFS). Details of these 43 Special Sites Scheme projects are provided at Annex 17. The remaining 22 projects are currently at the project formulation and preliminary planning stage. SWD will support the relevant NGOs in proceeding with TFS, taking into account the actual progress of individual projects.

To facilitate and co-ordinate 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 outline zoning plans, obtaining planning permission and lease modification. SWD continues to collaborate with various departments, including convening inter-departmental meetings with representatives from various departments specialised 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 arising from 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.

The Licensing Office of RCHEs (LORCHE) and Licensing Office of RCHDs (LORCHD) of SWD are responsible for conducting inspections at RCHEs and RCHDs respectively. All inspections are conducted in a surprise manner. In 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024), the respective numbers of inspections conducted at RCHEs and RCHDs were 4 624 and 1 915.

SWD identifies non-compliant RCHEs and RCHDs (if any) through various channels, such as inspections, complaints and special incident reports. In 2024-25 (as at the end of December 2024), 1 657 and 200 cases from RCHEs and RCHDs respectively were issued with advisory and warning letters due to non-compliance. Categories of irregularities include staffing arrangements, protection of privacy, drug management, infection control, fire safety, nursing and personal care services, etc. SWD does not have a breakdown of the number of non-compliance cases.

LORCHE and LORCHD of SWD will investigate complaints against RCHEs and RCHDs. In the event of non-compliance, SWD will consider the nature and severity of the non-compliances before issuing advisory letters, warning letters, written directions for remedial measures, or instigating prosecution against the relevant RCHs. The complaints against RCHEs and RCHDs received by SWD in the past 5 years included issues related to staffing arrangements, protection of privacy, drug management, infection control, fire safety, nursing and personal care services, etc. The number of complaints is set out in Table 1 of Annex 18. SWD does not have a breakdown of the number of complaints by category.

The number of RCHs issued with warning letters in the past 5 years is set out in Table 2 of Annex 18. The inspectorates of SWD will formulate individualised and targeted strategies and action plans based on the nature and issues of non-compliance in each RCH. These may include conducting surprise inspections at different times during office and non-office hours, with a small team or a multi-disciplinary inspectorate team to strengthen the monitoring of RCHs and ensure that they take remedial measures. If the RCHs concerned continue to fail to make any improvements, SWD will issue written directions or initiate prosecution actions against them under the relevant legislation.

Annex 1

Table 1: Number of service places for various types of residential services for PWDs in 2020-21 (by administrative district of SWD)

District	HMMH	HSMH	HSPH	C&A/SD	C&A/AB	SGH (MMHC) [Note]	SHOS	HWH	LSCH	Private RCHD under BPS
Central Western, Southern and Islands	376	682	109	200	375	0	79	168	170	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	85	158	58	100	0	8	40	144	0	46
Kwun Tong	409	332	165	101	0	3	101	144	0	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	188	359	100	88	0	33	96	237	0	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	304	137	20	0	52	0	19	0	0	308
Sham Shui Po	131	257	0	72	78	0	50	169	200	90
Sha Tin	236	520	138	102	0	17	93	206	0	0
Tai Po and North	180	304	0	100	0	64	101	80	0	192
Yuen Long	237	158	50	100	80	0	86	104	80	27
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	218	721	25	202	0	3	83	162	525	181
Tuen Mun	436	432	50	67	243	0	36	180	612	174
Total	**2 800**	**4 060**	**715**	**1 132**	**828**	**128**	**784**	**1 594**	**1 587**	**1 018**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include integrated small group homes (ISGHs).

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

C&A/AB – care-and-attention home for the aged blind

SGH(MMHC) - small group home for mildly mentally handicapped children

SHOS - supported hostel

HWH - halfway house

LSCH - long stay care home

Table 2: Number of service places for various types of residential services for PWDs in 2021-22 (by administrative district of SWD)

District	HMMH	HSMH	HSPH	C&A/SD	C&A/AB	SGH (MMHC) [Note]	SHOS	HWH	LSCH	Private RCHD under BPS
Central Western, Southern and Islands	376	682	109	200	375	0	79	168	170	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	85	158	58	100	0	8	40	144	0	46
Kwun Tong	409	332	165	101	0	3	101	144	0	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	188	359	100	88	0	33	96	237	0	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	304	137	20	0	52	0	19	0	0	365
Sham Shui Po	131	257	0	72	78	0	70	169	200	100
Sha Tin	236	520	138	102	0	17	93	206	0	0
Tai Po and North	180	304	0	100	0	64	101	80	0	235
Yuen Long	237	158	50	100	80	0	86	104	80	27
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	218	721	25	202	0	3	83	162	525	309
Tuen Mun	436	432	50	67	243	0	36	180	612	182
Total	**2 800**	**4 060**	**715**	**1 132**	**828**	**128**	**804**	**1 594**	**1 587**	**1 264**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 3: Number of service places for various types of residential services for PWDs in 2022-23 (by administrative district of SWD)

District	HMMH	HSMH	HSPH	C&A/SD	C&A/AB	SGH (MMHC) [Note]	SHOS	HWH	LSCH	Private RCHD under BPS
Central Western, Southern and Islands	376	682	109	200	375	0	79	168	170	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	85	158	58	100	0	8	40	144	0	46
Kwun Tong	409	332	165	101	0	3	101	144	0	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	188	359	100	88	0	33	96	237	0	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	304	137	20	0	52	0	19	0	0	365
Sham Shui Po	182	309	0	72	78	0	102	169	200	100
Sha Tin	236	520	138	102	0	17	123	206	0	0
Tai Po and North	180	304	0	100	0	64	101	80	0	235
Yuen Long	237	158	50	100	80	0	86	104	80	27
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	218	721	25	202	0	3	83	162	525	424
Tuen Mun	436	432	50	67	243	0	36	180	612	182
Total	**2 851**	**4 112**	**715**	**1 132**	**828**	**128**	**866**	**1 594**	**1 587**	**1 379**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 4: Number of service places for various types of residential services for PWDs in 2023-24 (by administrative district of SWD)

District	HMMH	HSMH	HSPH	C&A/SD	C&A/AB	SGH (MMHC) Note 1	SHOS	HWH	LSCH	Private RCHD under BPS
Central Western, Southern and Islands	376	682	109	200	375	0	79	168	170	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	85	158	58	100	0	8	40	144	0	46
Kwun Tong	409	332	165	101	0	3	101	144	0	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	188	370	100	88	0	33	96	237	0	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	304	137	20	0	52	0	19	0	0	303
Sham Shui Po	182	309	0	72	78	0	102	169	200	100
Sha Tin	236	520	138	102	0	17	123	206	0	0
Tai Po and North	180	304	0	100	0	64	101	80	0	235
Yuen Long	237	158	50	100	80	0	86	104	80	27
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	218	721	25	202	0	3	83	162	525	373
Tuen Mun	511	832	125	267	243	0	36	180	1012	182
Total	**2 926**	**4 523**	**790**	**1 332**	**828**	**128**	**866**	**1 594**	**1 987**	**1 266** Note 2

Note 1 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 2 Including the reduction of 51 service places due to termination of contract for 1 private RCHD under BPS in September 2023, and the reduction of 62 service places due to termination of contract for 1 private RCHD under BPS in January 2024.

Table 5: Number of service places for various types of residential services for PWDs in 2024-25 (by administrative district of SWD) (as at end-December 2024)

District	HMMH	HSMH	HSPH	C&A/SD	C&A/AB	SGH (MMHC) Note	SHOS	HWH	LSCH	Private RCHD under BPS
Central Western, Southern and Islands	376	682	109	200	375	0	79	168	170	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	85	158	58	100	0	8	40	144	0	46
Kwun Tong	409	332	165	101	0	3	101	144	0	127
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	188	370	100	88	0	33	96	237	0	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	304	137	20	0	52	0	19	0	0	329
Sham Shui Po	182	309	0	72	78	0	102	169	200	100
Sha Tin	236	520	138	102	0	17	123	206	0	0
Tai Po and North	180	354	0	140	0	64	101	80	0	235
Yuen Long	237	158	50	100	80	0	86	104	80	27
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	218	721	25	202	0	3	83	162	525	402
Tuen Mun	511	832	125	267	243	0	36	180	1012	182
Total	**2 926**	**4 573**	**790**	**1 372**	**828**	**128**	**866**	**1 594**	**1 987**	**1 448**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Annex 2

Average waiting time for various types of residential services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service Type	Average waiting time (in months)				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25** [Note 1]
HMMH	127.6	144.8	154.1	145.1	Not yet available
HSMH	156.1	150.8	171.1	166.6	
HSPH	77.8	80.9	73.0	51.5	
C&A/SD	64.3	65.6	60.6	48.6	
C&A/AB	13.8	10.7	5.1	3.8	
SGH(MMHC) [Note 2]	13.1	15.1	17.5	14.7	
SHOS	71.8	63.5	78.8	65.7	
HWH	4.7	4.2	4.2	4.3	
LSCH	64.9	57.8	72.3	56.8	
Private RCHD under BPS [Note 3]	Not applicable				

Note 1 As the average waiting time is calculated on a financial-year basis, spanning from 1 April of one year to 31 March of the following year, the figures for 2024-25 are not yet available.

Note 2 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 3 There is no CWL for BPS, and the statistical information on the waiting time is therefore not available. For applicants on the waiting list for LSCHs, HMMHs, HWHs and 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.

Annex 3

Number of applicants on IWL for various types of residential services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	Number of applicants on IWL				
	2020-21	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)**
HMMH	N.A. [Note]	N.A [Note]	61	285	320
HSMH			250	444	509
HSPH			25	115	137
C&A/SD			7	98	153
SHOS			42	281	321

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note] The Inactive Waitlisting Mechanism for RCS for PWDs has been implemented since March 2023 for applicants who are waiting for residential services for persons with intellectual/physical disabilities, including HMMHs, HSMHs, HSPHs, C&A/SDs and SHOSs.

Annex 4

Table 1: Number of persons having left residential services for PWDs and their reasons for leaving in 2020-21

Reason for leaving the services	Number of persons having left residential services for PWDs									
	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 2: Number of persons having left residential services for PWDs and their reasons for leaving in 2021-22

Reason for leaving the services	Number of persons having left residential services for PWDs									
	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 3: Number of persons having left residential services for PWDs and their reasons for leaving in 2022-23

Reason for leaving the services	Number of persons having left residential services for PWDs									
	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 4: Number of persons having left residential services for PWDs and their reasons for leaving in 2023-24

Reason for leaving the services	Number of persons having left residential services for PWDs									
	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	58	27	7	8	20	27	10	295	10	79
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	1	1	0	2	5	1	0	55	2	23
Compassionate rehousing/ independent living	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	94	0	14
Family reunion	6	2	1	1	7	8	13	160	2	27
Emigration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
Death	27	75	11	53	101	3	0	3	66	20
Age limit of the service reached	N.A.						0	N.A.		
Breaching house rules or other reasons	2	0	0	0	0	1	10	110	3	66
Total	**94**	**107**	**19**	**64**	**133**	**45**	**33**	**719**	**83**	**230**

N.A. - Not applicable

[Note] SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 5: Number of persons having left residential services for PWDs and their reasons for leaving in 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

Reason for leaving the services	Number of persons having left residential services for PWDs									
	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	45	27	10	9	18	22	4	249	15	35
Admission to hospital for treatment for no less than 3 months	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Residential service no longer needed according to the resident	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	36	3	19
Compassionate rehousing/ independent living	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	93	0	4
Family reunion	5	5	1	1	6	4	10	91	9	12
Emigration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Death	17	43	5	34	66	4	0	9	37	10
Age limit of the service reached	N.A.						0	N.A.		
Breaching house rules or other reasons	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	76	3	11
Total	**68**	**83**	**16**	**46**	**91**	**33**	**17**	**556**	**67**	**91**

N.A. - Not applicable

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Annex 5

Average cost per place per month for residential services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	**Average cost per place per month for subsidised residential services for PWDs ($)**	**Average cost per place per month for private RCHDs under BPS ($)**
2020-21 (Actual)	18,033	11,773
2021-22 (Actual)	18,011	13,131
2022-23 (Actual)	18,531	13,287
2023-24 (Actual)	20,543	13,969
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	20,811	14,107

Annex 6

Current fees and charges for various types of residential services for PWDs

Service type	Current monthly fees and charges ($)	
	Adult with 50% disability	**Adult with 100% disability or disability allowance recipient**
HMMH	1,481	1,559
HSMH	1,660	1,871
HSPH	1,660	1,871
C&A/SD	1,660	1,871
C&A/AB	1,660	1,871
SGH(MMHC) [Note]	Free	
SHOS	897	977
HWH	1,220	
LSCH	1,660	1,871
Private RCHD under BPS	1,079 (moderate level of care)/ 1,656 (high level of care)	

[Note] SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Annex 7

Total subsidy amount for various types of residential services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	Total subsidy amount ($ million)				
	2020-21 (Actual)	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)
HMMH	369.8	387.6	388.7	424.5	476.4
HSMH	981.2	999.1	1,018.8	1,087.9	1,194.0
HSPH	170.0	204.7	193.8	204.7	239.0
C&A/SD	317.7	331.2	341.1	358.9	428.5
C&A/AB	178.9	179.2	182.7	189.1	192.5
SGH(MMHC) [Note]	31.9	34.4	34.3	35.7	37.5
SHOS	112.0	112.2	120.2	132.3	142.3
HWH	228.8	229.6	232.7	240.7	246.1
LSCH	309.8	307.7	319.5	339.4	459.7
Private RCHD under BPS	132.1	176.5	200.0	213.6	243.8

[Note] SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Annex 8

Table 1: Number of persons who passed away while waiting for residential services for PWDs in 2020-21

Service type	Number of waitlisted persons	Number of persons who passed away during the waiting period	Percentage of persons who passed away during the waiting period
HMMH	2 535	9	0.36%
HSMH	2 416	9	0.37%
HSPH	375	18	4.80%
C&A/SD	506	33	6.52%
C&A/AB	118	15	12.71%
SGH(MMHC) Note 1	79	-	0%
SHOS	2 247	1	0.04%
HWH	506	-	0%
LSCH	2 664	14	0.53%
Private RCHD under BPS Note 2	N.A.		

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 2 As there is no CWL for BPS, no statistics on the number of persons who passed away while waiting for the services is available.

Table 2: Number of persons who passed away while waiting for residential services for PWDs in 2021-22

Service type	Number of waitlisted persons	Number of persons who passed away during the waiting period	Percentage of persons who passed away during the waiting period
HMMH	2 661	11	0.41%
HSMH	2 400	25	1.04%
HSPH	339	8	2.36%
C&A/SD	509	33	6.48%
C&A/AB	57	6	10.53%
SGH(MMHC) Note 1	104	0	0%
SHOS	2 353	6	0.25%
HWH	616	2	0.32%
LSCH	2 651	18	0.68%
Private RCHD under BPS Note 2	N.A.		

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 2 As there is no CWL for BPS, no statistics on the number of persons who passed away while waiting for the services is available.

Table 3: Number of persons who passed away while waiting for residential services for PWDs in 2022-23

Service type	Number of waitlisted persons	Number of persons who passed away during the waiting period	Percentage of persons who passed away during the waiting period
HMMH	2 798	12	0.43%
HSMH	2 417	24	0.99%
HSPH	329	13	3.95%
C&A/SD	438	35	7.99%
C&A/AB	31	15	48.39%
SGH(MMHC) Note 1	108	0	0%
SHOS	2 370	13	0.55%
HWH	517	1	0.19%
LSCH	2 450	22	0.90%
Private RCHD under BPS Note 2	N.A.		

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 2 As there is no CWL for BPS, no statistics on the number of persons who passed away while waiting for the services is available.

Table 4: Number of persons who passed away while waiting for residential services for PWDs in 2023-24

Service type	Number of waitlisted persons	Number of persons who passed away during the waiting period	Percentage of persons who passed away during the waiting period
HMMH	2 738	14	0.51%
HSMH	2 275	30	1.32%
HSPH	259	19	7.34%
C&A/SD	318	53	16.67%
C&A/AB	39	7	17.95%
SGH(MMHC) Note 1	115	0	0%
SHOS	2 319	12	0.52%
HWH	690	1	0.14%
LSCH	1 958	40	2.04%
Private RCHD under BPS Note 2	N.A.		

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 2 As there is no CWL for BPS, no statistics on the number of persons who passed away while waiting for the services is available.

Table 5: Number of persons who passed away while waiting for residential services for PWDs in 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

Service type	Number of waitlisted persons	Number of persons who passed away during the waiting period	Percentage of persons who passed away during the waiting period
HMMH	2 852	5	0.18%
HSMH	2 215	7	0.32%
HSPH	233	6	2.58%
C&A/SD	229	23	10.04%
C&A/AB	39	6	15.38%
SGH(MMHC) Note 1	119	0	0%
SHOS	2 426	4	0.16%
HWH	668	6	0.90%
LSCH	1 583	27	1.71%
Private RCHD under BPS Note 2	N.A.		

N.A. - Not applicable

Note 1 SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Note 2 As there is no CWL for BPS, no statistics on the number of persons who passed away while waiting for the services is available.

Table 6: Number of persons who withdrew their applications while waiting for residential services for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Year	Number of waitlisted persons	Number of persons who withdrew their applications during the waiting period Note	Percentage of persons who withdrew their applications during the waiting period
2020-21	11 446	762	6.66%
2021-22	11 690	803	6.87%
2022-23	11 458	894	7.80%
2023-24	10 711	910	8.50%
2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)	10 364	703	6.78%

Note Including the number of persons who withdrew their applications due to death during the waiting period.

Annex 9

Table 1: Number of applicants for HSMHs in 2020-21 (by administrative district of SWD 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 2: Number of applicants for HSMHs in 2021-22 (by administrative district of SWD 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 3: Number of applicants for HSMHs in 2022-23 (by administrative district of SWD 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 4: Number of applicants for HSMHs in 2023-24 (by administrative district of SWD 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	57	37	14	10	21	1	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	39	80	49	18	17	11	2	0
Kwun Tong	36	91	54	16	19	13	4	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	59	108	50	16	15	15	4	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	46	76	28	19	14	2	2	0
Sham Shui Po	26	55	26	20	12	8	2	0
Sha Tin	42	53	35	10	13	15	7	1
Tai Po and North	44	87	46	11	13	2	3	0
Yuen Long	45	91	46	17	19	17	2	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	42	88	44	28	28	13	3	0
Tuen Mun	27	52	42	30	15	16	4	0
Total	**438**	**838**	**457**	**199**	**175**	**133**	**34**	**1**

Table 5: Number of applicants for HSMHs in 2024-25 (by administrative district of SWD and age group) (as at end-December 2024)

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	56	35	15	8	19	1	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	38	74	51	13	17	13	1	0
Kwun Tong	43	85	54	18	20	12	4	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	63	104	55	15	11	14	5	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	39	73	31	20	12	3	3	0
Sham Shui Po	27	54	22	19	9	10	1	0
Sha Tin	53	45	30	9	15	13	5	1
Tai Po and North	54	76	46	16	15	6	3	0
Yuen Long	55	84	37	16	13	18	2	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	47	83	39	24	27	12	3	0
Tuen Mun	28	48	34	29	14	13	3	0
Total	**479**	**782**	**434**	**194**	**161**	**133**	**31**	**1**

Table 6: Number of applicants for HMMHs in 2020-21 (by administrative district of SWD 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 7: Number of applicants for HMMHs in 2021-22 (by administrative district of SWD 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 8: Number of applicants for HMMHs in 2022-23 (by administrative district of SWD 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 9: Number of applicants for HMMHs in 2023-24 (by administrative district of SWD 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	70	35	20	15	8	1	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	18	64	70	34	23	9	1	0
Kwun Tong	55	105	45	26	25	13	1	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	81	114	70	28	25	19	0	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	49	74	48	18	20	4	0	0
Sham Shui Po	44	70	42	25	13	6	2	0
Sha Tin	58	75	74	40	15	7	2	0
Tai Po and North	49	87	58	29	25	8	1	0
Yuen Long	57	109	60	27	17	5	1	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	47	78	75	27	30	14	1	0
Tuen Mun	48	94	55	36	7	4	0	0
Total	**534**	**940**	**632**	**310**	**215**	**97**	**10**	**0**

Table 10: Number of applicants for HMMHs in 2024-25 (by administrative district of SWD and age group) (as at end-December 2024)

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	33	66	41	22	17	5	2	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	23	57	71	31	27	9	2	0
Kwun Tong	69	95	60	27	22	15	0	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	88	123	69	26	26	24	1	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	52	75	56	23	23	2	1	0
Sham Shui Po	48	69	45	23	11	5	1	0
Sha Tin	76	81	71	37	18	10	3	0
Tai Po and North	60	98	64	35	21	11	1	0
Yuen Long	58	110	57	27	18	6	1	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	45	81	70	30	27	14	2	0
Tuen Mun	47	90	53	34	6	4	1	0
Total	**599**	**945**	**657**	**315**	**216**	**105**	**15**	**0**

Table 11: Number of applicants for HSPHs in 2020-21 (by administrative district of SWD 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 12: Number of applicants for HSPHs in 2021-22 (by administrative district of SWD 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 13: Number of applicants for HSPHs in 2022-23 (by administrative district of SWD 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 14: Number of applicants for HSPHs in 2023-24 (by administrative district of SWD 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	7	2	5	5	3	0	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	3	5	1	5	10	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	1	2	2	6	11	4	1	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	1	13	3	5	9	4	0	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	2	1	3	3	12	2	0	0
Sham Shui Po	3	4	4	1	6	3	0	0
Sha Tin	4	2	2	8	9	2	0	0
Tai Po and North	1	0	2	5	6	2	0	0
Yuen Long	0	1	1	1	7	0	0	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	1	6	3	3	12	4	0	0
Tuen Mun	1	0	5	9	1	5	0	0
Total	**21**	**41**	**28**	**51**	**88**	**29**	**1**	**0**

Table 15: Number of applicants for HSPHs in 2024-25 (by administrative district of SWD and age group) (as at end-December 2024)

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	7	3	4	7	3	0	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	3	3	2	7	10	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	3	2	3	4	9	5	0	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	2	11	3	3	9	5	0	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	3	2	4	2	9	3	0	0
Sham Shui Po	4	4	4	1	5	3	0	0
Sha Tin	5	2	3	4	8	4	0	0
Tai Po and North	1	0	3	4	6	2	0	0
Yuen Long	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	3	5	4	3	6	5	0	0
Tuen Mun	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0
Total	**28**	**36**	**30**	**35**	**73**	**31**	**0**	**0**

Table 16: Number of applicants for C&A/SDs in 2020-21 (by administrative district of SWD 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 17: Number of applicants for C&A/SDs in 2021-22 (by administrative district of SWD 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 18: Number of applicants for C&A/SDs in 2022-23 (by administrative district of SWD 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 19: Number of applicants for C&A/SDs in 2023-24 (by administrative district of SWD 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	5	4	3	5	7	0	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	8	3	1	4	6	2	1	0
Kwun Tong	7	2	1	6	18	1	0	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	8	1	2	1	7	6	1	1
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	7	2	0	3	5	1	1	0
Sham Shui Po	6	3	2	0	9	2	0	0
Sha Tin	5	1	3	4	9	3	1	0
Tai Po and North	12	4	6	3	7	5	2	0
Yuen Long	10	6	0	2	9	3	0	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	3	5	2	4	17	5	1	0
Tuen Mun	7	2	3	4	7	6	1	0
Total	**77**	**34**	**24**	**34**	**99**	**41**	**8**	**1**

Table 20: Number of applicants for C&A/SDs in 2024-25 (by administrative district of SWD and age group) (as at end-December 2024)

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	2	3	1	5	3	0	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	4	5	1	1	3	2	1	0
Kwun Tong	6	2	0	4	11	6	0	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	8	1	1	1	6	6	1	1
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	1	2	0	2	7	0	0	0
Sham Shui Po	4	1	2	2	3	3	0	0
Sha Tin	2	1	3	4	11	1	2	1
Tai Po and North	4	2	2	0	0	3	2	0
Yuen Long	6	4	1	1	3	3	1	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	4	4	2	4	15	5	2	0
Tuen Mun	1	4	2	3	3	4	3	0
Total	**44**	**28**	**17**	**23**	**67**	**36**	**12**	**2**

Table 21: Number of applicants for C&A/ABs in 2020-21 (by administrative district of SWD 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 22: Number of applicants for C&A/ABs in 2021-22 (by administrative district of SWD 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 23: Number of applicants for C&A/ABs in 2022-23 (by administrative district of SWD 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 24: Number of applicants for C&A/ABs in 2023-24 (by administrative district of SWD 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	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5
Kwun Tong	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Sham Shui Po	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
Sha Tin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Tai Po and North	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Yuen Long	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	3
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Tuen Mun	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**11**	**10**	**18**

Table 25: Number of applicants for C&A/ABs in 2024-25 (by administrative district of SWD and age group) (as at end-December 2024)

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	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kwun Tong	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sham Shui Po	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sha Tin	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Tai Po and North	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Yuen Long	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	6
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Tuen Mun	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**7**	**14**	**18**

Table 26: Number of applicants for SHOSs in 2020-21 (by administrative district of SWD 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 27: Number of applicants for SHOSs in 2021-22 (by administrative district of SWD 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 28: Number of applicants for SHOSs in 2022-23 (by administrative district of SWD 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 29: Number of applicants for SHOSs in 2023-24 (by administrative district of SWD 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	11	45	56	50	48	19	0	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	5	30	39	32	28	14	1	0
Kwun Tong	35	69	51	35	33	12	2	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	31	66	96	53	34	22	0	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	12	31	23	14	13	6	3	0
Sham Shui Po	20	39	36	34	29	10	1	0
Sha Tin	13	38	70	50	33	4	0	0
Tai Po and North	16	72	63	56	23	4	1	0
Yuen Long	21	51	58	42	25	9	0	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	26	64	74	55	41	13	0	0
Tuen Mun	23	50	51	51	22	12	0	0
Total	**213**	**555**	**617**	**472**	**329**	**125**	**8**	**0**

Table 30: Number of applicants for SHOSs in 2024-25 (by administrative district of SWD and age group) (as at end-December 2024)

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	19	40	58	46	54	21	0	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	7	27	45	28	28	16	1	0
Kwun Tong	53	73	55	38	30	12	2	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	43	61	95	52	32	22	0	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	21	33	21	13	15	5	2	0
Sham Shui Po	19	41	44	32	27	13	2	0
Sha Tin	18	40	80	45	36	6	0	0
Tai Po and North	24	68	74	51	27	3	1	0
Yuen Long	26	56	61	33	26	7	0	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	27	69	72	58	46	12	0	0
Tuen Mun	25	53	51	54	18	13	0	0
Total	**282**	**561**	**656**	**450**	**339**	**130**	**8**	**0**

Table 31: Number of applicants for LSCHs in 2020-21 (by administrative district of SWD 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 32: Number of applicants for LSCHs in 2021-22 (by administrative district of SWD 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 33: Number of applicants for LSCHs in 2022-23 (by administrative district of SWD 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 34: Number of applicants for LSCHs in 2023-24 (by administrative district of SWD 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	9	31	80	67	22	2
Eastern and Wan Chai	0	3	5	14	64	64	14	2
Kwun Tong	0	3	9	25	69	48	8	2
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	1	3	11	28	52	42	12	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	0	1	7	29	69	40	12	0
Sham Shui Po	0	4	9	23	48	45	9	0
Sha Tin	0	3	15	58	85	86	16	0
Tai Po and North	0	0	11	28	49	51	4	0
Yuen Long	0	3	7	19	34	22	3	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	0	5	20	58	113	57	7	0
Tuen Mun	1	3	16	32	81	73	7	0
Total	**2**	**33**	**119**	**345**	**744**	**595**	**114**	**6**

Table 35: Number of applicants for LSCHs in 2024-25 (by administrative district of SWD and age group) (as at end-December 2024)

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	3	7	32	61	63	23	2
Eastern and Wan Chai	0	2	4	12	50	50	13	2
Kwun Tong	0	5	8	22	55	45	8	1
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	1	3	10	17	46	34	10	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	0	3	5	23	56	35	11	0
Sham Shui Po	0	5	12	15	49	38	10	0
Sha Tin	0	3	11	46	75	66	12	0
Tai Po and North	0	1	6	27	29	33	3	0
Yuen Long	0	0	1	11	21	17	2	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	0	7	15	45	97	60	10	0
Tuen Mun	0	3	4	22	53	46	6	0
Total	**1**	**35**	**83**	**272**	**592**	**487**	**108**	**5**

Table 36: Number of applicants for HWHs in 2020-21 (by administrative district of SWD 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 37: Number of applicants for HWHs in 2021-22 (by administrative district of SWD 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 38: Number of applicants for HWHs in 2022-23 (by administrative district of SWD 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 39: Number of applicants for HWHs in 2023-24 (by administrative district of SWD 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	7	9	13	17	3	0	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	1	11	17	14	16	6	0	0
Kwun Tong	1	11	14	13	8	6	1	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	6	15	17	13	5	6	0	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	0	11	14	18	12	2	0	0
Sham Shui Po	3	8	16	8	9	3	0	0
Sha Tin	2	6	19	22	19	4	0	0
Tai Po and North	3	9	20	22	21	10	1	0
Yuen Long	0	10	9	11	7	3	0	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	1	17	20	30	34	5	0	0
Tuen Mun	0	4	12	14	14	6	0	0
Total	**18**	**109**	**167**	**178**	**162**	**54**	**2**	**0**

Table 40: Number of applicants for HWHs in 2024-25 (by administrative district of SWD and age group) (as at end-December 2024)

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	8	13	12	10	3	0	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	0	9	17	20	11	6	0	0
Kwun Tong	5	10	19	13	13	9	0	0
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	2	9	16	9	12	4	1	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	2	11	16	12	13	4	0	0
Sham Shui Po	0	4	9	9	7	5	0	0
Sha Tin	4	11	16	16	14	3	0	0
Tai Po and North	1	16	18	16	17	4	0	0
Yuen Long	0	9	15	7	9	1	0	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	1	18	33	25	26	8	0	0
Tuen Mun	0	14	15	13	9	5	0	0
Total	**16**	**119**	**187**	**152**	**141**	**52**	**1**	**0**

Table 41: Number of applicants for SGHs(MMHC) [Note] in 2020-21 (by administrative district of SWD 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 42: Number of applicants for SGHs(MMHC) [Note] in 2021-22 (by administrative district of SWD 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 43: Number of applicants for SGHs(MMHC) [Note] in 2022-23 (by administrative district of SWD 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 44: Number of applicants for SGHs(MMHC) [Note] in 2023-24 (by administrative district of SWD 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	1
Eastern and Wan Chai	2	1	4	0
Kwun Tong	1	3	9	6
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	0	7	2	1
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	2	1	4	1
Sham Shui Po	2	4	1	2
Sha Tin	4	4	8	2
Tai Po and North	2	9	7	1
Yuen Long	2	2	3	2
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	2	2	4	2
Tuen Mun	1	1	1	0
Total	**18**	**34**	**45**	**18**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Table 45: Number of applicants for SGHs(MMHC) [Note] in 2024-25 (by administrative district of SWD and age group) (as at end-December 2024)

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	2	0
Eastern and Wan Chai	2	0	5	0
Kwun Tong	4	5	10	4
Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung	2	6	4	0
Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong	0	1	6	0
Sham Shui Po	0	4	2	1
Sha Tin	5	1	7	1
Tai Po and North	2	8	11	2
Yuen Long	1	3	3	0
Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	2	4	4	1
Tuen Mun	1	0	2	0
Total	**21**	**33**	**56**	**9**

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs.

Annex 10

Table 1: Age distribution of service users of various types of residential services for PWDs 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 and their service targets are children with mild intellectual disabilities aged 6 to 18.

Table 2: Age distribution of service users of various types of residential services for PWDs 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.			17	159	513	702	789	487	99	2

N.A. - Not applicable

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs and their service targets are children with mild intellectual disabilities aged 6 to 18.

Table 3: Age distribution of service users of various types of residential services for PWDs 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	1084	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 and their service targets are children with mild intellectual disabilities aged 6 to 18.

Table 4: Age distribution of service users of various types of residential services for PWDs in 2023-24

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.			12	141	490	752	728	565	141	4
HSMH	N.A.			5	273	888	1 106	951	666	205	11
HSPH	N.A.			1	57	99	218	191	131	23	1
C&A/SD	N.A.			12	215	251	171	211	174	85	18
C&A/AB	N.A.								69	145	519
SGH(MMHC) Note	12	20	35	55	N.A.						
SHOS	N.A.			5	50	199	222	234	107	9	0
HWH	N.A.			13	205	415	407	342	119	3	0
LSCH	N.A.			0	2	29	126	393	706	388	79
Private RCHD under BPS	N.A.			2	23	88	288	416	341	63	3

N.A. - Not applicable

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs and their service targets are children with mild intellectual disabilities aged 6 to 18.

Table 5: Age distribution of service users of various types of residential services for PWDs in 2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)

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.			15	143	494	773	711	596	147	5
HSMH	N.A.			9	286	907	1 134	936	700	222	14
HSPH	N.A.			2	54	112	208	201	144	25	2
C&A/SD	N.A.			30	206	257	188	222	192	100	15
C&A/AB	N.A.								72	168	500
SGH(MMHC) Note	13	22	40	47	N.A.						
SHOS	N.A.			3	49	205	219	233	121	10	0
HWH	N.A.			14	198	396	412	358	127	6	0
LSCH	N.A.			0	6	40	163	451	773	428	81
Private RCHD under BPS	N.A.			1	25	79	287	422	353	75	3

N.A. - Not applicable

Note SGHs(MMHC) include ISGHs and their service targets are children with mild intellectual disabilities aged 6 to 18.

Annex 11

Table 1: Number of RCHEs providing various types of subsidised RCS (2020-21)

District	Subvented home operated by NGO and self-financing home	Private RCHE under EBPS	Contract RCHE	Total
Central & Western	2	11	3	**16**
Eastern	4	11	2	**17**
Wan Chai	2	3	1	**6**
Southern	10	8	-	**18**
Islands	3	-	2	**5**
Kwun Tong	11	9	4	**24**
Wong Tai Sin	8	5	2	**15**
Sai Kung	10	-	-	**10**
Kowloon City	4	21	1	**26**
Sham Shui Po	7	11	6	**24**
Yau Tsim Mong	1	14	4	**19**
Sha Tin	13	1	2	**16**
Tai Po	8	5	-	**13**
North	10	7	-	**17**
Yuen Long	8	21	2	**31**
Tsuen Wan	7	11	2	**20**
Kwai Tsing	14	21	4	**39**
Tuen Mun	9	12	-	**21**
Total	**131**	**171**	**35**	**337**

Table 2: Number of RCHEs providing various types of subsidised RCS (2021-22)

District	Subvented home operated by NGO and self-financing home	Private RCHE under EBPS	Contract RCHE	Total
Central & Western	2	11	3	**16**
Eastern	4	15	2	**21**
Wan Chai	2	3	1	**6**
Southern	10	9	-	**19**
Islands	3	-	2	**5**
Kwun Tong	11	12	4	**27**
Wong Tai Sin	8	8	2	**18**
Sai Kung	10	-	-	**10**
Kowloon City	4	23	1	**28**
Sham Shui Po	7	13	6	**26**
Yau Tsim Mong	1	14	4	**19**
Sha Tin	13	2	2	**17**
Tai Po	8	6	-	**14**
North	10	7	-	**17**
Yuen Long	8	22	2	**32**
Tsuen Wan	7	11	2	**20**
Kwai Tsing	14	21	4	**39**
Tuen Mun	9	14	1	**24**
Total	**131**	**191**	**36**	**358**

Table 3: Number of RCHEs providing various types of subsidised RCS (2022-23)

District	Subvented home operated by NGO and self-financing home	Private RCHE under EBPS	Contract RCHE	Total
Central & Western	2	12	3	**17**
Eastern	4	16	2	**22**
Wan Chai	2	6	1	**9**
Southern	10	10	-	**20**
Islands	3	-	2	**5**
Kwun Tong	11	12	4	**27**
Wong Tai Sin	8	8	2	**18**
Sai Kung	10	-	-	**10**
Kowloon City	4	25	1	**30**
Sham Shui Po	7	12	7	**26**
Yau Tsim Mong	1	15	4	**20**
Sha Tin	13	4	4	**21**
Tai Po	8	7	-	**15**
North	10	7	1	**18**
Yuen Long	8	23	2	**33**
Tsuen Wan	7	11	2	**20**
Kwai Tsing	14	22	4	**40**
Tuen Mun	9	14	1	**24**
Total	**131**	**204**	**40**	**375**

Table 4: Number of RCHEs providing various types of subsidised RCS (2023-24)

District	Subvented home operated by NGO and self-financing home	Private RCHE under EBPS	Contract RCHE	Total
Central & Western	2	12	3	**17**
Eastern	4	15	2	**21**
Wan Chai	2	6	1	**9**
Southern	10	10	-	**20**
Islands	3	-	2	**5**
Kwun Tong	11	12	4	**27**
Wong Tai Sin	8	8	2	**18**
Sai Kung	10	-	-	**10**
Kowloon City	4	25	1	**30**
Sham Shui Po	7	12	7	**26**
Yau Tsim Mong	1	15	4	**20**
Sha Tin	13	4	4	**21**
Tai Po	8	7	1	**16**
North	10	1	9	**20**
Yuen Long	8	23	2	**33**
Tsuen Wan	7	11	2	**20**
Kwai Tsing	14	22	4	**40**
Tuen Mun	9	14	1	**24**
Total	**131**	**197**	**49**	**377**

Table 5: Number of RCHEs providing various types of subsidised RCS (2024-25) (as at end-December 2024)

District	Subvented home operated by NGO and self-financing home	Private RCHE under EBPS	Contract RCHE	Total
Central & Western	2	12	3	**17**
Eastern	4	15	2	**21**
Wan Chai	2	6	1	**9**
Southern	10	10	-	**20**
Islands	3	-	2	**5**
Kwun Tong	11	12	4	**27**
Wong Tai Sin	8	8	2	**18**
Sai Kung	10	-	-	**10**
Kowloon City	4	24	1	**29**
Sham Shui Po	7	12	7	**26**
Yau Tsim Mong	1	15	4	**20**
Sha Tin	13	4	4	**21**
Tai Po	8	7	1	**16**
North	10	1	9	**20**
Yuen Long	8	23	2	**33**
Tsuen Wan	7	11	2	**20**
Kwai Tsing	14	22	4	**40**
Tuen Mun	9	14	1	**24**
Total	**131**	**196**	**49**	**376**

Annex 12

Table 1: Number of subsidised RCS places (2020-21)

District	Subvented home operated by NGO and self-financing home [Note 1]	Private RCHE under EBPS [Note 2]	Contract RCHE [Note 3]	Residential Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme)	Total
Central & Western	236	597	212	N.A.	**1 045**
Eastern	448	299	150		**897**
Wan Chai	462	80	56		**598**
Southern	1 465	537	-		**2 002**
Islands	352	-	145		**497**
Kwun Tong	1 375	639	284		**2 298**
Wong Tai Sin	1 339	227	208		**1 774**
Sai Kung	1 281	-	-		**1 281**
Kowloon City	648	1 592	110		**2 350**
Sham Shui Po	825	342	433		**1 600**
Yau Tsim Mong	98	810	272		**1 180**
Sha Tin	1 353	20	121		**1 494**
Tai Po	1 236	228	-		**1 464**
North	1 222	347	-		**1 569**
Yuen Long	943	787	149		**1 879**
Tsuen Wan	922	978	175		**2 075**
Kwai Tsing	1 741	1 161	375		**3 277**
Tuen Mun	1 204	671	-		**1 875**
Total	**17 150**	**9 315**	**2 690**	**3 000**	**32 155**

N.A. – Not applicable

Note 1 Including places at homes for the aged (H/As), C&A places, C&A places providing continuum of care (CoC), NH places and NH places purchased under NHPPS.

Note 2 Excluding designated residential respite places.

Note 3 Including C&A places providing CoC and NH places.

Table 2: Number of subsidised RCS places (2021-22)

District	Subvented home operated by NGO and self-financing home [Note 1]	Private RCHE under EBPS [Note 2]	Contract RCHE [Note 3]	Residential Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme)	Total
Central & Western	236	597	212	N.A.	**1 045**
Eastern	448	451	180		**1 079**
Wan Chai	462	89	60		**611**
Southern	1 465	580	-		**2 045**
Islands	352	-	145		**497**
Kwun Tong	1 375	755	284		**2 420**
Wong Tai Sin	1 339	328	208		**1 878**
Sai Kung	1 281	-	-		**1 278**
Kowloon City	648	1 703	110		**2 461**
Sham Shui Po	825	438	433		**1 696**
Yau Tsim Mong	98	866	272		**1 236**
Sha Tin	1 353	117	121		**1 592**
Tai Po	1 236	248	-		**1 484**
North	1 222	355	-		**1 579**
Yuen Long	943	906	149		**1 998**
Tsuen Wan	922	1 033	175		**2 130**
Kwai Tsing	1 741	1 239	375		**3 355**
Tuen Mun	1 204	788	60		**2 052**
Total	**17 150**	**10 493**	**2 784**	**3 000**	**33 436**

N.A. – Not applicable

Note 1 Including places at H/As, C&A places, C&A places providing CoC, NH places and NH places purchased under NHPPS.

Note 2 Excluding designated residential respite places.

Note 3 Including C&A places providing CoC and NH places.

Table 3: Number of subsidised RCS places (2022-23)

District	Subvented home operated by NGO and self-financing home [Note 1]	Private RCHE under EBPS [Note 2]	Contract RCHE [Note 3]	Residential Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme)	Total
Central & Western	236	637	212	N.A.	**1 085**
Eastern	448	527	180		**1 155**
Wan Chai	462	224	60		**746**
Southern	1 465	617	-		**2 082**
Islands	302	-	145		**447**
Kwun Tong	1 381	791	284		**2 456**
Wong Tai Sin	1 342	417	208		**1 967**
Sai Kung	1 277	-	-		**1 277**
Kowloon City	648	1 806	110		**2 564**
Sham Shui Po	825	425	513		**1 763**
Yau Tsim Mong	98	931	272		**1 301**
Sha Tin	1 354	184	281		**1 819**
Tai Po	1 236	288	-		**1 524**
North	1 224	355	80		**1 659**
Yuen Long	943	975	149		**2 067**
Tsuen Wan	922	977	175		**2 074**
Kwai Tsing	1 741	1 259	375		**3 375**
Tuen Mun	1 204	848	60		**2 112**
Total	**17 108**	**11 261**	**3 104**	**4 000**	**35 473**

N.A. – Not applicable

Note 1 Including places at H/As, C&A places, C&A places providing CoC, NH places and NH places purchased under NHPPS.

Note 2 Excluding designated residential respite places.

Note 3 Including C&A places providing CoC and NH places.

Table 4: Number of subsidised RCS places (2023-24)

District	Subvented home operated by NGO and self-financing home [Note 1]	Private RCHE under EBPS [Note 2]	Contract RCHE [Note 3]	Residential Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme)	Total
Central & Western	236	669	221	N.A.	**1 126**
Eastern	448	561	180		**1 189**
Wan Chai	462	268	60		**790**
Southern	1 466	611	-		**2 077**
Islands	302	-	145		**447**
Kwun Tong	1 383	820	284		**2 487**
Wong Tai Sin	1 346	429	208		**1 983**
Sai Kung	1 277	-	-		**1 277**
Kowloon City	648	1 827	110		**2 585**
Sham Shui Po	825	455	513		**1 793**
Yau Tsim Mong	98	902	272		**1 272**
Sha Tin	1 354	266	281		**1 901**
Tai Po	1 236	338	80		**1 654**
North	1 224	48	1 172		**2 444**
Yuen Long	943	993	149		**2 085**
Tsuen Wan	922	918	175		**2 015**
Kwai Tsing	1 745	1 243	375		**3 363**
Tuen Mun	1 204	845	60		**2109**
Total	**17 119**	**11 193**	**4 285**	**4 000**	**36 597**

N.A. – Not applicable

Note 1 Including places at H/As, C&A places, C&A places providing CoC, NH places and NH places purchased under NHPPS.

Note 2 Excluding designated residential respite places.

Note 3 Including C&A places providing CoC and NH places.

Table 5: Number of subsidised RCS places (2024-25) (as at end-December 2024)

District	Subvented home operated by NGO and self-financing home Note 1	Private RCHE under EBPS Note 2	Contract RCHE Note 3	RCSV Scheme	Total
Central & Western	232	671	221	N.A.	**1 124**
Eastern	448	571	180		**1 199**
Wan Chai	462	269	60		**791**
Southern	1 470	596	-		**2 066**
Islands	292	-	145		**437**
Kwun Tong	1 384	868	284		**2 536**
Wong Tai Sin	1 346	446	208		**2 000**
Sai Kung	1 278	-	-		**1 278**
Kowloon City	648	1 759	110		**2 517**
Sham Shui Po	825	471	513		**1 809**
Yau Tsim Mong	98	881	272		**1 251**
Sha Tin	1 354	266	281		**1 901**
Tai Po	1 236	334	80		**1 650**
North	1 228	48	1 266		**2 542**
Yuen Long	943	1 001	149		**2 093**
Tsuen Wan	922	905	175		**2 002**
Kwai Tsing	1 760	1 231	375		**3 366**
Tuen Mun	1 204	847	60		**2 111**
Total	**17 130**	**11 164**	**4 379**	**5 000**	**37 673**

N.A. – Not applicable

Note 1 Including places at H/As, C&A places, C&A places providing CoC, NH places and NH places purchased under NHPPS.

Note 2 Excluding designated residential respite places.

Note 3 Including C&A places providing CoC and NH places.

Annex 13

Expenditure on subsidised RCS

Year	**Expenditure ($ billion)**
2020-21 (Actual)	6.9713
2021-22 (Actual)	7.2653
2022-23 (Actual)	7.4035
2023-24 (Actual)	8.4943
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	9.1890

Annex 14

Average monthly cost per place for various types of subsidised RCS for the elderly

	2020-21 ($)	**2021-22 ($)**	**2022-23 ($)**	**2023-24 ($)**	**2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($)**
NH operated by NGO Note 1	25,966	25,675	26,025	26,971	27,456
Contract RCHE Note 2	20,973	20,795	23,529	23,128	24,248
C&A home operated by NGO	18,139	18,126	18,335	18,928	19,408
Private C&A home participating in EBPS	15,808	16,171	17,471	16,413	16,513

N.A.- Not applicable

Note 1 Including subvented NHs and subsidised NH places of NHPPS.

Note 2 Contract RCHEs provide C&A and NH places. The figures represent the average monthly cost of these 2 types of places.

Annex 15

Average waiting time and number of elderly persons waitlisted for subsidised RCS (as at end-December 2024)

Service type	Average waiting time (in months) Note 1	No. of persons waitlisted Note 2
C&A place Note 3	9	14 407
NH place Note 3	9	2 181

Note 1 The figures represent the average waiting time (in months) for elderly persons who applied for subsidised RCHs and were admitted during the last 3 months.

Note 2 Excluding the elderly persons classified as "inactive cases" on CWL.

Note 3 At present, elderly persons using RCSVs may be admitted to RCHEs participating in the RCSV Scheme with government subsidies, without the need to wait for a vacancy.

Annex 16

Table 1：Numbers and percentages of elderly persons who passed away or withdrew their applications while waiting for subsidised C&A places

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
No. of elderly persons who passed away	4 898	4 445	4 752	3 089	2 968
Percentage of elderly persons who passed away out of the no. of waitlisted applicants	10.3%	9.0%	13.0%	9.2%	9.0%
No. of elderly persons who withdrew their applications	1 400	2 035	2 148	1 841	1 664
Percentage of elderly persons who withdrew their applications out of the no. of waitlisted applicants	3.0%	4.1%	5.9%	5.5%	5.0%

Table 2：Numbers and percentages of elderly persons who passed away or withdrew their applications while waiting for subsidised NH places

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
No. of elderly persons who passed away	2 126	1 838	1 863	1 299	1 024
Percentage of elderly persons who passed away out of the no. of waitlisted applicants	20.5%	18.1%	23.1%	18.8%	17.2%
No. of elderly persons who withdrew their applications	334	513	576	479	417
Percentage of elderly persons who withdrew their applications out of the no. of waitlisted applicants	3.2%	5.1%	7.1%	6.9%	7.0%

Annex 17

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	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 for the elderly 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 SCCC (12 places); SGH(MMHC) (32 places)
5. Hong Chi Association Redevelopment of Hong Chi Pinehill Integrated Vocational Training Centre - Main Building, Pinehill Village, Tai Po	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 (C&A) Home at 8 Pui Shing Lane, Tseung Kwan O	CoC Home (103 places)
3 projects at construction stage (expected to be completed in 2025-2028)	
7. Caritas - Hong Kong Expansion works at Caritas Li Ka Shing C&A Home in Tuen Mun	Day Care Unit for the Elderly (DCU) (30 places)
8. 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); C&A/AB (48 places); Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre for the Physically Disabled
9. Pok Oi Hospital Development on a site at Fuk Hang Tsuen Road, Lam Tei, Tuen Mun	CoC Home (1 018 places); NH (416 places); Work-based Child Care Centre (CCC) (60 places)
11 projects at detailed design stage (expected to be completed in phases during 2028-2032)	
10. 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)
11. The Evangelical Gospel Lutheran Church Limited Development on a site at Ma Tin Road, Yuen Long	CoC Home (180 places)
12. Helping Hand Development on a vacant area of Cheung Muk Tau Holiday Centre for the Elderly	CoC Home (200 places)
13. 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 (120 places); DE (60 places); SCCC (60 places)
14. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited Expansion of an NH at Chun Yan Street, Wong Tai Sin	NH (120 places); DE (60 places)
15. 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 Station; Self-help Resource Hub; House of Aphasia; Training Institute on Holistic Rehabilitation and Wellness

Project	Additional welfare service places
16. 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
17. 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)
18. The Salvation Army Redevelopment of Shaukeiwan DAC at 456 Shau Kei Wan Road	HSMH (60 places); DAC (65 places); Family and Child Development Centre for Children with Special Needs
19. Stewards Redevelopment of Stewards Peace Clinic Building at 145 Hong Ning Road, Kwun Tong	SCCC (78 places); DAC (50 places); HSMH (50 places); Parents/Relatives Resource Centre
20. 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)
23 projects at TFS stage (Completion date to be confirmed)	
21. 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
22. 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
23. 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)
24. Caritas – Hong Kong Development on a vacant site at Sha Tau Kok Road - Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling	CoC Home (250 places)
25. Chinse 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)
26. 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)
27. Chuk Lam Ming Tong Limited Expansion of Chuk Lam Ming Tong Care and Attention Home for the Aged at 5 Sha Wan Drive, Pokfulum	CoC Home (83 places)
28. Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong Development on a vacant area at Man Tung Road, Tung Chung Area 58	CoC Home (150 places); DE (40 places); HSMH (40 places); DAC (40 places); SCCC (60 places)
29. 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); C&A/SD (120 places)
30. 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)
31. 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)
32. The Hong Kong Chinese Womens' 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
33. 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 (36 places); DAC (36 places); SCCC (90 places); CCC (100 places); Office Base of On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services (OPRS); School Social Work Office

Project	Additional welfare service places
34. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited Redevelopment of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Holy Nativity Church at 6 A Kung Ngam Road, Shau Kei Wan	CoC Home (210 places); DE (80 places); HSMH (100 places); HMMH (100 places); DAC (100 places); IVRSC (120 places); SCCC (90 places); CCC (100 places); Office Base of OPRS; Integrated Elderly and Carers' Support Health Management Centre
35. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited Redevelopment of St. Thomas' Church at 43 Berwick Street, Sham Shui Po	DE (40 places); CCC (60 places); SCCC (30 places); Integrated Elderly Rehabilitation Services Centre
36. 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
37. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited Redevelopment of H.K.S.K.H. Lady MacLehose Centre at 22 Wo Yi Hop Road, Kwai Chung	DE (100 places); SCCC (90 places); CCC (93 places); Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centre (52 places)
38. 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)
39. Pok Oi Hospital Development of a DE at Fuk Hang Tsuen Road, Lam Tei, Tuen Mun	DE (160 places)
40. 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)
41. 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)
42. 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)
43. 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)

Annex 18

Table 1: Number of complaints received by LORCHE and LORCHD

Year / No. of complaints	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
RCHE	144	110	111	126	81
RCHD	41	82	98	107	133

Table 2: Number of RCHs issued with warning letters

Year / No. of RCHs	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
RCHE	90 (15) Note	99 (12) Note	93 (17) Note	82 (9) Note	74 (6) Note
RCHD	2 (0) Note	4 (0) Note	6 (1) Note	13 (1) Note	14 (0) Note

Note The figures in parentheses indicate the number of RCHs issued with multiple warning letters.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3702)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding various subsidised residential care services (RCS) for the elderly, please inform this Committee of:

The number of subsidised RCS places provided by various types of residential care homes (RCHs) 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;

The total expenditure, the average monthly cost per place and the amount self-financed/supplemented by elderly persons for various types of RCS for the elderly in the past 3 years; and

The number of service places to be provided by subsidised RCHEs that will be constructed and/or commencing 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).

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 (IVTCs) 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):

Please provide the number of places, enrolment rate, average waiting time, number of waitlisted persons who passed away, average age of residents and annual expenditure for various residential rehabilitation services in the past 3 years.

Does the Government plan to expand residential rehabilitation services in the future? If so, what are the details? How much expenditure is involved?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 230)

Reply:

The number of subsidised RCS places provided by various types of RCHEs as at the end of December 2024, 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.

The total expenditure, the average monthly cost per place and the monthly service charges for various types of subsidised RCS for the elderly from 2022-23 to 2024-25 are set out at Annexes 3 to 5.

The number of subsidised RCS places expected to be put into service between 2025-26 and 2029-30 is set out in the table below. The number of places may vary due to various factors such as progress of works, etc.

Year	No. of places put into service
2025-26	412
2026-27	1 614
2027-28	438
2028-29	600
2029-30	570

In addition, an extra 1 000 RCSVs will be provided in 2025-26, bringing the total to 6 000.

Statistics for subsidised RCS places expected to be operational in 2030 and beyond are currently unavailable, as the relevant RCHE projects are still in the planning stage and do not have exact completion dates.

The number of service places, the average enrolment rate, the average waiting time, the number of waitlisted applicants who passed away, and the annual expenditure for various residential rehabilitation services in the past 3 years are set out at Annex 6. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have information on the average age of residents in residential rehabilitation services, and does not maintain the average enrolment rate for various residential rehabilitation services separately.

The number of places for various residential rehabilitation services will increase by a total of 324 in the next 2 years, involving an estimated total annual funding of about $83.19 million. Information on these service places is set out at Annex 7.

Annex 1

Number of subsidised service places provided by various types of RCHEs (as at end-December 2024)

District	Subvented home operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and self-financing home Note 1	Private RCHE participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) Note 2	Contract RCHE Note 3	RCSV Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme)	Total
Central & Western	232	671	221	Not applicable (N.A.)	**1 124**
Eastern	448	571	180		**1 199**
Wan Chai	462	269	60		**791**
Southern	1 470	596	-		**2 066**
Islands	292	-	145		**437**
Kwun Tong	1 384	868	284		**2 536**
Wong Tai Sin	1 346	446	208		**2 000**
Sai Kung	1 278	-	-		**1 278**
Kowloon City	648	1 759	110		**2 517**
Sham Shui Po	825	471	513		**1 809**
Yau Tsim Mong	98	881	272		**1 251**
Sha Tin	1 354	266	281		**1 901**
Tai Po	1 236	334	80		**1 650**
North	1 228	48	1 266		**2 542**
Yuen Long	943	1 001	149		**2 093**
Tsuen Wan	922	905	175		**2 002**
Kwai Tsing	1 760	1 231	375		**3 366**
Tuen Mun	1 204	847	60		**2 111**
Total	**17 130**	**11 164**	**4 379**	**5 000**	**37 673**

Note 1 Including home for the aged (H/A) places, care-and-attention (C&A) places, C&A places providing continuum of care (CoC), nursing home (NH) places and NH places purchased under the NH Place Purchase Scheme (NHPPS).

Note 2 Excluding subsidised designated residential respite places.

Note 3 Including C&A places providing CoC and NH places.

Annex 2

Number of service places in DEs/DCUs
(as at end-December 2024)

District	**No. of service places**
Central & Western	124
Eastern	258
Wan Chai	130
Southern	108
Islands	40
Kwun Tong	452
Wong Tai Sin	350
Sai Kung	225
Kowloon City	158
Sham Shui Po	322
Yau Tsim Mong	152
Sha Tin	468
Tai Po	124
North	188
Yuen Long	218
Tsuen Wan	183
Kwai Tsing	295
Tuen Mun	328
Total	**4 123**

Annex 3

Financial expenditure on subsidised RCS for the elderly

Year	**Expenditure ($ billion)**
2022-23 (Actual)	7.4035
2023-24 (Actual)	8.4943
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	9.1890

Annex 4

Average monthly cost per place for various types of subsidised RCS for the elderly

	2022-23 ($)	**2023-24 ($)**	**2024-25 (Revised estimate) ($)**
NH operated by NGOs [Note 1]	26,025	26,971	27,456
Contract RCHE [Note 2]	23,529	23,128	24,248
C&A home operated by NGOs	18,335	18,928	19,408
Private C&A home participating in EBPS	17,471	16,413	16,513

Note 1 Including subvented NHs and subsidised NH places of NHPPS.

Note 2 Contract RCHEs provide C&A and NH places. The figures represent the average monthly cost of these 2 types of places.

Annex 5

Monthly service charges for various types of subsidised RCS for the elderly

	2022-23 ($)	**2023-24 ($)**	**2024-25 ($)**
NH operated by NGOs - Subvented NH - NHPPS	 2,054 2,060	 2,054 2,060	 2,054 2,060
Contract RCHE	2,060	2,060	2,060
C&A home operated by NGOs	2,060	2,060	2,060
Private C&A home participating in EBPS - EA1 place - EA2 place	 1,763 1,656	 1,763 1,656	 1,763 1,656

Annex 6

Table 1: Number of service places for various residential rehabilitation services

Service type	No. of service places		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
HWH	1 594	1 594	1 594
LSCH	1 587	1 987	1 987
IVTC (residential) [IVTC(Res)]	170	170	170
HMMH	2 851	2 926	2 926
HSPH	715	790	790
C&A/AB	828	828	828
SGH(MMHC) Note	128	128	128
SHOS	866	866	866

Note SGH(MMHC)s include integrated small group homes (ISGHs).

Table 2: Average enrolment rate for various residential rehabilitation services from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Average enrolment rate (%)		
2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)
97	91	96

Table 3: Average waiting time for various residential rehabilitation services

Service type	Average waiting time (in months) Note 2		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
HWH	4.2	4.3	Not available yet Note 4
LSCH	72.3	56.8	
IVTC(Res)	N.A. Note 3	N.A. Note 3	
HMMH	154.1	145.1	
HSPH	73.0	51.5	
C&A/AB	5.1	3.8	
SGH(MMHC) Note 1	17.5	14.7	
SHOS	78.8	65.7	

Note 1 SGH(MMHC)s include ISGHs.

Note 2 The waiting time is affected by multiple factors, such as the applicant's preference for the location of service units, whether they have designated a specific service unit, the turnover rate of the selected service units, etc. The average waiting time is calculated on a financial-year basis, spanning from 1 April of one year to 31 March of the following year.

Note 3 As this service may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have relevant statistics.

Note 4 As the average waiting time is calculated on a financial-year basis, spanning from 1 April of one year to 31 March of the following year, the figures for 2024-25 are not yet available.

Table 4: Number of applicants who passed away while waiting for various residential rehabilitation services

Service type	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-December 2024)
HWH	1	1	6
LSCH	22	40	27
IVTC(Res)	N.A. Note 1	N.A. Note 1	N.A. Note 1
HMMH	12	14	5
HSPH	13	19	6
C&A/AB	15	7	6
SGH(MMHC) Note 2	-	-	-
SHOS	13	12	4

Note 1 As this service may admit service users directly or through referrals, SWD does not have relevant statistics.

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)		
	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)
HWH	232.7	240.7	246.1
LSCH	319.5	339.4	459.7
IVTC(Res)	11.9	12.4	12.7
HMMH	388.7	424.5	476.4
HSPH	193.8	204.7	239.0
C&A/AB	182.7	189.1	192.5
SGH(MMHC) Note	34.3	35.7	37.5
SHOS	120.2	132.3	142.3

Note SGH(MMHC)s include ISGHs.

Annex 7

Estimated number of additional service places for various residential rehabilitation services

Service type	**Estimated no. of additional service places for the next 2 years**
Hostel for mentally handicapped persons	111
SHOS	213
Total	**324**

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3703)

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

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:

What is the Government's latest progress in purchasing properties? Please provide the total number and value of the purchased properties, the staffing establishment and administrative costs involved, and the agency costs incurred.

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.

What criteria does the Government adopt in the process of purchasing and deciding on the use of properties?

What are the objectives and timetable for this financial year?

When is the expected completion date for the purchase?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 231)

Reply:

With the assistance of the Government Property Agency (GPA), SWD is striving to identify suitable premises for purchase through different channels. As at 28 February 2025, 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. Details are tabulated below:

	District	Address of premises	Welfare facility/service	Internal floor area (sq. m.)	Purchase price (HK$)	Progress
1	Sham Shui Po	Shop 1 & 2, 1/F, Southern Lodge, 362 Un Chau Street, Kowloon	Parents/relatives resource centre	About 230 sq. m.	36.50 million	Commenced operation
2	Central and Western	Unit 1 & 2, 1/F, Hua Qin International Building, 340 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong	(i) On-site pre-school rehabilitation services (1 group); and (ii) Support centre for persons with autism	About 500 sq. m.	75.00 million	(i) Commenced operation (ii) Commenced operation
3	Eastern	3/F, Henan Electric Development Building, 389 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong	On-site pre-school rehabilitation services (1 group)	About 230 sq. m.	34.00 million	Commenced operation
4	Kwun Tong	Shop B, 1/F, COS Centre, 56 Tsun Yip Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon	On-site pre-school rehabilitation services (1 group)	About 240 sq. m.	46.00 million	Expected to commence operation in the second quarter of 2025
5	Sham Shui Po	Shop 2, 3, 6, 8 & 9, G/F, AVA 228, 228 Tai Nan Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	Neighbourhood elderly centre (sub-base)	About 180 sq. m.	46.80 million	Expected to commence operation in the second quarter of 2025

SWD and GPA are continuing their efforts to identify and purchase suitable premises, and have earmarked $250 million for related work in 2025-26. The progress of purchasing premises, including the number, location, expenditure, and intended use of such premises, depends on the availability of suitable properties in the market and various external factors, including whether the properties for sale have suitable 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. 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 will continue to implement and review the scheme.

In 2024-25, SWD has created 2 time-limited non-directorate posts to support premises acquisition, while GPA has established 5 similar posts for the same purpose. In addition to these dedicated positions, both SWD and GPA have reallocated existing resources to manage premises acquisition. This work incurs no additional administrative or agency expenses.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)369

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3707)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

What were the resources allocated to Supported Employment Training for Persons with Disabilities (SET) by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in the past 5 years? Please provide details on the types of programmes, the number of participants and the amount of subsidy granted, etc. What are the resources to be allocated to SET, and what will be the types of programmes, the number of participants and the amount of subsidy granted, etc. in the next 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 235)

Reply:

SWD subvents non-governmental organisations to provide vocational rehabilitation and training services through Sheltered Workshops (SWs), Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres (IVRSCs), Integrated Vocational Training Centres (IVTCs), and SET, etc. These services aim to assist persons with disabilities (PWDs) who are not yet able to take up open employment by offering them appropriate vocational rehabilitation services in specially designed training environments, where they can learn to fulfil basic work requirements, including developing social skills and interpersonal relationships. In the past 5 years, the funding amounts and the numbers of service users for various vocational rehabilitation services are set out in Annexes 1 and 2, respectively. SWD's planned IVRSCs are expected to provide an additional 770 service places over the next 5 years.

Annex 1

Funding amounts for various vocational rehabilitation services from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	Funding amount ($ million)				
	2020-21 (Actual)	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)
SW	378.1	374.4	380	399.4	411.6
IVRSC	347.4	370.1	361.8	397.8	405.2
Integrated Vocational Training Centre Day (IVTC-Day)	33.2	32.9	33.1	34.4	35.3
Supported Employment (SE) [Note]	100	98.9	100.1	103.2	-
On the Job Training Programme for PWDs (OJT) [Note]	21.8	21.8	22.1	22.8	-
Sunnyway - On the Job Training Programme for Young PWDs (Sunnyway) [Note]	16.6	16.5	16.7	17.2	-
SET [Note]	-	-	-	-	161

[Note] SE, OJT and Sunnyway were integrated into SET in April 2024.

Annex 2

Numbers of service users for various vocational rehabilitation services from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	No. of service users				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-2025 (as at 31 December 2024)
SW	5 265	5 273	5 273	5 201	5 281
IVRSC	5 609	5 327	5 778	5 732	5 894
IVTC-Day	405	408	410	428	463
SE [Note]	1 987	2 033	1 954	1 983	-
OJT [Note]	411	427	432	430	-
Sunnyway [Note]	285	304	319	305	-
SET [Note]	-	-	-	-	2 359

[Note] SE, OJT and Sunnyway were integrated into SET in April 2024.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)370

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3709)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Currently, parents who share custody of their children following a divorce are subject to child custody and access laws. As a result, both parents are granted regular visitation rights with their children. To support this, the Government has set up 5 Specialised Co-parenting Support Centres (SCSCs)/visitation centres to provide child custody and visitation services. In this regard, please provide a breakdown of the services provided and the corresponding funding allocations in the past 5 years. Moreover, please provide a breakdown of the projected funding allocations and the amount resources to be allocated over the next 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 237)

Reply:

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to operate 5 SCSCs, providing one-stop co-parenting support services for separated/ divorced parents and their children. In the past 5 years, the number of cases handled by SCSCs, the types of services provided, the number of child contact and exchange sessions conducted, the number of programmes/activities and groups organised, as well as the amount of annual subvention, are set out at Annex. SWD does not have a breakdown of the expenditure involved. SWD will continue to review the implementation of SCSCs regularly under the prevailing mechanism, and provide subventions to NGOs for operating the services.

Annex

Table 1：No. of cases [Note 1]

Year	No. of cases
2020-21	563
2021-22	869
2022-23	1 007
2023-24	1 142
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	1 140

Note 1 Including cumulative active, new and reactivated cases.

Table 2：Types of services [Note 2]

Year	Co-parenting counselling	Parenting coordination	Child contact
2020-21	167	24	131
2021-22	229	26	157
2022-23	271	27	134
2023-24	307	31	152
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	252	36	115

Note 2 Including new and reactivated cases.

Table 3：No. of sessions on child contact and exchange service

Year	Child contact service	Exchange service
2020-21	2 095	1 194
2021-22	2 914	3 274
2022-23	3 331	3 493
2023-24	3 325	4 216
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	2 903	3 237

Table 4：No. of programmes/activities and groups

Year	No. of programmes/activities	No. of groups
2020-21	356	61
2021-22	430	83
2022-23	430	79
2023-24	425	84
2024-25 (as at 31 December 2024)	337	73

Table 5：Amount of subvention

Year	Amount of subvention ($ million)
2020-21 (Actual)	40.3
2021-22 (Actual)	42.7
2022-23 (Actual)	40.5
2023-24 (Actual)	42.0
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	43.0

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3710)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of the number of disputes or conflicts (such as those related to parenting, alimony payments, etc.) that the target service users of visitation centres (including parents and children) have frequently experienced in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 238)

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides subventions for non-governmental organisations to operate 5 specialised co-parenting support centres, providing one-stop co-parenting support services for separated/divorced parents and their children. SWD does not have a breakdown of the number of cases involving disputes or conflicts handled by these centres.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3712)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government allocated $1 billion to set up the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund) in December 2018, with an additional injection of $1 billion thereto in 2024-25, for subsidising eligible elderly service units to procure, rent or trial technology products. As at June 2024, the I&T Fund has approved grants totalling about $750 million, subsidising about 2 000 service units to procure or rent over 21 000 items of technology products, including pouch packaging machines and drug management system. In addition, between 2010-11 and 2020-21, the Social Welfare Development Fund launched by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has provided funding support for welfare organisations to carry out 16 projects on drug management of residential care homes (RCHs) for the elderly (RCHEs). In this regard, please provide the following information:

1. A breakdown of the I&T Fund's allocations over the past 5 years, including the number and proportion of products funded and the number of service units utilising these products.
2. Identify the services that have benefited from the I&T Fund allocations over the past 5 years, categorised by welfare services (e.g., for the elderly, persons with disabilities (PWDs)) and healthcare services, with a breakdown by type of organisation;
3. Specify the types of products/technologies used in various welfare services over the past 5 years, including RCHEs and RCHs for PWDs (RCHDs), and support organisations, etc.;
4. Describe the functions and benefits of these products/technologies, their effectiveness in relation to funding allocation and the number of people served, and how the effectiveness and benefits are evaluated over the past 5 years; and
5. Outline future development plans for the next 5 years, including additional funding and new products, with a breakdown by type.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 240)

Reply:

1. to 3. From 2020-21 to 2024-25 (as at the end of February of 2025), 7 tranches of grants have been approved under the I&T Fund to subsidise elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure or rent over 20 400 items of technology products. Relevant information is set out at Annex.

4. SWD has been continuously reviewing the operation of the I&T Fund, and collecting feedback on the I&T Fund and technology products from applicant organisations, service users and care staff through on-site visits, questionnaires and other means to evaluate the effectiveness of the I&T Fund. Respondents have provided positive feedback on the technology products funded by the I&T Fund in their service units. They considered 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. As the I&T Fund is open to applications from elderly and rehabilitation service units only, SWD does not have information on the number of beneficiaries.

5. The 2023 Policy Address announced that an additional $1 billion would be injected into the I&T Fund in 2024-25, and the scope of the I&T Fund would be expanded to cover gerontechnology products suitable for household use. SWD plans to accept a new tranche of applications in March 2025, and will implement enhancement measures, which include increasing the amount of grant for each eligible elderly and rehabilitation service unit by 50%. In addition, non-governmental organisations operating subvented elderly and rehabilitation community service units will also be allowed to apply for extra funding to procure technology products suitable for elderly persons or PWDs and their carers to borrow and use at home.

Annex

Table 1: Information pertaining to the approval of applications under the I&T Fund in the past 5 financial years (as at 28 February 2025)

Tranche no.	Operation mode	Type of service unit	No. of products approved	Amount of grant approved ($ million)
4	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHE	1 003	34
		Community care and support services	1 164	26
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHD	230	15
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	394	16
5	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHE	1 061	33
		Community care and support services	731	24
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHD	279	13
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	576	17
6	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHE	543	20
		Community care and support services	586	17
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHD	180	10
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	154	9
7	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHE	351	12
		Community care and support services	269	11
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHD	115	4
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	252	7
8	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHE	970	28
		Community care and support services	1 145	24
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHD	431	20
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	592	20
	Non-subsidised elderly service unit	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHE	3 311	101
	Non-subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHD	104	3
9	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHE	575	18
		Community care and support services	543	17
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHD	239	8
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	292	12
	Non-subsidised elderly service unit	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHE	1 091	29
	Non-subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHD	72	2
10 [Note]	Subsidised elderly service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHE	486	15
		Community care and support services	301	7
	Subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Subvented/subsidised RCHD	266	10
		Day rehabilitation and community support services	1 252	10
	Non-subsidised elderly service unit	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHE	808	25
	Non-subsidised rehabilitation service unit	Non-subsidised private and self-financing RCHD	105	5

[Note] The vetting of this tranche of applications is still underway.

Table 2: Technology products most commonly applied for procurement or rental by service units (Based on the Reference List of Recognised Technology Application Products) (as at 28 February 2025)

Rank	Type of technology product
1	Equipment, assessment tools and accessories for occupational therapy/physiotherapy/speech therapy
2	Smart hospital bed and accessories
3	Computer software
4	Security equipment
5	Hoist/raiser/lifter/climber
6	Equipment and accessories for multi-sensory therapy
7	Equipment for psychomotor training
8	Medical equipment and supplies
9	Chair for special purpose

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3717)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the support provided by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for the replacement and maintenance of wheelchairs/electric wheelchairs for eligible persons with disabilities (PWDs), how much funding has been allocated for this purpose over the past 5 years, and how many PWDs have benefited? What is the specified timeframe or interval for the replacement and maintenance of wheelchairs/electric wheelchairs? Looking ahead to the next 5 years, does the Government plan to expand the coverage to include PWDs who are not currently eligible (such as those receiving only the Disability Allowance)? Will a dedicated fund be established to provide support to more PWDs?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 245)

Reply:

The Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme provides a safety net of last resort for those who cannot support themselves financially due to disability, old age, ill-health, single parenthood, unemployment, low-earnings, or other reasons to help them meet their basic needs. Depending on age, family circumstances, and level of disability, the standard rates for disabled CSSA recipients range from $3,995 to $7,745 per month, which are higher than those for able-bodied recipients. In addition, based on their individual circumstances and actual needs, disabled recipients may receive various supplements and special grants to address the special needs arising from disabilities, e.g. grant to cover costs of medical, rehabilitation, surgical appliances and hygienic items to provide support for recipients to purchase and repair medical equipment (including electric or other types of wheelchairs). SWD does not specifically maintain the requested information on special grants provided to disabled CSSA recipients for purchasing and repairing electric or other types of wheelchairs.

PWDs who are not receiving CSSA and require to purchase or repair medical equipment may apply for a subsidy of $2,500 per month under the Special Care Subsidy Scheme for Persons with Severe Disabilities, or seek financial support from individual charitable organisations, such as the "Community Chest Medical Assistance Fund", "Yan Chai Tetraplegic Fund" and "Ho Kam Yung Foundation". The relevant SWD service units will make referrals for suitable cases.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3854)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

The Government has earmarked $20 billion to purchase properties for accommodating welfare facilities. In this regard:

1. How many properties does the Government plan to purchase this year for accommodating welfare facilities? What are the number of target properties and their gross floor area? Which welfare services will these purchased properties primarily support? In which districts are these properties located?

2. What is the actual amount allocated for purchasing properties out of the $20 billion budget? Are there specific allocation ratios based on districts or service areas? How many properties has the Government successfully purchased in the past 5 years? How many properties are currently under negotiation or in the transaction completion phase?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 252)

Reply:

1. 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, and have earmarked $250 million for related work in 2025-26. As the premature disclosure of details regarding the targeted premises we intend to purchase may affect the purchase negotiations of the Government, we will publish the related information in due course. 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 will continue to implement and review the scheme.

2. As at 28 February 2025, 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 depends on the availability of suitable properties in the market and various external factors, including whether the properties for sale have suitable 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.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)375

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3857)

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 (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. What were the Social Welfare Department's (SWD) recurrent expenditure items for residential care homes (RCHs) for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) and RCHs for the elderly (RCHEs) in the past 5 years? If no such items exist, will SWD introduce recurrent expenditure items?

2. How much additional funding is expected to be allocated to private and subsidised RCHs this year and in each of the next 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 254)

Reply:

1. The expenditure on various subsidised residential care services (RCS) for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and subsidised RCS for the elderly from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is set out at Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

2. The estimated expenditure on various subsidised RCS for PWDs for 2025-26 is about $3.84 billion, representing an increase of about $170 million compared with the revised estimate of about $3.67 billion for 2024-25. The estimated expenditure on various subsidised RCS for the elderly is about $9.55 billion, representing an increase of about $920 million compared with the revised estimate of about $8.63 billion for 2024-25.

   Regarding the increase in expenditure beyond 2025-26, SWD will apply for funding through the established mechanism, based on the progress of individual projects as well as the demand for and supply of subsidised RCS in society.

Annex 1

Expenditure on various RCS for PWDs from 2020-21 to 2024-25

Service type	Annual expenditure ($ million)				
	2020-21 (Actual)	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Actual)	2024-25 (Revised estimate)
Halfway house	228.8	229.6	232.7	240.7	246.1
Long stay care home	309.8	307.7	319.5	339.4	459.7
Integrated vocational training centre (residential service)	11.8	11.7	11.9	12.4	12.7
Hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons	981.2	999.1	1,018.8	1,087.9	1,194.0
Hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons	369.8	387.6	388.7	424.5	476.4
Care and attention home for severely disabled persons	317.7	331.2	341.1	358.9	428.5
Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons	170.0	204.7	193.8	204.7	239.0
Care and attention home for the aged blind	178.9	179.2	182.7	189.1	192.5
Small group home for mildly mentally handicapped children [SGH(MMHC)] [Note]	31.9	34.4	34.3	35.7	37.5
Supported hostel	112.0	112.2	120.2	132.3	142.3
Bought Place Scheme for Private RCHDs	132.1	176.5	200.0	213.6	243.8

[Note] SGHs(MMHC) include integrated small group homes.

Annex 2

Expenditure on various subsidised RCS for the elderly

Service type	Annual expenditure ($ million)				
	2020-21 (Actual)	**2021-22 (Actual)**	**2022-23 (Actual)**	**2023-24 (Actual)**	**2024-25 (Revised estimate)**
Care and attention home providing continuum-of-care	3,180.3	3,173.5	3,203.5	3,327.2	3,444.5
Combined home	15.5	15.4	14.1	14.5	14.8
Nursing home (NH)	487.8	485.9	492.8	513.0	526.5
NH Place Purchase Scheme	61.9	61.9	62.2	63.2	63.9
Enhanced Bought Place Scheme for Private RCHEs	1,621.7	1,817.9	1987.6	2,094.5	2,191.9
Contract home	697.1	701.1	681.8	1,137.3	1,297.5
Residential Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly	373.3	483.6	465.2	750.4	1,055.8
Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong	16.4	15.1	13.1	18.9	32.1

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)376

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3965)

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Edward TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

1. What was the total number of vacancies in the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in each of the past 5 years? Please provide specific numbers with a breakdown by rank.
2. In which grades were these vacancies primarily found, and how many vacancies were there in each type of post during the past 5 years?
3. Did these vacancies have an impact on the public services provided by SWD during the past 5 years? If so, what specific areas were affected, and to what degree?
4. What was the total unused salary expenditure resulting from vacancies in the past 5 years? Was this amount reallocated to other purposes?
5. Did SWD conduct any recruitment exercises to fill the vacancies in the past 5 years? If so, how many recruits were hired, and how many vacancies were filled each year?
6. Did SWD take any measures (e.g. temporary employment, provision of overtime allowance, etc.) to mitigate the impact of the vacancies on its services in the past 5 years? If so, what was the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 253)

Reply:

1. & 2. The total number of vacancies in SWD, the major grades with vacancies, and the corresponding number of vacancies in the past 5 years are set out in Table 1 of Annex.

3, 4. & 6. In addition to conducting recruitment exercises, SWD addresses vacancies through re-prioritisation of work, acting arrangements and internal deployment of human resources to ensure that the provision of public services remains unaffected. Salaries is subsumed under Subhead 000 "Operational Expenses" which is operated under one-line vote arrangement. SWD has been flexibly deploying resources to meet other expenses under this subhead, including other departmental expenses, and subventions and contract fees for provision of subsidised welfare services.

5. The number of vacancies successfully filled through SWD's recruitment exercises for departmental grade posts in the past 5 years is set out in Table 2 of Annex.

Annex

Table 1: Total number of vacancies in SWD, major grades with vacancies, and corresponding number of vacancies

Year (As at 31 March of each year)	Total number of vacancies	Major grades with vacancies and corresponding number of vacancies		
		Clerical Assistant Grade	Social Work Officer Grade	Social Security Assistant Grade
2020-21	350	29	63	54
2021-22	382	40	64	51
2022-23	488	74	110	58
2023-24	568	137	118	55
2024-25 (As at 31 December 2024)	506	149	90	84

Table 2: Number of vacancies successfully filled through SWD's recruitment exercises for departmental grade posts

Year	Number of vacancies successfully filled [Note]
2020-21	239
2021-22	330
2022-23	266
2023-24	279
2024-25 (As at 31 December 2024)	261

Note Excluding staff recruited by other bureaux/departments and subsequently posted to SWD.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)377

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3677)

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 (Gilford LAW)

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?

4) Will there be any new measures to support grassroots families in childcare for the next 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 205)

Reply:

1) & 2) In 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025), a total of 347 750 applications were received under the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme, of which 307 526 applications were approved, while some applications are still under processing. Among the approved applications, 243 713 applications were also granted Child Allowance. A breakdown of the number of approved WFA applications and the number of applications granted Child Allowance by household size and district are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of the Annex respectively.

3) & 4) The Government has implemented various measures to support grassroots families to take care of their children. For example, 11 more aided standalone child care centres will be set up in phases within 3 years starting from 2024, providing 1 000 additional places for child care services. Service places under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project will also be further increased from the current 2 000 places to 2 500 places. It is estimated that the number of children to be benefited will increase from 20 000 to 25 000.

Meanwhile, the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme provides a safety net of last resort for individuals who cannot support themselves financially to help them meet their basic needs. Depending on their family and health conditions, children CSSA recipients are entitled to standard rates higher than those applicable to able-bodied adult recipients, as well as 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 Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme 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, the Subsidy Scheme for Internet Access Charges and the Examination Fee Remission Scheme for primary and secondary students.

Annex

Table 1

Breakdown of the number of approved WFA applications by household size and district from 2022-23 to 2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)

District	Number of approved WFA applications (Household size)					
	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons or more
Central and Western	208	389	652	1 055	307	121
Wan Chai	171	350	471	493	81	32
Eastern	805	2 032	2 806	4 379	1 315	476
Southern	280	870	1 435	2 163	718	135
Sham Shui Po	2 951	6 093	8 543	11 706	3 286	893
Yau Tsim Mong	1 565	2 238	2 972	3 155	785	200
Kowloon City	1 195	2 961	3 903	5 198	1 275	402
Wong Tai Sin	1 453	2 947	4 510	6 938	2 564	823
Kwun Tong	3 073	7 872	10 114	15 303	5 318	1 562
Kwai Tsing	2 071	4 281	5 590	9 908	3 328	1 281
Tsuen Wan	657	1 766	2 683	4 156	1 121	245
Tuen Mun	2 196	5 513	7 652	8 565	2 191	463
Yuen Long	2 170	4 533	6 908	9 888	2 797	987
North	1 115	3 619	5 637	7 519	1 781	409
Tai Po	474	1 714	2 424	3 342	914	148
Sha Tin	1 250	4 526	6 758	10 270	2 774	663
Sai Kung	581	1 446	2 159	3 055	967	357
Islands	363	1 063	2 213	3 798	1 247	448
Total	**22 578**	**54 213**	**77 430**	**110 891**	**32 769**	**9 645**

Table 2

Breakdown of the number of applications granted Child Allowance by household size and district from 2022-23 to 2024-25 (up to 28 February 2025)

District	Number of applications granted Child Allowance (Household size)				
	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons or more
Kwun Tong	3 225	8 518	14 906	5 277	1 554
Sham Shui Po	2 846	7 444	11 492	3 249	892
Yuen Long	2 247	5 953	10 109	2 763	661
Tuen Mun	2 256	5 966	9 618	2 778	984
Kwai Tsing	1 867	4 701	9 603	3 287	1 280
Sha Tin	2 645	6 739	8 419	2 184	461
North	1 909	5 098	7 381	1 773	408
Wong Tai Sin	1 205	3 772	6 734	2 545	816
Kowloon City	1 479	3 481	5 097	1 268	398
Eastern	933	2 491	4 242	1 309	476
Yau Tsim Mong	987	2 401	4 099	1 118	245
Tsuen Wan	1 246	2 674	3 107	783	200
Islands	634	1 939	3 714	1 240	448
Tai Po	862	2 172	3 286	908	148
Sai Kung	671	1 821	2 974	961	357
Southern	378	1 242	2 107	702	135
Central and Western	194	586	1 013	303	121
Wan Chai	183	422	480	81	32
Total	**25 767**	**67 420**	**108 381**	**32 529**	**9 616**

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)378

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3381)

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 concessionary fare, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. for public transport services such as buses and public light buses, the numbers of cases of beneficiaries taking "long-haul trips for short-distance travel" in the past 3 years and the resulting additional government expenditures;

2. the average monthly number of concessionary trips taken by elderly people; and

3. the average monthly transport expenses of elderly people residing in the New Territories at present; and the estimated amount and average percentage increase of their total monthly transport expenses upon adjustments to the $2 Scheme?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

1. To calculate the amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the public transport operators (PTOs) under the $2 Scheme, the number of concessionary trips and the fares will be recorded. However, such information is not sufficient for the Government to determine whether the beneficiaries have taken "long-haul routes for short journeys" or the resulting additional expenditures.

2. The Government has fully implemented a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme starting from 25 August 2024, mandating Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above to use JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 to use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The key data (including the figures asked in the questions) collected in the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration

system for the $2 Scheme (i.e. 25 August 2024 to 24 November 2024) are set out in the table below:

	Persons aged 65 or above	Persons aged 60 to 64	Eligible persons with disabilities	Total
Amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years [1]				
2023-24 (Actual)	$1,512.5 million (38%)	$2,214.3 million (55%)	$282.0 million (7%)	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	$1,688.6 million (38%)	$2,403.4 million (55%)	$298.8 million (7%)	$4,390.8 million
2025-26 (Estimate)	-	-	-	$5.4 billion
Data of the first 3 months after full implementation of the real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme on 25 August 2024				
Numbers of beneficiaries				
No. of card holders [2]	1 732 000	683 000	131 000 [3]	2 546 000
No. of beneficiaries who enjoyed the concessions at least once in the above 3 months	1 459 000 (84% of card holders)	651 000 (95% of card holders)	131 000 (100% of card holders)	2 241 000 (88% of card holders)
Percentage in the total no. of beneficiaries	65%	29%	6%	100%
Average monthly numbers of passenger trips				
Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	36.4 million (83%)	18.7 million (66%)	4.2 million (81%)	59.3 million (76%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	7.7 million (17%)	9.6 million (34%)	1 million (19%)	18.3 million (24%)
Total no. of passenger trips	44.1 million	28.3 million	5.2 million	77.6 million
Average monthly amounts of the Government's reimbursement of the revenue forgone to the participating PTOs under the $2 Scheme [1]				

Adult fare below or equal to $10 (58% of routes)	$85.3 million (62%)	$79.8 million (39%)	$13.9 million (56%)	$179.0 million (49%)
Adult fare above $10 (42% of routes)	$52.8 million (38%)	$124.6 million (61%)	$10.8 million (44%)	$188.2 million (51%)
Total amount of subsidy	$138.1 million	$204.4 million	$24.7 million	$367.2 million
Average monthly numbers of beneficiaries broken down by average monthly number of passenger trips				
Less than 120 trips	1 445 000	634 000	128 000	2 207 000
120 to 240 trips	14 000	17 000	3 000	34 000
Above 240 trips	110	170	80	360
Other data				
Average no. of trips taken per person	1.0 per day 30 per month	1.4 per day 43 per month	1.3 per day 40 per month	(N/A)
Average subsidy per person	$3.2 per day $95 per month	$10.5 per day $314 per month	$6.3 per day $188 per month	
Average subsidy per trip	$3.1	$7.2	$4.7	
Average daily no. of trips taken by persons who made the highest no. of trips	14	20	25	

[1] The Government reimburses the PTOs the actual applicable fare (i.e. adult fare deducting any concessions offered by the PTOs) minus the fare paid by an eligible beneficiary. As some PTOs voluntarily offer fare concessions to persons aged 65 or above and/or eligible persons with disabilities, the Government's reimbursement of the fare differentials for the relevant trips will be lower.

[2] From 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above must use a JoyYou Card and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 60 must use Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme. The relevant numbers of card holders refer to the numbers of Octopus cards issued and not refunded that are in circulation as at the end of November 2024.

[3] Including Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" and JoyYou Card with "Persons with Disabilities Status".

3. The Government does not have the statistics required.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)379

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3915)

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:

Upon implementation of the refined arrangements for 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), the Government is expected to save $6.2 billion in the coming 5 years. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the potential annual savings on public funds and administrative costs for the $2 Scheme in the next 5 financial years?

2. What are the annual total subsidy amount, average number of beneficiaries per month and average amount of monthly subsidy per beneficiary under the $2 Scheme in the past 3 financial years?

3. What is the expenditure involved in the review of the $2 Scheme which has resulted in its refined arrangements? Will the review report and relevant data be published? With the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme changing to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" no later than September 2026, the some 17 000 Octopus card readers of various sizes being used in the territory will need to be adjusted. Are there measures to advance the implementation date? What is the administrative cost for adjusting the Octopus card readers? and

4. According to the Government, statistics from end of August to end of November 2024 show that only 360 beneficiaries made more than 240 concessionary trips a month. What is the administrative cost involved in implementing such a limit for 360 beneficiaries? What are the expected savings in this regard? Will it be the case that the administrative cost outweighs the potential savings?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

1, 3 & 4.

The refined arrangement of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" is expected to be implemented no later than September 2026, while the upgrade of relevant system for the implementation of the "limit on the number of concessionary trips" arrangement is expected to take a longer time. The Government will compress the implementation timetable as far as possible and strive to implement the refined arrangements as soon as possible. The Government is working with the Octopus Cards Limited and the public transport operators (PTOs) involved on the relevant implementation details (including system modification, trial runs, publicity, etc.) for the refined arrangements of the $2 Scheme. The estimate of the relevant administrative cost is not yet available.

After implementation of the 2 refined arrangements, savings amounting to about $680 million are expected to be achieved in the first complete financial year (2027-28), while savings totalling around $2.64 billion are expected for the financial years from 2025-26 to 2029-30. Annual expenditure of the $2 Scheme will depend on a number of factors including changes in the population of eligible beneficiaries, travelling habits and patterns of eligible beneficiaries, fare adjustments, changes in PTOs participating in the $2 Scheme, and the effectiveness of the anti-abuse measures. The Government will closely monitor the implementation progress of the refined arrangements and the operation of the $2 Scheme, prepare the estimated expenditures and reflect them in the estimates of the corresponding years.

The Transport Department (TD) has not engaged any consultancy firm to assist in the review of the $2 Scheme. The relevant tasks are undertaken by TD's existing staff and hence there is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved.

2. The numbers of average daily passenger trips taken by the beneficiaries under the $2 Scheme in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by type of beneficiary, are set out below:

Calendar year	**Persons aged 65 or above**	**Persons aged 60 to 64**(Note 1)	**Eligible persons with disabilities**	**Total**(Note 2)
2022	1 190 300	750 000	145 300	2 085 600
2023	1 536 300	871 800	169 600	2 577 700
2024	1 634 900	912 900	171 700	2 719 400

(Note 1) From 27 February 2022, the eligible age of the $2 Scheme has been lowered from 65 to 60.

(Note 2) Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

The amounts of 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(Note 3):

2022-23 Financial year Actual	$3,078.8 million
2023-24 Financial year Actual	$4,008.8 million
2024-25 Financial year Revised Estimate	$4,390.8 million

(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.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

LWB(W)380

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3683)

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", please provide the following information in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by District Council district:

1. the current number of applicants for the Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities and Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities.

	Aged 0-5	Aged 6-11	Aged 12-18	Aged 19-20	Aged 21-29	Aged 30-39	Aged 40-49	Aged 50-59	Aged 60-64	Aged 65 or above
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										

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 211)

Reply:

Under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the $2 Scheme), eligible persons with disabilities (PwDs) are required to use a Personalised Octopus printed with a photo and with "Persons with Disabilities Status" to enjoy the $2 Scheme. The numbers of eligible PwDs applying to the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) for Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by age group, are tabulated below. MTRCL does not maintain breakdown statistics by district regarding the numbers of applicants.

Calendar year	**Eligible PwDs aged below 12**	**Eligible PwDs aged between 12 and 59**	**Eligible PwDs aged between 60 and 64**
2022	5 549	73 727	14 010
2023	6 468	74 958	12 023
2024	6 796	75 584	8 859 (Note)

Note: Figures as at 24 August 2024. Starting from 25 August 2024, Hong Kong residents aged 60 or above (including eligible PwDs) are required to use JoyYou Card to enjoy the concessionary fare. Meanwhile, MTRCL has stopped processing applications for renewal of Personalised Octopus with "Persons with Disabilities Status" for persons aged 60 or above since 25 August 2024.

Separately, the Government presently provides rehabus services to PwDs who are unable to use public transport services through 2 Rehabus operators. There are 3 main types of rehabus services, including scheduled route service, dial-a-ride service and feeder service. The operators concerned do not maintain breakdown statistics by age group and district regarding the numbers of rehabus service users.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3805)

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 announced in the Budget Speech that the Government will change the concessionary fare under the $2 Scheme to "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount", which means that beneficiaries will continue to pay $2 for trips with fare below or equal to $10. For trips with fare above $10, the beneficiaries will have to pay the amount of full fare after 80 per cent discount. The number of concessionary trips will also be limited to 240 per month. Noting that future fare adjustments may have an impact on such refined arrangements, thus creating a chain effect, will the Government advise on the following:

1. Among all existing public transport modes in Hong Kong, what is the percentage of routes with fare at $10 or below in relation to the total number of routes? In particular, what is the number of routes of major public transport modes, such as buses, minibuses, MTR and ferries, with fare between $9 and $10? If the fare of these routes is increased to above the $10 threshold after the next round of fare adjustment, how many elderly persons and persons with disabilities (PWDs) will be affected and required to pay the 80% discounted fare?

2. Given that public transport fares have been on an upward trend in recent years, has the Government assessed the number of routes for which the fare is currently below $10 but will exceed this threshold upon fare increases among various transport modes in the coming 3 years? Will consideration be given to setting up a fare index mechanism for the refined arrangements whereby the $10 threshold is adjusted according to inflation or following the change in the overall level of transport fares? If no, what will be done to avoid a gradually shrinking number of routes with the $2 concessionary fare over time?

3. In formulating the proposal of "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount", has the Government analysed the common travelling patterns and route choices of elderly persons and PWDs? Regarding those elderly persons and PWDs who have to take long-haul or cross-district bus routes (mostly with fare above $10) frequently,

particularly those elderly persons living in new development areas, what will be the percentage increase in their transport expenses brought about by the refined arrangements? What targeted measures will the Government take to ensure that the rights of these groups to commute will not be excessively affected?

4. What data and projection model have been adopted in adjusting the $2 Scheme? Has the Government considered other more flexible arrangements, such as setting up tiered discounts based on journey distance or income levels of beneficiaries? What will be done to strike a more accurate balance between ensuring financial sustainability and meeting the transport demands of the underprivileged elderly and PWDs? and

5. What is the basis for setting the limit of 240 concessionary trips per month? What is the current percentage of elderly persons and PWDs with monthly number of trips exceeding this limit? Assuming a continued rising trend in public transport fares and a shrinking number of routes with the $2 concessionary fare as a result of the $10 threshold, will the Government consider timely reviewing the limit to ensure that the support for the social, medical and living needs of elderly persons and PWDs will not face unnecessary restrictions due to financial considerations?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

Other than those of MTR, the fare of which cannot be broken down by routes, the numbers of various types of public transport routes with fares between $9 and $10 as at the end of February 2025 are tabulated below:

Public transport operators (PTOs)	**Number of routes with fare above or equal to $9 and below or equal to $10**
Franchised bus	62
Ferry	5
Green minibus	37
Red minibus	8
Residents' service	1
Total	**113**

The $2 concessionary fare has never been adjusted since the launch of the scheme in 2012. With an ageing population in Hong Kong and the increasingly high public transport fares, the scheme will not be financially viable if the concessionary fare remains unchanged. Currently, about 60% of the public transport routes have fares below or equal to $10. During the first 3 months after full implementation of a real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme, about 76% of the beneficiaries travelled on routes with fares below or equal to $10. Under the $10 threshold of the "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" fine-tuned proposal, over 75% of the beneficiaries will remain unaffected, as they will continue to pay $2 only. If a beneficiary needs to take a long-haul trip, he will have to pay the amount of adult fare after 80 per cent discount. We believe this is still a significant incentive for them to travel. One point of community consensus is that the issue of "long-haul trips for short-distance travel" must be addressed. It is worth noting that while the trips with fares above $10 (mostly long-haul trips) taken by beneficiaries with concession have accounted for less than 25% of

the total number of concessionary trips, the amount of the Government's reimbursement to PTOs for the relevant trips has made up more than half of the total amount of reimbursement. The "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" proposal will provide beneficiaries with an incentive, encouraging them to choose routes that suit their travelling needs and ease the situation of "long-haul trips for short-distance travel". This will help the beneficiaries to save money, and at the same time avoid disbursing unnecessary government subsidies.

Another point of community consensus is that concessionary trips should not be unlimited. In response to this is the proposed limit on the number of concessionary trips. Data obtained in the first 3 months upon full implementation of real-name registration system for the $2 Scheme show that the average numbers of daily concessionary trips taken by persons aged 60 to 64, persons aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities were 1.4, 1.0 and 1.3 respectively. Among the 2.5 million beneficiaries, only about 360 took more than 240 concessionary trips per month. Supposing that a beneficiary travels twice a day and with each occasion involving interchange trips, a maximum of 8 trips will still meet the beneficiary's travelling needs. Moreover, since the cap is applied on a monthly basis, there will be greater flexibility for beneficiaries to balance out the difference when they occasionally take more than 8 trips on the same day.

These 2 fine-tuned proposals, namely "$2 flat rate cum 80 per cent discount" and "limit on the number of concessionary trips", aim to preserve the policy intent of the $2 Scheme while striking the best balance between enhancing its sustainability and minimising its impacts to the beneficiaries.

Upon implementation of the refined arrangements, the Government will continue to monitor the operation of the $2 Scheme. With regard to the handling of fare adjustment of public transport services, the Government will handle fare increase applications in a prudent manner as always, taking into account the operators' financial situation and prospects, public acceptability and affordability, etc., and continue to play a gatekeeper role.

- End -