

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26**

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LWB(L)154	2005	LUK Hon-man, Benson	173	(1) Student Assistance Scheme
LWB(W)196	0384	CHAN Kapui, Judy	173	(2) Working Family Allowance
LWB(W)197	1591	HONG Wen, Wendy	173	(2) Working Family Allowance
LWB(W)198	1248	KWOK Ling-lai, Lilian	173	(2) Working Family Allowance
LWB(W)199	2390	LAM So-wai	173	(2) Working Family Allowance
LWB(W)200	1937	LI Sai-wing, Stanley	173	(2) Working Family Allowance
LWB(W)377	3677	TIK Chi-yuen	173	(2) Working Family Allowance

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EDB212

(Question Serial No. 1526)

Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency

Subhead (No. & title): (228) Student financial assistance

Programme: (1) Student Assistance Scheme

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Gilford LAW)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education

Question:

It is understood that the Education Bureau works in collaboration with the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (WFSFAA) to arrange tuition fee reimbursement under the Diploma Yi Jin (DYJ) Programme and the Diploma of Applied Education (DAE) Programme for eligible students taking subjects under DYJ/DAE Programme to gain a formal qualification for employment and continuing education. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) the number of students applying for the respective Household Application for Student Financial Assistance Schemes and the numbers of students passing the means test with “full grant” or “half grant” in 2023-24, with a breakdown by beneficiary educational institution;
- (2) the total amount of tuition fee reimbursed by the WFSFAA for applications under the respective Household Application for Student Financial Assistance Schemes in 2023-24; and
- (3) currently, the manpower, average processing time and administrative expenses required for the WFSFAA to handle each application?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

(1) and (2)

The number of students applying for tuition fee reimbursement for the Diploma Yi Jin (DYJ) Programme and the Diploma of Applied Education (DAE) Programme under the Household Application for Student Financial Assistance Schemes in the 2023/24 academic year was 4 434.

Since tuition fee reimbursement will only be granted to students who have satisfactorily completed the relevant programmes/subjects, the Working Family and Student Financial

Assistance Agency (WFSFAA) will normally confirm with institutions the information of eligible students and arrange for tuition fee reimbursement after the end of the academic year. The numbers of students granted means-tested “full” and “half” tuition fee reimbursement as at 31 January 2025 (broken down by institution) are tabulated below, and the total amount of tuition fee reimbursement involved was \$34.68 million.

Name of institutions	Number of students granted “full” tuition fee reimbursement	Number of students granted “half” tuition fee reimbursement
Lingnan Institute of Further Education	65	27
School of Continuing Education, Hong Kong Baptist University	106	33
Hong Kong Institute of Technology	145	80
Hong Kong Metropolitan University, Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing Education	106	45
Hong Kong College of Technology	282	146
Caritas Institute of Community Education	219	115
UOW College Hong Kong	10	5
School of Business and Information Systems, Vocational Training Council	32	11

(3)

Generally speaking, the WFSFAA will reimburse the tuition fees to eligible DYJ and DAE students within 6 weeks after institutions confirmed the student information and the programme subjects satisfactorily completed by students. As the staff who handle the relevant tuition fee reimbursement are also responsible for other duties, the WFSFAA does not maintain data on the manpower, time and administrative expenses required to handle each case of tuition fee reimbursement.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EDB213

(Question Serial No. 1527)

Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency

Subhead (No. & title): (228) Student financial assistance

Programme: (1) Student Assistance Scheme

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (Gilford LAW)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education

Question:

As the Government has since the 2024/25 school year discontinued the practice of paying the examination fees for school candidates sitting for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) between the 2018/19 and 2023/24 school years, needy candidates are required to apply with the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (WFSFAA) again for the “Examination Fee Remission Scheme” (the Scheme), so as to obtain means-tested examination fee remission. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) of the following information on the implementation of the Scheme by the WFSFAA in the 2024/25 school year: (i) the number of student-applications processed; (ii) the numbers of applicants with full grant or half grant; and (iii) the total amount of grants disbursed;
- (2) given that language subjects are compulsory and so all students will be equally benefited, and that the Government has been encouraging students to become biliterate and trilingual, whether the Government will consider paying the examination fees of language subjects for eligible school candidates in a timely manner, so that Form Six students can sit for this “life-determining” examination without any burden. If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

- (1)
The figures regarding the number of applications, the numbers of students whose applications were approved, as well as the total amount of assistance disbursed under the Examination Fee Remission (EFR) Scheme in the 2024/25 school year are tabulated as follows:

Number of applications[#]	Number of students whose applications were approved		Total amount of assistance disbursed (\$ million)
	Full grant	Half grant	
11 650	7 008	4 487	33

The number of applications is verified by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, and all the applications have been processed by the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency.

(2)

Examination fees of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) have all along been charged in line with the “user-pay principle”, with users bearing a portion of the costs. The payment of examination fees for school candidates entering for the HKDSE in recent years was a one-off initiative to relieve people’s burden and share the fruits of economic success with the public by the Government, rather than a standing policy. The Government has no plan to continue paying the examination fees for school candidates entering for the HKDSE. Needy and eligible students may submit applications under the EFR Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EDB214****(Question Serial No. 1528)**Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance AgencySubhead (No. & title): (228) Student financial assistanceProgramme: (1) Student Assistance SchemeControlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Gilford LAW)Director of Bureau: Secretary for EducationQuestion:

Regarding the operational details of the Student Travel Subsidy (STS) for Tertiary or Post-secondary Students, which is provided by the Government to needy students attending a full-time day course up to first degree level in a recognised institution; residing more than 10 minutes' walking distance away from their schools; and who need to travel to school by public transport, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (1) the numbers of people applying for STS and eventually receiving half level or full level of subsidy as well as the total amount of STS involved in the past 3 financial years; and
- (2) the factor(s) for consideration by the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency in assessing the amount of STS (whether the situation in which a student may concurrently benefit from the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme is considered)?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)Reply:

(1)

The numbers of applicants and successful applications under the Student Travel Subsidy (STS) Scheme (tertiary or post-secondary students), as well as the total amount of STS disbursed from the 2022/23 to 2024/25 academic years (as at 31 January 2025) are tabulated as follows:

Academic year	Number of applicants	Number of successful applications		Total amount of STS disbursed (\$ million)
		Full level	Half level	
2022/23	26 394	17 962	5 608	99.0
2023/24	24 507	16 322	5 475	94.2
2024/25 (as at 31 January 2025)	17 916	12 473	3 197	30.2

(2)

The STS Scheme aims to provide travel subsidy to needy students attending a full-time day course up to first degree level in a recognised institution; residing more than 10 minutes' walking distance away from their schools; and who need to travel to school by public transport. The amount of STS disbursed to an applicant is determined by factors including the average fare on public transport between the districts in which the student studies and resides during term-time, the number of term days and the assistance level approved.

The Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme (PTFSS) aims to relieve the fare burden of commuters whose public transport expenses are relatively high. Given the PTFSS does not impose specific restrictions or means tests on its beneficiaries, eligible beneficiaries of the STS Scheme may also benefit from the PTFSS if their actual public transport expenses exceed the monthly level under the PTFSS.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EDB215

(Question Serial No. 1024)

Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(254) Loans to Students

Subhead (No. & title): (201) Means-tested loan for tertiary students pursuing publicly-funded programmes
(202) Non-means-tested loan scheme
(203) Means-tested loan for post-secondary students

Programme: (1) Student Assistance Scheme

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Gilford LAW)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26, the Bureau indicates that it will continue the concerted efforts to recover student loans in arrears. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) the amount of student loans in arrears and the number of default cases at present;
- (2) the specific measures to recover the arrears; and
- (3) if an applicant defaulting on student loans has left Hong Kong, whether the Bureau will continue to recover the loans in arrears? If so, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

(1)
The Student Finance Office (SFO) under the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency administers 5 student financial assistance schemes for providing loans to tertiary and post-secondary students (i.e. the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes, the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students, the Non-means-tested Loan Scheme for Full-time Tertiary Students, the Non-means-tested Loan Scheme for Post-secondary Students and the Extended Non-means-tested Loan Scheme). The total amount in default [@] and the total number of default cases [^] under the 5 schemes as at 31 January 2025 are tabulated below:

Total amount in default (\$ million) @	96.42
Total number of default cases ^	5 134

@ The amount in default is the total amount of arrears in the defaulted student loan accounts, including the arrears from the previous academic years.

^ Cases with 2 or more consecutive overdue quarterly instalments/6 or more consecutive overdue monthly instalments are regarded as default cases.

(2) and (3)

The Government has been tackling the problem of defaulted student loans continuously and earnestly, and has been taking follow-up actions proactively on all default cases. SFO administers different loan recovery procedures as appropriate at different stages having regard to the circumstances of each case. Generally speaking, regardless of whether the defaulters are in Hong Kong or not, SFO will issue reminder letters, send SMS messages or make phone calls to them and their indemnifiers requesting them to settle the arrears. SFO will also attempt to find out their reasons for defaulting on the loan repayment and see if they need any assistance. If no repayment or response is received from the loan borrowers and their indemnifiers, SFO will proceed to take legal recovery action against them by referring the cases to the Department of Justice or filing claims directly with the Small Claims Tribunal, depending on the circumstances of the case. For those defaulted loan borrowers who have genuine difficulties in repaying their loans, SFO will provide assistance on a case-by-case basis, such as working out adjustments to the repayment plan.

In addition, in accordance with the Undertaking signed by loan borrowers for taking out the loans, loan borrowers are required to notify SFO in writing immediately if they and/or their indemnifiers have changed their contact information (including their address), or if they and/or their indemnifiers intend to leave Hong Kong for a period longer than 3 months or to emigrate. This is to ensure their contact information is accurate. SFO will remind borrowers regularly through letters and information disseminated on its website.

At present, it is not common for student loan borrowers to default on loan repayment after leaving Hong Kong. Most of these borrowers have repayment records. Also, defaulters outside Hong Kong often take the initiative to make enquiries and repayments, and if they fail to repay the arrears, SFO will take recovery action against their indemnifiers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EDB216

(Question Serial No. 2380)

Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency

Subhead (No. & title): (228) Student financial assistance

Programme: (1) Student Assistance Scheme

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Gilford LAW)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education

Question:

Regarding the financial assistance for primary and secondary students under the Programme, please provide the following information for the past 3 years:

- (1) the numbers of applications approved under the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme and the Grant for School-related Expenses for Kindergarten Students each year and their percentage shares in the total number of students in local kindergartens in that year;
- (2) the number of applications approved for full grant or half grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme each year and their percentage share in the total number of Primary 1 to Secondary 6 students in local schools in that year;
- (3) the number of applications approved under the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme each year and their percentage share in the total number of students attending primary and secondary school or a full-time day course up to the degree level in a recognised institution in that year;
- (4) the numbers of full-time and part-time students under the Diploma of Applied Education (DAE) Programme/Diploma Yi Jin (DYJ) Programme obtaining 30%, 50% or 100% reimbursement of the tuition fees paid each year, and their percentage share in the total numbers of full-time and part-time students under the DAE Programme/DYJ Programme in that year;
- (5) the number of students obtaining 30%, 50% or 100% reimbursement of the tuition fees paid under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Designated Evening Adult Education Courses each year, and their percentage share in the total number of students enrolled in such courses in that year;
- (6) the number of ineligible or rejected applications under the above schemes each year; and
- (7) when the last comprehensive review on the assessment method (i.e. the "Adjusted Family Income" mechanism) adopted in the means test of the above assistance schemes was conducted, and whether the Government will enhance the assistance mechanism in light of the abolishment of the student grant?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

(1) to (7)

The relevant figures for the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme, the Grant for School-related Expenses for Kindergarten Students, the School Textbook Assistance Scheme, the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme, the reimbursement of tuition fees in respect of the Diploma of Applied Education (DAE) Programme/Diploma Yi Jin (DYJ) Programme and the Financial Assistance Scheme for Designated Evening Adult Education Courses from the 2022/23 to 2024/25 school years (as at 31 January 2025) are tabulated at the **Annex**.

The Student Finance Office (SFO) under the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (WFSFAA) uses the “Adjusted Family Income” mechanism as the means test to assess the eligibility of an applicant for student financial assistance and the level of assistance. The family income ceilings under the mechanism are adjusted annually in accordance with the movement of the Consumer Price Index. At present, nearly 60% of beneficiary students receive full grant. The Government reviews the mechanism from time to time, including the relaxation of the family income ceiling for full level of assistance under the mechanism in the 2011/12 school year.

The student grant was introduced in 2019 as one of the relief measures announced by the Government in response to the social situations at that time. It is non-means-tested and is not a poverty alleviation measure. Even with the abolishment of the student grant, students from families with financial difficulties will continue to receive assistance through various existing means-tested assistance measures, including the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme, the Grant for School-related Expenses for Kindergarten Students, the School Textbook Assistance Scheme (STAS), the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme, the Subsidy Scheme for Internet Access Charges and the Examination Fee Remission Scheme. Among these, STAS includes not only a textbook grant, but also a flat-rate grant to help students defray various school-related expenses such as the stationery, school uniform, study aids and other non-tuition fees. Currently, the full rate of the flat-rate grant is \$2,652. In addition, the Education Bureau has implemented the School-based After-school Learning and Support Programmes, the Student Activities Support Grant and Free Lunch at Schools. Therefore, students with financial needs will continue to receive appropriate support through the above measures.

Pre-primary education level

School year	Number of students whose applications were approved and their percentage share in the total number of kindergarten students		Number of students whose applications were not approved
	Number of students whose applications were approved	Percentage share	
Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme			
2022/23	21 644^	15.06%	6 101
2023/24	20 205^	14.85%	5 881
2024/25 (as at 31 January 2025)	16 755^	13.36%	5 402
Grant for School-related Expenses for Kindergarten Students			
2022/23	33 273	23.16%	6 139
2023/24	29 290	21.52%	5 881
2024/25 (as at 31 January 2025)	22 732	18.12%	5 454

[^] The figure does not include students who passed the means test but needed not pay school fees under the Kindergarten Education Scheme. The numbers of students involved in the 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 school years (as at 31 January 2025) are 11 587, 8 986 and 5 906 respectively.

School Textbook Assistance Scheme

School year	Number of students whose applications were approved and their percentage share in the total number of primary and secondary students				Number of students whose applications were not approved
	Full grant		Half grant		
	Number of students whose applications were approved	Percentage share	Number of students whose applications were approved	Percentage share	
2022/23	115 596	19.23%	78 141	13.00%	7 312
2023/24	106 371	17.77%	77 887	13.01%	8 208
2024/25 (as at 31 January 2025)	97 103	16.11%	74 599	12.37%	8 217

Student Travel Subsidy Scheme

School year	Number of students whose applications were approved and their percentage share in the total number of primary and secondary students/post-secondary students				Number of students whose applications were not approved
	Primary and secondary students		Post-secondary students		
	Number of students whose applications were approved	Percentage share	Number of students whose applications were approved	Percentage share	
2022/23	140 594	22.80%	23 570	15.42%	34 073
2023/24	135 676	22.08%	21 797	14.18%	34 812
2024/25 (as at 31 January 2025)	125 641	20.77%	15 670	9.73%	34 100

Other education programmes

School year	Number of students whose applications were approved [#] and their percentage share in the total number of students under the programme					
	30% reimbursement of tuition fees		50% reimbursement of tuition fees		100% reimbursement of tuition fees	
	Number of students whose applications were approved	Percentage share	Number of students whose applications were approved	Percentage share	Number of students whose applications were approved	Percentage share
Reimbursement of tuition fees in respect of the DAE Programme/DYJ Programme						
2022/23	4 596	67.10%	512	7.48%	1 111	16.22%
2023/24 (as at 31 January 2025)	4 600	63.85%	462	6.41%	965	13.40%
2024/25	As the reimbursement of tuition fees for the 2024/25 academic year has not begun, the relevant figures are not yet available.					
Financial Assistance Scheme for Designated Evening Adult Education Courses						
2022/23	395	34.08%	29	2.50%	111	9.58%
2023/24 (as at 31 January 2025)	358	33.15%	35	3.24%	88	8.15%
2024/25	As the reimbursement of tuition fees for the 2024/25 academic year has not begun, the relevant figures are not yet available.					

[#] The tuition fee reimbursement will only be granted to students who have satisfactorily completed the relevant programmes/subjects. The WFSFAA will normally confirm with institutions the information of eligible students and arrange for tuition fee reimbursement after the end of the relevant academic year. For ineligible students (e.g. those who did not complete the programme), the institutions will not provide any information to the SFO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EDB217****(Question Serial No. 2381)**

Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(254) Loans to Students

Subhead (No. & title): (101) Means-tested loan for tertiary students pursuing publicly-funded programmes
(102) Non-means-tested loan scheme
(103) Means-tested loan for post-secondary students
(201) Means-tested loan for tertiary students pursuing publicly-funded programmes
(202) Non-means-tested loan scheme
(203) Means-tested loan for post-secondary students

Programme: (1) Student Assistance Scheme

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Gilford LAW)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education

Question:

Regarding the financial assistance schemes for post-secondary students under this Programme, please advise on the following:

Based on the amount of loan, please provide the respective numbers of new student loan repayers in each of the past 3 years, and set out the information in the following table:

Year:

	Tertiary Student Finance Scheme - Publicly-funded Programmes (TSFS)	Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students (FASP)	Non-means-tested Loan Scheme for Full-time Tertiary Students (NLSFT)	Non-means-tested Loan Scheme for Post-secondary Students (NLSPS)	Extended Non-means-tested Loan Scheme (ENLS)
\$50,000 or below					
\$50,001-\$100,000					

\$100,001-\$150,000					
\$150,001-\$200,000					
\$200,001-\$250,000					
Over \$250,000					

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

The numbers of new loan repayers whose loan accounts were activated for repayment upon graduation or completion of study in the 2022/23 and 2023/24 academic years (broken down by the total amount of loan) are tabulated below:

Total amount of loan	Number of new loan repayers*				
	TSFS	FASP	NLSFT	NLSPS	ENLS
2022/23 academic year					
\$50,000 or below	409	394	1 303	618	1 058
\$50,001-\$100,000	577	579	1 208	2 062	1 396
\$100,001-\$150,000	336	395	556	1 969	844
\$150,001-\$200,000	126	78	617	668	428
\$200,001-\$250,000	111	62	126	384	193
Over \$250,000	40	34	35	228	331
Total number of new loan repayers	1 599	1 542	3 845	5 929	4 250
2023/24 academic year					
\$50,000 or below	421	350	1 433	533	956
\$50,001-\$100,000	602	581	1 410	1 821	1 237
\$100,001-\$150,000	346	354	741	1 769	665
\$150,001-\$200,000	127	65	902	717	405

Total amount of loan	Number of new loan repayers*				
	TSFS	FASP	NLSFT	NLSPS	ENLS
\$200,001- \$250,000	119	72	205	306	223
Over \$250,000	32	38	46	224	245
Total number of new loan repayers	1 647	1 460	4 737	5 370	3 731

* To ease the financial burden of student loan repayers amidst the COVID-19 epidemic, the Government provided interest-free deferral of loan repayment arrangement for 5 years from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2025 (suspension period). All eligible student loan repayers, including new loan repayers whose loan accounts were activated for repayment upon graduation or completion of study during the suspension period, do not need to repay the principal and instalment interest payable during the suspension period.

Student loan borrowers will only become new loan repayers upon graduation or completion of study. As the 2024/25 academic year has not concluded yet, the number of new loan repayers for that academic year is not available for the time being.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EDB218

(Question Serial No. 2436)

Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(254) Loans to Students

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
(101) Means-tested loan for tertiary students pursuing publicly-funded programmes
(102) Non-means-tested loan scheme
(103) Means-tested loan for post-secondary students
(201) Means-tested loan for tertiary students pursuing publicly-funded programmes
(202) Non-means-tested loan scheme
(203) Means-tested loan for post-secondary students

Programme: (1) Student Assistance Scheme

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Gilford LAW)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education

Question:

Regarding the concerted efforts to recover student loans in arrears mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention under the Programme, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Please provide, in tabular form, the amounts in default under various student financial assistance schemes as of now. What are the number and ages of the student loan defaulters, the reasons for their overdue repayments and the average amount in default per person?
- (2) As of end-January 2024, the amount in default under various student financial assistance schemes is over \$100 million. To expedite the recovery of the loans in arrears, does the Government have any detailed plans for recovering such loans in the coming year, and what are the manpower and administrative expenses to be involved? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons and the difficulties involved?
- (3) Regarding the student loans in arrears, has the Government delved into the reasons for the overdue repayments? Will the Government allocate more resources for promoting the concept of financial prudence among students and parents in primary and secondary schools, post-secondary institutions and the community in the future?
- (4) It is also mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Government will “continue to adopt information technology, including launching a centralised e-service portal”. What is the current progress and the estimated expenditure of the development

of the portal? What are the details of the work on interfacing the portal with the existing “Student Finance Office E-link” and the “iAM Smart” platforms to facilitate the provision of one-stop services?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

(1)

The Student Finance Office (SFO) under the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (WFSFAA) administers 5 student financial assistance schemes for providing loans to tertiary and post-secondary students (i.e. the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes, the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students, the Non-means-tested Loan Scheme for Full-time Tertiary Students, the Non-means-tested Loan Scheme for Post-secondary Students and the Extended Non-means-tested Loan Scheme). Cases with 2 or more consecutive overdue quarterly instalments/6 or more consecutive overdue monthly instalments are regarded as default cases. The amounts in default under the 5 schemes as at 31 January 2025 are tabulated below:

Scheme	Amount in default (\$ million)[@]
Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes	11.21
Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students	8.93
Non-means-tested Loan Scheme for Full-time Tertiary Students	7.25
Non-means-tested Loan Scheme for Post-secondary Students	25.99
Extended Non-means-tested Loan Scheme	43.04
Total	96.42

[@] The amount in default is the total amount of arrears in the defaulted student loan accounts, including the arrears from the previous academic years.

The number of defaulters and the average amount in default per person, broken down by age, as at 31 January 2025 are tabulated below:

Age	Below 30	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 or above
Number of defaulters	265	1 704	1 398	577	553
Average amount in default (\$)	7,700	18,600	30,200	19,200	16,800

SFO has always appealed to student loan borrowers to actively contact SFO for assistance if they have difficulties in repaying their loans due to financial hardship. For those student loan borrowers who have contacted SFO to apply for deferment of loan repayment, the main reasons for deferment are financial hardship, serious illness and further full-time study.

(2)

The Government has been tackling the problem of defaulted student loans continuously and earnestly, and has been taking follow-up actions proactively on all default cases. SFO

administers different loan recovery procedures as appropriate at different stages having regard to the circumstances of each case. Generally speaking, SFO will issue reminder letters, send SMS messages or make phone calls to the loan borrowers concerned and their indemnifiers requesting them to settle the arrears. SFO will also attempt to find out their reasons for defaulting on the loan repayment and see if they need any assistance. If no repayment or response is received from the loan borrowers and their indemnifiers, SFO will proceed to take legal recovery action against them by referring the cases to the Department of Justice (DoJ) or filing claims directly with the Small Claims Tribunal, depending on the circumstances of the case. For those defaulted loan borrowers who have genuine difficulties in repaying their loans, SFO will provide assistance on a case-by-case basis, such as working out adjustments to the repayment plan.

In the 2024/25 academic year (as at 31 January 2025), about 100 staff from SFO and DoJ are tasked to handle work relating to student loan recovery. The overall operating expenditure involved (including the expenditure on the remuneration of the staff concerned) is around \$15.6 million.

(3)

SFO has been committed to promoting education on financial management and has been reminding applicants to carefully consider their borrowing needs and repayment abilities before applying for and deciding to take out the loans. SFO updates information on its website from time to time to promote the message of financial prudence, credit management and responsible borrowing, as well as the possible consequences of default on loan repayment with a view to enhancing deterrent effects.

SFO also collaborates with various post-secondary institutions. Apart from communicating with their student affairs offices from time to time to provide them with the latest information on loan application and messages on financial management for students, SFO also distributes relevant promotional materials to institutions for use in their student activities each year. This helps instil a prudent attitude towards financial management in students while reminding them of the points to note in making applications under the financial assistance schemes for post-secondary and tertiary students.

In addition, in collaboration with the Investor and Financial Education Council (IFEC), SFO promotes, through its website, the IFEC's financial education platform "The Chin Family" and its annual financial education campaign "Hong Kong Money Month" to provide financial management information to student loan applicants and their parents, and to educate them about the importance of early financial planning.

As regards the reasons for defaulting on loan repayment, please refer to part (1) of the reply.

(4)

The centralised e-service portal of WFSFAA, namely "eWFSFAA", was launched in March 2025. The expenditure on the development of the portal is about \$10 million. "eWFSFAA" is a one-stop e-service platform which provides single sign-on access to various financial assistance schemes administered by WFSFAA. The new portal is interfaced with the Government's "iAM Smart" platform and our existing e-service portals (including the SFO E-link). After a one-off identity verification through "iAM Smart" or any of the existing e-service platforms, users can log onto the portal to view the application status of

different financial assistance schemes on a single page as well as to manage account information and submit applications conveniently.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EDB219

(Question Serial No. 1960)

Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(254) Loans to Students

Subhead (No. & title): (101) Means-tested loan for tertiary students pursuing publicly-funded programmes
(102) Non-means-tested loan scheme
(103) Means-tested loan for post-secondary students
(201) Means-tested loan for tertiary students pursuing publicly-funded programmes
(202) Non-means-tested loan scheme
(203) Means-tested loan for post-secondary students

Programme: (1) Student Assistance Scheme

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (Gilford LAW)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education

Question:

It is mentioned under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 that the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency will “continue the concerted efforts to recover student loans in arrears”. Please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the individuals, departments or organisations involved in “the concerted efforts”;
- (2) the number of loan applications received, number of loan applications approved and amount approved under various assistance schemes of the Student Finance Office in the past 3 financial years;
- (3) further to the above question, the current number of default cases and the total amount of loans in default under various assistance schemes and their percentage changes compared to the past 3 financial years;
- (4) whether the Government has written off these default loans; if yes, the amount of public money involved;
- (5) whether the Government has assessed if the default rate of such loans will continue to rise amid the economic downturn in Hong Kong; if yes, the results, the highest projected default rate and the amount of public money involved; if not, whether an assessment will be conducted immediately; and

- (6) the specific new measures to endeavours to recover student loans in arrears and the administrative cost involved.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

(1) & (6)

The Student Finance Office (SFO) of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency has been tackling the problem of defaulted student loans continuously and earnestly. The SFO administers different loan recovery procedures as appropriate at different stages having regard to the circumstances of each default case. If the SFO fails to receive the repayment from the loan borrowers and their indemnifiers (IDMs) by the repayment deadline, it will issue reminder letters, send SMS messages or make phone calls to request them to settle the arrears. If no repayment or response is received after repeated reminders and urges, the SFO will proceed to take legal recovery action by referring the cases to the Department of Justice (DoJ) or filing claims directly with the Small Claims Tribunal, depending on the circumstances of the case. For cases where the court has ruled in favour of the SFO, the DoJ will assist the SFO to enforce the judgment by way of applying for Writs of Fieri Facias (i.e. seizing by a Court Bailiff of goods and chattels of the debtor in execution of the judgment debt), Garnishee Orders (i.e. attaching or freezing the sums of money in the defaulters' and/or IDMs' bank accounts) and Charging Orders (i.e. imposing a charge on the defaulters' and/or IDMs' properties, commonly known as "imposing an encumbrance"), with a view to recovering the defaulted student loans from the defaulters' and/or IDMs' assets as far as possible. In addition, according to the Undertaking signed by the borrowers for acceptance of loan, the SFO can check with other bureaux/departments and institutions their updated addresses or other personal data for the purpose of recovering the arrears. The SFO has been working closely with the DoJ to handle default cases, review the recovery procedure and enhance the relevant workflow regularly.

In the 2024/25 academic year (as at 31 January 2025), the overall operating expenditure on handling work relating to student loan recovery was around \$15.6 million, primarily covering the expenses on salaries for the relevant staff of the SFO and the DoJ.

(2)

The SFO currently administers 5 student financial assistance schemes for post-secondary and tertiary students, including 2 means-tested financial assistance schemes (namely the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes (TSFS) and the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students (FASP) which provide grants and/or living expenses loans) and 3 non-means-tested loan schemes (namely the Non-means-tested Loan Scheme for Full-time Tertiary Students (NLSFT), the Non-means-tested Loan Scheme for Post-secondary Students (NLSPS) and the Extended Non-means-tested Loan Scheme (ENLS) which provide loans to applicants for paying tuition fees).

The numbers of applications, the numbers of cases with loans disbursed and the amounts of loans disbursed under the 5 student financial assistance schemes from the 2022/23 to 2024/25 academic years are tabulated below:

	Academic Year		
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 (as at 31 January 2025)
(A) TSFS			
Number of applications ^	19 607	18 904	17 736
Number of cases with loans disbursed #	2 797	2 990	2 108
Amount of loans disbursed (\$m)	131.50	143.59	107.13
(B) FASP			
Number of applications ^	16 237	15 462	15 006
Number of cases with loans disbursed #	2 329	2 312	1 609
Amount of loans disbursed (\$m)	111.40	114.45	84.90
(C) NLSFT			
Number of applications	13 679	14 684	15 534
Number of cases with loans disbursed	11 199	11 987	11 119
Amount of loans disbursed (\$m)	446.51	478.38	448.05
(D) NLSPS			
Number of applications	12 136	12 912	14 598
Number of cases with loans disbursed	10 063	10 789	10 598
Amount of loans disbursed (\$m)	608.10	645.21	615.80
(E) ENLS			
Number of applications	6 397	6 324	5 166
Number of cases with loans disbursed	5 919	5 815	4 375
Amount of loans disbursed (\$m)	457.53	472.88	318.25

^ All applications received were considered as applying for both the grant and the living expenses loan.

Excluding the number of students/applications that have passed the means test but only accepted the offer of grant and not the offer of living expenses loan. In the 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 academic years (as at 31 January 2025), the numbers of such cases under the TSFS were 12 738, 11 771 and 9 413 respectively while the numbers of such cases under the FASP were 10 147, 9 057 and 7 336 respectively.

(3)

Cases with 2 or more consecutive overdue quarterly instalments/6 or more consecutive overdue monthly instalments are regarded as default cases. The numbers of default cases and the amounts in default under various financial assistance schemes as at 31 January 2025 and their percentage changes compared to the past 3 academic years are tabulated below:

Scheme	2024/25 academic year (as at 31 January 2025)	% change compared to the 2021/22 academic year	% change compared to the 2022/23 academic year	% change compared to the 2023/24 academic year
TSFS				
Number of default cases	476	-22.22%	-10.36%	-3.05%
Amount in default (\$m) @	11.21	-19.35%	-10.68%	-5.56%
FASP				
Number of default cases	570	-19.72%	-8.21%	-2.40%
Amount in default (\$m) @	8.93	-11.50%	-5.60%	-1.76%
NLSFT				
Number of default cases	361	-21.52%	-10.20%	-2.17%
Amount in default (\$m) @	7.25	-20.50%	-13.69%	-5.97%
NLSPS				
Number of default cases	988	-20.51%	-11.86%	-4.73%
Amount in default (\$m) @	25.99	-14.90%	-8.84%	-3.78%
ENLS				
Number of default cases	2 739	-19.06%	-11.10%	-3.76%
Amount in default (\$m) @	43.04	-15.53%	-9.26%	-2.73%

@ The amount in default is the total amount of arrears in the defaulted student loan accounts, including the arrears from the previous academic years.

(4) & (5)

The SFO endeavours to make every effort to recover the outstanding loans from the defaulters and their indemnifiers and will only consider writing off the loans when they are irrecoverable (for example, where the loan borrower has deceased or is permanently unfit for work due to severe disability and his/her indemnifier is unable to repay the loan, where both the loan borrower and his/her indemnifier are bankrupt, or where the DoJ considers that the loan is irrecoverable under legal considerations).

The numbers of write-off cases and the amount involved under the 5 student financial assistance schemes in the 2022/23 to 2024/25 academic years are tabulated below:

Scheme	Academic Year		
	2022/23 [^]	2023/24 [^]	2024/25 (as at 31 January 2025)
TSFS			
(a) Number of write-off cases ^{&}	16	8	8
(b) Amount involved (\$M)	0.94	0.17	0.73
FASP			
(a) Number of write-off cases ^{&}	3	4	3
(b) Amount involved (\$M)	0.06	0.32	0.22
NLSFT			
(a) Number of write-off cases ^{&}	5	5	3
(b) Amount involved (\$M)	0.24	0.17	0.47
NLSPS			
(a) Number of write-off cases ^{&}	5	5	4
(b) Amount involved (\$M)	0.54	0.50	0.21
ENLS			
(a) Number of write-off cases ^{&}	33	48	22
(b) Amount involved (\$M)	1.31	2.07	0.91

[^] As at 31 July

[&] A write-off case may involve the loan repayment accounts of one or more financial assistance scheme(s) administered by the SFO.

To alleviate the financial burden of student loan repayers amidst the epidemic, the Government has provided interest-free deferral of loan repayment arrangement (deferral arrangement) since 1 April 2020 for 5 years (suspension period). All eligible student loan repayers and new loan repayers whose loan accounts were activated for repayment upon graduation or completion of study during the suspension period do not need to repay any interest and loan principal during such period, but repayers with defaulted loans before the suspension period still need to settle the arrears. With the deferral arrangement in force, the number of default cases has reduced correspondingly. The deferral arrangement will end on 31 March 2025 and student loan repayers have to resume loan repayment from April 2025. Since the circumstances of individual cases vary, it is difficult to assess the trend of default/write-off cases for the time being. The SFO will continue to closely monitor the situation of student loan repayment and take appropriate measures to address the problem of defaulted student loans.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EDB220

(Question Serial No. 1964)

Head: (173) Working Family And Student Financial Assistance Agency

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

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Gilford LAW)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Government will launch a centralised e-service portal (portal) to enhance efficiency. Please inform this Committee of:

- (1) whether there is a timetable for the launch of the portal;
- (2) the costs for development, annual operational expenses and recurrent expenditure; and
- (3) whether consideration has been made from the perspective of users' needs during the development of the portal, so as to prevent the services provided by the portal from failing to meet users' needs or expectations. If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

(1) to (3)

The centralised e-service portal of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (WFSFAA), "eWFSFAA", was launched in March 2025. The costs for development amount to about \$10 million. As the annual operational expenses and recurrent expenditure of the platform are subsumed under the recurrent funding, the WFSFAA does not maintain the relevant breakdown separately.

"eWFSFAA" is a one-stop e-service platform which provides single sign-on access to the various financial assistance schemes administered by the WFSFAA. After a one-off identity verification, users can log onto the platform to view the application status of different schemes on a single page, manage account information of various financial assistance schemes, and submit applications conveniently. In the course of development, the WFSFAA has adopted the "user-centred design" concept and integrated the usage data of the existing e-service

platforms collected from system analysis as well as the consolidated feedback and expectations of users into the design of the new platform.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EDB221

(Question Serial No. 0444)

Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency

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

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Gilford LAW)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education

Question:

The Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency launched a chatbot to enhance enquiry services on the Working Family Allowance Scheme and student financial assistance schemes. However, the chatbot can only provide services in traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese and English. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee whether there is a plan to enhance the chatbot by utilising artificial intelligence translation systems so as to provide additional support services in languages more commonly used by ethnic minorities, such as Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi and Nepali? If so, when will it be implemented? If not, what are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kam-fai, William (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (WFSFAA) launched the chatbot "S. Buddy" in March 2023 to provide 24-hour online enquiry services for the public. At present, "S. Buddy" supports English, traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese, and is able to recognise Cantonese slangs and trending words. The WFSFAA attaches great importance to the provision of relevant information and services for ethnic minorities (EMs). Currently, apart from Chinese and English, the WFSFAA website also supports 8 EM languages (including Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali and others) to ensure EMs' access to the necessary information. The Agency will keep in view the service demand, technical feasibility and resources requirements, and consider supporting other EM languages in "S. Buddy".

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(L)153

(Question Serial No. 2379)

Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Student Assistance Scheme

Controlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Gilford LAW)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Regarding the Continuing Education Fund (CEF) under the Programme, please advise on the following:

1. the numbers of accounts under the CEF, the changes in the numbers of accounts, and the distribution of account holders' account balance in the past 2 years;
2. the numbers of the CEF reimbursable courses, the numbers of subsidy recipients, and the average amount of subsidy reimbursed in the past 2 years, with a breakdown by area of study;
3. regarding those areas of study where there are manpower shortage and needs of talent for development, whether the Government will consider including more relevant courses in the list of reimbursable courses or launching special programmes, such as increasing the amount of subsidy and adjusting the co-payment ratios, to attract more people to enrol in such courses and pursue a career in relevant areas; and
4. how the CEF courses dovetailed with the development positioning of Hong Kong and provided corresponding relevant skills, so that people who were interested could easily enrol in the past 2 years. Will the amount of CEF subsidy and the co-payment ratios be reviewed again in future, with special emphasis on tying in with the transformation of industries and the development of emerging industries in Hong Kong, so as to provide training for nurturing working adults?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

- 1, 3 & 4. In the past 2 years, there were 913 166 and 940 886 accounts under the Continuing Education Fund (CEF) respectively, which is an increase of 27 720 accounts (3%) during the period. As at 31 January 2025, there were about 940 000 accounts under the CEF, among which about 6 900 account holders had used up the subsidy of \$25,000, representing less than 1% of the total number of accounts. Nearly

87% of the accounts under the CEF had an unused balance of \$15,000 or above, which could be used by learners for enrolment in about 2 CEF courses as the current median course fee of the CEF courses is \$7,800. The Government is of the view that the current CEF subsidy ceiling can satisfy the demand of the learners. The Government will continue to keep track of the operation of the CEF and the views of stakeholders, and consider the need to review the existing arrangements as appropriate.

Applications have been accepted for registration under the CEF in respect of all courses registered under the Qualifications Register, which cover 14 areas of study and training. As at 31 January 2025, over 4 500 CEF courses were offered by over 120 course providers, giving learners a wide range of choices for continuing education. The Government will continue to encourage existing and other course providers to develop new courses, with a view to meeting the latest market trends in professions and skills. As for the manpower supply and needs of individual industries, relevant policy bureaux, industry stakeholders or course providers will conduct relevant research and develop industry-based manpower strategies and specific training courses as needed.

2. Breakdown of the numbers of courses with valid registration under the CEF and subsidy recipients, as well as the average amounts of reimbursement by area of study in the past 2 years are set out at the Annex.

**Number of CEF Courses with Valid Registration, Number of Subsidy Recipients,
and Average Amount of Reimbursement by Area of Study**

2023-24

Area of study (Note (i))	Number of courses with valid registration	Number of subsidy recipients (Note (ii))	Average amount of reimbursement (\$)
Business Services	-	4 949	7,126
Design		931	7,009
Financial Services		2 992	6,501
Languages		6 188	8,033
Logistics		573	9,941
Tourism		480	5,855
Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Skills for the Workplace		32	8,164
Creative Industries		912	12,257
Specification of Competency Standards (SCS)-based (Note (iv))	112	8 228	4,918
A01 - Architecture and Town Planning	144	949	9,019
A02 - Arts, Design and Performing Arts	220	1 265	9,744
A03 - Business and Management	1 798	12 144	9,160
A04 - Computer Science and Information Technology	261	1 685	6,582
A05 - Education	83	1 786	10,364
A06 - Engineering and Technology	432	3 192	7,706
A07 - Humanities	143	998	10,142
A08 - Languages and Related Studies	282	1 841	9,622
A09 - Law	79	482	9,012
A10 - Mass Media and Communications, Journalism and Public Relations	117	519	5,064
A11 - Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences	268	4 507	7,553
A12 - Sciences	137	865	7,351
A13 - Services	319	2 310	8,628
A14 - Social Sciences	300	2 537	8,249
Total	4 695	60 365	-

2024-25 (as at 31 January 2025)

Area of study (Note (i))	Number of courses with valid registration	Number of subsidy recipients (Note (ii))	Average amount of reimbursement (\$)
Business Services	- (Note (iii))	701	10,366
Design		137	14,710
Financial Services		223	4,745
Languages		2 808	7,767
Logistics		159	11,411
Tourism		17	3,958
Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Skills for the Workplace		-	-
Creative Industries		207	15,741
Specification of Competency Standards (SCS)-based (Note (iv))	104	8 955	3,389
A01 - Architecture and Town Planning	146	1 015	8,665
A02 - Arts, Design and Performing Arts	219	1 584	9,853
A03 - Business and Management	1 732	15 960	9,180
A04 - Computer Science and Information Technology	260	1 908	6,292
A05 - Education	91	1 486	9,649
A06 - Engineering and Technology	426	2 799	7,172
A07 - Humanities	111	806	9,917
A08 - Languages and Related Studies	251	2 229	9,184
A09 - Law	80	494	10,192
A10 - Mass Media and Communications, Journalism and Public Relations	116	505	5,340
A11 - Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences	273	3 917	7,692
A12 - Sciences	139	778	6,547
A13 - Services	336	2 301	8,923
A14 - Social Sciences	245	2 166	8,282
Total	4 529	51 155	-

Note (i) After the introduction of the enhancement measures on 1 April 2019, applications have been accepted for registration under the CEF in respect of all courses registered under the Qualifications Register, including SCS-based courses; Specification of Generic (Foundation) Competencies-based (SGC-based) courses; and non SCS/SGC-based courses which are divided into 14 classified areas of study and training (i.e. A01 - A14).

- Note (ii) A person may claim for reimbursement of one or more CEF courses.
- Note (iii) All CEF courses previously registered under the 8 specified domains have expired after 31 March 2023, and must register under the 14 areas of study and training (i.e. A01 - A14) under the Qualifications Register. For applicants who have enrolled in the CEF courses which were previously registered under the 8 specified domains and commenced on or before 31 March 2023, they may submit applications for fee reimbursement within one year upon the successful completion of the courses (according to the course completion date or the date of the specified language benchmark test / examination (if applicable), whichever is later).
- Note (iv) The scopes of SCS-based industries under the Qualifications Framework include Arboriculture and Horticulture, Automotive, Banking, Beauty and Hairdressing, Catering, Electrical and Mechanical Services, Elderly Care Service, Fashion, Human Resource Management, Import and Export, Information and Communications Technology, Insurance, Jewellery, Logistics, Manufacturing Technology (Tooling, Metals and Plastics), Printing and Publishing, Property Management, Retail, Security Services, Testing, Inspection and Certification, Travel as well as Watch and Clock.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**LWB(L)154****(Question Serial No. 2005)**Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance AgencySubhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrentProgramme: (1) Student Assistance SchemeControlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Gilford LAW)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and WelfareQuestion:

- a) Please provide, in tabular form, the number of applications, the number of approved applications for reimbursement and the total amount of reimbursement claim involved under the Continuing Education Fund (CEF) in each of the past 10 years.
- b) Please provide, in tabular form, the number of new accounts opened by CEF applicants in each of the past 10 years.
- c) Please present, in graphic form, the number of accounts that have used up 100%, over 80%, over 60%, over 40% and over 20% of their CEF subsidy balance.

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)Reply:

- a) The number of reimbursement applications, the number of successful applications for reimbursement and the total amount of reimbursement claim under the Continuing Education Fund (CEF) in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows -

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 January 2025)
Number of reimbursement applications ^{Note}	35 920	50 160	52 482	51 911	48 746
Number of successful application for reimbursement ^{Note}	30 738	47 552	52 410	49 613	42 329
Total amount of reimbursement claim (\$ million)	242.1	452.2	467.4	473.8	394.9

Note: An application may involve claims for reimbursement with one or more CEF courses.

- b) The number of newly opened CEF accounts in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 31 January 2025)
Number of newly opened CEF accounts	17 557	27 196	30 092	29 877	27 720

- c) The current subsidy ceiling for each eligible applicant is \$25,000. As at 31 January 2025, the number of accounts which have received subsidy of \$5,000 (i.e. 20% of the subsidy ceiling) or above since the establishment of CEF are tabulated as follows -

Amount of subsidy received	Number of CEF accounts
\$5,000-\$9,999	170 091
\$10,000-\$14,999	347 310
\$15,000-\$19,999	31 674
\$20,000-\$24,999	28 250
\$25,000 (subsidy ceiling)	6 878

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)196

(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.

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

LWB(W)197

(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.

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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

LWB(W)198

(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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**LWB(W)199****(Question Serial No. 2390)**Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance AgencySubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Working Family AllowanceControlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Gilford LAW)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and WelfareQuestion:

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

LWB(W)200

(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.

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 -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**LWB(W)377****(Question Serial No. 3677)**Head: (173) Working Family and Student Financial Assistance AgencySubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Working Family AllowanceControlling Officer: Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Gilford LAW)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and WelfareQuestion:

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.

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 -