



社會福利署
Social Welfare Department

Our ref : SWD/CR/1-150/001/2
Tel No. : 2892 5172
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24 January 2014

Mr Stephen H B Yau
Chief Executive
International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
6/F, Southorn Centre
130 Hennessy Road
Wan Chai
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Yau,

**Tender Reference No.: SWD/T002/2011
Provision of Assistance for
Asylum Seekers and Torture Claimants**

The Administration introduced a proposal on enhancing the humanitarian assistance for non-refoulement claimants (claimants) in the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services held on 13 January 2014.

I am pleased to inform you that approval has been obtained to implement the following service enhancements with effect from 1 February 2014 -

Accommodation

- To increase the monthly rent allowance grid per adult claimant from \$1,200 to \$1,500; and per child claimant from \$600 to \$750.
- To provide rental deposits up to two months of rent or two months of the eligible rent allowance grid, whichever is the less. Each claimant/family may apply for the deposit once throughout the entire assistance period. ISS is expected to pay the deposits directly to the landlord and enter into a separate agreement with them on the recoverability.



- To provide property agent fees up to half the monthly rent or half the eligible rent allowance grid, whichever is the less. Each claimant/family may apply for the agent fees once a year as necessary. ISS is expected to pay the fees directly to the agents.

Food

- To increase the average budget for food for each claimant from \$1,060 to \$1,200 per month in order to implement the recommendations of the Department of Health (DH). To this end, ISS is encouraged to instruct case workers to increase claimants' food consumption with the additional budget having regard to DH's recommendations.

Transportation

- To provide cash allowance in advance for regular trips (e.g. appointments with the Immigration Department, duty lawyers, food collection, etc.) (i.e. instead of reimbursement) with the allowance amount being subject to the location of residence.

Utilities

- To adjust the utilities allowance for each claimant to \$300 per month (same rate for children and adults) which may be used to meet different utilities charges (i.e. water, gas, electricity, etc.).

I would be grateful if you could inform claimants of the above service enhancements as soon as possible, and no later than 27 January 2014. If you have any enquiries, please contact me or Ms Fanny Fung, Senior Social Work Officer (Family)1, at 2892 5169.

Taking the opportunity, I would like to thank for your unfailing support and endeavours in providing the humanitarian assistance for the needy claimants.

Yours sincerely,

(Wong Kwok-chun, Alex)
for Director of Social Welfare