



社會福利署

Social Welfare Department

Our Ref. : SWD 3/75/835/94

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5 December 2016

3/F, 102 First Street,
Sai Ying Pun, Hong Kong
Refugee Union
(Attn: Mr Peter Maina and Mr Adjouma Ibrahim)

Dear Mr Maina and Mr Ibrahim,

Request for the urgent increase in levels of assistance

Thank you for the letters / requests from the Refugee Union (RU) of 8 August 2016, 14 November 2016 and 21 November 2016 on the above subject.

Regarding the requests raised, you may refer to our reply in response to the similar requests in RU's previous letter directly handed to us on 27 July 2016. To reinstate, the assistance programme to non-refoulement claimants is not intended to provide them with extra assistance than is necessary to meet their basic needs, so as to avoid any magnet effect which may have serious implications on the sustainability of the assistance programme and on Hong Kong's immigration control.

As regards your appeal to increase the level of various kinds of assistance, you may wish to know that the Government will monitor closely the operation of the assistance programme, including the level of assistance, taking into account relevant considerations such as market values, availability and the proper use of public funds, etc.

The Government considers that the current provisions are sufficient to meet the basic needs of service users and has no plan to change the arrangement at this stage. If service users who request a level of allowance exceeding the amount in the grid, they can provide justification with supporting documents. International Social Service Hong Kong Branch (ISS-HK) would consider each application on individual case merits.

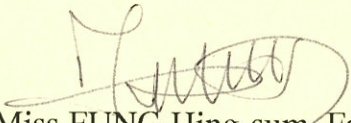


As regards tenancy agreements, the places of abode are identified by the service users in the private sector (though ISS-HK may render assistance to those service users having difficulty in so doing). The tenancy agreement reflects the terms and conditions as agreed between the service user and the landlord, and shall obviously be signed by the service user himself to ensure he fulfils the responsibilities thereunder.

Your suggestion on dental services has been forwarded to the Food and Health Bureau.

Thank you once again for your concerns on the non-refoulement claimants.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss FUNG Hing-sum, Fanny)
for Director of Social Welfare