

Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund

Annual Report

by the

Director of Social Welfare Incorporated

for the year

from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Applications and Caseload

- The number of applications increased by 10.1% from 10 236 in the previous year to 11 265.
- The number of traffic casualties reported to the Police increased by 5.7% from 20 395 in the previous year to 21 562, while the rate of application for Traffic Accident Victims Assistance increased from 50.2% to 52.2%.

Payments

- The total amount of assistance paid increased by 10.2% from \$446.3 million in the previous year to \$491.8 million.
- A total of 63 serious traffic accident cases were processed.
- The highest award of the year was \$213,320.

Refunds

- The total amount of refunds received in the year under Section 10 of the Traffic Accident Victims (Assistance Fund) Ordinance, Cap. 229 of the Laws of Hong Kong decreased by 11.3% from \$140.6 million in the previous year to \$124.7 million.

Appeals

- Two appeals were received during the year.

Financial Position

- The accumulated surplus as at 31 March 2024 was \$1,453.8 million, compared with \$1,568.5 million as at 31 March 2023.
- It was noted that grant payments were on an increasing trend in recent years resulting in a deficit in 2023-24. While the present rates of levies on vehicles and driving licences (which were last revised in 1995) remain unchanged, there would be increasing pressure on the financial position of the Fund in the long run.

INTRODUCTION

The Traffic Accident Victims (Assistance Fund) Ordinance, Cap. 229 of the Laws of Hong Kong, provides for the creation of a fund for assisting traffic accident victims and their dependants, the charging of levies and for purposes connected therewith.

2. In accordance with Section 4 of the Ordinance, the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance (TAVA) Scheme came into operation on 1 May 1979 under the administration of the Social Welfare Department (SWD). It aims at providing speedy financial assistance to road traffic accident victims (or to their surviving dependants in cases of death) on a non-means-tested basis, regardless of the element of fault leading to the occurrence of the accident. Payments are made for personal injuries, while loss of or damage to property is not covered. Beneficiaries under the Scheme still retain the right to make claims for damages or compensation from other sources in the usual way. Those who receive damages or compensation in respect of the same traffic accident are required to repay the amount of assistance they have already received from the Scheme, but in any case the amount to be repaid shall not exceed the amount of damages or compensation awarded, as specified under Section 10 of the Ordinance.

3. Section 11 of the Ordinance requires the Director of Social Welfare to prepare and the Director of Audit to audit a statement of accounts of the Fund for each period of 12 months ending on 31 March. It also specifies that a copy of the audited statement of accounts together with the Director of Audit's report, if any, and a report by the Director of Social Welfare on the administration of the Fund during the period covered by the audited accounts, shall be laid upon the table of the Legislative Council.

4. This report describes the administration of the TAVA Fund and the operation of the TAVA Scheme for the year ended 31 March 2024.

THE FUND

5. The TAVA Fund is administered by the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated.
6. The income of the Fund consists of:
 - levies on the licensing fees of motor vehicles, trade licences, light rail vehicles, tramcars, trailers drawn by tramcars, government vehicles, and on driving licence fees including learner's driving licences, temporary driving licences and permits to drive government vehicles;
 - refunds from beneficiaries;
 - such sums as may from time to time be voted by the Legislative Council for the purpose; and
 - interest and other income derived from the money and investments comprising the Fund.
7. Payments made from the Fund include:
 - monies payable to traffic accident victims and their dependants under the TAVA Scheme;
 - any refund of levies in respect of motor vehicles, trade licences, light rail vehicles, tramcars or trailers; and
 - the administration cost of the Fund.

THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

8. The terms of reference of the TAVA Advisory Committee are to advise the Director of Social Welfare on:

- all matters connected with the administration of the TAVA Scheme; and
- the administration of the TAVA Fund.

Membership

9. The Committee consists of three ex-officio members and five non-official members, all appointed by the Chief Executive. The Chairperson is appointed from the non-official members. Tenure of office of the non-official members is two years.

10. Membership as at 31 March 2024 was as follows:

Chairperson	Miss Chan Mei-lan, Anna May, MH, JP
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Vice-Chairperson	Director of Social Welfare or representative
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Members	Ms Cheung Shuk-fung, Christa
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	Mr Chin Shing-hoi
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	Dr Choo Ming-yin, Wilson
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	Ms Fanny Fung
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	Director of Legal Aid or representative
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	Commissioner of Police or representative
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Secretary	Senior Social Security Officer (Social Security) 4
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Meetings

11. During the year, two meetings were held on 28 August 2023 and 21 February 2024.

ELIGIBILITY AND UNDERTAKING

Eligibility Criteria

12. Eligibility for assistance under the TAVA Scheme depends on the following criteria:
- the accident falls within the scope of the Traffic Accident Victims (Assistance Fund) Ordinance and has been reported to the Police;
 - the victim died from the accident or the injury sustained by the victim gave rise to at least three days' hospitalization or sick leave as certified by a registered medical practitioner;
 - the application for assistance is made within six months after the date of the accident; and
 - the victim is a person having the right to remain in Hong Kong or being permitted to remain in Hong Kong under the Immigration Ordinance, Cap. 115, and he/she is not in contravention of a limit of stay (if any) in force against him/her at the time of the accident.

Undertaking

13. As required by Section 9 of the Traffic Accident Victims (Assistance Fund) Ordinance, the applicant has to sign an undertaking, as a condition of payment of assistance under the Scheme, whereby he/she must:

- notify the Director of Social Welfare of the making of any claim by him/her for damages or compensation from other sources in respect of the same traffic accident (such notification should be given within 30 days from the date of making such claim); and
- notify any person, against whom he/she has made a claim for damages or compensation in respect of the same traffic accident, of the date and amount of payment he/she has received from the Fund (such notification should be given in writing within seven days from the date of making such claim).

APPLICATIONS AND CASELOAD

Application Procedures

14. Applications for assistance can be made by fax, by post, by e-mail/online form or in person. Application forms are available at the Accident Investigation Teams of the Hong Kong Police Force, District Offices of the Home Affairs Department, Police posts at the Accident and Emergency Departments of hospitals under the Hospital Authority, the TAVA Section and the SWD homepage at <http://www.swd.gov.hk>.

15. Under normal circumstances, the police officer who investigates a traffic accident will introduce the Scheme to the victim or his/her next-of-kin. In the case of serious traffic accidents, staff of the TAVA Section will take the initiative to contact the victims or their dependants to assist them to apply for assistance at an early date.

16. An application for assistance is considered to have been formally made only when it is received by the SWD.

17. Unless prevented by special circumstances or immobility, the applicant will be required to attend an interview at the TAVA Section. He/she is responsible for producing evidence in support of his/her claim of temporary incapacity for work or any permanent disability resulting from his/her injuries sustained in the traffic accident. With the applicant's consent, medical examinations and reports may be arranged with the Hospital Authority/Department of Health for the purpose of assessing his/her eligibility for assistance.

18. To guard against fraudulent claims, doubtful medical certificates/reports provided by the applicant will be referred to the Hospital Authority/Department of Health for re-assessment. The TAVA Section will also refer doubtful cases to the Police for in-depth investigations.

19. As an additional measure to prevent fraud and abuse of the Scheme, standard forms for reporting suspected fraud cases by members of the public are obtainable at public housing estate offices and other government offices. Alternatively, these forms can be downloaded from the SWD homepage (see paragraph 14 above).

Number of Applications

20. During the year, 11 265 applications were received. This represents an increase of 10.1% over the previous year (10 236 in 2022-23). A chart showing the application trend of the Scheme since 1979 is at Appendix I.

Application Rate

21. According to the figures provided by the Commissioner of Police, the number of reported traffic casualties increased by 5.7% over the previous year. As for the rate of application for TAVA, it was increased from 50.2% to 52.2%. The table below shows the application rate:

Application rate 2023-24								
	<i>Fatality</i>		<i>Serious injury</i>		<i>Slight injury</i>		<i>Total</i>	
Traffic casualties reported to Police	91	(97)	890	(1 149)	20 581	(19 149)	21 562	(20 395)
Applications for TAVA	80	(84)	1 115	(782)	10 070	(9 370)	11 265	(10 236)
Overall application rate (%)							52.2	(50.2)

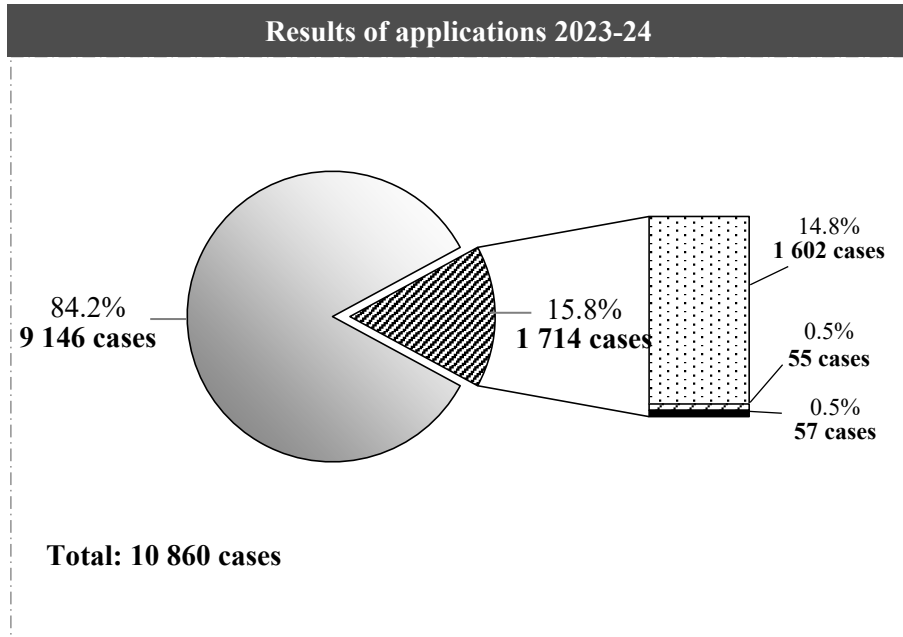
Notes

- (1) Figures in brackets represent those for the previous year.
- (2) The application rate is provisional and subject to change.

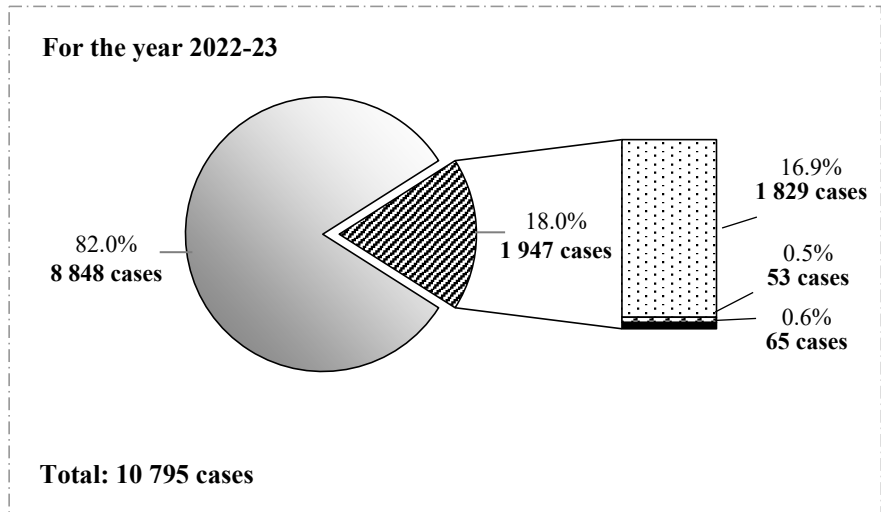
Results of Applications

22. During the year, 10 860 applications were processed with the following results:

Results of applications 2023-24		
Results	Cases	%
Payments authorized	9146	84.2
Payments not authorized	1714	15.8
- applications withdrawn	1602	14.8
- employees' compensation exceeds TAVA entitlement	55	0.5
- applications rejected	57	0.5
Total	10860	



For the year 2022-23		
Results	Cases	%
Payments authorized	8848	82.0
Payments not authorized	1947	18.0
- applications withdrawn	1829	16.9
- employees' compensation exceeds TAVA entitlement	53	0.5
- applications rejected	65	0.6
Total	10795	



■ Payments authorized

▨ Payments not authorized

Reasons:

▤ applications withdrawn

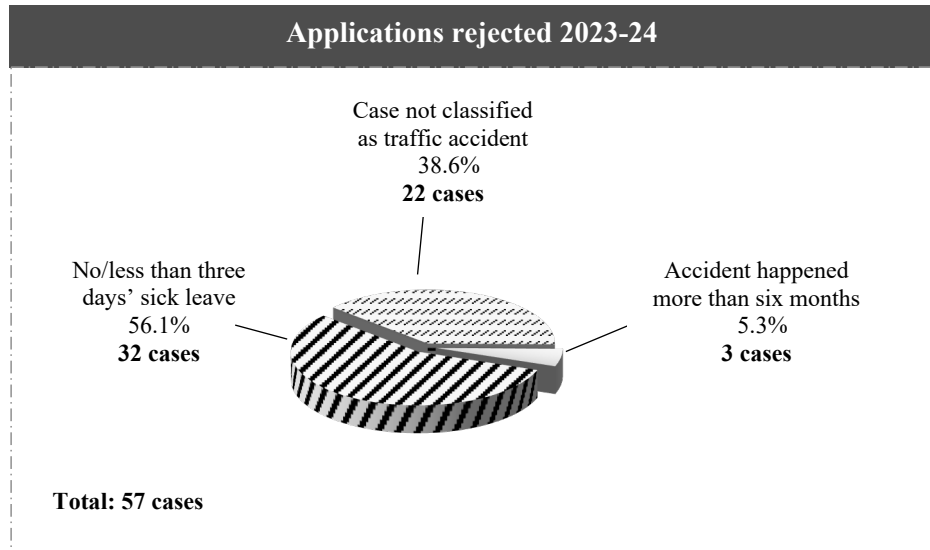
▥ employees' compensation exceeds TAVA entitlement

■ applications rejected

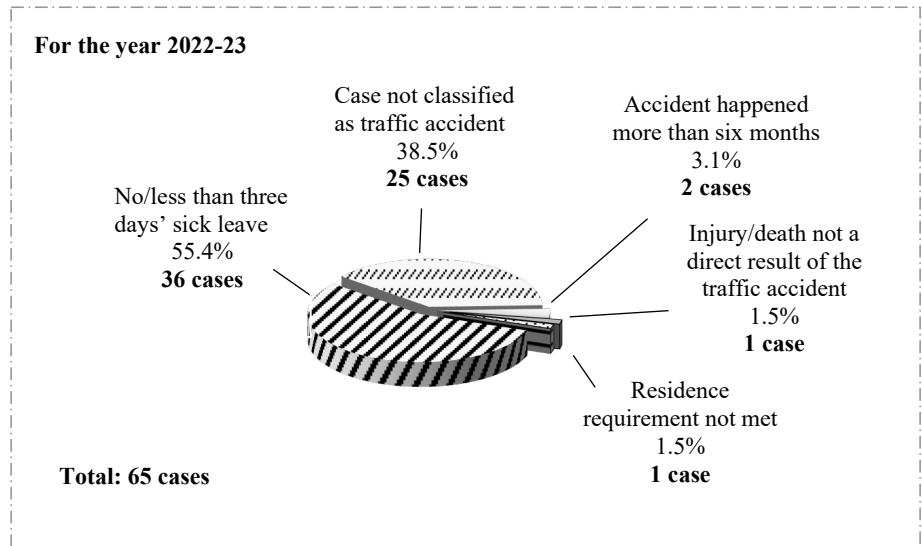
Applications Rejected

23. The reasons for rejecting 57 applications are analyzed below:

Applications rejected 2023-24		
Reasons	Cases	%
No/less than three days' sick leave	32	56.1
Case not classified as traffic accident	22	38.6
Accident happened more than six months	3	5.3
Total	57	



For the year 2022-23		
Reasons	Cases	%
No/less than three days' sick leave	36	55.4
Case not classified as traffic accident	25	38.5
Accident happened more than six months	2	3.1
Injury/death not a direct result of the traffic accident	1	1.5
Residence requirement not met	1	1.5
Total	65	



Applications Withdrawn

24. 1 602 applicants subsequently withdrew their applications for the following reasons:

Applications withdrawn 2023-24				
	Applications		%	
Seeking indemnity/compensation from other sources	181	(250)	11.3	(13.7)
Unwilling to comply with procedures	73	(64)	4.6	(3.5)
Lost contact	382	(358)	23.8	(19.6)
Not requiring financial assistance	833	(1 006)	52.0	(55.0)
Claim for compensation settled by other means	78	(104)	4.9	(5.7)
Burial grant paid by other sources	7	(6)	0.4	(0.3)
Case not classified as traffic accident	41	(31)	2.6	(1.7)
Accident happened more than 6 months	5	(6)	0.3	(0.3)
Dissatisfied with amount of TAVA payment	2	(4)	0.1	(0.2)
Total	1 602	(1 829)	100	(100)

Note

Figures in brackets represent those for the previous year.

Caseload

25. Statistics below show the flow of cases handled during the year:

Caseload flow 2023-24								
<i>Cases brought forward</i>	+	<i>Enquiries / referrals / cases newly received</i> ^(Note)	=	<i>Total caseload</i>	-	<i>Cases closed</i>	=	<i>Active caseload as at 31 March 2024</i>
7 238		13 119		20 357		12 157		8 200

Note

Including 1 835 cases re-opened for recovery or other actions.

PAYMENTS

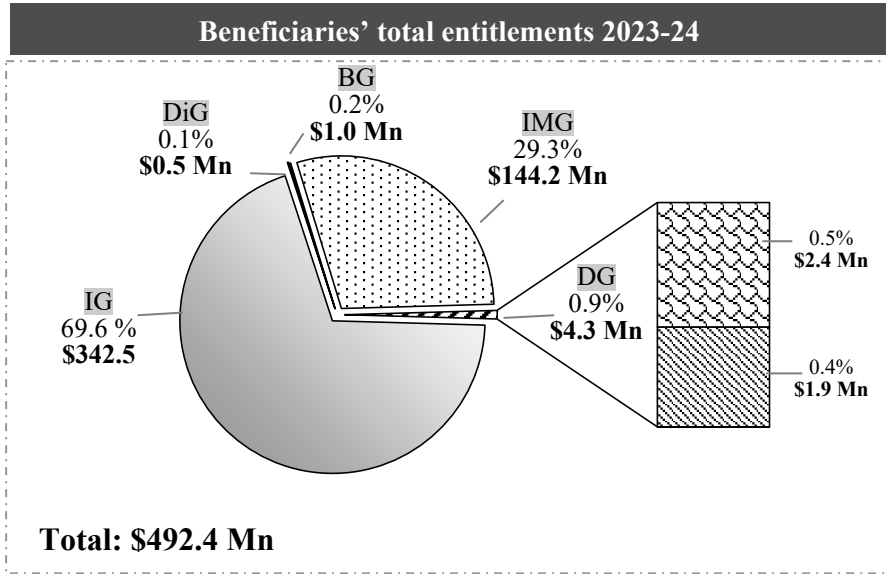
Basis of Payments

26. The levels of assistance are assessed on the basis of the payment schedule for death or personal injury under the Emergency Relief Fund, which is subject to periodic revision. The payment rates were last revised on 1 April 2023 (see Appendix II).

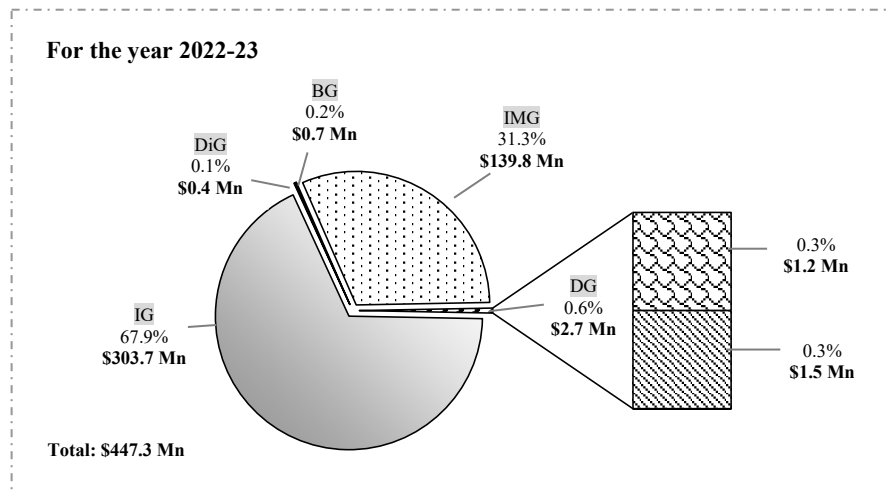
Payment of Assistance

27. Five types of grants are payable under the Scheme. A breakdown by type of grant of the beneficiaries' total entitlements during the year is provided below:

Beneficiaries' total entitlements 2023-24		
Types of grants	\$Mn	%
Burial grant	1.0	0.2
Death grant	4.3	0.9
- loss of sole wage earner	2.4	0.5
- loss of one of the wage earners	1.9	0.4
Injury grant	342.5	69.6
Disability grant	0.5	0.1
Interim maintenance grant	144.2	29.3
Total	492.4	



For the year 2022-23		
Types of grants	\$Mn	%
Burial grant	0.7	0.2
Death grant	2.7	0.6
- loss of sole wage earner	1.2	0.3
- loss of one of the wage earners	1.5	0.3
Injury grant	303.7	67.9
Disability grant	0.4	0.1
Interim maintenance grant	139.8	31.3
Total	447.3	



Note

Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

- BG** Burial grant
- DG** Death grant
 - loss of sole wage earner
 - loss of one of the wage earners
- IG** Injury grant
- DiG** Disability grant
- IMG** Interim maintenance grant

28. As shown in paragraph 27 above, the total amount of the beneficiaries' entitlements during the year amounted to \$492.4 million. By virtue of the statutory refund provision, a total amount of \$3.4 million received by a number of victims as periodical payments under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance and compensation from other sources was deducted from their entitlements. The net amount of assistance authorized for payment was \$489.0 million. The actual amount of assistance paid increased by 10.2% from \$446.3 million in 2022-23 to \$491.8 million. The difference between the amount authorized and the actual amount paid was due to the time gap between authorization and payment of assistance.

Serious Traffic Accidents

29. The TAVA Section processed 63 serious traffic accident cases during the year. The most serious accident occurred on 25 July 2023 which involved a taxi travelling along Gloucester Road westbound. When approaching the World Trade Centre, the taxi failed to brake in time and rammed into a heavy goods vehicle. The taxi driver died and four passengers were injured. Five applications were received and they were processed as at 31 March 2024.

The Highest Award

30. The highest award of the year was \$213,320 for a victim of a fatal case.

Methods of Payment

31. Payment is normally credited to an applicant's designated bank account. Under special circumstances, payment can be made by crossed cheque or by special delivery of cash to the applicant.

Speed of Payment

32. The time span for processing a case depends very much on the caseload during the year, the complexity of the cases, and such other factors as the availability of evidence, the time needed for medical authorities to assess the victims' degree of injury and disability, and the readiness of related parties (e.g. the employer concerned) to respond to enquiries.

33. The TAVA Section pledges to issue payment to successful new applications within seven working days after completion of investigation and authorization. This year's achievement rate was 100%, against the performance target of 95%.

Reimbursement Rate

36. The following table shows the amount of reimbursement in relation to the total amount of beneficiaries' entitlements under the Scheme:

Reimbursement rate 2023-24		
		\$ Mn
Beneficiaries' total entitlements under the Scheme	492.4	(447.3)
Total reimbursement		
● Deductions of periodical payments of employees' compensation	3.4	(4.8)
● Refunds from successful claims for damages or compensation	124.7	(140.6)
	Total	128.1 (145.4)
Reimbursement rate (%)	26.0	(32.5)

Note

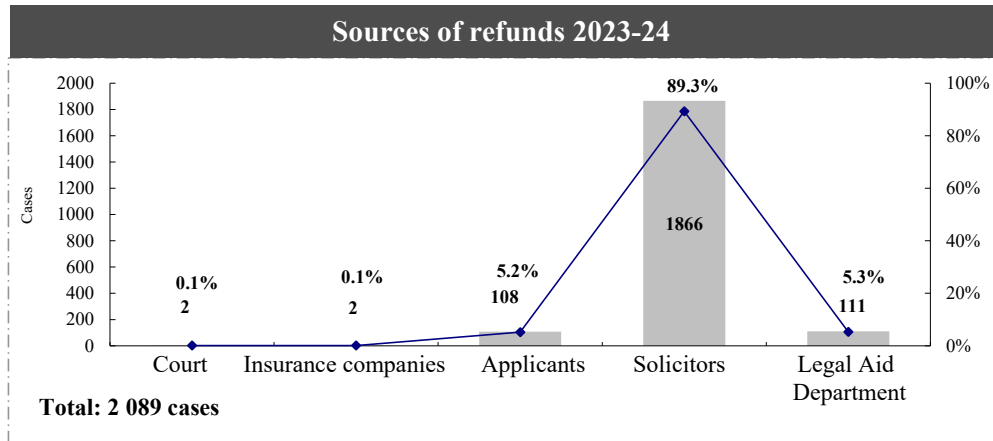
Figures in brackets represent those for the previous year.

Sources of Refunds

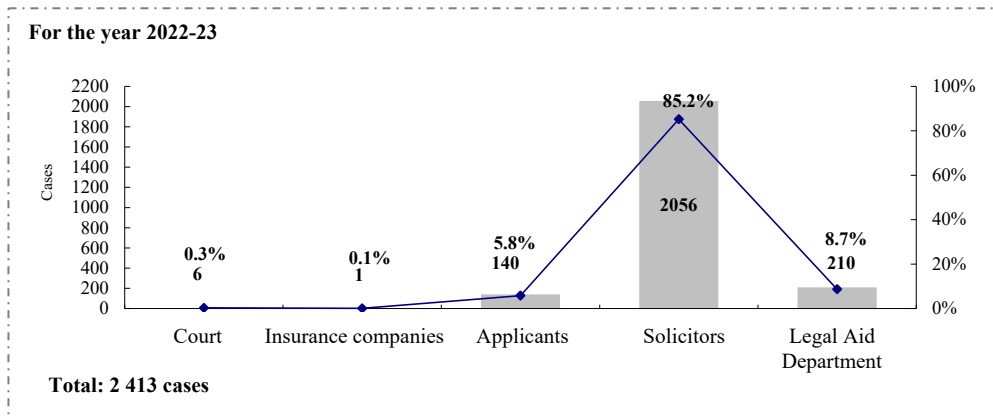
37. Refunds to the Fund are made either by the applicants or through other parties (including the Legal Aid Department, the Judiciary, private solicitors and insurance companies) with the consent of the applicants.

38. The following charts give a comparison of the sources of refunds between 2023-24 and 2022-23:

Sources of refunds 2023-24		
Sources	Cases	%
Court	2	0.1
Insurance companies	2	0.1
Applicants	108	5.2
Solicitors	1866	89.3
Legal Aid Department	111	5.3
Total	2089	



For the year 2022-23		
Sources	Cases	%
Court	6	0.3
Insurance companies	1	0.1
Applicants	140	5.8
Solicitors	2056	85.2
Legal Aid Department	210	8.7
Total	2413	



Note

Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

APPEALS

Right of Appeal

39. Where a person is not satisfied with the decisions of the SWD in respect of his/her application for TAVA, he/she may lodge an appeal with the Social Security Appeal Board in writing within the respective time limits (details at Appendix III). The Social Security Appeal Board is an independent body comprising non-officials appointed by the Chief Executive to handle social security appeals. Applicants/beneficiaries are informed of their rights of appeal in the information pamphlets issued by the TAVA Section and in the letters of notification of decision sent to them.

Appeal Cases

40. As at 31 March 2024, two appeals were received. One case was allowed by the Social Security Appeal Board and the other case was carried forward to the 2024-25 pending medical assessment and decision of the Board.

PUBLICITY AND LIAISON

Publicity

41. Both information pamphlets and leaflets of the Scheme are available at the Accident Investigation Teams of the Hong Kong Police Force, District Offices of the Home Affairs Department, Police posts at the Accident and Emergency Departments of hospitals under the Hospital Authority and the TAVA Section where application forms can be obtained. Members of the public can also obtain information about the Scheme from the SWD homepage (see paragraph 14 above).

Liaison

42. Regular contact and close co-ordination were maintained with the Hong Kong Police Force, Department of Health, Department of Justice, Legal Aid Department, Labour Department, Judiciary, Hospital Authority, and other related bodies to ensure the smooth operation of the Scheme.

Welfare Referrals

43. Where an applicant is found to be in need of other welfare services (for example, family and marriage counselling, psychiatric assistance), subject to the applicant's consent, the TAVA Section will make referrals to other service units or other departments/organizations for appropriate assistance.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Audited Statement of Accounts

44. The audited statement of accounts of the Fund for the year, including the Balance Sheet and the Receipts and Payments Account, is shown at Appendix IV.

45. There was an outstanding liability of \$4 million on the Fund, representing the total amount involved in cases where assistance had been authorized but payment was still outstanding as at 31 March 2024.

46. The interest receivable amounted to \$16.3 million as at the end of the year.

Contribution from Government

47. At the time of preparing the annual estimates, the “contribution from government” was estimated on the basis of 25% of the total levies expected to be collected for the year.

Accumulated Surplus of the Fund

48. The accumulated surplus brought forward from 2022-23 was \$1,568.5 million. For 2023-24, the deficit was \$114.7 million. The accumulated surplus as at 31 March 2024 was \$1,453.8 million.

Long Term Financial Position

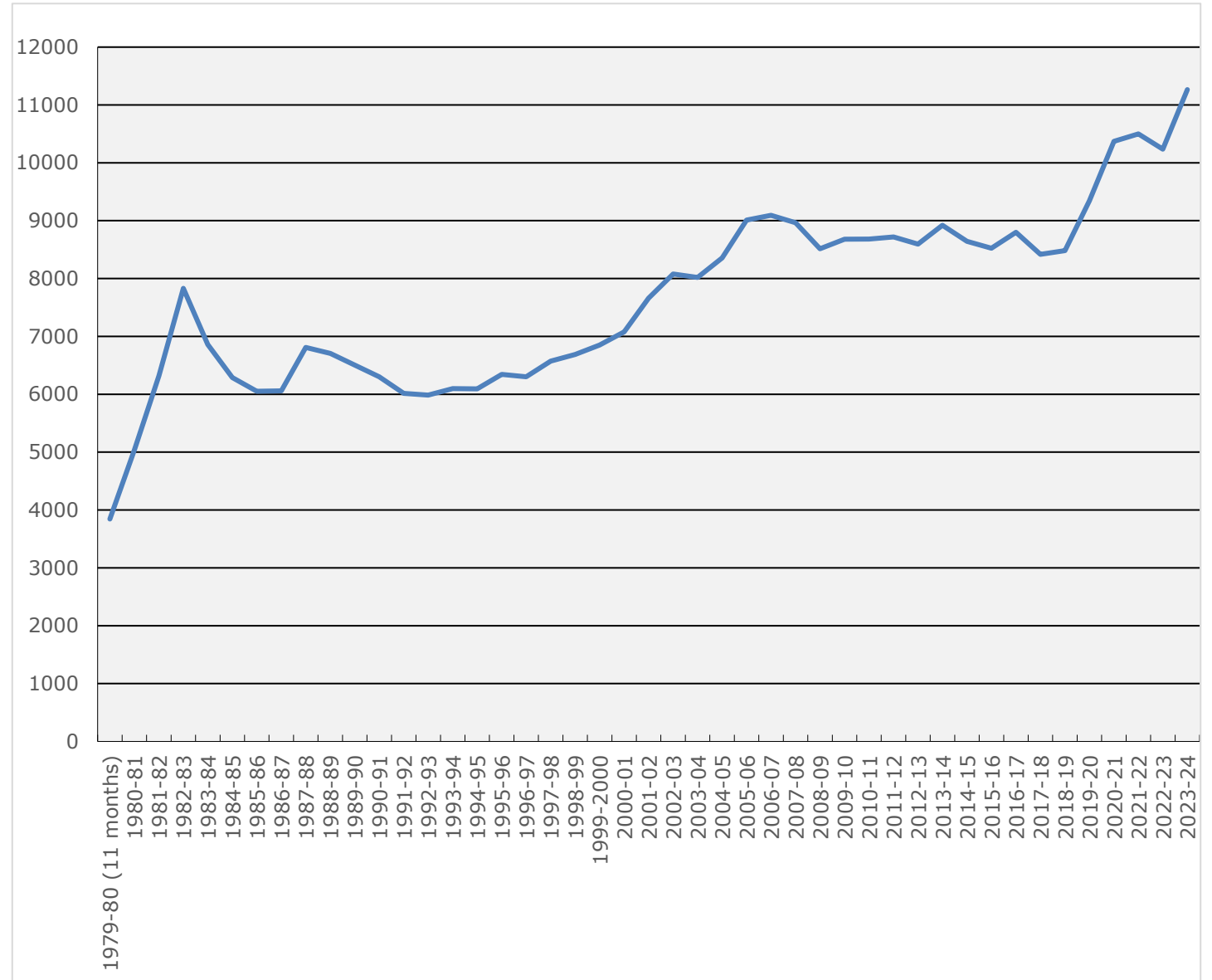
49. It was noted that grant payments were on an increasing trend in recent years resulting in a deficit in 2023-24. While the present rates of levies on vehicles and driving licences (which were last revised in 1995) remain unchanged (Note), there would be increasing pressure on the financial position of the Fund in the long run. The TAVA Advisory Committee keeps a close watch on the financial position of the Fund.

Note

The annual levies on vehicle licences and driving licences have remained at \$114 and \$38 respectively, since the last revision on 1 January 1995.

The Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Scheme Application Trend since 1979

Year	Applications	Year	Applications
1979-80 (11 mths)	3844	2007-08	8964
1980-81	5036	2008-09	8515
1981-82	6319	2009-10	8679
1982-83	7830	2010-11	8681
1983-84	6861	2011-12	8718
1984-85	6288	2012-13	8594
1985-86	6051	2013-14	8920
1986-87	6058	2014-15	8644
1987-88	6809	2015-16	8524
1988-89	6706	2016-17	8799
1989-90	6504	2017-18	8419
1990-91	6303	2018-19	8483
1991-92	6016	2019-20	9342
1992-93	5985	2020-21	10371
1993-94	6097	2021-22	10500
1994-95	6093	2022-23	10236
1995-96	6343	2023-24	11265
1996-97	6302		
1997-98	6572		
1998-99	6687		
1999-2000	6850		
2000-01	7079		
2001-02	7660		
2002-03	8079		
2003-04	8018		
2004-05	8356		
2005-06	9010		
2006-07	9092		



Payment Schedule of the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance

Type of Payment	Level of Grant (for accidents occurring on or after 1.4.2023)	Condition of Grant
Burial grant	\$16,790 per person	If the burial expenses were paid in full or in part by Government (such as under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme) or by one of the charitable funds, then the amount of grant shall be reduced by the amount of such payment.
Death grant		
a) Loss of sole wage earner where there are dependants	\$175,100 for one surviving dependant family member plus \$14,590 for each additional surviving dependant family member, up to a maximum of \$248,050.	If the beneficiary is an adult who is mentally unsound or found unconscious or is a minor without surviving parent or legal guardian, payments will be made on the advice of the Social Welfare Department.
b) Loss of wage earner where there are dependants and another wage earner remaining in the family	\$87,550 for one surviving dependant family member plus \$14,590 for each additional surviving dependant family member, up to a maximum of \$160,500.	
c) Loss of a parent who was not a wage earner but there are children under 15 years of age	\$87,550 for one surviving child under 15 plus \$14,590 for each additional surviving child under 15, up to a maximum of \$160,500.	
Disability grant	Up to a maximum of \$210,120, abated to 2/3 for persons aged 60 and over, discounted on account of degree of disability as provided for under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance.	
Injury grant	Up to a maximum of \$66,900 depending on gravity of injury.	For cases where the injury period is 7 days or more before death - a) injury grant is payable; b) it is payable to the victim or to his family after his death as appropriate. Injury grant should cease from the date on which the victim becomes eligible for the disability grant, or upon the death of the victim.
Interim maintenance grant	Up to \$14,590 per month for a maximum of 6 months (one month is regarded as 30 days).	In case of incapacity of a wage earner or a non-wage-earning parent with a child under 15 years of age. Payment of this grant should cease upon the death of the victim.

Time Limits for Lodging Appeals

Categories of appellant	Time limit
<p>An applicant or a beneficiary who may delegate his/her next-of-kin through the issue of a power of attorney</p> <p>An appointed applicant or an authorized agent or an attorney acting on behalf of a minor or a mentally handicapped victim/beneficiary</p>	<p><i>Within four weeks of the date of notification of decision on application.</i></p>
<p>A lawfully appointed personal representative of the deceased applicant/beneficiary</p>	<p><i>Within four weeks of the date of a grant of probate/the letter of administration by Court.</i></p>
<p>The Official Administrator (the Registrar of the Court) administering the estate of the deceased applicant/beneficiary in a summary manner</p>	<p><i>Within four weeks of the date of the getting in of the estate.</i></p>

Note

The Chairman of the Social Security Appeal Board may allow late appeals if he/she considers the reasons for the delay acceptable.

Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

Report of the Director of Audit



Audit Commission

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Independent Auditor's Report To the Legislative Council

Opinion

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund set out on pages 4 to 8, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 March 2024, and the receipts and payments account for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with section 11(1) of the Traffic Accident Victims (Assistance Fund) Ordinance (Cap. 229).

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with section 11(3) of the Traffic Accident Victims (Assistance Fund) Ordinance and the Audit Commission auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund in accordance with those standards, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with those standards. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated for the financial statements

The Director of Social Welfare Incorporated is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with section 11(1) of the Traffic Accident Victims (Assistance Fund) Ordinance, and for such internal control as the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated is responsible for assessing the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Audit Commission auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Audit Commission auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated; and
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the

Traffic Accident Victim Assistance Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.

I communicate with the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

S. M. CHOI
Principal Auditor
for Director of Audit

22 July 2024

Audit Commission
6th Floor, High Block
Queensway Government Offices
66 Queensway
Hong Kong

Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 HK\$	2023 HK\$
Assets			
Investments	3	1,019,067,031	991,046,847
Time deposits		403,189,007	545,452,398
Cash with other government departments		11,234,910	11,920,365
Cash and bank balances		20,268,835	20,068,071
Total assets		<u>1,453,759,783</u>	<u>1,568,487,681</u>
Accumulated fund			
Balance at beginning of year		1,568,487,681	1,631,893,519
Deficit for the year		(114,727,898)	(63,405,838)
Balance at end of year		<u>1,453,759,783</u>	<u>1,568,487,681</u>

The accompanying notes 1 to 8 form part of these financial statements.

(Miss Charmaine LEE)
Director of Social Welfare Incorporated
22 July 2024

Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 HK\$	2023 HK\$
Cash and bank balances at beginning of year		20,068,071	28,029,042
Receipts	4	404,846,847	409,519,795
Payments	5	(519,574,745)	(472,925,633)
Deficit for the year		(114,727,898)	(63,405,838)
Other cash movements	6	114,928,662	55,444,867
Cash and bank balances at end of year		<u>20,268,835</u>	<u>20,068,071</u>

The accompanying notes 1 to 8 form part of these financial statements.

Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund**Notes to the Financial Statements****1. General**

The financial statements of the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund (the Fund) are prepared pursuant to section 11(1) of the Traffic Accident Victims (Assistance Fund) Ordinance (Cap. 229). The Fund was established for the purpose of assisting traffic accident victims and their dependants in accordance with section 3(1) of the Traffic Accident Victims (Assistance Fund) Ordinance.

2. Material accounting policies**(a) Basis of accounting**

The financial statements are prepared on a cash basis. Transactions are recorded when moneys are received or paid during the financial year.

(b) Investments

- i. Placement with the Exchange Fund is stated at cost.
- ii. Listed equity securities are acquired with an intention to hold on a continuing basis and are stated at cost in the balance sheet. The cost of investments includes all expenses relating to the purchase of investments such as commission, brokerage, stamp duty and transaction levy. Gains or losses on disposal of investments are accounted for in the Receipts and Payments Account.

(c) Foreign currency transactions

Foreign currency transactions during the year are translated into Hong Kong dollars using the spot exchange rates at the transaction dates. Monetary assets denominated in currencies other than Hong Kong dollars are translated into Hong Kong dollars using the closing exchange rate at the reporting date. Exchange gains and losses are accounted for in the Receipts and Payments Account.

	2024	2023
	HK\$	HK\$
3. Investments		
Placement with the Exchange Fund	785,322,456	757,302,272
Listed equity securities, at cost	233,744,575	233,744,575
	<u>1,019,067,031</u>	<u>991,046,847</u>
Market value at end of year		
- Listed equity securities	<u>162,721,869</u>	<u>185,183,922</u>

In March 2016 and March 2019, HK\$700 million and HK\$200 million were placed with the Exchange Fund respectively. Upon maturity of the first placement of HK\$700 million in March 2022, a principal sum of HK\$500 million was re-invested and placed with the Exchange Fund. The terms of the placements are six years from the date of placements, during which the amount of the original placements cannot be withdrawn. Interest on the placements is at a rate determined annually in January and payable annually in arrears on 31 December. The rate is the average annual rate of return of the Exchange Fund's Investment Portfolio for the past six years or the average annual yield of three-year government bond in the previous year subject to a minimum of zero percent, whichever is the higher. The interest rate has been fixed at 3.7% per annum for January to December 2024 and 2023.

As at 31 March 2024, the total balance of the placement with the Exchange Fund amounted to HK\$785.3 million (2023: HK\$757.3 million), being the principal sum of HK\$700 million (2023: HK\$700 million) plus interest paid but not yet withdrawn at the reporting date of HK\$85.3 million (2023: HK\$57.3 million).

4. Receipts

Levies collected by the Transport Department	186,957,632	183,201,143
Levies on government vehicles and driving permits	1,086,952	1,071,220
Contribution from the Government	37,012,000	37,616,000
Refunds of assistance payments	124,720,468	140,568,113
Interest on investments	28,020,184	36,418,060
Interest on time deposits and bank balances	21,291,236	7,465,171
Dividend income	9,641,782	7,537,839
Net exchange losses	(3,883,407)	(4,357,751)
	<u>404,846,847</u>	<u>409,519,795</u>

	2024	2023
	HK\$	HK\$
5. Payments		
Assistance payments	491,784,339	446,251,274
Administration cost	27,790,406	26,655,659
Net realised premium on redemption of debt securities	-	18,700
	<u>519,574,745</u>	<u>472,925,633</u>
6. Other cash movements		
Reduction / (Increase) in Assets:		
Investments	(28,020,184)	14,298,540
Time deposits	142,263,391	44,911,312
Cash with other government departments	685,455	(3,764,985)
	<u>114,928,662</u>	<u>55,444,867</u>

7. Commitments

The approved assistance payments that were unpaid as at 31 March 2024 amounted to HK\$4.0 million (2023: HK\$7.3 million).

8. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures for 2023 have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation of the Fund's financial statements.