

## **LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Non-accountable Subsidy for Local Pleasure Vessels Let for Holding Social Gatherings**

#### **Purpose**

Members are invited to note this paper which sets out details about the Government's provision of a one-off non-accountable subsidy of \$20,000 for local pleasure vessels let for holding social gatherings.

#### **Background**

2. In view of the latest development of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Secretary for Food and Health issued directions on 27 March 2020 to require the closure of premises that are maintained or intended to be maintained for hire for holding social gatherings (commonly known as party room) between 28 March and 28 May 2020. Subsequently, the Government implements the Subsidy Scheme for Beauty Parlours, Massage Establishments and Party Rooms under the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund to provide relief to eligible operators affected by the pandemic and various anti-epidemic measures introduced by the Government.

3. Since local pleasure vessels let for hire or reward are also affected by the above anti-epidemic measures, the Government has decided to provide a one-off non-accountable subsidy of \$20,000 to each eligible vessel adopting this mode of operation. Details are set out below –

#### **Vessels Eligible for the Subsidy**

4. All Class IV vessels let for hire or reward meeting the following eligibility criterion may be granted a one-off non-accountable subsidy of \$20,000:

- A Class IV vessel which held a valid certificate of survey or certificate of inspection and a valid operating licence on 28 March 2020.

## **Form of Subsidy Provision**

5. **Shipowners are not required to submit applications** for the above non-accountable subsidy. If necessary, the Marine Department (“MD”) will ask shipowners to provide further information in accordance with their circumstances to verify their vessel’s eligibility for the subsidy concerned. It is expected that MD will notify eligible shipowners in writing by the end of July 2020, and will request verification of information from them at the same time including the name and address of the payee (including the shipowner or his/her authorized representative). Upon receipt of confirmation of the payees’ particulars from the shipowners concerned, MD will grant each of these shipowners (or the shipowner’s authorized representative) the non-accountable subsidy **in the form of a crossed cheque by post.**

6. As to the eligibility of local pleasure vessels for the subsidy concerned, MD’s decision shall be final.

Marine Department  
July 2020