

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Additional Round of Non-accountable Subsidy for Local Pleasure Vessels Let for Holding Social Gatherings

Purpose

Members are invited to note details about the Government's provision of an additional round of one-off non-accountable subsidy of \$40,000 for local pleasure vessels let for holding social gatherings.

Background

2. The Government will disburse further subsidy to party rooms and pleasure vessels under the Anti-epidemic Fund. Each eligible local pleasure vessels let for hire or reward (pleasure vessels let for hire) will be given a one-off non-accountable subsidy of \$40,000. Details are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Vessels Eligible for the Subsidy

3. Pleasure vessels let for hire or reward that had continuously suspended operations since 22 November 2020 pursuant to the closure order under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), and that had been granted subsidy under the previous round of the Subsidy Scheme¹, will be eligible for the new subsidy. To this effect, the current subsidy will be granted to vessels meeting the following criterion:

- A pleasure vessel let for hire or reward that was granted the subsidy under the previous round of subsidy; and
- Holding a valid Certificate of Survey or certificate of inspection and a valid operating licence on 29 April 2021.

¹ Non-accountable Subsidy for Local Pleasure Vessels Let for Holding Social Gatherings commenced in January 2021

4. Vessels whose owners have been changed and new operators who claim to have joined the sector after 22 November 2020 will not be eligible for the new subsidy.

Form of Subsidy Provision

5. **Shipowners are not required to submit applications** for the above non-accountable subsidy. The Marine Department (“MD”) will identify vessels which could be eligible for the subsidy concerned. 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 second week of May 2021, 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, the MD’s decision shall be final.

Marine Department
5 May 2021