

## **Travel Industry Compensation Fund (TICF)**

1. The TICF was established in 1993 under section 32C of the Travel Agents Ordinance (TAO) (Cap. 218) to provide protection to travellers in connection with outbound travel services obtained from travel agents. Outbound travellers may apply for ex gratia payments for loss of outbound fares (due to the default of travel agents) or suffering from injuries or death in accidents arising out of and in the course of activities provided or organised by travel agents while travelling abroad.
2. The purpose of the TICF as set out in para. 1 above has remain unchanged since its establishment. As the TICF is set up under the TAO, its purpose and usage are subject to the regulation of the law. Any change to its original purpose will involve amendments to the TAO, which is subject to the consideration and approval by the Legislative Council.
3. The TICF is managed by the Travel Industry Compensation Fund Management Board (TICFMB), which is a statutory body established under section 32B of the TAO to hold, manage and apply the TICF in accordance with the TAO. Its exercise of general powers and discretion must be within the scope of the TAO. The TICFMB is not empowered by the law to make payments for purposes outside the ambit of the TAO. Making payment out of the Fund for the purpose of subsidising the operation of the travel agents is not within the ambit of the TAO.

**Tourism Commission**

**Commerce and Economic Development Bureau**

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