

Transcript of remarks by STH

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan Fan, at a media session after attending the public hearing of the Legislative Council Public Accounts Committee (PAC) today (May 10):

Reporter: Secretary, I'll ask two questions. First of all, is the Government considering a series of measures to tighten the sale of first-hand properties? And secondly, just now in the PAC meeting some lawmakers questioned why the Government didn't do anything about the shortage of parking spaces in 2014 when the ratio fell to 1:1.19. Can you tell us why?

Secretary for Transport and Housing: As regard the sale of first-hand residential property, as you may realise, the Sales of First-hand Residential Properties Authority has tightened its supervision of the sale of first-hand residential property in terms of information availability, transparency, and is also trying to make sure that the sales and purchase process is transparent and fair to those who are going to buy properties. We are going to keep a very close watch to the market on what is going on, and make sure that property buyers will be treated fairly and squarely.

As I have explained in the PAC meeting (public hearing of the Legislative Council PAC) this morning, we have been making every endeavour to enhance the supply of car parks, mostly for commercial vehicles. If there is availability of space and flexibility, we'll also enhance the supply of private car parking spaces as well. As regard to what has been done in the past, I think we have explained very clearly in the hearing. What we are now focusing on is how to enhance the supply in future and I have explained very clearly the measures that we are going to take in the years to come.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

Hong Kong Customs tackles case of suspected false trade descriptions under civil compliance-based mechanism

The Customs and Excise Department (C&ED), after obtaining consent of the Secretary for Justice, has accepted written undertakings made under the civil compliance-based mechanism of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (TDO) by a skincare product importer and a beauty centre suspected of applying false trade descriptions to goods and supplying goods with false trade descriptions in the course of trade.

The C&ED earlier received a complaint against a beauty centre for supplying a skincare product with a suspected false organic authentication logo. After investigation, it was confirmed that the beauty centre procured from an importer the skincare product with the relevant logo without authorisation.

The traders were co-operative in the course of the investigation and proposed to undertake in writing not to continue or repeat the conduct and will take remedial actions. Having fully assessed the traders' proposals, the C&ED accepted the undertaking for a period of two years under the TD0 upon obtaining the consent from the Secretary for Justice. The C&ED today (May 10) uploaded the undertaking to the Customs homepage (www.customs.gov.hk/en/customs_notices/undertake/index.html).

A C&ED spokesman stressed that if the trader breaches any terms of the undertaking, the C&ED might withdraw the acceptance of the undertaking pursuant to the TD0, to be followed by investigation and legal proceedings.

Under the TD0, any person who supplies goods with a false trade description in the course of trade or business, or is in possession of any goods for sale with a false trade description, commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

Under Section 30L of the TD0, a civil compliance-based mechanism has been put in place to encourage compliance by traders and to settle matters concerned expeditiously. The C&ED, having regard to the nature, actual circumstances of the case and relevant factors, may accept an undertaking from the traders involved after obtaining written consent from the Secretary for Justice.

Members of the public may report any suspected violations of the TD0 to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).

FEHD raids unlicensed cold store in Fanling (with photo)

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) today (May 10) raided an unlicensed cold store on Ping Che Road, Fanling.

During the operation, FEHD officers found about 6 300 kilograms of chilled poultry and game with official health certificates on the premises. In addition, about 210kg of chilled chicken feet, goose wings and poultry offal without official health certificates were seized for disposal. A 48-year-old man was arrested and charged with operating an unlicensed cold

store.

Under the Food Business Regulation, the maximum penalty for operating an unlicensed cold store is a fine of \$50,000 and six months' imprisonment upon conviction.

"We will continue our stringent enforcement action against unlicensed food business to safeguard food safety and public health," an FEHD spokesman said.

"Members of the public can report any suspected illegal food business activities by calling the FEHD hotline 2868 0000."



Approved Central District Outline Zoning Plan referred back for amendment

The Town Planning Board announced today (May 10) that the Chief Executive in Council has referred the approved Central District Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) to the Board for amendment to reflect the latest land use proposals.

The OZP incorporating the respective amendments will be exhibited for public inspection under the provisions of the Town Planning Ordinance.

The Central District OZP was last approved by the Chief Executive in Council in November 2016.

Hospital Authority submits limited registration applications

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority (HA) today (May 10) submitted to the Medical Council of Hong Kong (MCHK) the applications of seven non-locally trained doctors for limited registration to serve in public hospitals. Of the seven applications, five are new applications and the other two are for renewal.

The HA spokesperson said public hospitals have been facing doctor manpower shortage and workload issues in various clinical units. The recruitment of non-locally trained doctors has been supported by the respective Co-ordinating Committees and endorsed by the HA Task Force on Limited Registration Scheme.

The five new applications for limited registration submitted to the MCHK today cover the specialties of Family Medicine, Neurosurgery, Paediatrics and Radiology. Regarding the renewal applications for two non-locally trained doctors (one in Emergency Medicine and one in Family Medicine), their current limited registration will expire in the third quarter of 2019.

The overseas recruitment of non-locally trained doctors will continue. At the moment, there are 14 non-locally trained doctors who have been assessed to be eligible for the recruitment exercise and considered suitable for appointment after interviews by user departments. All the applicants have fulfilled related qualification requirements recognised by the constituent Colleges of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, and they all have licenses to practise in their respective countries. The HA will submit limited registration applications for non-locally trained doctors in batches according to their intended dates of reporting for duty.

Currently, there are 12 non-locally trained doctors working in public hospitals under limited registration to relieve manpower shortage and workload pressure of front-line doctors in the specialties of Anaesthesia, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and Radiology.

Since April this year, the HA has expanded the scope of the limited registration recruitment scheme to all specialties at the rank of Service Resident, and to recruit non-locally trained specialists at the rank of Associate Consultant in eight specialties (Anaesthesia, Anatomical Pathology, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Otorhinolaryngology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Radiology and Nuclear Medicine) which face significant shortage of specialists.