

Update on cluster of Rhinovirus cases in Siu Lam Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on a cluster of patients infected with Rhinovirus in a male ward for severe intellectual disability, the spokesperson for Siu Lam Hospital gave the following update today (April 16):

Three more patients (aged 46 to 58) in the ward presented with respiratory symptoms. Appropriate viral tests were arranged for the patients and their test results were positive for Rhinovirus. The patients concerned are being treated under isolation with stable condition.

Admission to the ward has been suspended and restricted visiting arrangements have been imposed. Infection control measures have already been stepped up according to established guidelines. All other patients in the ward are under close surveillance.

The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.

Senior Counsel appointed

The following is issued on behalf of the Judiciary:

The Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, Mr Geoffrey Ma Tao-li, is pleased to announce today (April 16) the appointment of four Senior Counsel of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. They are:

Ms Eva Sit Yat-wah
Mr Jenkin Suen
Ms Rachel Lam Yan-kay
Mr Laurence Li Lu-jen

The appointments are made by the Chief Justice under section 31A of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance.

The appointments will take effect from the date of the Instrument of Appointment, which will be executed on June 22, 2019, when the ceremonial proceedings are to take place at 10am in the Court of Final Appeal.

The biographical notes of the newly appointed Senior Counsel are as follows:

Ms Eva Sit Yat-wah

Ms Eva Sit Yat-wah, aged 40, obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Civil Law degree at the University of Oxford. She was admitted to the Hong Kong Bar in 2002. She practices civil law.

Mr Jenkin Suen

Mr Jenkin Suen, aged 41, obtained a Bachelor of Laws degree at the University of Hong Kong, a Bachelor of Civil Law degree at the University of Oxford and a Master of Arts degree at the University of Hong Kong. He was admitted to the Hong Kong Bar in 2004. He practices mainly civil law.

Ms Rachel Lam Yan-kay

Ms Rachel Lam Yan-kay, aged 37, obtained a Master of Arts degree at the University of Oxford, a Master of Laws degree at the Harvard Law School and a Master of Studies degree at the University of Oxford. She was admitted to the Bar of England and Wales (Gray's Inn) and to the Hong Kong Bar in 2004, and to the New York State Bar in 2007. She practices mainly civil law.

Mr Laurence Li Lu-jen

Mr Laurence Li Lu-jen, aged 47, obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree at the Yale University and a Juris Doctor degree at the Harvard Law School. He was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1998 and to the Hong Kong Bar in 2006. He practices mainly civil law and financial law.

[Volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade in February 2019](#)

Further to the external merchandise trade statistics in value terms for February 2019 released earlier on, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (April 16) the volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for that month.

As the trade flows in January and February of each year tend to show considerable volatilities due to differences in timing of the Lunar New Year holidays, it is useful to analyse the trade figures for these two months taken together. Comparing the first two months of 2019 with the same period in 2018, the volume of Hong Kong's total exports of goods decreased by 4.8%.

Concurrently, the volume of imports of goods decreased by 6.7%.

In February 2019, the volume of Hong Kong's total exports of goods decreased by 8.7% over February 2018. Concurrently, the volume of imports of goods decreased by 5.5%.

Comparing the three-month period ending February 2019 with the preceding three months on a seasonally adjusted basis, the volume of total exports of goods decreased by 8.2%. Concurrently, the volume of imports of goods decreased by 8.8%.

Changes in volume of external merchandise trade are derived from changes in external merchandise trade value with the effect of price changes discounted.

As regards price changes in the first two months of 2019 over the same period in 2018, the prices of total exports of goods increased by 2.1%. Concurrently, the prices of imports of goods also increased by 2.1%.

Comparing February 2019 with February 2018, the prices of total exports of goods increased by 2.2%. Concurrently, the prices of imports of goods increased by 2.3%.

Price changes in external merchandise trade are reflected by changes in unit value indices of external merchandise trade, which are compiled based on average unit values or, for certain commodities, specific price data.

The terms of trade index is derived from the ratio of price index of total exports of goods to that of imports of goods. Compared with the same periods in 2018, the index remained virtually unchanged in both February 2019 and the first two months of 2019.

Changes in the unit value and volume of total exports of goods by main destination are shown in Table 1.

Comparing February 2019 with February 2018, double-digit declines were recorded for the total export volume to India (-41.0%), the USA (-22.8%) and Japan (-22.1%). Concurrently, the total export volume to the mainland of China (the Mainland) decreased by 7.4%. On the other hand, a double-digit growth of 16.4% was recorded for the total export volume to Singapore.

Over the same period of comparison, the total export prices to Japan, the USA and the Mainland increased by 3.7%, 3.7% and 2.4% respectively. On the other hand, the total export prices to India and Singapore decreased by 0.5% and 2.7% respectively.

Changes in the unit value and volume of imports of goods by main supplier are shown in Table 2.

Comparing February 2019 with February 2018, a double-digit decline of 12.7% was recorded for the import volume from the Mainland. Concurrently, the

import volume from Taiwan decreased by 9.2%. On the other hand, the import volume from Japan, the USA and Singapore increased by 3.0%, 13.2% and 14.2% respectively.

Over the same period of comparison, the import prices from all main suppliers increased: the Mainland (+3.4%), Japan (+3.1%), Singapore (+3.1%), the USA (+1.8%) and Taiwan (+0.6%).

Further information

Details of the above statistics are published in the February 2019 issue of "Hong Kong Merchandise Trade Index Numbers". Users can download the publication free of charge at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp230.jsp?productCode=B1020006).

Enquiries on merchandise trade indices may be directed to the Trade Analysis Section (1) of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 4918).

Hong Kong Customs confiscates crime proceeds of car dealer convicted of cross-boundary money laundering

Hong Kong Customs today (April 16) successfully made its application to the District Court for a confiscation order granted under the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance (OSCO) to confiscate crime proceeds of about \$14 million from a local car dealer convicted of money laundering, including real properties, vehicles and other realisable properties.

Hong Kong Customs collaborated with Mainland Customs in 2013 to combat a vehicle smuggling syndicate and identified a local car dealer who had taken part in smuggling vehicles into the Mainland from Hong Kong via Vietnam and had laundered about RMB 48 million in crime proceeds between 2012 and 2013. Following in-depth joint investigation with Mainland Customs, Hong Kong Customs arrested the car dealer in September 2013. He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment at the District Court in April 2018 following his conviction for contravention of the OSCO.

According to the confiscation order granted today, an additional six years' imprisonment will be imposed if the car dealer fails to comply with the order.

Customs welcomes the order granted by the court and emphasises that money laundering is a serious crime.

Under the OSCO, a person commits an offence if he deals with any

property knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe that such property in whole or in part directly or indirectly represents any person's proceeds of an indictable offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and imprisonment for 14 years, and the crime proceeds are subject to confiscation.

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

Exchange Fund Bills tender results

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

Exchange Fund Bills tender results:

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|------------------------|------------------|
| Tender date | : April 16, 2019 |
| Paper on offer | : EF Bills |
| Issue number | : Q1916 |
| Issue date | : April 17, 2019 |
| Maturity date | : July 17, 2019 |
| Amount applied | : HK\$110,730 MN |
| Amount allotted | : HK\$59,577 MN |
| Average yield accepted | : 2.08 PCT |
| Highest yield accepted | : 2.20 PCT |
| Pro rata ratio | : About 3 PCT |
| Average tender yield | : 2.14 PCT |

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Tender date | : April 16, 2019 |
| Paper on offer | : EF Bills |
| Issue number | : H1945 |
| Issue date | : April 17, 2019 |
| Maturity date | : October 16, 2019 |
| Amount applied | : HK\$45,755 MN |
| Amount allotted | : HK\$16,000 MN |
| Average yield accepted | : 2.02 PCT |
| Highest yield accepted | : 2.07 PCT |
| Pro rata ratio | : About 91 PCT |
| Average tender yield | : 2.13 PCT |

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|-------------|------------------|
| Tender date | : April 16, 2019 |
|-------------|------------------|

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|------------------------|------------------|
| Paper on offer | : EF Bills |
| Issue number | : Y1988 |
| Issue date | : April 17, 2019 |
| Maturity date | : April 15, 2020 |
| Amount applied | : HK\$14,455 MN |
| Amount allotted | : HK\$3,000 MN |
| Average yield accepted | : 1.90 PCT |
| Highest yield accepted | : 1.99 PCT |
| Pro rata ratio | : About 23 PCT |
| Average tender yield | : 2.10 PCT |