

Courts (Remote Hearing) Ordinance comes into operation

The following is issued on behalf of the Judiciary:

The Courts (Remote Hearing) Ordinance (the Ordinance) takes effect upon gazettal today (March 28). The Ordinance provides a clear legal basis for judges and judicial officers to order remote hearings for court proceedings at various levels of courts and tribunals where appropriate, having regard to the requirements under the Ordinance.

Remote hearing is one of the Judiciary's key technology initiatives for enhancing the efficiency of court operations. Remote hearing saves time for parties and other participants (such as witnesses) to commute to law courts buildings for attending court proceedings, thereby facilitating the listing of court proceedings. It also facilitates the courts in better tackling unforeseen circumstances where physical presence by parties may not be possible.

A spokesman for the Judiciary said, "Since 2020, the Judiciary has conducted over 2 100 remote hearings at various levels of courts and tribunals, and the experience has been positive. The Judiciary will step up promotion for remote hearing. We are also prepared to conduct remote hearings more often in suitable proceedings, particularly for short proceedings (such as three-minute hearings) and non-trial criminal proceedings."

The Judiciary would like to remind all court users that the Ordinance has introduced new offences to criminalise unauthorised recording, publishing and broadcast of proceedings in physical and remote hearings. Anyone who commits the offences is liable to a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment and a fine of \$100,000.

The Ordinance has also amended section 7 of the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228) to expand the coverage of the offence of taking photographs in courts to include making images or audio records of any court premises and any person on court premises; and to increase the maximum penalty to one year's imprisonment and a fine of \$50,000.

While remote hearing is generally applicable to both civil proceedings and non-trial criminal proceedings, the Judiciary plans to start conducting remote hearings for the latter in about six months' time so as to allow time for stakeholders to get prepared. The Judiciary will issue practice directions by phases to specify the operational details for conducting remote hearings, including the application procedures, guidelines and related issues.

Postal services to Georgia return to normal

â€‹Hongkong Post announced today (March 28) that, as advised by the postal administration of Georgia, mail delivery services previously impacted by severe weather have returned to normal.

Housing Authority sets rents for new public rental housing estate

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

Rents for three non-standard blocks of Choi Shek Estate, Sheung Shui, a new public rental housing (PRH) estate under the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA), will be set at the best rent level for its respective district. The best rent level of a respective district is expressed in terms of dollars per square metre of internal floor area and determined with reference to the location and comparable value of the estate concerned.

The best rent at \$74 per square metre per month for the flats in Sheung Shui district will apply to a total of 1 431 flats in Yuet Shek House, Yiu Shek House and Wing Shek House of Choi Shek Estate.

"Under this rent-fixing exercise, over 91 per cent of the flats are set at a rent level below \$2,500 per month," a spokesman for the HA said today (March 28), adding that PRH rents, which are inclusive of rates, management fees and maintenance costs, are heavily subsidised.

"PRH applicants who are allocated new flats but cannot afford the rents may request refurbished flats at lower rents. They may also apply for assistance under the Rent Assistance Scheme for flats in older block types where applicable," the spokesman added.

[“Population and Household Statistics Analysed by District Council District 2024” published](#)

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) published today (March 28) the report "Population and Household Statistics Analysed by District Council District 2024".

The report provides information on the socio-economic characteristics of the land-based non-institutional population in 2024 at the District Council district level. Population characteristics like age and sex, and household characteristics like household income and type of households are included.

The statistics in the report are primarily compiled based on the survey results of the General Household Survey from January to December 2024 as well as the mid-year population estimates, thus largely reflecting the overall situation of the population in each District Council district in the year. This survey covers the land-based non-institutional population of Hong Kong. Summary statistics by District Council district are shown in Table 1 and Table 2 attached.

Users can browse and download the report at the website of the C&SD at (www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1130301&scode=150).

Enquiries about the contents of the report can be directed to the Social Analysis and Research Section of the C&SD (Tel.: 2887 5106; e-mail: ghs@censtatd.gov.hk).

[Hongkong Post to issue “2024 Prestige Annual Stamp Album” and “2024 Annual Stamp Pack” \(with photo\)](#)

Hongkong Post announced today (March 28) that the "2024 Prestige Annual Stamp Album" (Ordinary Version) and the "2024 Annual Stamp Pack" will be released for sale at all 37 philatelic offices on March 31 (Monday) and at Hongkong Post's online shopping mall "ShopThruPost" (shopthrupost.hongkongpost.hk) from 8am on the same day. The "2024 Prestige Annual Stamp Album" (Deluxe Version) will be put on sale at "ShopThruPost" on the same day.

The stamp issues released by Hongkong Post in 2024 encompassed a variety of themes, ranging from local culture and sporting events to historical architecture and classical work. The rich variety of interesting topics, each demonstrating the ingenuity of the designers and having great significance, has captured the attention of both stamp collectors and the general public alike.

The "2024 Prestige Annual Stamp Album" is a collectible with exquisite designs and of great commemorative value. The "2024 Prestige Annual Stamp Album" (Ordinary Version), priced at \$898, contains a complete collection of special/commemorative stamps, stamp sheetlets and souvenir sheets issued by Hongkong Post in 2024, while the Deluxe Version, priced at \$998, additionally comes with a certificate signed by the Postmaster General and a unique serial number. The "2024 Annual Stamp Pack", priced at \$328, contains all special stamps (except stamp sheetlets and souvenir sheets) issued by Hongkong Post during the year.

By browsing through the album and stamp pack, stamp enthusiasts can recall the diversified stamp topics in the past year, which are eye-pleasing items for true philatelists to enjoy at leisure.

Information about the "2024 Prestige Annual Stamp Album" and the "2024 Annual Stamp Pack" is available on the Hongkong Post Stamps website (stamps.hongkongpost.hk).

2024 Prestige Annual Stamp Album and 2024 Annual Stamp Pack
2024 年珍貴郵票冊及 2024 郵票套摺



2024 Prestige Annual Stamp Album (Ordinary Version)
2024 年珍貴郵票冊 (精裝版)

2024 Annual Stamp Pack
2024 年郵票套摺



2024 Prestige Annual Stamp Album (Deluxe Version)
2024 年珍貴郵票冊 (珍藏版)