

Buildings Department's special work arrangement

In accordance with the special work arrangement for government departments to reduce social contacts to stop COVID-19 from further spreading in the community, the Buildings Department (BD) announced today (July 19) that it will provide emergency and essential public services between tomorrow (July 20) and July 26. The services will be mainly handling public reports on building safety and unauthorised building works in progress, critical statutory submissions for new developments, registration of building professionals and contractors, advisory services for licensing authorities and implementation of Operation Building Bright 2.0.

Submission of the following applications and documents in person should be through:

1. A drop-in box located at G/F, Buildings Department Headquarters, North Tower, West Kowloon Government Offices, 11 Hoi Ting Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon, (BD Headquarters) for collection of the specified forms and supporting documents required to be submitted under the Minor Works Control System, the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme and the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme, applications for registration and renewal of registration of building professionals and contractors under the Buildings Ordinance, as well as documents for compliance with statutory orders or directions issued by the BD (e.g. investigation reports, remedial works proposals, completion reports, etc.) from 10am to 4pm from Monday to Friday;
2. A tender/quotation box located at the ground floor of the BD Headquarters for receiving tender/quotation documents from 8.30am to 5.30pm from Monday to Friday; and
3. A drop-in counter located at the office of the BD's New Buildings Division on 7/F, 14 Taikoo Wan Road, Taikoo Shing, Hong Kong for collection of statutory applications and related documents and forms for new building works from 9.30am to 2.30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The department will issue receipts/acknowledgements of submissions in due course. However, the handling time of the above services may be longer than usual.

The Building Information Centre and all receipt counters, dispatch counters, general enquiry counters and meeting rooms of the BD will not be open to the public until further notice. All appointments, meetings (except meetings essential to meet statutory requirements such as Minor Works Contractor Registration Committee meetings) and inspections scheduled for the period will be rescheduled to later dates and the individuals concerned will be notified in due course.

Emergency reports can be made on 1823. For general enquiries and reports, members of the public may call 1823 or inform the department by email (enquiry@bd.gov.hk), online reporting (eform.one.gov.hk/form/bd0001/en/), fax (2537 4992) or post (North Tower, West Kowloon Government Offices, 11 Hoi Ting Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon). In addition, electronic information can be submitted to the BD via receipt@bd.gov.hk.

Temporary suspension of reception counter service of Office of the Ombudsman

The following is issued on behalf of the Office of the Ombudsman:

In view of the current widespread of COVID-19 in the community, the Office of the Ombudsman today (July 19) announced that the Office will temporarily suspend the reception counter service.

Members of the public are advised to lodge complaints or make enquiries through other means (i.e. email, fax, hotline, voice message and online form).

The Office will review the situation regularly and resume reception counter service when conditions permit.

Opening hours of Legal Aid Department's offices under special work arrangement

To align with the special work arrangement announced by the Government, the Legal Aid Department (LAD) today (July 19) announced that the LAD offices will open from 9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm between July 20 and 24 to provide basic necessary and limited civil and criminal legal aid application and litigation services.

The following LAD offices will provide limited public services:

- Information and Application Services Unit (located on 25/F, Queensway

Government Offices (QG0))

- Information and Application Services Unit (located on G/F, Mongkok Government Offices)
- Crime Section (located on 25/F, QG0)
- Civil Litigation Section 1 (located on 26/F, QG0)
- Civil Litigation Section 2 (located on 30/F, Revenue Tower, Wan Chai)
- Costing Unit and Enforcement Unit (both located on 27/F, QG0)

For enquiries, please contact the following offices during the above office hours:

- Information and Application Services Unit: 2537 7717 (for civil legal aid services)
- Crime Section: 2867 3139
- Civil Litigation Section 1: 2867 3123
- Civil Litigation Section 2: 2594 7884
- Costing Unit and Enforcement Unit: 2867 3152

Members of the public may also contact the LAD for other enquiries through its 24-hour hotline (2537 7677), email (ladinfo@lad.gov.hk) or fax (2537 5948).

Provision of services in LandsD's offices

In accordance with the implementation of special work arrangement of the Government, the Lands Department (LandsD) today (July 19) announced that arrangement would be made for staff to work from home as far as possible to achieve social distancing more effectively with a view to reducing the risk of spread of novel coronavirus in the community. From July 20 to 26, all LandsD offices would provide basic public services on limited scale. Services for receipt and delivery of documents at counters and enquiry telephone lines will be provided between 1pm and 5pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday during this period. The LandsD headquarters at North Point Government Offices will open only the counter on the 21st floor during the above opening hours. Other counter services, including counter enquiries, payment of government rent and premium, map sales counters, collection of compensation for land resumption, depositing of land boundary plans and survey record plans, and inspection of a full list of Authorised Land Surveyors, will be suspended. Online services would be maintained as normal. Members of the public may continue to make enquiries or complaints through email.

An appeal is made to the public to minimise visiting LandsD's offices in person unless necessary. The public can purchase most map products from Hong

Kong Map Service 2.0 and can pay government rent and land premiums and file enquiries or complaints as well as requests for service online or through other electronic means. Due to the special work arrangements, the processing of various enquiries, complaints and applications may be delayed and it may take a longer time to provide a reply. The department apologises for any inconvenience caused.

Latest arrangements of Marine Department services

In light of the special work arrangement for government employees announced by the Government today (July 19), a spokesman for the Marine Department (MD) announced that, apart from the Central Marine Office, the licensing and port formalities services at the Yau Ma Tei Marine Office, Tuen Mun Marine Office, Sai Kung Marine Office, Tai Po Marine Office, Aberdeen Marine Office, Cheung Chau Marine Office and Shau Kei Wan Marine Office; the seafarers' examination and certification services; mercantile marine services; local vessel surveying services as well as its enquiry services will be suspended starting tomorrow (July 20) until July 26.

For those who have made an appointment for seafarers' examination and local vessel survey service tomorrow, the examination/services will be carried out as scheduled. Those who have made appointments on other dates will be separately informed of alternative arrangement.

Other services provided by the MD will remain unaffected.