<u>Latest arrangements for Inland Revenue</u> <u>Department's public services</u>

The Inland Revenue Department announced today (September 4) that the following offices will continue to provide basic public services from September 7:

Offices	Opening hours
Central Enquiry Counter Business Registration Office Stamp Office Estate Duty Office Collection Enforcement Sections Refund Section	From 9am to noon and from 1.30pm to 4pm, Monday to Friday
Central Telephone Enquiry	From 9am to 12.30pm and from 1.30pm to 4pm, Monday to Friday

The department appeals to members of the public for their understanding that the above services will be provided at a reduced scale and they should be prepared to experience a longer waiting time before they can be served. The department encourages the public to use electronic services to handle tax affairs as much as possible. A list of such services can be found in the department's website at www.ird.gov.hk/eng/ese/index.htm.

The department further announced that deadlines for tax payments (not applicable to Auto Tax Payment Service under the Tax Reserve Certificates Scheme), lodgement of objections and holdover applications, and submission of tax returns and information that fall between July 20 and September 13 will be automatically extended to September 14.

The department will review the situation and make further announcements as necessary.