

SWD urges the public not to take children/family members to care centres tomorrow

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following special announcement immediately, and repeat it at frequent intervals:

"The Social Welfare Department announces that due to the anticipated unstable traffic and unforeseeable conditions, members of the public are advised not to take their children or family members to child care centres, centres providing after school care programmes, elderly services centres or day rehabilitation units including sheltered workshops, integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres and day activity centres tomorrow (November 14). These centres will, however, remain open to serve those whose families cannot provide alternative care for them. Members of the public who have the need for the services mentioned may contact the service units concerned in advance."

Closure of some LCSD facilities in various districts (2)

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) announced today (November 13) that due to the traffic situation and special circumstances which happened in various districts, the following facilities have been closed to ensure the safety of venue users and staff members.

Furthermore, all LCSD performing arts venues, museums and libraries in all districts will be closed at 6pm today. And all LCSD leisure facilities will be closed at 7pm today (by the end of second session for swimming pools).

LCSD facilities closed now:

Hong Kong Island

1. Central and Western District

Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum and Shek Tong Tsui Sports Centre

2. Eastern District

Sai Wan Ho Sports Centre, Island East Sports Centre, Island East Swimming

Pool, tennis courts of Sai Wan Ho Playground, Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre, Hong Kong Film Archive and Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery

Kowloon

1. Kowloon City

Tennis courts of Junction Road Park

2. Kwun Tong

Lam Tin Public Library and Lam Tin Swimming Pool

3. Sham Shui Po District

Tennis courts of Shek Kip Mei Park, Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum and Po On Road Public Library

4. Wong Tai Sin District

Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre and Ngau Chi Wan Sports Centre

5. Yau Tsim Mong District

Hong Kong Science Museum, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Space Museum and Yau Ma Tei Theatre

New Territories

1. Islands District

Tung Chung Public Library and Tung Chung Swimming Pool

2. Kwai Tsing District

Kwai Tsing Theatre

3. North District

North District Town Hall, Sheung Shui Public Library, Sha Tau Kok Public Library, Fanling Public Library and Kwu Tung Grass Pitch

4. Sai Kung District

Tiu Keng Leng Sports Centre

5. Sha Tin District

Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Sha Tin Town Hall, Sha Tin Public Library, Lek Yuen Public Library, Ma On Shan Public Library, Yuen Chau Kok Public Library and Sha Tin Jockey Club swimming Pool

6. Tai Po District

Hong Kong Railway Museum, Tai Po Civic Centre and Tai Po Sports Centre

7. Tsuen Wan District

Tsuen Wan Town Hall and Tsuen Wan Public Library

8. Tuen Mun District

Tuen Mun Town Hall

9. Yuen Long District

Yuen Long Theatre and Yuen Long Public Library

Subject to the situation, more cultural and leisure facilities in the same districts and any other district which may be affected will also be closed early and at short notice to ensure the safety of venue users. Members of the public who plan to go to those venues are advised to visit the LCSD website (www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/index.html) or contact 1823 in advance.

LCQ7: Special constable, temporary police officer and Essential Services Corp

Following is a question by the Hon Jeremy Tam and a written reply by the Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee, in the Legislative Council today (November 13):

Question:

Under section 40 of the Public Order Ordinance (Cap 245), the Chief Executive (CE) may authorise the Commissioner of Police (CP) to appoint any person to act as a special constable; under section 24 of the Police Force Ordinance (Cap 232), CP may employ any person to serve temporarily as a police officer; under section 18 of the Essential Services Corps (General) Regulations (Cap 197A), CE may call out members of the Essential Services Corps (Corps members) for active service. These three types of officers, when discharging police duties, enjoy the same powers, protection and immunities as police officers do, and must comply with all orders given by CP. It is not required under the aforesaid legislation that the relevant appointment, employment or call-out procedure must be conducted openly. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council, since July 1, 1997:

(1) whether CP has appointed or employed any person as a special constable or temporary police officer, and whether CE has called out any Corps member for active service; if so, (i) whether such persons, when or prior to being appointed, employed or called out, were members of the Mainland public security authorities, the Ministry of State Security, the People's Armed Police Force, the Chinese People's Liberation Army or other Mainland law enforcement authorities, and (ii) of the reasons for CP or CE to make such appointments, employment and call-out, and among such officers, the number of those who are still in service at present, as well as their responsibilities and duties, and the respective commencement and end dates of their tenure;

(2) whether special constables, temporary police officers and Corps members, when discharging police duties, are bound by the Police Force Ordinance and the Police General Orders; and

(3) whether CP has, through other means, appointed, employed or recruited any member of the Mainland law enforcement authorities to assist the Police in taking law enforcement actions in Hong Kong?

Reply:

President,

My consolidated reply to Hon Jeremy Tam's questions is as follows:

Under section 40 of the Public Order Ordinance (POO) (Cap 245), the Chief Executive may by order authorise the Commissioner of Police to appoint in writing special constables for such period as may be specified in such order by the Chief Executive. A person appointed under POO as a special constable shall, when acting as such, have the same duties, powers, protection and immunities as are imposed or conferred by the laws of Hong Kong on a police officer.

Besides, the Commissioner of Police may employ temporary police officers under section 24 of the Police Force Ordinance (Cap 232). A temporary police officer shall serve under the same conditions of service as an auxiliary officer of equivalent rank, and shall have and may exercise the powers and privileges of such rank and be liable to the provisions of discipline for such rank while so serving.

Under section 4 of the Essential Services Corps Ordinance (Cap 197), the Chief Executive may raise and maintain a body of persons to be known as the Essential Services Corps to assist in the maintenance or the performance of 24 essential services as specified in that ordinance. Such services include the administration of government, the administration, management and control of prisons, the maintenance of the firefighting services, etc.

The Government of the Special Administrative Region (SAR) did not invoke the aforesaid ordinances to appoint any special constables, employ any temporary police officers or raise any Essential Services Corps for assisting the Police in handling public order events in the past five months or so. At the same time, the SAR Government has not sought assistance from the People's Liberation Army to handle the conflicts in recent months. Neither has the Government appointed, employed, mobilised or recruited any members of the Mainland law enforcement agencies to serve as special constables, temporary police officers or members of Essential Services Corps.

Since early June this year, there have been over 700 protests, processions and public assemblies in Hong Kong, many of which evolved into violent illegal acts. In the past five months or so, violent protesters engaged in illegal blocking of roads, paralysing the traffic, hurling petrol bombs and setting fires at various locations, throwing bricks, assaulting others with different views wantonly, deliberately assaulting police officers, storming and burning shops, MTR and Light Rail facilities and traffic lights etc., posing a serious threat to personal safety, public order

and public safety. Police have the statutory duty to take actions, and will deploy manpower as necessary to maintain law and order and public peace, as well as to stop violence and curb disorder.

At present, stopping violence and curbing disorder in full force is the most important task of the SAR Government. Over the past few months, different bureaux and departments of the SAR Government have been proactively participating in and complementing the Police's work in stopping violence and curbing disorder under their respective purview.

The ongoing riots over the past few months, with their massive scale, simultaneous occurrence in various districts and grave severity of violence, make it necessary to strengthen the support for Police's frontline officers. Currently, the SAR Government is actively considering different initiatives to enhance the manpower of and support for the Police. The short-term initiatives include increasing manpower and attracting retired police officers to continue serving in the Police Force through the Post-retirement Service Contract Scheme of the civil service. Furthermore, the SAR Government is considering other possible measures to strengthen Police's manpower and strength, for example, actively considering the details of the appointment mechanism under section 40 of P00 to arrange appropriate officers of other law enforcement agencies to share part of and participate in Police's work.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 is 106.2 (up 0.2 against yesterday's index).

Early closure of Smart Identity Card Replacement Centres

The Immigration Department announced today (November 13) that, further to the early closure of the Yuen Long Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre, the remaining eight Smart Identity Card Replacement Centres (SIDCCs) will be closed at 7pm as public transport services and some major traffic lines have been seriously affected. Members of the public who have appointments for today may proceed to the SIDCCs at an earlier time today or on later days for identity card replacements and they need not make another appointment. Before proceeding to the Replacement Centres, applicants are advised to browse the latest Government press release, or to call the

Replacement Centres during working hours.

Replacement Centre	Address	Telephone
1. Hong Kong Island Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre	Room 200, 2/F, Shui On Centre, 6-8 Harbour Road, Wan Chai	3521 1688
2. East Kowloon Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre	Unit 1, 2/F, Manulife Financial Centre and Unit 1B, 3/F, Manulife Financial Centre, Tower A, 223-231 Wai Yip Street, Kwun Tong	3150 8288
3. West Kowloon Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre	12/F, Gala Place, 56 Dundas Street, Mong Kok	3520 4100
4. Tsuen Wan Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre	Shop S201, 2/F, Smartland, 50 Texaco Road, Tsuen Wan	3150 8308
5. Sha Tin Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre	Shop G26, G/F & Shop 123, 1/F, Kings Wing Plaza 1, 3 On Kwan Street, Sha Tin	3150 8500
6. Sheung Shui Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre	7/F, Spot, 48 Lung Sum Avenue, Sheung Shui	3150 8600
7. Tuen Mun Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre	Shop L414B, Level 4, Leung King Plaza, Leung King Estate, 31 Tin King Road, Tuen Mun	3150 8668
8. Yuen Long Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre	Shop 50, G/F, Manhattan Plaza, 23 Sai Ching Street, Yuen Long	3150 8618
9. Tseung Kwan O Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre	Shop 20-26, G/F, Corinthia by the Sea, 23 Tong Yin Street, Tseung Kwan O, Sai Kung	3150 8690