

## **Cancellation of LegCo committee meetings**

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The following meetings of the Legislative Council (LegCo) committee originally scheduled to be held in the LegCo Complex have been cancelled:

- (1) the meetings of LegCo Panel on Public Service, LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs and LegCo Panel on Health Services on July 15;
- (2) the meetings of LegCo Panel on Commerce and Industry, LegCo Panel on Manpower and LegCo Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Support for Cancer Patients, as well as the special meeting of LegCo House Committee on July 16;
- (3) the meetings of LegCo Panel on Economic Development, LegCo Panel on Development and LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services, as well as the special meeting of LegCo Public Works Subcommittee on July 17;
- (4) the meeting of LegCo Panel on Transport on July 19; and
- (5) the meetings of LegCo Finance Committee on July 15, 16, 18, 19 and 20.

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## **Public consultation on Air Quality Objectives review launched**

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (July 12) launched a three-month consultation to solicit public views on the findings of the review on the Air Quality Objectives (AQOs).

The Government has all along been actively putting forward and implementing various emission reduction measures to improve air quality and safeguard public health on a sustainable basis. To attain the ultimate targets set under the World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines, the Government will review the AQOs every five years in accordance with the law and assess the progress in improving air quality to aid in deciding the AQOs for the next five year period.

Hong Kong's prevailing AQOs took effect on January 1, 2014, with a view to broadly attaining them by 2020. In mid-2016, the Government set up an AQOs Review Working Group to undertake a series of assessments and discussions to evaluate air quality improvement and set the AQOs to be attained in 2025. The Working Group comprised over 60 members including stakeholders and experts

from various sectors including air science, health professions, green groups, academia, chambers of commerce, professional bodies and trade, as well as representatives from relevant government bureaux and departments. The Government completed the review in December 2018 and submitted a review report to the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) in February 2019. The report was discussed by members of the ACE and the Panel on Environmental Affairs of the Legislative Council at their respective meetings in March.

"The Working Group adopted scientific approaches to assess the situation of the air quality in 2025. Based on the assessment results, the Working Group proposed to tighten the AQOs for sulphur dioxide and fine suspended particulates (as shown in Annex). The Government will make the final recommendations after taking into account views gathered during the public consultation," a spokesman for the EPD said.

The EPD will arrange two public consultation forums to brief the public on the AQO review and garner their views. Details of the forums are as follows:

Date	August 6 (Tuesday)	August 13 (Tuesday)
Time	7pm to 9pm	
Venue	5/F, Hong Kong Productivity Council, 78 Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon Tong	Ming Hua Hall, 4/F, St James' Settlement, 85 Stone Nullah Lane, Wan Chai
Language	Cantonese	Cantonese with simultaneous interpretation in English and Putonghua

Seating at the two forums is reserved on a first come, first served basis. Members of the public who would like to attend may complete the online registration form on the dedicated website of the public consultation ([www.aqoreview.hk](http://www.aqoreview.hk)), or submit the completed registration form to the EPD by email ([aqoreview@epd.gov.hk](mailto:aqoreview@epd.gov.hk)), fax (2838 2155), or post (Air Policy Section 1, EPD, 33/F, Revenue Tower, 33 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai).

The public consultation will end on October 11, 2019. The public are invited to download the consultation document and views collection form from the dedicated website. The completed forms can be returned to the EPD via the aforementioned means.

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## **Suspension of Post Office Box service at Sha Tin Central Post Office**

Hongkong Post announced today (July 12) that, in view of a public event to be held outside Sha Tin Government Offices this Sunday (July 14), the Post Office Box Lobby of Sha Tin Central Post Office located in the building will be closed and the service will be suspended.

For enquiries, please call the Hongkong Post enquiry hotline at 2921 2222.

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## **Grading of beach water quality released**

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (July 12) released the latest grading of water quality for 38 gazetted beaches that are open for swimming and one non-gazetted beach (i.e. Discovery Bay\*).

Fourteen beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 18 as Fair (Grade 2) and seven as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

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# Shapley's Board Game

Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach	Kadoorie Beach
Approach Beach	Lower Cheung Sha Beach
Butterfly Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach
Cafeteria New Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Castle Peak Beach	Pui O Beach
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Shek O Beach
Clear Water Bay Second Beach	Silverstrand Beach
Deep Water Bay Beach	South Bay Beach
Golden Beach	Upper Cheung Sha Beach

Grade 3 beaches are:

Big Wave Bay Beach	Lido Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Silver Mine Bay Beach
Casam Beach	Ting Kau Beach
Hoi Mei Wan Beach	

\*: Discovery Bay is a non-gazetted beach without lifeguard service.

Compared with the grading released last week, Kwun Yam Beach, St Stephen's Beach and Turtle Cove Beach have been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1; Anglers' Beach, Approach Beach, Kadoorie Beach and Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach from Grade 3 to Grade 2.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches,

the EPD spokesman reminded members of the public that water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain. Bathers should avoid swimming at beaches for up to three days after a storm or heavy rainfall.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the department's website on Beach Water Quality ([www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach](http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach)) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

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## Analytical Accounts of the Exchange Fund

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) released today (July 12) the key analytical accounts of the Exchange Fund at the end of June 2019.

Foreign assets, representing the external assets of the Exchange Fund, increased during the month by HK\$51.1 billion to HK\$3,653.9 billion.

The Monetary Base, comprising Certificates of Indebtedness, Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation, the balance of the banking system and Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued, amounted to HK\$1,634.5 billion.

Claims on the private sector in Hong Kong amounted to HK\$216.3 billion.

The analytical accounts of the Exchange Fund are released in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and are referred to as the Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank under SDDS (Annex).

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At present, four press releases relating to the Exchange Fund's data are issued by the HKMA each month. Three of these releases are issued to disseminate monetary data in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). The fourth press release, on the Exchange Fund's Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account, is made in accordance with the HKMA's policy of maintaining a high level of transparency. For the month of July 2019, the scheduled dates for issuing the press releases are as follows:

July 5 (Issued)	SDDS International Reserves (Hong Kong's Latest Foreign Currency Reserve Assets Figures)
July 12	SDDS Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank (Analytical Accounts of the Exchange Fund)
July 31	SDDS Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity
July 31	Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account