

Special traffic arrangements for race meeting in Happy Valley tomorrow

Special traffic arrangements will be implemented in Happy Valley tomorrow (September 12). The arrangements will come into effect one and a half hours before the start of the first race and will last until the crowds have dispersed after the race meeting.

A. Traffic arrangements before the commencement of the first race

1. Road closure

Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Queen's Road East and the up-ramp outside Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) will be closed except for vehicles heading for Aberdeen Tunnel.

2. Traffic diversions

- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Village Road and the up-ramp outside HKJC will be re-routed one way northbound;
- Vehicles from eastbound Queen's Road East heading for Wan Chai and Happy Valley will be diverted to turn left to Morrison Hill Road;
- Traffic along southbound Morrison Hill Road heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via Sports Road and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Traffic along Queen's Road East cannot turn right to Wong Nai Chung Road except for vehicles heading to Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Queen's Road East will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Morrison Hill Road to turn right at the junction of Wong Nai Chung Road and Queen's Road East; and
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Happy Valley or Racecourse will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Canal Road East, southbound Morrison Hill Road, Sports Road and Wong Nai Chung Road.

B. Traffic arrangements before the conclusion of race meeting

1. Road closure

The following roads will be closed from 35 minutes before the start of the last race:

- The up-ramp on Wong Nai Chung Road outside HKJC leading to Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Queen's Road East and the up-ramp leading to Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Village Road and the Public Stands of HKJC;
- Westbound Leighton Road between Wong Nai Chung Road and Canal Road East; and

- Southbound Morrison Hill Road between Leighton Road and Queen's Road East.

In addition, southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between the up-ramp leading to Aberdeen Tunnel and the Public Stands of HKJC will be closed from about 10 minutes before the start of the last race.

2. Traffic diversions

The following traffic arrangements will be implemented from 35 minutes before the start of the last race:

- Eastbound Queen's Road East at its junction with Morrison Hill Road will be reduced to one-lane traffic heading for northbound Canal Road flyover;
- Vehicles from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Wan Chai will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from Canal Road East, U-turn slip road beneath Canal Road flyover, Canal Road West and Hennessy Road;
- Vehicles from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from Canal Road East, eastbound Leighton Road and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Traffic on southbound Morrison Hill Road will be diverted to turn left to eastbound Leighton Road;
- Traffic along southbound Morrison Hill Road heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via eastbound Leighton Road and Wong Nai Chung Road; and
- Traffic along westbound Leighton Road will be diverted to Wong Nai Chung Road.

C. Learner drivers prohibition

Learner drivers will be prohibited to turn left from Caroline Hill Road to Leighton Road between one and a half hours before the start of the first race and one hour after the last race. In addition, learner drivers will be prohibited from accessing the following roads within the above period of time:

- Shan Kwong Road between Yik Yam Street and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Village Road between its upper and lower junctions with Shan Kwong Road;
- Percival Street between Hennessy Road and Leighton Road;
- Canal Road East; and
- The service road leading from Gloucester Road to Canal Road flyover.

D. Suspension of parking spaces

Parking spaces on southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Sports Road and Blue Pool Road will be suspended from 11am to 7pm during day racing, from 4.30pm to 11.59pm during evening racing, and from 5pm to 11.59pm during night racing.

Any vehicles found illegally parked within the precincts of the above affected areas will be towed away without prior notice.

Actual implementation of road closure and traffic diversion will be made by the Police at the time depending on traffic conditions in the areas.

Motorists should exercise tolerance and patience, and follow the instructions of Police on site.

SFH speaks on mosquito control work

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, at a media session after inspecting the mosquito prevention and control work in Sha Tin District with the Sha Tin District-led Actions Scheme Steering Group of Hygiene Improvement with Enhanced Anti-Mosquitos/Grass-Cutting today (September 11):

Reporter: What are the determining factors for you to decide that Lion Rock Park can be opened to the public again? Are you worried that the public is being complacent now that the outbreak has stabilised?

Secretary for Food and Health: First of all, we have less confirmed cases in the past few weeks. And in fact, in the past week, we do not have any new confirmed cases. On one hand, we felt the situation is more or less under control but on the other hand, I think the public should continue to be very vigilant about their own mosquito prevention work. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) continues to do our mosquito control work. If you remember, I announced that the Government has put in additional resources, \$4 million, for the 18 districts to buy more equipment, to increase manpower, as well as to do more public education. So the increase in resources and the mosquito control work will continue in the 18 districts. We felt that the most important work in controlling dengue fever is mosquito control.

As far as the Lion Rock Park is concerned, it was closed on August 17. We are now assessing the situation both on whether there is any new case, as well as the effectiveness of the mosquito control work by the FEHD.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

Red flag hoisted at Silverstrand Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (September

11) that the Environmental Protection Department has classified the water quality at Silverstrand Beach in Sai Kung District as Grade 4, which means the beach is not suitable for swimming. The red flag has been hoisted. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at the beach until further notice.

SED thanks Task Force on Review of Research Policy and Funding for its report

The Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, has given thanks to the Task Force on Review of Research Policy and Funding, which submitted its Review Report today (September 11), for its significant contribution to the sustainable development of research work in the higher education sector.

Mr Yeung said, "I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to the Chairman of the Task Force, Professor Tsui Lap-chee, and all of its members for their hard work and contribution. In less than a year since its inception last October, the Task Force has done considerable work to look into and discuss, in great depth, various issues of concern in the research work of the higher education sector.

"The Task Force has laid an even more solid foundation for research work of the higher education sector to enhance the research standard, which helps enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness in the long run by promoting the vibrant development of industries and innovation in technology. I am pleased to learn that the Task Force has earlier on consulted different stakeholders about its recommendations and has taken into account all the views and feedback received. The Government will study the Report in detail and take follow-up action and implement the related policies."

The full Report is available at the University Grants Committee's website (www.ugc.edu.hk).

Task Force on Review of Research Policy and Funding submits review

report (with photo)

The following is issued on behalf of the University Grants Committee:

At the invitation of the Chief Executive as announced in her Policy Address last October, the Task Force on Review of Research Policy and Funding was immediately set up under the aegis of the University Grants Committee (UGC). The Task Force submitted to the Government today (September 11) its Review Report on Research Policy and Funding.

In addition to reporting the review findings on the existing research support strategy in Hong Kong and other jurisdictions, the Task Force put forth an array of recommendations which aim to:

- (a) allocate research funding in a more streamlined and transparent manner;
- (b) incentivise the higher education sector to conduct more cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional research collaborations; and
- (c) encourage the higher education sector to engage in research commercialisation as well as knowledge transfer with the industry and the community.

Having considered carefully the views received from the consultation exercise, the Task Force submitted recommendations for the Government's consideration, which include:

- increasing research funding substantially;
- setting up a Research Matching Grant Scheme;
- introducing three new fellowship schemes for researchers;
- augmenting support for research infrastructure by a review of the Research Grants Council (RGC)'s mode of operations and enhancing the effectiveness of the UGC's Research Portion grant;
- streamlining and rationalising the existing three collaborative research funding schemes under the RGC;
- setting up an internal government liaison group for enhancing and improving the co-ordination among different funding bodies; and
- adopting a common researcher identity for grants applications prior to the setting up of a central database on research in the long run.

The Chairman of the Task Force, Professor Tsui Lap-chee, said, "Hong Kong is now presented with the most advantageous environment to become a research hub of the region over the next few years. I hope the Government's adoption and timely implementation of the recommendations made by the Task Force will help improve the research policy and further the research excellence of Hong Kong with enhanced support for research work."

The Review Report has been endorsed by the UGC and its English version, as well as the Chinese version of its Executive Summary, is available at the UGC website: www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/ugc/index.html. The Chinese version of the full report will be published as soon as possible.

Background

The Task Force was led by Professor Tsui Lap-chee to conduct a holistic review on the existing research support strategy and the level and allocation mechanism of research funding for the higher education sector in Hong Kong. Along with the invitation, the Government had set aside no less than \$10 billion as additional funding for university research.

After it was set up, the Task Force proceeded in full swing to review the existing funding allocation mechanism in Hong Kong and study closely the experience of the research ecosystems in other regions. To converge the insights from the research community, the Task Force published an Interim Report for Consultation in order to gauge views from the various sectors on its observations and preliminary recommendations. The Interim Report was published for consultation on June 6 this year and the consultation period ended on July 10. A series of consultation activities were conducted during the two months. The Task Force studied and duly considered all feedback and views collected during the consultation period, and submitted the review results together with the final recommendations to the Government.

