

## Red flags hoisted at Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach and Kadoorie 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 (June 27) that the Environmental Protection Department has classified the water quality at Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach in Tsuen Wan District and Kadoorie Beach in Tuen Mun District as Grade 4, which means the beaches are not suitable for swimming. The red flags have been hoisted. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beaches until further notice.

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## LCQ19: Regulation of activities for soliciting donations from the public

Following is a question by the Dr Hon Elizabeth Quat and a written reply by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr James Lau, in the Legislative Council today (June 27):

Question:

It has been reported that in recent months, some people have launched an online activity for soliciting donations in order to raise fund to support them in meeting the legal and administrative expenses, etc. that will be incurred in pursuing an investigation into an incident. Regarding the regulation of such activities, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) whether the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) will, on its own initiative or upon receiving reports, conduct investigations to ascertain if such activities for soliciting donations involve the tax obligations under the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112), and take follow-up actions; if IRD will not, of the reasons for that;

(2) whether the law enforcement departments will, on their own initiative or upon receiving reports, conduct investigations to ascertain if such activities for soliciting donations involve (i) infiltration into Hong Kong by foreign forces and their money or (ii) money laundering activities, and take follow-up actions; if the law enforcement departments will not, of the reasons for that; and

(3) whether the law enforcement departments will, on their own initiative or upon receiving reports, conduct investigations to ascertain if such activities for soliciting donations involve the offence of champerty, and take follow-up actions; if the law enforcement departments will not, of the reasons for that?

Reply:

President,

Upon consultation with relevant bureaux and departments, our consolidated reply to the questions is as follows:

(1) Pursuant to the Inland Revenue Ordinance (IRO) (Cap. 112), the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) charges profits tax on any person carrying on a trade, profession or business in Hong Kong in respect of his assessable profits. The person should declare his assessable profits in his tax return. Under the secrecy provisions in the IRO, the IRD cannot disclose the information of any person and will not comment on individual cases.

(2) The Government and our law enforcement agencies (LEAs) spare no effort in combatting money laundering. The Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 455) stipulates that where a person knows or suspects that any property in whole or in part directly or indirectly represents any person's proceeds of an indictable offence, he shall as soon as it is reasonable for him to do so disclose that knowledge or suspicion, together with any matter on which that knowledge or suspicion is based, to the Joint Financial Intelligence Unit (JFIU) by way of submitting a suspicious transaction report (STR). The JFIU will analyse all STRs submitted, and refer to relevant LEAs for follow-up as appropriate.

(3) If the Police discover that someone is suspected of committing champerty, they will conduct investigation and follow-up. Should a member of the public suspect that someone has committed champerty, he or she should file a report to the Police.

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## Overview of tuberculosis in Hong Kong in 2017

The Tuberculosis and Chest Service (TB&CS) of the Public Health Services Branch of the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health received 4 306 tuberculosis (TB) cases (provisional figure) in 2017, representing 58 cases per 100 000 members of the population, the lowest level

on record.

The TB&CS of the DH announced today (June 27) the TB cases filed to DH locally as well as TB clusters in the school setting in 2017.

People in the usual school age of 3 to 24 accounted for 283 cases among the notified cases in 2017. The figures for cases involving those aged 3 to 24 ranged between 250 and 350 annually in the previous three years.

According to the data as of May 31 this year, there were 15 clusters of TB cases in the school setting last year. Most of them (86.7 per cent) appeared in secondary schools and tertiary institutions. The cluster sizes ranged from two to 15 cases, with a median of four cases. For clusters detailed by type of school and month in the school setting in 2017, please refer to Figures 1 and 2 in the attachment. The data has also been uploaded to the [TB&CS webpage](#) of the DH.

"As TB is an airborne disease, clustering of TB cases in the school setting occurs from time to time, often related to delayed presentation or diagnosis of the infectious source hindering early identification," a spokesman for the DH explained.

The TB&CS of the DH endeavours in the monitoring of likely infectious cases in the community. The TB&CS has also prepared guidelines on handling TB cases in the school setting for reference by schools. The guidelines are available at the [guideline website](#) for more information.

"Early identification of TB cases and prompt initiation of anti-TB treatment remain the mainstay of TB control. The TB&CS of the DH also conducts contact screening for the closer contacts of the index case considered infectious. The DH will continue to promote awareness of TB and its prevention in schools, the community and the health care sector so as to facilitate early identification and diagnosis to allow effective control of the disease at its source," the spokesman added.

When a TB patient coughs or sneezes, small droplets containing the tubercle bacilli are generated and spread in the air. If another person breathes in these small airborne droplets, he or she may be infected with the germ. Prolonged exposure, however, is usually required for the disease to be transmitted.

Despite a marked and consistent decrease in the notification rate in the past few decades, TB remains a relatively common disease in Hong Kong. In light of public concern regarding TB clusters in the school setting, data summaries will be released half-yearly starting this year.

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## LCQ16: Reinstatement works for public rental housing flats

Following is a question by the Hon Chan Hak-kan and a reply by the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan Fan, in the Legislative Council today (June 27):

Question :

At present, tenants of public rental housing (PRH) units are obliged to reinstate all the original fixtures and fittings and remove items added by them (reinstatement works) at their own expenses upon moving out of their units. However, if both the outgoing and incoming tenants of a unit wish to retain the fixtures and fittings added to the unit and if such fixtures and fittings meet the requirements, the Housing Department (HD) will normally allow such fixtures and fittings be retained. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of (i) the number of PRH units surrendered by tenants upon their moving out, (ii) among such units, the number of those for which reinstatement works had been carried out before they were surrendered, and (iii) the number of tenants who were allocated such reinstated units, in each of the past three years (set out by District Council district);
- (2) whether it knows the time taken and the expenses incurred in general for carrying out reinstatement works;
- (3) of the number of complaints received by HD in each of the past three years about the nuisances caused by reinstatement works;
- (4) whether it has assessed the quantity of construction waste generated by reinstatement works in each of the past three years; and
- (5) whether HD will review the current reinstatement requirements and improve the existing arrangements for granting exemption to reinstatement works (including establishing a matching service/platform for outgoing and incoming tenants), with a view to reducing (i) the need for carrying out reinstatement works and (ii) the construction waste so generated?

Reply:

President,

My consolidated reply to various parts of the question raised by the Hon Chan Hak-kan is as follows.

According to the prevailing arrangement of the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA), HA will conduct comprehensive inspections on the fixtures and fittings inside public rental housing (PRH) units before their tenants move

out, so as to assess and decide whether the items therein are retainable, or require repair or replacement. Under normal circumstances, HA would allow the fixtures and installations installed by outgoing tenants such as wall-mounted kitchen cabinet, water closet pan with flushing cistern, etc. to be retained without reinstatement if they are in good condition. The incoming tenants may choose to continue to use these installations. However, if they opt to accept the fixtures and fittings installed by the outgoing tenants, the responsibility of future repair and maintenance of these fixtures and fittings will rest with them. In addition, after the existing tenants move out of their PRH units, HA will, depending on the individual circumstances of the PRH unit, carry out vacant flat refurbishment works.

In the past three years (i.e. 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18), HA recovered 12 400, 12 000 and 13 300 PRH units respectively. We do not have information on the time spent and costs required for the reinstatement works by the outgoing tenants before their removal as well as the number of units involved. We also do not maintain consolidated statistics on nuisance complaints caused by reinstatement works.

As regards the allocation of refurbished units, since application for PRH is only divided into four districts, namely the Urban (including Hong Kong Island and Kowloon); Extended Urban (including Tung Chung, Sha Tin, Ma On Shan, Tseung Kwan O, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi); New Territories (including Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tin Shui Wai, Sheung Shui, Fanling and Tai Po); and Islands (excluding Tung Chung), the allocation of PRH unit is therefore arranged according to these four districts. In the past three years (i.e. 2015-16 to 2017-18), figures on allocation of refurbished units breakdown by district are as follows. We do not have figures breakdown by District Council district.

Year/ District	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Urban	5 721	6 266	6 569
Extended Urban	3 357	3 506	3 925
New Territories	2 524	2 409	2 278
Islands	83	62	65
Total	11 685	12 243	12 837

Since solid waste generated by flat reinstatement works of PRH units would be handled together with other construction waste, we do not maintain information on solid waste generated by flat reinstatement works of PRH units. Nevertheless, HA would require the relevant contractors to put in place good practices in waste management in order to minimise the adverse impact on the environment.

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## CHP reminds public on precautions against heat stroke during very hot weather

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (June 27) reminded members of the public, particularly those undertaking outdoor activities, to take heed of necessary measures against heat stroke and sunburn in very hot weather.

"The public should carry and drink plenty of water to prevent dehydration while engaging in outdoor activities," a spokesman for the CHP said.

"Those engaged in strenuous outdoor activities should avoid beverages containing caffeine, such as coffee and tea, as well as alcohol, as they speed up water loss through the urinary system," the spokesman explained.

"The obese, the sick, including those with heart disease or high blood pressure, the old and the young are more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses. They should pay special attention," the spokesman added.

The public should adopt the following precautions:

- Wear loose and light-coloured clothing to reduce heat absorption and facilitate sweat evaporation and heat dissipation;
- Avoid vigorous exercise and prolonged activities like hiking or trekking as heat, sweating and exhaustion place additional demands on the physique;
- Perform outdoor activities in the morning or late afternoon;
- For indoor activities, open all windows, use a fan or use air-conditioning to maintain good ventilation; and
- Reschedule work to cooler times of the day.

If working in a hot environment is inevitable, introduce shade in the workplace where practicable, and start work slowly and pick up the pace gradually. Get into a cool area for rest at regular intervals to allow the body to recuperate.

The public should also note the latest and the forecast Ultraviolet (UV) Index released by the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO). When the UV Index remains high (6 or above):

- Minimise direct exposure of the skin and the eyes to sunlight;
- Wear loose long-sleeved clothing made of close-woven fabrics;

- Wear a wide brim hat or use an umbrella;
- Seek a shaded area or put on UV-blocking sunglasses;
- Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen lotion with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or above. Apply liberally and reapply after swimming or sweating; and
- While using DEET-containing insect repellents for personal protection against mosquito-borne diseases, apply sunscreen first, then insect repellent.

If symptoms develop, such as dizziness, headache, nausea, shortness of breath or confusion, rest and seek help immediately, and seek medical advice as soon as possible.

The public may get more information from the DH's Health Education Hotline (2833 0111), [heat stroke](#) page and [UV radiation](#) page; the HKO's Dial-a-Weather (1878 200), latest [weather and forecast](#), [UV Index](#) and weather information for [hiking and mountaineering](#); and [press releases](#) of the Labour Department on precautions against heat stroke for outdoor workers and their employers when the Very Hot Weather Warning is in force.