

## SFH speaks on e-cigarettes

Following is the transcript of remarks made by the Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, after attending a public event today (June 15):

Reporter: Why not a complete ban if it is so risky to health?

Secretary for Food and Health: We are very concerned about e-cigarettes and also the heat-not-burn cigarettes because their components are actually harmful to health. Therefore, the Government has decided to strengthen its regulation. On deciding the direction of regulation or how to strengthen the regulation, first of all, we look into international evidence and local evidence. Secondly, we also revisit how the other countries are doing and what is the recommendation of the World Health Organization and other organisations' recommendations. Thirdly, we also need to look at the local situation to devise a regulation mechanism. Although we understand that there are different opinions about our proposed regulation direction, we continue to receive comments and review the international evidence. We do not preclude if there are any issues or problems with the existing proposed regulation framework. We will further strengthen our regulation.

Reporter: Is it because of the pressure from the tobacco manufacturers that the Government is not considering a complete ban?

Secretary for Food and Health: As a regulatory authority and also the Food and Health Bureau, we stand up to any pressure. The most important thing is public health. To protect public health is our first and foremost responsibility, so we can stand up to any pressure.

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

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## Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Friday, June 15, 2018 is 100.2 (up 0.6 against yesterday's index).

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## Appointment of Managing Director of

# Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority and Deputy Chairperson of Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Advisory Committee

The Chief Executive has appointed Ms Alice Law as Managing Director of the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (MPFA) and Deputy Chairperson of the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Advisory Committee for a period of three years from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021. The appointment was made under sections 6A, 6B and 6R of the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance (Cap. 485).

Ms Law was selected through an extensive search that commenced in October 2017 by a selection panel chaired by the Financial Secretary. She has been working with the MPFA since July 2012 as an Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer.

Announcing the appointment today (June 15), the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, said, "Ms Law has extensive regulatory and public service experience. She has played a key role in the implementation of major initiatives to reform the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) System. She has also spearheaded a range of initiatives to improve the corporate governance of trustees to protect the interests of scheme members.

"I would like to thank members of the selection panel who have contributed to the successful completion of the selection exercise," he added.

Members of the panel are Mr Joseph Yam, Mr Abraham Shek, Dr David Wong Yau-kar, and the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr James Lau.

Mr Chan also took the opportunity to thank the outgoing Managing Director of the MPFA, Mrs Diana Chan, who has played a key role in leading and steering the MPFA in developing and improving the MPF System which includes the launch of the Default Investment Strategy, the implementation of the Employees' Choice Arrangement and the preparation for the development of eMPF. He wishes her well in her retirement.

## Profile of Ms Alice Law

Aged 53. Ms Law graduated from the University of Hong Kong with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1987, and obtained her Master of Laws degree from the University College London in 1989. After practising as a solicitor between 1991 and 1998, she served in the Securities and Futures Commission from 1998 to 2012, with her last position as Senior Director (Policy, China &

Investment Products). She joined the MPFA in 2012 as the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director, and will assume the position of Managing Director of the MPFA on July 1, 2018.

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## Extension of opening hours of four public libraries on trial basis

To promote reading in the community, the Hong Kong Public Libraries of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will launch a three-month trial scheme from July 1 to October 1, extending the opening hours of the following four designated public libraries on Sundays and public holidays. Details are as follows:

	Original opening hours	Opening hours during the trial period
Hong Kong Central Library		
Sundays	10am to 9pm	10am to 9pm (remains unchanged)
Public holidays	10am to 7pm	10am to 8pm
Hong Kong Island – Smithfield Public Library (small library)		
Sundays	10am to 5pm	10am to 8pm
Public holidays	10am to 1pm	
Kowloon – Lai Chi Kok Public Library including Students' Study Room (district library)		
Sundays and public holidays	9am to 5pm	9am to 8pm
New Territories – Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Public Library including Students' Study Room (major library)		
Sundays and public holidays	9am to 5pm	9am to 8pm

"After considering factors such as the library usage statistics, the public demand for services and the availability of supporting facilities, the

above-mentioned four public libraries of different regions and types are selected for the trial scheme," an LCSD spokesperson said.

"Upon completion of the trial scheme, the LCSD will conduct a review to assess the cost-effectiveness, feasibility, operational arrangements, long-term manpower and financial implications of the new service hours," the spokesman added.

For details, please refer to the attachment or visit [www.hkpl.gov.hk](http://www.hkpl.gov.hk).

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## **Temporary traffic and transport arrangements at Tate's Cairn Tunnel on June 23 and 24**

The Transport Department (TD) today (June 15) reminded members of the public that to facilitate road repair work at the Tate's Cairn Tunnel, the following temporary traffic and transport arrangements will be implemented at the Tate's Cairn Tunnel from 10pm on June 23 (Saturday) to 6am on June 24 (Sunday):

(i) The slow lane of the Tate's Cairn Tunnel (Kowloon bound) from its toll plaza to its Kowloon exit, and the slip road leading from the Kowloon exit to Hammer Hill Road and Lung Cheung Road, will be closed to all vehicular traffic;

(ii) Vehicles from the Tate's Cairn Tunnel Kowloon bound exit heading for Hammer Hill Road and Lung Cheung Road eastbound will be temporarily diverted; and

(iii) KMB routes No. 74D, 74X, 75X, 80X, 82X, 83X, 84M, 85M, 88, 89C, 89D, 89X, 277X and 286M heading for Kowloon will be diverted from 9.30pm on June 23 to 6am on June 24. The bus stop on Choi Hung Road westbound near Sze Mei Street serving KMB routes No. 82X and 85M will be temporarily relocated.

Due to the lane closure, the TD anticipates that the traffic at the Tate's Cairn Tunnel will be relatively busy during the above period. Motorists should exercise tolerance and patience when passing through the road sections concerned and consider using alternative routes. Appropriate traffic signs will be erected on-site to guide motorists.

Members of the public are advised to use railway services or bus services via the Lion Rock Tunnel or the Tsing Sha Highway to Kowloon. They are also advised to plan their journey in advance and allow more travelling time to avoid unexpected delay.

The TD and the tunnel operator will closely monitor the traffic situation and implement appropriate traffic and transport measures whenever necessary. Members of the public are advised to stay alert to the latest traffic news on radio and television.

Details of the temporary traffic and transport arrangements are now available on the TD's website ([www.td.gov.hk](http://www.td.gov.hk)).