

[Application by HKSAR Government to Court for Injunction Order to prohibit four classes of acts relating to a song: publication of relevant documents](#)

The Department of Justice of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) applied to the Court of First Instance on June 5 for an injunction and interim injunction (HCA 855/2023) to prohibit four classes of acts relating to the song "Glory to Hong Kong" (or "â€Šéi~æ!@å...æ- ,é!™æ,~ã€<"). The Court made an order (Court Order) on June 12 granting leave to the HKSAR Government to serve relevant court papers by way of substituted service.

Pursuant to the Court Order, copies of the Writ of Summons, the Summons for interim injunction and the Court Order relating to the said application have been uploaded today (June 14) to the websites of the HKSAR Government, the Department of Justice and the Hong Kong Police Force. Members of the public may access the following websites or scan the QR code (attached) to download the relevant documents:

- www.gov.hk/en/theme/courtorder/index5.htm
- www.doj.gov.hk/en/miscellaneous/hca855.html
- www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/03_police_message/hca855.html

The application for an interim injunction will be heard by the Court on July 21, 2023, at 10.30am. Anyone who opposes the application may accept service of copies of the relevant documents at the Wan Chai Division Report Room during office hours on or before June 21 upon provision of the personal particulars and upon payment of the administrative charges specified in the Court Order, and shall file and serve his/her grounds of opposition in writing within seven days after receipt of the aforesaid documents. For details, please refer to the Court Order.

[LCQ19: Handling of snakes](#)

Following is a question by the Hon Stanley Li and a written reply by the Secretary for Environment and Ecology, Mr Tse Chin-wan, in the Legislative Council today (June 14):

Question:

Recently, some rural residents have relayed that the presence of venomous snakes near their residences has caused the death of the dogs kept by them. Under the existing policy, members of the public who spot snakes may, in case of emergencies, call the Police to arrange for professionals to catch the snakes, while the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not provide services to trap or drive off snakes. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) of the total number of requests for assistance about snake presence received by the Police in each of the past three years and, among them, the number of cases relating to venomous snakes and Burmese Pythons, as well as the resources involved in following up on snake presence; whether it has gained an understanding of the difficulties encountered by frontline police officers in handling snake presence;

(2) given that AFCD is responsible for conserving flora, fauna and natural habitats in Hong Kong, whether there is a division in AFCD currently responsible for following up on snake-related matters; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;

(3) whether the Government has plans to transfer the responsibility for following up on all situations of snake encounters and snake-related problems to AFCD; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;

(4) whether AFCD has plans to set up an interactive database on which members of the public may check at any time the places where wild animals and reptiles may be present, so that members of the public (particularly hikers and rural residents) can be made aware of the potential dangers in advance and take corresponding precautionary measures; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;

(5) given that Burmese Pythons are protected wild animals under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170), of the liability to be borne by members of the public for causing death or injury to Burmese Pythons by mistake under emergency situations; and

(6) which government department(s) can members of the public report to and seek assistance when they spot snakes under non-emergency situations at present?

Reply:

President,

Snakes are common wild animals in Hong Kong's countryside, and they play a part in the ecosystem by preying on small animals like frogs, lizards and rats. Most species of snakes are wary of humans, and they rarely disturb humans or stay within areas of human activities unless provoked or acted out of defending their territories. Having consulted the Security Bureau and the

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), our consolidated reply to the various parts of the question of the Hon Stanley Li is as follows:

(1) In the past three years, the total number of requests for assistance related to the presence of snakes received by the Police are as follows:

Year	No. of requests for assistance
2022	3 078
2021	3 148
2020	3 298

The Police does not keep records about the types of snakes, including the number of injuries involved, in the above cases. The relevant work is handled with existing resources and manpower, and the Police does not maintain figures on breakdown of the resources spent on handling the relevant cases. Under normal circumstances, if the Police finds a snake or receives a report on snake discovery, and the circumstances indicate that the snake may pose a risk to public safety, the Police may take action to capture it. If it is necessary to capture or remove the snake found, the Police will hire snake catchers (usually snake dealers by trade) to assist with the action. If the snake is caught successfully, the Police will deliver it to Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG) for further handling. Due to the limited number of people who can provide snake-catching services or the remoteness of the snake catching sites, the Police may need to be present at the scene for a long time in order to complete the snake capture operation. At the same time, the Police also needs additional manpower and time to transport the captured snakes to KFBG. In such circumstances, more manpower and time than expected may be required. On the other hand, the Police will not take action if the circumstances show that the snake found does not pose any danger to humans or if it disappears before the snake catcher arrives.

(2), (3) and (6) The AFCD has been using various channels to educate the public on do's and don'ts when encountering snakes, advising them to stay calm and keep a safe distance from the snakes, and allow the snakes to retreat on their own. For non-emergency situations, the public may call 1823 to contact the AFCD. In general, if snakes are causing nuisance, the AFCD would provide advice on preventative measures such as removing debris around the living area, cleaning garbage and clearing weeds on a regular basis to reduce snake hiding places, and maintaining environmental hygiene so as to reduce the chance of attracting rodents which may attract snakes. The AFCD would also advise dog owners to avoid letting their dogs wander into countryside areas alone, especially during nighttime, to avoid encounters with wild animals such as snakes which may pose a danger to their safety. When visiting countryside areas, the public should wear long pants and closed-toe shoes, and avoid areas with tall grass and bushes. In case of a snake-related emergency, the public should immediately contact the nearest police station or call 999 for assistance. The Police maintains a list of

professional snake catchers who would be called to arrive at the scene for assistance. This allows the public to receive the necessary assistance through the Police at any time, including snakes catching and providing assistance in arranging medical rescue services in case of emergency. The AFCD and the Police have distinct responsibilities in handling snake-related situations, and the current division of duties is effective and appropriate. Even if the AFCD establishes its own 24-hour snake catching team, they would likely encounter the same situation of taking long time for completing the snake catch and transfer operations. From the overall manpower and resources perspectives, the prevailing arrangement is considered more suitable. The Government will continue to monitor the situation and review the arrangements as necessary.

(4) At present, there are some 53 species of snakes found in Hong Kong, inhabiting in various habitats including woodland, shrubland, grassland, cultivated fields, mangroves, marshes, streams, ponds and near-shore waters. They serve essential functions in maintaining a balanced ecosystem. The public may access information about venomous native land snakes on the following AFCD's website: www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/hkbiodiversity/speciesgroup/speciesgroup_veno_snake.html. In addition, to enhance public understanding of Hong Kong's rich biodiversity, the AFCD is developing a Biodiversity Geographic Information System (BGIS) which is expected to be launched in 2024. The BGIS will display on a map the spatial data of local species, including those of various terrestrial snake species.

(5) According to the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) (the Ordinance), it is illegal to hunt, wilfully disturb, possess, or control any protected wild animals without permission. The Burmese python is the only wild snake species scheduled as protected wild animals under the Ordinance. The AFCD will investigate any reports of harm done to protected wild animals, including Burmese pythons. In general, the AFCD will take enforcement action only if there is evidence found in wilfully disturbing or harming protected animals. On the other hand, when encountering a snake, the public should remain calm and avoid contact with it. They should seek help from the AFCD or the Police if necessary.

LCQ13: Wetland conservation

Following is a question by the Hon Kenneth Lau and a written reply by the Secretary for Environment and Ecology, Mr Tse Chin-wan, in the Legislative Council today (June 14):

Question:

There are views that the Government should follow the country's efforts

to build a modern and comprehensive conservation system which features "harmony between humanity and nature", so as to promote the high-quality development of wetland protection. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) of (i) the number of visitors to, (ii) the cumulative number of species of living organisms found, and (iii) the expenditure involved in the protection and conservation of wetlands in the Hong Kong Wetland Park and the Mai Po Nature Reserve, in each of the past 10 years (set out in a table);

(2) given that the Government has proposed in the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy the development of a Wetland Conservation Park System with a total area of about 2 000 hectares, of the following information on the various wetland conservation parks, the nature park and the coastal protection park proposed to be built: (i) the planning area, (ii) the expected date of commencement of works, (iii) the modes of development and conservation, (iv) the expected date of completion of works, and (v) the estimated expenditure (set out in a table);

(3) whether the Government will, in formulating the development proposals and conservation plans for Hong Kong's wetland system, draw reference from the experience of the Mainland in promoting harmony between humanity and nature and, on the premise of ensuring effective wetland conservation, step up efforts to open up wetlands to the public, so as to make reasonable use of the natural and cultural resources of wetlands, thereby promoting the development of green industries such as eco-tourism; and

(4) whether it will step up publicity and education efforts to create a good atmosphere for the society to cherish and care for wetlands, thereby raising the awareness of protecting wetlands among members of the public?

Reply:

President,

The northwestern New Territories comprises a mosaic of habitats including large areas of wetlands such as fishponds, marshes and mangroves. In particular, an area of over 1 500 hectares of wetlands in the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay is listed as Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. The area is a key wintering site for migratory birds along the East Asia-Australasia Flyway which attracts tens of thousands of migratory birds to visit during winter every year, including globally threatened or near-threatened species such as Black-faced Spoonbill, nurturing a very rich biodiversity. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been collaborating with the World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong in carrying out active conservation management of the Mai Po Nature Reserve (MPNR) which provides feeding and roosting habitats for waterbirds and other wildlife, with a view to contributing to the conservation of biodiversity in Asia as well as other global regions.

After consulting the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau and the AFCD,

the reply to the various parts of Hon Lau's question is as follows:

(1) The number of visitors to the Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP) and the MPNR, the cumulative number of species recorded, and the expenditure for maintaining and conserving the subject wetlands in the past ten years are tabulated below:

(a) Number of visitors

Financial Year	Visitor Number	
	HKWP	MPNR
2013/14	438 083	33 308
2014/15	443 933	34 218
2015/16	473 808	34 387
2016/17	487 298	35 106
2017/18	481 111	35 412
2018/19	447 592	32 452
2019/20	313 631	21 109
2020/21	197 017	14 038
2021/22	296 090	20 564
2022/23	400 820	20 876

(b) Cumulative number of species recorded (as at 2022)

Faunal Group	Cumulative Number of Species Recorded	
	HKWP	MPNR
Bird	293	440
Butterfly	184	106
Dragonfly	57	54
Fish	32	54
Amphibian	11	8
Reptile	34	24
Mammal	22	34

(c) Expenditure for maintaining and conserving the wetlands

Financial Year	Expenditure for Maintaining and Conserving the Wetlands (million dollar)	
	HKWP	MPNR
2013/14	3.47	1.83
2014/15	4.11	2.35
2015/16	4.01	2.03
2016/17	3.90	2.37
2017/18	3.96	3.64
2018/19	4.49	3.33
2019/20	4.51	3.73
2020/21	6.48	4.48
2021/22	5.60	3.75
2022/23	5.95	3.75

(2) The Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address proposed to implement a "New Proactive Conservation Policy" to gradually resume private wetlands and fish ponds with ecological value, and establish a Wetland Conservation Parks (WCPs) System, with a view to increasing the environmental capacity for the development of the Northern Metropolis. The AFCD is conducting a strategic feasibility study to determine the exact locations, areas and mode of management, etc. of the various parks proposed to be established, and targets to complete the relevant study by the end of this year the earliest. The Environment and Ecology Bureau and the AFCD will reveal to the public in due course the plan for the implementation of the WCPs System.

(3) and (4) The Mai Po Inner Deep Bay has beautiful wetland scenery. Apart from providing feeding and roosting habitats for wildlife such as waterbirds, the fishponds also provide fisheries produce as well as leisure and eco-tourism resources for the public, promoting economic activities, showcasing the concept of "harmony between humanity and nature" as advocated by our country, and echoing the Ramsar Convention's guideline on "wise use of wetlands". When formulating conservation plan for the wetland system in Hong Kong, on the premise of conserving natural habitats and enhancing biodiversity, the Government will make wise use of the various rich resources provided by wetlands on a sustainable basis, hoping to protect the nature and at the same time enable our society to benefit from the natural resources.

As an example, the HKWP, as a wetland education centre and a member of the Wetland Link International (Asia), has been striving to promote wetland conservation and organise public education activities to foster public awareness on the topic. To enhance the appeal of the HKWP as a green tourism attraction, the Tourism Commission and the AFCD obtained approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in 2021 for a funding of \$135 million to implement the plan of upgrading the exhibition and visitor facilities in the HKWP, and are proactively taking forward the relevant work. To tie in with the renewal of exhibition and visitor facilities, and enhance

public awareness of wetland conservation, the HKWP has started to develop and design new educational programmes and teaching materials targeting at general visitors, as well as teachers and students of secondary schools, primary schools and kindergartens. In addition, the HKWP has launched the "Hong Kong Wetland Park Volunteer Scheme" to encourage public participation in relevant volunteer work to promote wetland conservation with concerted efforts.

On the other hand, in the past 10 years, over 600 hectares of fishponds in the Ramsar Site and the Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site were conserved proactively under the Nature Conservation Management Agreement projects funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund and the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme. The relevant publicity and educational activities such as guided tours, talks, fishpond festivals and exhibitions, etc, recorded more than a million person-times of participation, which helped raise public awareness on fishpond conservation.

Special traffic arrangements for race meeting in Happy Valley

Special traffic arrangements will be implemented in Happy Valley today (June 14). 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 the 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;
- Traffic along 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 for 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 about 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 diversions will be implemented from about 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;
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Wan Chai will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Canal Road East, U-turn slip road beneath Canal Road flyover, Canal Road West and Hennessy Road;
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Canal Road East, eastbound Leighton Road and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Traffic along 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.

[Speech by SCST at opening ceremony of Knowledge of Design Week 2023 \(English only\)](#)

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Kevin Yeung, at the opening ceremony of the Knowledge of Design Week 2023 today (June 14):

Eric (Chairman of the Hong Kong Design Centre, Professor Eric Yim), Victor (Chairman of the Knowledge of Design Week Steering Committee, Dr Victor Lo), Mr van den Berg (Consul-General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Hong Kong, Mr Arjen van den Berg), distinguished speakers, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to Knowledge of Design Week (KODW) 2023. I am excited to greet our international guests in KODW with a full return in physical format this year.

Riding on the theme "The Power of Design: Innovating for a Circular World", over 40 creative and business leaders from around the world are gathering in Hong Kong today to share their knowledge and innovative ideas. In the coming three days, a series of face-to-face forums, workshops, masterclasses and networking events will bring together experts and professionals to explore the application and impact of innovative practices in design for creating a more sustainable and resilient future.

The Netherlands has been taking the lead in implementing and championing green designs. I recall during my last visit to the Netherlands in March, the dialogues with the officials and local industry players were rewarding and inspiring. We are very pleased for the Kingdom of the Netherlands to be our partner country of both KODW and Business of Design Week (BODW) this year. I look forward to the in-depth exchanges and sharing on circular economy amongst the design leaders from the Netherlands and other countries.

The current-term Government is committed to fostering Hong Kong's arts, cultural and creative industries under the National 14th Five-Year Plan. With an additional \$500 million injection into the CreateSmart Initiative, we will continue with our efforts to support the development of Hong Kong's creative industries, including design, with an aim to reinforce Hong Kong's position as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.

I would like to thank the Hong Kong Design Centre and supporting organisations for making KODW happen again. My special thanks go to the Consulate-General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Hong Kong and the CreativeNL, which have been facilitating the partnership for KODW and BODW this year.

I wish KODW every success and all of you a fruitful and enjoyable event. Thank you.