

Fraudulent websites related to OCBC Bank (Hong Kong) Limited

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by OCBC Bank (Hong Kong) Limited relating to fraudulent websites, which have been reported to the HKMA. A hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#).

The HKMA wishes to remind the public that banks will not send SMS or emails with embedded hyperlinks which direct them to the banks' websites to carry out transactions. They will not ask customers for sensitive personal information, such as login passwords or one-time password, by phone, email or SMS (including via embedded hyperlinks).

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information, or who has conducted any financial transactions, through or in response to the websites concerned, should contact the bank using the contact information provided in the press release, and report the matter to the Police by contacting the Crime Wing Information Centre of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

Fraudulent websites and internet banking login screens related to Chong Hing Bank Limited

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Chong Hing Bank Limited relating to fraudulent websites and internet banking login screens, which have been reported to the HKMA. A hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#).

The HKMA wishes to remind the public that banks will not send SMS or emails with embedded hyperlinks which direct them to the banks' websites to carry out transactions. They will not ask customers for sensitive personal information, such as login passwords or one-time password, by phone, email or SMS (including via embedded hyperlinks).

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information, or who has

conducted any financial transactions, through or in response to the websites or login screens concerned, should contact the bank using the contact information provided in the press release, and report the matter to the Police by contacting the Crime Wing Information Centre of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

Hong Kong Customs raids suspected “cheap whites” mobile storage centres in Yuen Long (with photos)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (March 5) raided suspected illicit cigarette mobile storage centres in Yuen Long and seized about 1.03 million suspected illicit cigarettes with an estimated market value of about \$4.6 million and a duty potential of about \$3.4 million. Among them, about 1.02 million of the seized illicit cigarettes were "cheap whites", accounting for about 99 per cent of the total seizure.

During an anti-illicit cigarette operation conducted in Yuen Long yesterday afternoon, Customs intercepted a suspicious man who was moving goods at the rear of a light goods vehicle in Long Ping Estate. Customs officers immediately intercepted the man and seized about 180 000 suspected illicit cigarettes in the vehicle. The man was arrested immediately. Later, Customs officers escorted that 49-year-old man, who claimed to be unemployed, to a truck parked near Lam Hau Tsuen for a follow-up investigation. After a search, about 850 000 suspected illicit cigarettes were seized from the truck. During the operation, Customs detained the two vehicles suspected to be used for storing and distributing illicit cigarettes.

An initial investigation revealed that the trucks involved in the case were used as illicit cigarette mobile storage centres to supply illicit cigarettes to residents in Yuen Long. Customs will continue to trace the source of the illicit cigarettes, and the likelihood of further arrests is not ruled out.

The arrested man has been released on bail pending further investigation.

Customs will continue its risk assessment and intelligence analysis for interception at source as well as through its multipronged enforcement strategy targeting storage, distribution and peddling to spare no effort in combating illicit cigarette activities.

Customs stresses that it is an offence to buy or sell illicit cigarettes. Under the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance, anyone involved in dealing with, possession of, selling or buying illicit cigarettes commits an

offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$1 million and imprisonment for two years.

Members of the public may report any suspected illicit cigarette activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 182 8080 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk) or online form (eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002).



[Health Bureau responds to Consumer Council's recommendations on price transparency in healthcare](#)

In view of media enquiries concerning the Consumer Council's recommendations on price transparency in healthcare, the Health Bureau today (March 6) gave the following response:

The Health Bureau welcomes the release of the Consumer Council's report entitled "Price Transparency in Healthcare: Fostering Consumer Trust and Value", which presents recommendations for improving the existing private healthcare sector and enhancing price transparency. As announced in the Chief Executive's 2024 Policy Address, the Government plans to consult the sector within this year to explore legislating for enhancing private healthcare price transparency. The Government will take into account the Consumer Council's report when formulating the relevant proposal for consultation purposes.

Hong Kong has a dual-track healthcare system that encompasses both the

public and the private sectors. Public healthcare has long been acting as a safety net, while private healthcare offers more choices to citizens with higher affordability. The Government considers the private healthcare sector an integral part of Hong Kong's healthcare system. As such, enhancing the value efficiency of private healthcare and maintaining high-quality healthcare services are crucial to keeping Hong Kong at the forefront of global healthcare standards and developing the city into an international health and medical innovation hub.

However, there has always been an imbalance in resource deployment between public and private healthcare. Public healthcare services are heavily subsidised at nearly 98 per cent, catering for 90 per cent inpatient and specialist medical care in Hong Kong while employing only roughly half of the manpower of medical practitioners. In view of high inflation in private healthcare, enhancing private healthcare price transparency will enable citizens to become better informed about pricing and prepared for costs before making medical decisions, which builds greater confidence in using private healthcare services by citizens and alleviates the burden on public healthcare services.

In 2016, the Government, together with the Hong Kong Private Hospitals Association, rolled out a Pilot Programme for Enhancing Price Transparency for Private Hospitals. It has been voluntarily participated in by all private hospitals with three measures implemented, namely (1) publicising the fee schedules of major chargeable items; (2) providing budget estimates for patients receiving 30 common treatments/procedures; and (3) publicising historical billing statistics for 30 common treatments/procedures.

A number of improvements have been made to the Pilot Programme since its introduction. The Government has also set up a dedicated website (apps.orphf.gov.hk/Public/en) to publish statistics from all private hospitals, including annual discharge numbers for specified treatments/procedures, average length of stay, and actual billing data for the 50th and 90th percentiles of each specified treatment/procedure, facilitating public reference and comparison.

The Health Bureau is actively preparing for the consultation exercise on legislating for private healthcare price transparency, taking into account, among others, the content of the Consumer Council's report and the operational experience of the Pilot Programme, and will maintain liaison with various stakeholders to better uphold patient welfare in light of the actual operation of the private healthcare sector. The Health Bureau plans to announce the proposal for consultation purposes within this year.

Commission on Children convenes 24th meeting

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, today (March 6) chaired the 24th meeting of the Commission on Children.

At the meeting, members were briefed by government representatives on medical and healthcare services for children. The Health Bureau, the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority and the Primary Healthcare Commission have been providing a range of healthcare and health services to cater for the needs and development of children at different stages of growth, from infancy to adolescence. The Government will continue to enhance the services to strive for the healthy growth of children with a view to achieving the goal of "prevention is better than cure".

The Narcotics Division (ND) of the Security Bureau also updated members on the latest drug situation in Hong Kong, including the Government's anti-drug strategies, the recent abuse situation of the "space oil drug", and preventive education and publicity programmes for students to raise their awareness about the harms of drugs. The ND will continue to collaborate with government departments, non-government organisations and the community to build an anti-drug culture in schools together and strengthen students' resolve to resist drug temptation.