

Opening arrangements for LCSD recreation and sports facilities during Lunar New Year holidays

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) announced today (January 10) that its parks and playgrounds will remain open during the Lunar New Year holiday period. The Leisure Link Internet booking service will also operate as usual throughout the holidays.

However, sports centres, various fee-charging land-based facilities, swimming pools and water sports centres will be closed during the first three days of the Lunar New Year (January 25 to 27). Services at gazetted beaches will also be suspended. Stadia and all sports grounds will be closed unless advance bookings have been made.

Holiday camps will be closed during the first three days of the Lunar New Year and lodging will not be provided on Lunar New Year's Eve (January 24).

But for public convenience some sports centres, turf pitches, squash courts, tennis courts, the archery range at Ngau Chi Wan Park, the indoor bowling greens at Island East Sports Centre, Tuen Mun Recreation and Sports Centre and the sports facilities and squash courts at Queen Elizabeth Stadium will reopen on the third day of the Lunar New Year (January 27).

Leisure Link booking counters at venues will not operate when the venues are closed. For venues scheduled to reopen on January 27, their Leisure Link booking counters will also resume operation on the same day.

Details of the opening arrangements for LCSD recreation and sports venues during the Lunar New Year holidays have been posted at all venues and uploaded to the department's website (www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/facilities/facilitieslist.html).

Opening hours of LCSD performance venues and URBIX outlets during Lunar New Year

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will implement special opening hours at its performance venues and URBIX outlets during the

Lunar New Year holidays, an LCSD spokesman announced today (January 10). Details are as follows:

January 24 (Lunar New Year's Eve)

Performance venues and URBIX outlets	Opening hours
URBIX outlets at Youth Square, Tai Kwun and Parsons Music Yau Tong Branch	Open as usual
URBIX outlet at Hong Kong Arts Centre	To close at 3pm
URBIX outlets at Tom Lee (Tsim Sha Tsui Branch and Wan Chai Branch)	To close at 4.30pm
Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Hong Kong City Hall, Ko Shan Theatre, Ko Shan Theatre New Wing, Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre, Sheung Wan Civic Centre, Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre, Yau Ma Tei Theatre, Sha Tin Town Hall, Tai Po Civic Centre, North District Town Hall, Tsuen Wan Town Hall, Kwai Tsing Theatre, Tuen Mun Town Hall and Yuen Long Theatre and their URBIX outlets	To close at 5.30pm
Hong Kong Coliseum and Queen Elizabeth Stadium (including the Leisure Link Booking Office) and their URBIX outlets	To close at 6pm
URBIX outlet at HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity	Closed

January 25 (the first day of the Lunar New Year)

Performance venues and URBIX outlets	Opening hours
Ko Shan Theatre	6pm to 11pm
URBIX outlet at Ko Shan Theatre	6pm to 9.30pm
Ko Shan Theatre New Wing and its URBIX outlet	Closed
Other performance venues and their URBIX outlets	Closed
URBIX outlets at Tom Lee (Tsim Sha Tsui Branch and Wan Chai Branch), HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Youth Square, Tai Kwun and Parsons Music Yau Tong Branch	Closed

January 26 (the second day of the Lunar New Year)

Performance venues and URBIX outlets	Opening hours
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Hong Kong City Hall Low Block and its URBIX outlet	Open as usual
Queen Elizabeth Stadium	8am to 7pm
Leisure Link Booking Office and URBIX outlet at Queen Elizabeth Stadium	Closed
Hong Kong Cultural Centre	2pm to 11pm
URBIX outlet at Hong Kong Cultural Centre	2pm to 9.30pm
Ko Shan Theatre	6pm to 11pm
URBIX outlet at Ko Shan Theatre	6pm to 9.30pm
Ko Shan Theatre New Wing and its URBIX outlet	Closed
Other performance venues and their URBIX outlets	Closed
URBIX outlets at Tom Lee (Tsim Sha Tsui Branch and Wan Chai Branch), HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Youth Square, Tai Kwun and Parsons Music Yau Tong Branch	Closed

January 27 (the third day of the Lunar New Year)

Performance venues and URBIX outlets	Opening hours
Queen Elizabeth Stadium (including the Leisure Link Booking Office), Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Hong Kong City Hall Low Block and Sha Tin Town Hall and their URBIX outlets	Open as usual
URBIX outlets at Youth Square and Tai Kwun	Open as usual
Ko Shan Theatre and its URBIX outlet	To close at 6pm
Ko Shan Theatre New Wing and its URBIX outlet	Closed
Other performance venues and their URBIX outlets	Closed
URBIX outlets at Tom Lee (Tsim Sha Tsui Branch and Wan Chai Branch), HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity, Hong Kong Arts Centre and Parsons Music Yau Tong Branch	Closed

January 28 (the fourth day of the Lunar New Year)

Performance venues and URBIX outlets	Opening hours
All performance venues and their URBIX outlets	Open as usual

URBTIX outlets at Tom Lee (Tsim Sha Tsui Branch and Wan Chai Branch), Youth Square, Tai Kwun and Parsons Music Yau Tong Branch	Open as usual
URBTIX outlets at HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity and Hong Kong Arts Centre	Closed

From January 24 to 28, the URB TIX Internet booking website (www.urbtix.hk) and the mobile ticketing app "My URB TIX" (Android and iPhone versions) will maintain normal services, and both the credit card telephone booking hotline 2111 5999 and the ticketing enquiries hotline 3761 6661 will maintain normal services from 10am to 8pm daily.

Opening hours of LCSD's museums during Lunar New Year holidays

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department today (January 10) announced the special opening hours for its 13 museums (excluding the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, which is currently closed), the Oil Street Art Space, the Hong Kong Film Archive and the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre during the Lunar New Year holidays.

Details of the opening hours are as follows:

January 24 (Lunar New Year's Eve)

The Hong Kong Museum of History, the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, the Hong Kong Science Museum, the Hong Kong Museum of Art, the Hong Kong Space Museum, the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware, the Hong Kong Railway Museum, the Sam Tung Uk Museum, the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum, the Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery, the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum, the Law Uk Folk Museum, the Oil Street Art Space, the Hong Kong Film Archive and the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre will close at 5pm.

January 25 and 26 (the first two days of the Lunar New Year)

All the aforementioned venues will be closed.

January 27 (the third day of the Lunar New Year)

Apart from the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre, which will remain closed, all the aforementioned venues will open as usual.

January 28 (the fourth day of the Lunar New Year)

All the aforementioned venues will resume normal opening hours.

SCS on civil service pay adjustment and civil servants arrested for suspected involvement in unlawful public activities

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Joshua Law, at a media stand-up after the Legislative Council (LegCo) Finance Committee meeting this morning (January 10):

Reporter: ... and secondly on the Finance Committee dealing with the civil service pay rise, will you seek other ways trying to deal with the matter in LegCo?

Secretary for the Civil Service: First of all on the Finance Committee item, it is important for us to adhere to the established mechanism. I would hope that members of the LegCo will respect this and as soon as possible if they could go into detailed discussion of the item. Then we can have an early decision from the LegCo.

Reporter: ...any disciplinary actions for those arrested civil servants? Would you sack them or penalise them?

Secretary for the Civil Service: As I've said, at this stage, the civil servants who had been arrested, out of the 41 arrested, 31 of them have been interdicted, so they have been suspended from service. In the event that they are convicted by the court, then we will initiate disciplinary action. And the result could be a sacking or could be a warning, depending on the severity of the punishment.

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

HA to consider Budget for 2020-21

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

The Finance Committee (FC) of the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) has projected that the HA will have the necessary financial resources to meet its recurrent expenditure and implement its current public housing construction programme and maintenance programme in the proposed budgets and forecasts for the period 2019-20 to 2023-24.

The FC held a meeting today (January 10) on the HA's proposed budgets and forecasts for the period 2019-20 to 2023-24. After the meeting, the FC Chairman, Professor Chan Ka-lok, said, "With the projected increase in construction expenditure and operating expenditure in the next few years, which will partly be offset by the subsidised sale flat receipts, the cash and investment balance of the HA is projected to decrease from about \$43 billion at the beginning of April 2019 to about \$35 billion by the end of March 2024."

Professor Chan added, "If and when there are changes to any of the budget assumptions, the projected financial position will vary. In the face of the upcoming uncertainties, the HA will have to remain vigilant and exercise prudent financial control, so as to achieve the public housing supply target and to ensure that public funds will continue to be used in the most cost-effective manner."

According to the established mechanism, the HA conducts annual rolling five-year budgeting exercises and assesses its financial position and future funding requirements.

Based on the Long Term Housing Strategy Annual Progress Report 2019 announced by the Government last month, the public housing supply target for the 10-year period from 2020-21 to 2029-30 will be 301 000 units. In line with the established practice, the relevant financial implications will be reflected in the annual rolling five-year budgets as appropriate.

To achieve the public housing supply target, the Government has earmarked \$82.4 billion (the balance of the previous Housing Reserve) in the fiscal reserves for the development of public housing and related infrastructure to demonstrate the Government's firm commitment in this regard.

Today, the FC endorsed the HA's Revised Budget for 2019-20 and the Proposed Budget for 2020-21. The FC has also noted the Financial Forecasts for 2021-22 to 2023-24.

The HA meeting will examine the Budget on January 20. It will then be submitted to the Chief Executive for approval.