

Application for Student Grant for 2019/20 school year to close at end of this month

A spokesman for the Education Bureau (EDB) today (June 12) said that in light of the earlier class suspension and gradual class resumption in phases since the end of May, the deadline for application for the Student Grant of \$3,500 for secondary day-school, primary school and kindergarten students in the 2019/20 school year has been extended to June 30, with a view to providing more time for parents to submit applications.

The spokesman appealed to parents and schools that if they have not yet submitted applications to the EDB, they should return the application forms as soon as possible before the deadline.

As regards the overall progress of disbursement of the Student Grant, the spokesman said that payment had already been made to over 80 per cent of the applications. The EDB has been following up with some of the applicants for rectification of incorrect or incomplete information on their application forms.

He said, "To date, we have received a total of about 867 000 applications, among which about 724 000 parents of eligible students have already received the grant. As for the remaining cases, they are mainly with incorrect or incomplete information (e.g. inaccurate bank account number). We are now actively following up with the schools and parents concerned."

The EDB has issued emails to the parents concerned to inform them of their application status. Computer-generated copies of the application details in question will be sent to parents through schools in batches for parents to amend or provide the information as required. The EDB appeals to the parents concerned to return the amended or supplementary information to the schools as soon as possible so that the EDB could further expedite processing the applications.

For details of the Student Grant, please visit the EDB website (www.edb.gov.hk/en/student-parents/support-subsidies/student-grant/index.html). If individual parents have further enquiries on their applications, please contact the Special Duties Office of the EDB via email (spdoenquiry@edb.gov.hk) or the hotline (3850 2000).

Proposed road works at Sham Shui Kok Drive gazetted

The Government gazetted today (June 12) the proposed road works for the columbarium development at the western end of Sham Shui Kok Drive in Tsuen Wan District.

Details of the proposal are set out in the Annex. The plans and scheme of the works are available for public inspection at the following government offices during office hours:

Central and Western Home Affairs Enquiry Centre,
G/F, Harbour Building,
38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Tsuen Wan Home Affairs Enquiry Centre
1/F, Tsuen Wan Multi-storey Carpark Building,
174-208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories

District Lands Office, Islands,
19/F, Harbour Building,
38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

The gazette notice, scheme, plans and location plan will be available at www.thb.gov.hk/eng/psp/publications/transport/gazette/gazette.htm.

Any person who wishes to object to the works or the use, or both, is required to address to the Secretary for Transport and Housing an objection in writing, which can be submitted via the following means:

- By post or by hand to the Transport and Housing Bureau's drop-in box No. 6 located at the entrance on 2/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong. The box is available for use between 8am and 7pm from Monday to Friday (except public holidays);
- By fax to 2868 4643; or
- By email to gazettethb@thb.gov.hk.

A notice of objection should describe the objector's interest and the manner in which he or she alleges that he or she will be affected by the works or the use. Objectors are requested to provide contact details to facilitate communication. A notice of objection should be delivered to the Secretary for Transport and Housing not later than August 11, 2020.

Qualified person prohibited by disciplinary board from certifying prescribed inspection and repair of windows for eight months

The Registered Contractors' Disciplinary Board has completed a disciplinary inquiry under the Buildings Ordinance (BO) and decided that a registered minor works contractor (RMWC) appointed as a qualified person (QP) under the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme should be disciplined for failing to discharge the duties, or abide by the requirements imposed on a QP under the BO.

The Board's decision and order made on May 26 was published in the Gazette today (June 12). Details are available at the following link: www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/20202424/egn202024243124.pdf

The Board ordered the RMWC to be prohibited from certifying any prescribed inspection, or certifying or supervising any prescribed repair in respect of a window in a building for eight months, with effect from the date of the Gazette. The contractor should pay about \$64,000, being the costs of the Board and the Buildings Department (BD) for conducting the inquiry.

The RMWC submitted a certificate to the BD in March 2015, certifying the prescribed inspection and repair had been carried out to all the windows in the common parts of a building in Mong Kok and that the windows had been rendered safe after completion of the prescribed repair.

Subsequently, the BD received a report in respect of a fallen window incident in the subject building. The investigation revealed that a window at the lift lobby on 6/F had fallen to the street and that the RMWC had neither carried out the prescribed inspection nor prescribed the repair in respect of the concerned window and hence failed to discharge the duties, or abide by the requirements imposed on a QP under sections 30E(4) and (5) of the BO.

In view of the investigation result, the BD notified the Board for consideration of disciplinary action against the RMWC under the provision of section 13(1) of the BO.

A spokesperson for the BD reiterated that in order to ensure building safety, the BD attaches great importance to the quality of the prescribed inspection and repair of windows by a QP. Any QP who contravenes the relevant provisions of the BO in carrying out the prescribed inspection and repair of windows under the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme is subject to the BD's enforcement action under the BO.

Proposed amendments to road works in Wan Chai authorised

The Chief Executive in Council has authorised the proposed amendments to the road works at Kennedy Road, Queen's Road East and Ship Street in Wan Chai. The notice was gazetted today (June 12).

Details of the works are set out in the Annex.

Commencement notice for Merchant Shipping (Control of Ballast Water and Sediments) Regulation gazetted

The Merchant Shipping (Control of Ballast Water and Sediments) Regulation (Commencement) Notice was gazetted today (June 12).

The Secretary for Transport and Housing has appointed August 13, 2020, as the day on which the Merchant Shipping (Control of Ballast Water and Sediments) Regulation (Cap 413Q) comes into operation. This is to tie in with the date when the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) will be applied to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). The Regulation was enacted by the Legislative Council earlier on.

After the commencement of the Regulation, the standards and procedures of the HKSAR for the management and control of ships' discharge of ballast water and sediments will be in line with the relevant international requirements established by the IMO.

The commencement notice will be tabled to the Legislative Council on June 17 for negative vetting.