

# Applications for Common Recruitment Examination and Basic Law Test open tomorrow

There will be over 10 000 civil service job openings for replacing retirees and filling some 6 000 new posts to be created in the 2020-21 Estimates, which include civil service posts at the degree or professional level. A spokesman for the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) today (April 15) said that prospective applicants for civil service posts at the degree or professional level can apply from tomorrow (April 16) to sit the Common Recruitment Examination and Basic Law Test (CRE and BLT) in Hong Kong, tentatively scheduled to be held on June 6 and 13, or another date within June if necessary.

In the light of the evolving situation regarding COVID-19, the CSB will make new arrangements for the examination if the situation warrants and announce them on the CSB webpage. The spokesman reminded persons who wish to take the coming CRE and BLT to pay attention to the latest announcements.

Precautionary measures will be taken to safeguard the health of candidates and invigilators including the setting up of body temperature screening at the entrance of the examination centres, requiring all candidates and invigilators to wear masks and widening the seat spacing among candidates, etc. If the situation warrants, the examination will be held on separate days to reduce the number of candidates in each examination centre to achieve social distancing.

Valid CRE results are required of applicants for civil service posts at the degree or professional level, unless applicants possess equivalent results in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination or other specified public examinations (the relevant details are available on the CSB webpage). Persons interested in applying for civil service posts at the degree or professional level in the near future may wish to consider sitting the coming examination to be eligible to apply for these posts, which may become available before another CRE is held.

In addition, applicants for civil service posts will be assessed on their Basic Law knowledge. The result of the BLT will be one of the considerations to assess the suitability of a candidate.

Applicants for the coming CRE and BLT should be holders of a degree, or a qualification meeting the entry requirement on professional qualifications for civil service degree or professional posts, or university students who will have attained a degree in the 2019-20 academic year. Applicants may choose to take any of the CRE papers and/or the BLT paper in the coming examination.

Persons interested in taking the examination may apply from tomorrow

through the online application system on the CSB webpage at [www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html](http://www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html); or by using the CRE and BLT application form (CSB31 (3/2020)), which can be downloaded from the CSB webpage or obtained from any Home Affairs Enquiry Centre of the Home Affairs Department. Applications must be made before 5pm on April 29 (Hong Kong time).

More details about the coming CRE and BLT will be available on the CSB webpage ([www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html](http://www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html)) from tomorrow. General enquiries may be directed to the Civil Service Examinations Unit by phone at 2537 6429 or by email to [csbcseu@csb.gov.hk](mailto:csbcseu@csb.gov.hk).

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## **Phishing email related to Bank of Taiwan**

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 Bank of Taiwan on phishing email, which has been reported to the HKMA. Hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#) for ease of reference by members of the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the email concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the email should contact the bank concerned using the contact information provided in the press release, and report to the Police or contact the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

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## **Applications invited for flag days in 2021-22**

Charitable organisations wishing to hold flag days between April 2021 and March 2022 are invited to apply to the Social Welfare Department (SWD) between April 15 and May 14 this year.

To enable more organisations to solicit donations through flag sales, 28 flag days in 2021-22 will be assigned as regional flag days so that three organisations can sell flags concurrently on those days, one each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories. There will also be 28

territory-wide flag days to be held in the year.

An SWD spokesman said today (April 15) that applicant organisations must be bona-fide non-profit-making organisations exempt from tax under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap.112) and, after their registration for tax exemption, have organised charitable activities in each of the past three years. Applicant organisations should refer to the eligibility criteria as detailed in the "Explanatory Notes for Application for Flag Days in 2021-22".

"Flag day applications will be considered by the Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee according to factors including the organisation's integrity and management capability; the nature, value and standard of its existing services; its financial need; and its ability to organise a flag day," the spokesman said.

The application form for flag days together with the "Explanatory Notes for Application for Flag Days in 2021-22" can be downloaded from the SWD's website at [www.swd.gov.hk](http://www.swd.gov.hk) or be obtained from the Lotteries Fund Projects Section of the SWD at Rooms 3601-02, 36/F, Sunlight Tower, 248 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong from today to 6pm on May 14 this year.

The completed application form together with the required documents should reach the department at the above address by 6pm on May 14 this year. Late applications will not be considered.

"Applicant organisations will be informed of the results around October this year," the spokesman added.

Enquiries can be made by telephone to 2832 4318 or 2832 4301, or by fax to 2838 0441, or by email to [eolf2@swd.gov.hk](mailto:eolf2@swd.gov.hk).

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## **REO suspends arrangements for public inspection of Registers of Electors**

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) announced today (April 14) the arrangements for public inspection of the 2019 Final Register of Electors for the Geographical Constituencies, the Final Register of Electors for the Functional Constituencies and the Final Register of Voters for the Election Committee Subsectors (Registers of Electors) has been suspended until further notice.

The Court of Appeal handed down an injunction order on October 22, 2019, restraining the REO from making available the registers of electors with linked information of electors' names and respective principal residential addresses for public inspection, until the disposal of application for judicial review of the Junior Police Officers' Association (JPOA). The Court

handed down a judgement on April 8 to dismiss the JPOA's application for judicial review.

The JPOA made an application for appeal to the court today, seeking an urgent interim injunction to restrain the REO from making available for public inspection of the electoral registers. The court has granted an interim injunction order.

The REO announced earlier the special arrangements for public inspection of the electoral registers. However, the REO has to suspend such arrangements pursuant to the interim injunction order.

For enquiries on the above arrangements, please call the REO's enquiry hotline at 2891 1001 during office hours.

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## Transcript of remarks by CE at media session (with video)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at a media session today (April 14):

Reporter: Thank you, Mrs Lam. Just on its comments from the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, you said there was no question of interference, but it was a little bit more than a comment, there was also a very strong accusation that the lawmaker had committed misconduct in public office, so can you just clarify why you don't consider that to be interference? Secondly, is your administration under pressure from Beijing to bring this whole House Committee saga to an end? And finally something from Dennis Kwok's press conference just now, he was saying that there is a lot of political mistrust in Hong Kong. Are you worried that this will make things more difficult or sow the seeds of more, sort of, erosion of trust at this very delicate time?

Chief Executive: Three questions. First of all, about the public comments made by the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office and the Central People's Government Liaison Office in Hong Kong, I want to refute categorically any accusation that such comments made by the two offices constitute interference, especially when some critics referred to Basic Law Article 22. I see no ground for that sort of accusation. As I have explained from the constitutional perspective, one have to fully understand that under "One country, Two systems", through the system and through the Basic Law, the Central Authorities have given Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy, but that doesn't mean that the Central Government has given up its power and authority on Hong Kong affairs. The Central Government has always been very supportive of Hong Kong SAR Government's work in terms of improving livelihood and also promoting Hong Kong's economic development, so when they see this very

bizarre situation, when the Legislative Council is almost malfunctioning because the House Committee has not been able to elect a chairman for over six months, I find it only legitimate for them to express their concern. There's absolutely no ground for accusation of interference by the two offices. As to exactly what wording they use, this is really not the crux of the matter. The crux of the matter is the two offices have expressed serious concern about the malfunctioning of the Legislative Council, which naturally undermines the governance in Hong Kong. That brings me to my second perspective. If you look from the governance perspective, the Legislative Council has very clear functions under the Basic Law, including the making of legislation, the receiving of complaints from the people of Hong Kong, a debate on the Chief Executive's Policy Address, and many of these functions have not been discharged since October last year because of the way that someone has handled the election of the House Committee Chairman and this has gone on for six months. This is really unacceptable. That means it will certainly affect the things that we want to do and which we are doing for the people of Hong Kong. Thirdly is from the operational level. I don't want to repeat all the figures that I have shared with the public in Cantonese, but it is for all to see that after a period of malfunctioning, a lot of government business, especially in legislation, has been held up by the House Committee not having its proper function and operation for so long, and many of these legislation have direct impact on Hong Kong's economic development and the livelihood of her people. This is a very unfortunate event and a very undesirable phenomenon, which we should all try to rectify as soon as possible.

As far as under pressure, there is no pressure whatsoever, because I want to exert pressure on the Legislative Council and I have been doing it in a very nice and polite way throughout the last six months by making public comments when we are about to put a resolution to the Legislative Council to lead to the confirmation of the Chief Justice appointment. But whether some Legislative Council Members will care about all this pressure is nothing for me to decide or comment. I just hope that people of Hong Kong understand the current situation that it is really very detrimental to the normal operation of government work.

As far as the third point, I don't want to comment on a particular comment by one of the Legislative Council Members. The difficulties of governance in Hong Kong are for all to see. I would say that the Hong Kong SAR Government would have a much easier life in this anti-epidemic work if we have more cohesiveness in society, more unity, more solidarity, putting aside our political differences for the time being in order to help Hong Kong to go out of this epidemic as soon as possible. Everybody should reflect on the situation that we are now in.

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