

Crowd safety management measures and special traffic arrangements on Hong Kong Island

Police will implement crowd safety management measures and special traffic arrangements tomorrow (June 16) to facilitate a public event to be held on Hong Kong Island.

Crowd safety management measures

The public event consists of three parts, namely a public meeting at football pitches 1 to 6 and Central Lawn of the Victoria Park, a public procession heading to Central followed by a public meeting in Central.

The public meeting at football pitches 1 to 6 and Central Lawn of the Victoria Park will commence at 2.30pm and the subsequent public procession will start at 3pm. The public procession will set off to the western and eastern pavements of Legislative Council Road and western pavement of Tim Mei Avenue, venue of another public meeting, via Gate 15 and 16 of the park, Causeway Road, Leighton Road, Irving Street, Pennington Street, Yee Wo Street, Hennessy Road, Queensway, Rodney Street and Harcourt Road.

A. Arrangements for Public Meeting at Victoria Park

Members of the public participating in the public meeting are encouraged to use public transport to go to the park and enter the football pitches from the west via Gate 6 and 7 (near Sugar Street and Great George Street); or from the east via Gate 14 (Hing Fat Street near Lau Sin Street).

Participants who wish to enter the park are advised to go to football pitches Nos. 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 in sequence to await the start of the procession. When the six football pitches are fully packed with participants, latecomers for the event may gather at the Central Lawn to await setting off the procession. To ensure that the participants of the public meeting enter the park and set off the subsequent procession sequentially, the organiser and their marshals will implement crowd management measure thereat (see diagrams 1 and 2).

Police and the organiser will adopt a principle of "First come, First go" in order to ensure the procession can set off from the park orderly and in sequence.

The procession will set off at 3pm or when the participants have occupied about 85 per cent of the six football pitches, whichever is earlier.

B. Arrangements for Public Procession

The procession will proceed along the westbound carriageway of the

procession route and the eastbound and westbound tram lanes along Yee Wo Street, Hennessy Road and Queensway. The eastbound carriageway will be reserved as emergency vehicles access and used by other road users. Police will make decision on the opening of traffic lanes according to the prevailing crowd condition

The crossing zones outside SOGO Department Store and Paterson Street will be suspended during the procession. Past experience has shown that many procession participants jammed in the procession at these two points, causing obstructions and delay to the main procession from the park. Moreover, it will also affect the traffic at the eastbound carriageway and its function as emergency vehicles access, posing serious risks to public safety and public order. Procession participants are requested not to jam in at these two points. People who intend to cross Yee Wo Street can use the subway of MTR, Sugar Street footbridge and Percival Street footbridge.

Participants who wish to leave upon arriving or during the public meeting in Central may leave via various directions towards Admiralty or Wan Chai. They should pay attention to the announcements made by the organiser and follow the instructions given by the Police or event marshals for a safe departure.

To maintain public safety and public order, Police imposed several conditions to the organiser. The conditions include requesting the organiser to appeal to the participants taking part in fund-raising, hawking or any other propaganda activities to ensure that their stalls or temporarily-erected structures would not cause obstructions to the public procession or endanger the safety of the public procession participants or other road users.

Members of the public going to Admiralty, Wan Chai, Causeway Bay and Tin Hau are encouraged to use public transport. They should follow the instructions given by Police officers or event marshals, and pay attention to the temporary signage displayed on site.

It is the policy of the Police to facilitate all lawful public order events and it will take measures to ensure public safety and public order. Police wish to co-operate closely with the organiser to facilitate a safe and orderly public event.

Police appeal to the event participants to remain calm, be considerate and co-operative, as well as to express their views in a peaceful manner.

Special traffic arrangements

A. Road closure

The following roads will be closed from 1.30pm until the crowd has dispersed and traffic resumes normal:

1. Gloucester Road U-turn slip road between southbound and northbound Gloucester Road underneath Tai Hang Road flyover;

2. Sugar Street;
3. Southbound Gloucester Road between Victoria Park Road flyover and Causeway Road;
4. If necessary, Great George Street;
5. If necessary, Paterson Street between Gloucester Road and Great George Street;
6. If necessary, Kingston Street; and
7. If necessary, Cleveland Street.

The following roads will be closed from 1.45pm until the crowd has dispersed and traffic resumes normal:

1. Jardine's Bazaar;
2. Tang Lung Street;
3. Canal Road East between Russell Street and Hennessy Road;
4. Canal Road West between Sharp Street West and Hennessy Road;
5. Wan Chai Road between Canal Road West and Morrison Hill Road; and
6. Bowrington Road between Sharp Street West and Hennessy Road.

The following roads will be closed from 2pm until the crowd has dispersed and traffic resumes normal:

1. Westbound Causeway Road;
2. Moreton Terrace;
3. Shelter Street;
4. Eastbound Yee Wo Street slip road leading to westbound Causeway Road;
5. Irving Street;
6. Pennington Street between Keswick Street and Yee Wo Street;
7. Westbound Yee Wo Street;
8. Westbound Hennessy Road;
9. Lee Garden Road between Kai Chiu Road and Hennessy Road;
10. Kai Chiu Road;
11. Yun Ping Road between Lan Fong Road and Kai Chiu Road;
12. Tin Lok Lane between Hennessy Road and Wan Chai Road;
13. Eastbound Johnston Road slip road leading to westbound Hennessy Road;
14. Thomson Road between Johnston Road and Luard Road;
15. Luard Road between Johnston Road and Hennessy Road;
16. Fenwick Street between Hennessy Road and Johnston Road;
17. Westbound Johnston Road between Ship Street and Landale Street;
18. Eastbound Johnston Road between Fenwick Street and Hennessy Road;
19. If necessary, eastbound Hennessy Road;
20. If necessary, eastbound Causeway Road;
21. If necessary, westbound Leighton Road slip road leading to Pennington Street;
22. If necessary, eastbound Yee Wo Street;
23. If necessary, Percival Street between Lockhart Road and Russell Street;
24. If necessary, southbound Canal Road East between Lockhart Road and Hennessy Road;
25. If necessary, southbound Stewart Street between Lockhart Road and Hennessy Road;
26. If necessary, southbound Fleming Road between Lockhart Road and Hennessy Road;

27. If necessary, northbound Fleming Road between Johnston Road and Hennessy Road;
28. If necessary, Thomson Road between O'Brien Road and Fleming Road; and
29. If necessary, Fenwick Street between Lockhart Road and Johnston Road.

The following roads will be closed from 3.30pm until the crowd has dispersed and traffic resumes normal:

1. Eastbound Queensway between Queen's Road East and Rodney Street;
2. Westbound Harcourt Road between Harcourt Garden car park exit and Cotton Tree Drive;
3. Southbound Tim Wa Avenue between Lung Wo Road and Harcourt Road, except for vehicles heading for the Chief Executive's Office and Central Government Offices (CGO) car park;
4. Southbound Edinburgh Place between Lung Wo Road and Connaught Road Central;
5. Southbound Rodney Street;
6. Northbound Garden Road between Lambeth Walk and Harcourt Road;
7. Northbound Garden Road flyover leading to eastbound Queensway;
8. Westbound Harcourt Road service road U-turn slip road;
9. Eastbound Harcourt Road between Tim Wa Avenue and Edinburgh Place;
10. If necessary, Queensway;
11. If necessary, northbound Rodney Street;
12. If necessary, Drake Street;
13. If necessary, Tamar Street;
14. If necessary, southbound Cotton Tree Drive slip road leading to eastbound Queensway;
15. If necessary, southbound Cotton Tree Drive between westbound Harcourt Road and Queensway;
16. If necessary, northbound Garden Road slip road leading to northbound Cotton Tree Drive;
17. If necessary, Murray Road between Harcourt Road and Queensway;
18. If necessary, eastbound Des Voeux Road Central between Pedder Street and Queensway; and
19. If necessary, northbound Ice House Street between Queen's Road Central and Des Voeux Road Central.

The following roads will be closed when necessary until the crowd has dispersed and traffic resumes normal:

1. Yacht Street;
2. Lau Li Street between Ngan Mok Street and Hing Fat Street;
3. Electric Road between Lau Sin Street and Tsing Fung Street;
4. Lau Sin Street west of King's Road;
5. Hing Fat Street between Causeway Road and Lau Sin Street;
6. Northbound Tai Hang Road flyover; and
7. Southbound Percival Street between Gloucester Road and Lockhart Road.

B. Traffic diversions

The following traffic diversions will be implemented from 1.30pm until the crowd has dispersed and traffic resumes normal:

1. Traffic along southbound Gloucester Road cannot turn right to northbound Gloucester Road underneath Tai Hang Road flyover;
2. Traffic along eastbound Yee Wo Street cannot turn left to Sugar Street;
3. Traffic along southbound Victoria Park Road flyover must turn right to westbound Gloucester Road service road.
4. If necessary, traffic along northbound Tai Hang Road flyover cannot turn left to westbound Kingston Street;
5. If necessary, traffic along southbound Paterson Street must turn left to eastbound Kingston Street;
6. If necessary, traffic along southbound Cleveland Street cannot turn right to westbound Kingston Street;
7. If necessary, traffic along westbound Gloucester Road service road cannot turn left to southbound Cleveland Street and southbound Paterson Street; and
8. If necessary, traffic along westbound Victoria Park Road slip road cannot enter Cleveland Street.

The following traffic diversions will be implemented from 1.45pm until the crowd has dispersed and traffic resumes normal:

1. Traffic along Pennington Street cannot turn left to Jardine's Bazaar;
2. Traffic along westbound Hennessy Road cannot turn left to southbound Canal Road East;
3. Traffic along westbound Russell Street must turn left to southbound Canal Road East;
4. Traffic along northbound Canal Road West near Sharp Street West will be diverted to the up-ramp leading to northbound Canal Road flyover;
5. Traffic along eastbound Sharp Street West will be diverted to the up-ramp leading to northbound Canal Road flyover;
6. Traffic along eastbound Sharp Street West cannot turn left to northbound Bowrington Road;
7. Traffic along northbound Bowrington Road must turn right to eastbound Sharp Street West; and
8. Traffic along eastbound Wan Chai Road must turn right to southbound Morrison Hill Road.

The following traffic diversions will be implemented from 2pm until the crowd has dispersed and traffic resumes normal:

1. Traffic from westbound King's Road must turn left to southbound Tung Lo Wan Road or turn right to northbound Hing Fat Street;
2. Traffic along westbound Tung Lo Wan Road cannot enter Moreton Terrace;
3. Eastbound Tung Lo Wan Road between St. Paul's Hospital and Moreton Terrace will be re-routed westbound;
4. Traffic along southbound Tung Lo Wan Road cannot turn left to the re-routed westbound Tung Lo Wan Road between St Paul's Hospital and Moreton Terrace;
5. Traffic along eastbound Yee Wo Street cannot turn right to southbound Tung Lo Wan Road or westbound Leighton Road;
6. Traffic along northbound Tung Lo Wan Road cannot enter Irving Street and must turn left to westbound Leighton Road;
7. Traffic along Pennington Street must turn right to Keswick Street;
8. Traffic along northbound Yun Ping Road must turn left to westbound Lan

Fong Road;

9. Traffic along westbound Leighton Road must turn left to Wong Nai Chung Road, except for franchised buses;
10. Traffic along southbound Percival Street will be diverted to Lockhart Road or eastbound Hennessy Road;
11. Traffic along northbound Tin Lok Lane must turn left to westbound Wan Chai Road;
12. Traffic along northbound Tin Lok Lane cannot turn left to westbound Hennessy Road;
13. Traffic along Stewart Road cannot turn right to westbound Hennessy Road;
14. Traffic along eastbound Johnston Road cannot turn left to westbound Hennessy Road;
15. Traffic along northbound Fleming Road cannot turn left to westbound Hennessy Road;
16. Traffic along eastbound Hennessy Road cannot turn right to southbound Fenwick Street;
17. Traffic along Tai Wong Street East must turn right to eastbound Johnston Road;
18. Traffic along Johnston Road cannot enter Thomson Road;
19. Traffic along Johnston Road cannot enter northbound Luard Road;
20. Traffic along westbound Johnston Road must turn left to Ship Street;
21. Traffic along Lun Fat Street must turn right to eastbound Johnston Road;
22. Traffic along westbound Johnston Road from Landale Street must turn left to Anton Street;
23. Traffic along Queen's Road East cannot turn left to Landale Street;
24. If necessary, traffic along westbound Leighton Road cannot turn right to northbound Pennington Street;
25. If necessary, traffic along westbound Lockhart Road cannot turn right to Percival Street;
26. If necessary, traffic along Stewart Road will be diverted to Lockhart Road;
27. If necessary, traffic along southbound Fleming Road will be diverted to Lockhart Road;
28. If necessary, traffic along Wan Chai Road cannot turn right to northbound Fleming Road;
29. If necessary, traffic along eastbound Johnston Road cannot turn left to Thomson Road;
30. If necessary, traffic along eastbound Johnston Road cannot turn left to Fleming road;
31. If necessary, traffic along eastbound Johnston Road must turn right to Burrows Street; and
32. If necessary, traffic along southbound Fenwick Street will be diverted to Lockhart Road.

The following traffic diversions will be implemented from 3.30pm until the crowd has dispersed and traffic resumes normal:

1. Traffic along northbound Justice Drive must turn left to westbound Queensway;
2. Traffic along eastbound Connaught Road Central will be intermittently prohibited from entering the ground level of eastbound Harcourt Road, and

- must go straight to eastbound Harcourt Road flyover;
3. Traffic along westbound Harcourt Road near Harcourt Garden car park exit will be diverted to westbound Harcourt Road flyover;
 4. Traffic along northbound Garden Road must turn left to westbound Lambeth Walk;
 5. Traffic along Lung Wo Road cannot enter Tim Wa Avenue, except for vehicles heading for the Chief Executive's Office and CGO car park;
 6. Traffic along Lung Wo Road cannot enter southbound Edinburgh Place;
 7. If necessary, traffic along eastbound Queensway cannot turn left to northbound Tamar Street;
 8. If necessary, traffic along eastbound Des Voeux Road Central must turn left to northbound Pedder Street;
 9. If necessary, traffic along westbound Queen's Road Central cannot turn right to northbound Ice House Street;
 10. If necessary, traffic along northbound Ice House Street must turn left to westbound Queen's Road Central;
 11. If necessary, traffic from United Centre bus terminus must turn left to westbound Drake Street;
 12. If necessary, traffic along westbound Harcourt Road cannot turn left to southbound Murray Road;
 13. If necessary, traffic along Garden Road flyover cannot enter eastbound Queensway;
 14. If necessary, traffic along southbound Cotton Tree Drive will be diverted to southbound Cotton Tree Drive flyover; and
 15. If necessary, traffic along eastbound Queensway must turn right to southbound Cotton Road.

The following traffic diversions will be implemented when necessary until the crowd has dispersed and traffic resumes normal:

1. Traffic along northbound Tai Hang Road flyover must go straight to northbound Victoria Park Road flyover leading to westbound Gloucester Road;
2. Traffic along westbound Gloucester Road service road cannot turn left to southbound Percival Street;
3. Traffic along eastbound Causeway Road cannot turn left to northbound Hing Fat Street; and
4. Traffic along westbound King's Road cannot turn right to northbound Hing Fat Street.

C. Suspension of parking spaces

All parking spaces at Hing Fat Street public car park will be suspended from about 10.30am to 8pm.

Disabled parking spaces at northbound Gloucester Road near Sugar Street, and all on-street parking spaces on Tung Lo Wan Road will be suspended from 10.30am to 8pm.

All on-street parking spaces, motorcycle parking spaces and disabled parking spaces at eastbound Lung Wui Road opposite to CITIC Tower will be suspended from 12 noon to 11.59pm.

During the road closure period, vehicles will not be allowed to enter or leave car parks on the closed roads.

Any vehicles found illegally parked within the precincts of the special traffic arrangements will be towed away without prior notice, and subject to multiple ticketing.

Actual implementation of the crowd safety management measures and traffic arrangements will be made depending on traffic and crowd conditions in the areas. Members of the public are advised to exercise tolerance and patience and take heed of instructions of the Police on site.

Statement by Non-official ExCo Members on amendments to Fugitive Offenders Ordinance

The following is issued on behalf of the Executive Council Secretariat:

â€‹ The Non-official Members of the Executive Council (ExCo Members) today (June 15) issued the following statement on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government's decision to suspend the legislative amendment exercise on the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance.

â€‹ The ExCo Members supported the HKSAR Government's decision to suspend the concerned legislative amendment exercise, restart the consultation, undertake more explanation work and listen to different views of society so as to ease the tense and polarised atmosphere in the community.

â€‹ The ExCo Members noted that, in the past week, a large number of citizens took part in public processions and gatherings. They were saddened that serious conflicts broke out after midnight following the public procession on Sunday (June 9) as well as during the protest in the vicinity of Admiralty on Wednesday (June 12), resulting in injuries to members of the public, a number of media workers and law enforcement officers.

â€‹ The ExCo Members acknowledged that most members of the public who took part in the public processions were peaceful. Unfortunately, there were also scenes of conflict which complicated the situation. Under these circumstances, the enforcement actions undertaken by the Police are understandable. The ExCo Members expressed that they would continue to offer their full support for the Chief Executive, and would call on members of the public to adopt a calm and rational manner when expressing their views, and to safeguard the civilised, free, open and pluralistic society of Hong Kong.

Council meeting not to be held on June 17 and 18

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

In view of the Government's withdrawal of notice of resuming Second Reading debate on the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019 at the Council meeting of June 12, the President of the Legislative Council has decided, pursuant to Rule 14(1) of the Rules of Procedure, that the aforementioned Council meeting originally scheduled for June 17 and 18 will not be held.

Opening remarks by CE at media session (with photos/video)

Following are the opening remarks by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at a media session this afternoon (June 15):

Fellow citizens and members of the media,

In February last year, a murder case in Taiwan shocked and saddened many Hong Kong people. A young Hong Kong lady was killed, and the suspect fled back to Hong Kong. The case caused deep sorrow to the victim's parents, while at the same time revealed a clear loophole in our regime with respect to mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and the surrender of fugitive offenders. The deficiencies in our regime include, first, with the "geographical restriction" in the current law, it is not possible to transfer a suspect to Taiwan or our neighbouring Mainland and Macao. Secondly, there is no workable arrangement for the surrender of fugitive offenders with some 170 jurisdictions which have not entered into a long-term agreement with Hong Kong.

As a responsible government, I feel obliged to find a way to deal with the Taiwan murder case so that justice can be done for the deceased, her parents and society, while at the same time address the deficiencies in our system so that Hong Kong will not become a place for criminals to evade legal responsibility. These are the two original purposes of the Government in putting forward the legislative proposal to amend the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance.

After careful examination of the relevant laws and the practices of other jurisdictions, the legislative amendment exercise started in Hong Kong in February this year. Our proposal is based on the existing legislation, with the relevant human rights safeguards and procedural safeguards, including the role of the court and the fair and impartial judicial system of Hong Kong, being fully maintained. Relevant colleagues have been discussing with various sectors of the community in a rational manner and listening to their views on our legislative proposal. As the suspect in the Taiwan case, who has been in jail on other charges, may be released soon, we have been trying to get the bill passed within the current legislative year, that is, before the Legislative Council summer recess in July this year.

As a matter of fact, after listening to the views of society, we have introduced amendments to our proposal on two occasions. The first occasion was before the introduction of the bill, when we took out nine categories of offences from the list of offences subject to surrender, and lifted the threshold for punishment of the offences from imprisonment for more than one year to more than three years. The second occasion was after the introduction of the bill in the Legislative Council, when we increased the threshold from more than three years to not less than seven years, as well as introduced a number of additional human rights safeguards that are in line with international standards. The amendments were made to ease the concerns of society, while securing more support for the bill.

My relevant colleagues and I have made our best efforts. But I have to admit that our explanation and communication work has not been sufficient or effective. Although many people agreed with our two original purposes, there are still supporting views and opposing ones on the bill, and their stances are very often polarised. Furthermore, many members of the public still have concerns and doubts about the bill. Some find it difficult to understand why the urgency, and are unhappy with the process of the amendments. We have made many attempts to narrow differences and eliminate doubts.

In the last week, tens of thousands of people took part in protests and gatherings. Serious conflicts broke out in the early hours on Monday after the public procession last Sunday and during the protest in the Admiralty area on Wednesday, resulting in a number of police officers, media workers and other members of the public being injured. I am saddened by this, as are other citizens. As a responsible government, we have to maintain law and order on the one hand, and evaluate the situation for the greatest interest of Hong Kong, including restoring calmness in society as soon as possible and avoiding any more injuries to law enforcement officers and citizens. I am grateful for the views of many pro-establishment legislators and leaders of various community sectors conveyed to me over the last few days either openly or in private, that we should pause and think instead of resuming the Second Reading debate on the bill at the Legislative Council as scheduled. This would prevent dealing a further blow to society. In fact, in consideration of the overt and clear expression by Taiwan repeatedly that it would not accede to the suggested arrangement of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in the transfer of the concerned suspect, the original urgency to pass the bill in this legislative year is perhaps no longer there.

After repeated internal deliberations over the last two days, I now announce that the Government has decided to suspend the legislative amendment exercise, restart our communication with all sectors of society, do more explanation work and listen to different views of society. I want to stress that the Government is adopting an open mind to heed comprehensively different views in society towards the bill. The Secretary for Security will send a letter to the Legislative Council President to withdraw the notice of resumption of the Second Reading debate on the bill. In other words, the Council will halt its work in relation to the bill until our work in communication, explanation and listening to opinions is completed. We have no intention to set a deadline for this work and promise to report to and consult members of the Legislative Council Panel on Security before we decide on the next step forward.

I would like to thank all the pro-establishment legislators and members of the public for their support all along for our legislative exercise, as well as the people and organisations that have expressed their views in a peaceful and rational manner, even if they do not support the bill. As a free, open and pluralistic society, Hong Kong needs such a spirit of mutual respect and harmony in diversity.

Lastly, as the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, I want to stress that the original purposes of the exercise stem from my and my team's passion for Hong Kong and our empathy for Hong Kong people.

I feel deep sorrow and regret that the deficiencies in our work and various other factors have stirred up substantial controversies and dispute in society following the relatively calm periods of the past two years, disappointing many people. We will adopt the most sincere and humble attitude to accept criticisms and make improvements so that we can continue to connect with the people of Hong Kong.

Thank you very much.

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



Police open fire in Yuen Long

Police are investigating a Police open fire case in Yuen Long in the small hours of today (June 15).

At about 1.10am, officers of Traffic New Territories North conducted a traffic enforcement operation at a public transport interchange inside a shopping centre on Long Yat Road, where a private car was spotted breaching traffic regulations by allowing a female passenger to alight at double yellow line. When officers attempted to intercept the private car, the car suddenly rushed forward and attempted to ram into a male police officer. The police officer gave verbal warnings to the male driver inside the car but in vain, and subsequently fired two shots at the driver. However, the car did not stop and fled towards San Tin direction. After investigation, the 18-year-old female passenger was arrested in suspected connection with the case.

Officers later located a private car on Yuen Long Highway near Yuen Long Tung Shing Lei Road in suspected connection with the case. The male driver is wanted by Police.

During the investigation, the 28-year-old female car owner was arrested for being wanted for two traffic related offenses. The two arrestees are being detained for further enquiries.

Investigation by the Regional Crime Unit of New Territories North is underway. Anyone who witnessed the case or has any information to offer is urged to contact the investigating officers on 3661 3362.