

Correctional officers intercept smuggling of suspected dangerous drugs into Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre

Correctional officers at Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre today (October 12) intercepted a remand person in custody smuggling suspected dangerous drugs into the centre by concealing them inside his body.

The 61-year-old remand person in custody was remanded in the institution for the offence of trafficking in a dangerous drug on October 11. After undergoing X-ray body scanning, he was suspected to have swallowed suspected dangerous drugs before admission and was therefore separated and put under close monitoring.

At 10.25am today, he discharged 16 packs of suspected dangerous drugs wrapped in plastic sheet. The case has been reported to the Police for follow-up.

A spokesperson for the Correctional Services Department said, "The department takes every measure to stop the introduction of dangerous drugs or unauthorised articles into correctional institutions in order to maintain good order and discipline and a drug-free environment for all persons in its custody."

One more nomination for Legislative Council Kowloon West geographical constituency by-election received

One more nomination for the Legislative Council Kowloon West geographical constituency by-election was received by the Returning Officer today (October 12).

This brings the total number of nomination forms received to four since the start of the nomination period on October 2. The nomination period will continue until October 15.

Particulars of the nominees are available on the election website (www.elections.gov.hk/legco2018kwby/eng/nominat.html).

If the number of validly nominated candidates is more than one at the by-election, a poll will be held on November 25, 2018 (Sunday).

Analytical Accounts of Exchange Fund

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) released today (October 12) the key analytical accounts of the Exchange Fund at the end of September 2018.

Foreign assets, representing the external assets of the Exchange Fund, increased during the month by HK\$4.7 billion to HK\$3,491.8 billion.

The Monetary Base, comprising Certificates of Indebtedness, Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation, the balance of the banking system and Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued, amounted to HK\$1,619.6 billion.

Claims on the private sector in Hong Kong amounted to HK\$237.4 billion.

The analytical accounts of the Exchange Fund are released in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and are referred to as the Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank under SDDS (Annex).

Release calendar

The release calendar of the Analytical Accounts of the Exchange Fund for 2019 is announced below:

Reference Month	Release Date
January 2019	February 14, 2019
February 2019	March 14, 2019
March 2019	April 12, 2019
April 2019	May 14, 2019
May 2019	June 14, 2019
June 2019	July 12, 2019
July 2019	August 14, 2019
August 2019	September 13, 2019
September 2019	October 14, 2019
October 2019	November 14, 2019
November 2019	December 13, 2019
December 2019	January 14, 2020

At present, four press releases relating to the Exchange Fund's data are issued by the HKMA each month. Three of these releases are issued to disseminate monetary data in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). The fourth press release, on the Exchange Fund's Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account, is made in accordance with the HKMA's policy of maintaining a high level of transparency. For the month of October 2018, the scheduled dates for issuing the press releases are as follows:

October 5 (Issued)	SDDS International Reserves (Hong Kong's Latest Foreign Currency Reserve Assets Figures)
October 12	SDDS Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank (Analytical Accounts of the Exchange Fund)
October 31	SDDS Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity
October 31	Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account

Meetings of Legislative Council Committees

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

The Legislative Council (LegCo) Committees will hold 13 open meetings and a closed meeting during the week from October 15 to 19 in the LegCo Complex. Details of the meetings are available in the meeting schedule attached.

The information in the meeting schedule is subject to change. Please refer to the "LegCo Calendar" on the LegCo Website (www.legco.gov.hk) for the latest details of meetings.

Members of the public are welcome to observe open meetings of LegCo

Committees. Interested individuals and groups are advised to make advance booking of seats by calling the LegCo Secretariat at 3919 3399 during office hours. Members of the public can also listen to or watch all open meetings via the "Webcast" system on the LegCo Website.

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (October 12) released the latest grading of water quality for 38 gazetted beaches* that are open for swimming and one non-gazetted beach (i.e. Discovery Bay**).

Twenty-four beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 14 as Fair (Grade 2) and one as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

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Վերջին տարիներից առաջինը և 2017 թվականը ընդհանուր առմամբ հարմար են համարվում որպես

համապատասխանաբար հարմար, չնայած 2016 թվականին կրիզիսի միջավայրում տեղադրվելով

ուժեղացել է անվտանգության գնահատումը և համարվում է շատ բարձր:

Approach Beach	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach	Lido Beach
Butterfly Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Pui O Beach
Castle Peak Beach	Silver Mine Bay Beach
Clear Water Bay Second Beach	Ting Kau Beach

Grade 3 beach is:

Casam Beach

* The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) announced today that Butterfly Beach, Castle Peak Beach, Kadoorie Beach, Cafeteria Old Beach, Cafeteria New Beach, Golden Beach, Hoi Mei Wan Beach and Approach Beach will reopen on October 13 while Repulse Bay Beach will reopen on October 16. Meanwhile, other gazetted beaches in Southern, Tsuen Wan, Islands and Sai Kung Districts will remain closed until further notice.

** Discovery Bay is a non-gazetted beach without lifeguard service.

*** Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works was recently damaged by the typhoon and is under repair. The public are advised to avoid recreational activities with water contact at Kiu Tsui Beach, Trio Beach and Hap Mun Bay Beach, where water quality may be temporarily affected until further notice.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the department's websites on Beach Water Quality (www.beachwq.gov.hk and www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.