

Government welcomes passage of Building Management (Amendment) Bill 2023

The Government welcomed the passage of the Building Management (Amendment) Bill 2023 by the Legislative Council today (July 4). The Bill seeks to improve the transparency and accountability of the operation of owners' corporations (OCs), and to enhance deterrence against non-compliance with the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) (BMO).

The Bill seeks to amend the BMO with the following objectives:

1. to impose certain requirements in relation to the procurement of supplies, goods or services required for large-scale building maintenance and other high-value procurement required for building management. Among others, procurement for any maintenance project will be considered as large-scale maintenance procurement if the average project cost per building flat exceeds \$30,000. A resolution for large-scale maintenance procurement can only be passed if at least 5 per cent of the owners or 100 owners (whichever is the lesser) have voted in person;
2. to provide for a mechanism under which natural persons authorised by corporate flat owners may act for the latter at general meetings of OCs, etc;
3. to impose or adjust certain requirements in relation to financial statements and other accounting documents of OCs, etc, and in relation to the procedures of meetings concerning building management;
4. to criminalise the failure to keep certain documents concerning building management; and
5. to make related and miscellaneous amendments.

A Government spokesman said, "The proposals in the Bill have consolidated the outcome of public consultation and stakeholders' views over the years. The Government has first dealt with proposals which are of considerable public concern but are relatively less controversial in the Bill, and will continue to follow up on other building management issues in consultation with stakeholders."

The amended Ordinance will be published in the Gazette on July 12, 2024, and will come into operation one year after it is gazetted (i.e. July 13, 2025). The Home Affairs Department will launch various education and publicity activities and update a series of guidelines to help owners and OCs understand the amendments.

Cluster of COVID-19 cases in Ruttonjee Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesman for Ruttonjee Hospital made the following announcement today (July 4):

Fourteen patients (12 male and two female patients aged between 33 and 88) in a geriatric infirmary ward of Ruttonjee Hospital have been presenting with fever and have tested positive for COVID-19 since June 27. All patients are being treated in cohort isolation and are in stable condition. Moreover, a staff member in the ward had the onset of fever and cough on June 30 and tested positive for COVID-19 with stable condition.

Admission for the ward has been suspended, and restricted visiting has been imposed. Thorough cleaning and disinfection measures have been conducted in the ward. Infection control measures have been stepped up according to established guidelines.

The hospital will continue to closely monitor the situation of the patients. The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for follow-up.

Special traffic arrangements for race meeting in Happy Valley

Special traffic arrangements will be implemented in Happy Valley today (July 4). The arrangements will last until the crowds have dispersed after the race meeting.

A. Traffic arrangements before the commencement of the first race

The following road closure and traffic diversions will be implemented from 6pm onwards:

1. Road closure

Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Queen's Road East and the slip

road leading to Aberdeen Tunnel will be closed, except for vehicles heading for Aberdeen Tunnel.

2. Traffic diversions

- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Village Road and the slip road leading to Aberdeen Tunnel will be re-routed one way northbound;
- Traffic along eastbound Queen's Road East heading for Wan Chai and Happy Valley will be diverted to turn left to Morrison Hill Road;
- Traffic along southbound Morrison Hill Road heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via Sports Road and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Traffic along Queen's Road East cannot turn right to Wong Nai Chung Road, except for vehicles heading for Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Queen's Road East will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Morrison Hill Road to turn right at the junction of Wong Nai Chung Road and Queen's Road East; and
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Happy Valley or Racecourse will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Canal Road East, southbound Morrison Hill Road, Sports Road and Wong Nai Chung Road.

B. Traffic arrangements before the conclusion of race meeting

The following road closure and traffic diversions will be implemented from about 35 minutes before the start of the last race:

1. Road closure

- The slip road connecting Wong Nai Chung Road and Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Queen's Road East and the slip road connecting Wong Nai Chung Road and Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Village Road and Parsee Cemetery;
- Westbound Leighton Road between Wong Nai Chung Road and Canal Road East;
- and
- Southbound Morrison Hill Road between Leighton Road and Queen's Road East.

In addition, southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between the up-ramp leading to Aberdeen Tunnel and the Public Stands of Hong Kong Jockey Club will be closed from about 10 minutes before the start of the last race.

2. Traffic diversions

- Eastbound Queen's Road East at its junction with Morrison Hill Road will be reduced to one-lane traffic heading for northbound Canal Road flyover;
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Wan Chai will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Canal Road East, U-turn slip road beneath Canal Road flyover, Canal Road West and Hennessy Road;
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Canal Road East, eastbound Leighton Road and Wong Nai Chung Road;

- Traffic along southbound Morrison Hill Road will be diverted to turn left to eastbound Leighton Road;
- Traffic along southbound Morrison Hill Road heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via eastbound Leighton Road and Wong Nai Chung Road; and
- Traffic along westbound Leighton Road will be diverted to Wong Nai Chung Road.

C. Learner drivers prohibition

Learner drivers will be prohibited to turn left from Caroline Hill Road to Leighton Road between one and a half hours before the start of the first race and one hour after the last race. In addition, learner drivers will be prohibited from accessing the following roads within the above period of time:

- Shan Kwong Road between Yik Yam Street and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Village Road between its upper and lower junctions with Shan Kwong Road;
- Percival Street between Hennessy Road and Leighton Road;
- Canal Road East; and
- The service road leading from Gloucester Road to Canal Road flyover.

D. Suspension of parking spaces

Parking spaces on southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Sports Road and Blue Pool Road will be suspended from 11am to 7pm during day racing, from 4.30pm to 11.59pm during evening racing, and from 5pm to 11.59pm during night racing.

Any vehicles found illegally parked within the precincts of the above affected areas will be towed away without prior notice.

Actual implementation of road closure and traffic diversion will be made by the Police at the time depending on traffic conditions in the areas. Motorists should exercise tolerance and patience, and follow the instructions of Police on site.

Ministry of Finance issues Renminbi Sovereign Bonds through Central Moneymarkets Unit of Hong Kong Monetary Authority

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

The Ministry of Finance will issue Renminbi Sovereign Bonds through the

Central Moneymarkets Unit of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA). Please find attached the tender notice and the tender information memorandum of the Renminbi Sovereign Bonds to be issued by the Ministry of Finance. Please also find attached the tender-related information provided by the Issuing and Lodging Agent through the HKMA.

Flag-raising ceremony cancelled

Owing to the thunderstorm warning, the flag-raising ceremony to be conducted at Golden Bauhinia Square, Wan Chai at 8am today (July 4) will be cancelled.

If the thunderstorm warning is cancelled and weather conditions permit by then, the flag-raising ceremony may be resumed without further notice.