

Special traffic and transport arrangements for “Hong Kong New Year Countdown Concert” at West Kowloon Cultural District

The Transport Department (TD) today (December 28) reminded the public that the following special traffic and transport arrangements will be implemented in West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) and its vicinity to facilitate the "Hong Kong New Year Countdown Concert" event to be held at the Great Lawn of the Art Park in the WKCD on New Year's Eve (December 31).

(A) Road closures

The following road sections will be temporarily closed from about 6pm on December 31:

- * Museum Drive;
- * Cultural Drive;
- * A section of Nga Cheung Road at-grade northbound between Austin Road West and Jordan Road;
- * A section of Nga Cheung Road at-grade southbound between the entrance and exit of Kowloon Station Public Transport Interchange (PTI); and
- * A section of slip road of Austin Road West at-grade westbound leading to Museum Drive.

The road closure shall be lifted by the Police depending on the on-site crowds and traffic conditions.

During the road closure, the bus and green minibus bus (GMB) stops on Museum Drive and Nga Cheung Road and the bus stops on Austin Road West near Museum Drive will be suspended. At the same time, two GMB routes (Nos. 26D and 74D) connecting Kowloon Station and the WKCD will be suspended. Also, seven franchised bus routes (KMB route Nos. 8, 11, 203E, 215X, 280X, 281A and 296D) and four GMB routes (Nos. 26, 74, 74S and 77M) in the district will be diverted.

In addition, the vehicle pick up/drop-off area outside Exit A, B and E of Kowloon Station and the taxi stand at Kowloon Station PTI will be suspended. Motorists can make use of the pick-up/drop-off area on Wui Man Road located north of Wui Cheung Road.

(B) Suspension of WKCD carparks

All carparks in the WKCD will be suspended from about 4pm on December 31 until the road closure is lifted.

(C) Entry arrangements of concert ticket holders

Ticket holders attending the "Hong Kong New Year Countdown Concert" must enter the event venue via Nga Cheung Road, the footbridge across Kowloon entrance of Western Harbour Crossing (WHC) Toll Plaza and the footpath along the WKCD waterfront. Others heading for the Art Park in the WKCD should access via the entrance at Museum Drive near Nga Cheung Road. The Artist Square Bridge connecting Elements and the WKCD Artist Square will be suspended at about 4pm on December 31.

(D) Special public transport service arrangements after event

To facilitate the dispersal of members of public after the event, respective public transport operators will strengthen services on New Year's Eve, including:

* The service hours of respective MTR lines (except Airport Express and Disneyland Resort Line) will be extended for one hour;

* Some cross-harbour bus routes passing through the WHC and franchised bus routes and GMB routes terminating at the Kowloon Station PTI will be augmented or extended subject to passenger demand;

* The following 15 special bus services will be provided by KMB, Citybus (CTB) and New World First Bus (NWFB) at Wui Man Road cul-de-sac outside Austin Station located south of Wui Cheung Road after the end of event on January 1, 2022, to help members of the public heading for different districts in Kowloon and New Territories. Members of the public can go to the above bus stop via Museum Drive and Austin Road West pavement. Members of the public heading for Hong Kong Island can take the cross-harbour bus routes passing through the WHC or MTR services.

Route	Destination
CTB 20S	To Kai Tak (Muk On Street)
NWFB 795R	To Lohas Park
KMB 59R	To Tuen Mun Pier Head
KMB 65R	To Tin Shui Wai (Tin Shui)
KMB 67R	To Hung Shui Kiu (Hung Fuk Estate)
KMB 70R	To Fanling (Luen Wo Hui)
KMB 216R	To Shun Tin
KMB 225R	To Wong Tai Sin
KMB 236R	To Tsuen Wan Station
KMB 239R	To Tsuen Wan (Allway Gardens)
KMB 241R	To Tsing Yi (Cheung Ching Estate)
KMB 246R	To Kwai Chung (Lai Yiu Estate)
KMB 272R	To Tai Po (Tai Wo)
KMB 287R	To Wu Kai Sha Station
KMB 298R	To Hang Hau (North)

Public transport operators will display notices to advise passengers of the above temporary arrangements and arrange onsite staff to provide assistance to passengers.

Owing to the above road closure arrangements, the TD anticipates that the traffic in the vicinity of Kowloon Station will be congested on that day. Members of the public are advised to avoid driving to the vicinity of Kowloon Station, and make use public transport services as far as possible, in particular railway services. If driving is necessary, motorists are advised to drive with care and patience, and stay alert to the latest traffic news through the media or the TD's mobile application "HKeMobility" or website (www.td.gov.hk).

Details of the special traffic and transport arrangements will be available on the TD's website.

Auction of personalised vehicle registration marks to be held on January 9

The Transport Department (TD) today (December 28) announced that the next auction of personalised vehicle registration marks (PVRMs) will be held on January 9 (Sunday) at Meeting Room N101, L1, New Wing, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wan Chai.

"A total of 200 approved PVRMs will be put up for public auction. A list of the marks has been uploaded to the department's website, www.td.gov.hk," a department spokesman said.

The reserve price of each of these marks is \$5,000. Applicants who have paid a deposit of \$5,000 should also participate in the bidding (including the first bid at the reserve price). Otherwise, the PVRM concerned may be sold to another bidder at the reserve price.

People who wish to participate in the bidding at the auction should take note of the following points:

(1) Bidders are required to produce the following documents for completion of registration and payment procedures immediately after successful bidding:

- (i) the identity document of the successful bidder;
- (ii) the identity document of the purchaser (if the purchaser and the successful bidder are different persons);
- (iii) a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation (if the purchaser is a body

corporate); and

(iv) a crossed cheque made payable to "The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" or "The Government of the HKSAR". For an auctioned mark paid for by cheque, the first three working days after the date of auction will be required for cheque clearance confirmation before processing of the application for mark assignment can be completed. Successful bidders may also pay through the Easy Pay System (EPS), but are reminded to note the maximum transfer amount in the same day of the payment card. Payment by post-dated cheque, cash, credit card or other methods will not be accepted.

(2) Purchasers must make payment of the purchase price through EPS or by crossed cheque and complete the Memorandum of Sale of PVRM immediately after the bidding. Subsequent alteration of the particulars in the Memorandum will not be permitted.

(3) A PVRM can only be assigned to a motor vehicle which is registered in the name of the purchaser. The Certificate of Incorporation must be produced immediately by the purchaser if a vehicle registration mark purchased is to be registered under the name of a body corporate.

(4) The display of a PVRM on a motor vehicle should be in compliance with the requirements stipulated in Schedule 4 of the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) Regulations.

(5) Any change to the arrangement of letters, numerals and blank spaces of a PVRM, i.e. single and two rows as auctioned, will not be allowed.

(6) The purchaser shall, within 12 months after the date of auction, apply to the Commissioner for Transport for the PVRM to be assigned to a motor vehicle registered in the name of the purchaser. If the purchaser fails to assign the PVRM within 12 months, allocation of the PVRM will be cancelled and arranged for re-allocation in accordance with the statutory provision without prior notice to the purchaser.

(7) In view of public health concerns, all persons entering the auction venue will have to undergo on-the-spot body temperature checks arranged by the TD. Any member of the public whose body temperature is higher than 37.5 degrees Celsius or who refuses to undergo a body temperature check will be denied entry to the auction hall and the payment office. The TD also requests all persons entering the auction hall and the payment office to wear masks and clean their hands with alcohol-based sanitiser, and to wear masks throughout the duration of the auction and payment process.

(8) In order to reduce the risk of the virus spreading, the TD will adjust the distance between seats and the number of seats in the auction hall and the payment office, and implement crowd-control measures. The TD also appeals to the bidders to reduce the number of accompanying persons as far as possible. Furthermore, the auctions in the morning and the afternoon will each be divided into two sessions so as to shorten the duration of crowd congregation. The first session of the morning auction will commence at 9.25am while the second session will begin no earlier than 10.30am. The first

session of the afternoon auction will commence at 2.25pm while the second session will begin no earlier than 3.50pm. The auction venue will be disinfected before the commencement of the second sessions. Interested bidders may arrive at the auction venue in accordance with the time schedule for the auction of vehicle registration marks.

(9) To align with the Government's arrangement on the strict enforcement of the use of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile application when entering government buildings or offices, except for exempted persons, members of the public are required to use the app to scan the venue QR code before they are allowed to enter the auction venue (including the auction hall and the payment office). Persons who are aged below 12 or aged 65 or above, and those with disabilities that render use of the "LeaveHomeSafe" app difficult, will be exempted from the requirement of using the app when they enter the auction venue. However, they are required to complete a record form to register their names, the first four digits or letters of their identification documents, their contact numbers and the date and time of their visits. They are also required to present relevant identification documents for verification at the request of TD staff during registration. TD staff will also verify the contact numbers by making phone calls. As a result of the arrangement, members of the public are advised to remain patient as the waiting time for entering the auction venue may be lengthened. Unwillingness to use the app will not be considered as justification for granting exemption.

"Upon completion of the Memorandum of Sale of PVRM, the purchaser will be issued a receipt and a Certificate of Allocation of Personalised Registration Mark. The Certificate of Allocation will serve to prove the holdership of the PVRM. Potential buyers of vehicles bearing a PVRM should check the Certificate of Allocation with the sellers and pay attention to the details therein. For transfer of vehicle ownership, this certificate together with other required documents should be sent to the TD for processing," the spokesman added.

For other auction details, please refer to the Guidance Notes – Auction of PVRM, which is available at the department's licensing offices or can be downloaded from its website, www.td.gov.hk.

Hong Kong Customs clarifies no public auction ever arranged through external parties

Hong Kong Customs made a clarification today (December 28) that it has never arranged a public auction by means of a social media platform and website to sell confiscated items. The department reminds members of the

public to be alert and avoid being scammed.

Customs had earlier noticed two dedicated pages under the names of "Matiny" and "Yimi-shop" on the Facebook platform. Posts with website hyperlinks registered in the United States and Canada (<https://twgsjg.shop> and <https://bfjays.shop>) respectively were found, falsely claiming that Hong Kong Customs was making arrangements for selling confiscated items by means of public auction. One of the websites even falsely claimed that the proceeds from an auction would be used for charity purposes.

Customs said that the dedicated pages conveyed false information that conspired to mislead members of the public. Customs also suspects intellectual property right infringement and noted that there may be offences under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (TDO) and Copyright Ordinance (CO) of Hong Kong.

Customs has already requested the social media platform's operator to remove the messages and the hyperlinks as soon as possible. The department will also contact INTERPOL for follow-up action.

Customs reiterates that confiscated items of all types will be handled strictly in accordance with the established guidelines upon the completion of legal procedures. Items suitable for placing on public auction will be co-ordinated and handled exclusively by the government department concerned in Hong Kong. The department never works with any external individuals or bodies to make a public auction.

Customs stresses that it has all along been concerned with illegal online sales activities. It has strived to combat unfair trade practices and infringing activities on websites. It also maintains close co-operation with law enforcement authorities of other countries and regions to combat cross-boundary infringing activities and protect the rights of consumers and legitimate traders.

Customs reminds consumers that they should stay vigilant in regard to online shopping, and procure products at reputable shops. They should not purchase items of unknown sources at suspicious websites or social media platforms to prevent any losses that may incur. Consumers are also reminded to contact trademark owners or traders for enquiries in case of doubts.

Customs said follow-up investigation will be conducted if the infringing activities involve local persons. If the relevant platform is located outside Hong Kong but is involved in local criminal infringing activities, Customs will refer the cases to law enforcement authorities outside Hong Kong for joint follow-up actions.

According to the TDO, any person who sells or possesses for sale any goods with a forged trademark commits an offence. In addition, "trade descriptions", in relation to goods, refers to an indication, direct or indirect, and in whatever form and by whatever means (including verbal), with respect to goods or any part of the goods, including the method of

manufacture, production and processing, or the previous ownership or use. Traders should not give any false or misleading product information to consumers. Making a false or misleading statement about goods to a material degree may constitute an offence of false trade description. Violation of the TDO is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

In addition, according to the CO, anyone who without the licence of the copyright owner distributes an infringing copy of a work through any device or electronic platform to such an extent as to affect prejudicially the owner, or possesses any infringing items for business purposes, commits an offence. The maximum penalty is a fine of \$50,000 per infringing copy and imprisonment for four years.

Customs appeals to members of the public to report any suspected unfair trade practices or infringing activities to the Customs 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Tuesday, December 28, 2021 is 101.2 (same as last Friday's index).

Auction of traditional vehicle registration marks to be held on January 8

The Transport Department (TD) today (December 28) announced that the auction of traditional vehicle registration marks will be held on January 8 (Saturday) in Meeting Room N101, L1, New Wing, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wan Chai.

"A total of 240 vehicle registration marks will be put up for public auction. The list of marks has been uploaded to the department's website, www.td.gov.hk," a department spokesman said.

Applicants who have paid a deposit of \$1,000 to reserve a mark for auction should also participate in the bidding (including the first bid at the reserve price of \$1,000). Otherwise, the mark concerned may be sold to

another bidder at the reserve price.

People who wish to participate in the bidding at the auction should take note of the following important points:

(a) Successful bidders are required to produce the following documents for completion of registration and payment procedures immediately after the successful bidding:

(i) the identity document of the successful bidder;

(ii) the identity document of the purchaser if it is different from the successful bidder;

(iii) a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation if the purchaser is a body corporate; and

(iv) a crossed cheque made payable to "The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" or "The Government of the HKSAR". (For an auctioned mark paid for by cheque, the first three working days after the date of auction will be required for cheque clearance confirmation before processing of the application for mark assignment can be completed.)

Successful bidders can also pay through the Easy Pay System (EPS). Payment by post-dated cheques, cash or other methods will not be accepted.

(b) Purchasers must make payment of the purchase price through EPS or by crossed cheque and complete the Memorandum of Sale of Registration Mark immediately after the bidding. Subsequent alteration of the particulars in the memorandum will not be permitted.

(c) A vehicle registration mark can only be assigned to a motor vehicle which is registered in the name of the purchaser. The Certificate of Incorporation must be produced immediately by the purchaser if a vehicle registration mark purchased is to be registered under the name of a body corporate.

(d) Special registration marks are non-transferable. Where the ownership of a motor vehicle with a special registration mark is transferred, the allocation of the special registration mark shall be cancelled.

(e) The purchaser shall, within 12 months after the date of auction, apply to the Commissioner for Transport for the registration mark to be assigned to a motor vehicle registered in the name of the purchaser. If the purchaser fails to assign the registration mark within 12 months, allocation of the mark will be cancelled and arranged for re-allocation in accordance with the statutory provision without prior notice to the purchaser.

(f) In view of public health concerns, all persons entering the auction venue will have to undergo on-the-spot body temperature checks arranged by the TD. Any member of the public whose body temperature is higher than 37.5 degrees Celsius or who refuses to undergo a body temperature check will be denied entry to the auction hall and the payment office. The TD also requests all persons entering the auction hall and the payment office to wear masks and clean their hands with alcohol-based sanitiser, and to wear masks throughout the duration of the auction and payment process.

(g) In order to reduce the risk of the virus spreading, the TD will adjust

the distance between seats and the number of seats in the auction hall and the payment office, and implement crowd-control measures. The TD also appeals to the bidders to reduce the number of accompanying persons as far as possible. Furthermore, the auctions in the morning and afternoon will each be divided into two sessions so as to shorten the duration of crowd congregation. The first session of the morning auction will commence at 9.25am while the second session will begin no earlier than 10.35am. The first session of the afternoon auction will commence at 2.25pm while the second session will begin no earlier than 3.45pm. The auction venue will be disinfected before the commencement of the second sessions. Interested bidders may arrive at the auction venue in accordance with the time schedule for the auction of vehicle registration marks.

(h) To align with the Government's arrangement on the strict enforcement of the use of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile application when entering government buildings or offices, except for exempted persons, members of the public are required to use the app to scan the venue QR code before they are allowed to enter the auction venue (including the auction hall and the payment office). Persons who are aged below 12 or aged 65 or above, and those with disabilities that render use of the "LeaveHomeSafe" app difficult, will be exempted from the requirement of using the app when they enter the auction venue. However, they are required to complete a record form to register their names, the first four digits or letters of their identification documents, their contact numbers and the date and time of their visits. They are also required to present relevant identification documents for verification at the request of the TD staff during registration. TD staff will also verify the contact numbers by making phone calls. As a result of the arrangement, members of the public are advised to remain patient as the waiting time for entering the auction venue may be lengthened. Unwillingness to use the app will not be considered as justification for granting exemption.

For other auction details, please refer to the Guidance Notes – Auction of Vehicle Registration Marks, which can be downloaded from the department's website, www.td.gov.hk.