

Government takes resolute follow-up action on suspected fraudulent use of others' personal data for UCTP booking

A Government spokesman said today (August 30) that over 430 000 citizens have registered for the Universal Community Testing Programme (UCTP) through online booking since yesterday (August 29). So far, eight complaints involving suspected fraudulent use of others' personal data for booking were received. The Government took resolute follow-up action and has already referred three of these cases to the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force for investigation. The concerned bookings have been cancelled.

The spokesman called on public not to defy the law and stressed that fraudulent use of others' personal data without consent is an unlawful act. All suspected cases will be referred to the Police for follow-up. Should members of the public suspect that they have been impersonated for booking, they may call the 24-hour hotline 3142 2368 for assistance. Arrangement will also be made for them to receive the testing.

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has adhered to three underlying principles in the course of developing the online booking system for the UCTP, i.e. to facilitate the public, to ensure safe and orderly workflow and to protect privacy of individuals. The online booking system will not collect excessive personal data or examine the personal data of citizens. The booking process is simple and easy for use by the public. The system does not accept repeated booking. Each Hong Kong identity card or birth certificate number can only make booking for one time slot at a time. Anti-bot technology is deployed to avoid abuse. The system has already passed the information security risk assessment and audit as well as the third-party privacy impact assessment before launch. Members of the public need to present original copy of his/her own Hong Kong identity card or birth certificate upon registration at the community testing centres to prove his/her identity.

Under the UCTP, cancelled booking will not be counted and there is absolutely no question of manipulating the figures.