

High Court amend Interim Injunction Order to restrain doxxing and harassment against police officers and their families

The Department of Justice represented the Secretary for Justice and the Commissioner of Police to apply to the Court for an ex parte injunction (HCA 1957/2019) earlier to restrain persons unlawfully and willfully conducting themselves in any of the following acts:

(a) using, publishing, communicating or disclosing to any other person the personal data of and concerning any Police Officer(s) and/or their spouses and/or their respective family members (namely parents, children or siblings), including but not limited to their name, job title, residential address, office address, school address, email address, date of birth, telephone number, Hong Kong Identity Card number or identification number of any other official identity documents, Facebook Account ID, Instagram Account ID, car plate number, and any photograph of the Police Officer(s) and/or their spouses and/or their respective family members (namely parents, children or siblings), without the consent of the Police Officer(s) and/or their family member(s) (as the case may be) concerned;

(b) intimidating, molesting, harassing, threatening, pestering or interfering with any Police Officer(s) and/or their spouses and/or their respective family members (namely parents, children or siblings);

(c) assisting, causing, counselling, procuring, instigating, inciting, aiding, abetting or authorizing others to commit any of the aforesaid acts or participate in any of the aforesaid acts.

Today (October 28), the Court amended the order as follows, which would remain in force up to and including November 8, 2019 at 10.30am to restrain persons from unlawfully and willfully conducting themselves in any of the following acts:

(a) using, publishing, communicating or disclosing to any other person the personal data of and concerning any Police Officer(s) and/or their spouses and/or their respective family members (namely parents, children or siblings), including but not limited to their name, job title, residential address, office address, school address, email address, date of birth, telephone number, Hong Kong Identity Card number or identification number of any other official identity documents, Facebook Account ID, Instagram Account ID, car plate number, and any photograph of the Police Officer(s) and/or their spouses and/or their respective family members (namely parents, children or siblings), intended or likely to intimidate, molest, harass, threaten, pester or interfere with any Police Officer(s) and/or their spouses and/or their respective family members (namely, parents, children or

siblings), without the consent of the Police Officer(s) and/or their family member(s) (as the case may be) concerned;

(b) intimidating, molesting, harassing, threatening, pestering or interfering with any Police Officer(s) and/or their spouses and/or their respective family members (namely parents, children or siblings);

(c) assisting, causing, counselling, procuring, instigating, inciting, aiding, abetting or authorizing others to commit any of the aforesaid acts or participate in any of the aforesaid acts.

Since June, Police officers' personal information has been unlawfully disclosed and widely published on the Internet. Such information includes schools and classes that their children attended. Police officers who had been "doxxed" were affected by different levels of nuisance and intimidation, including harassment by telephone calls, identities being misused to apply for loans and to make online purchases, harassing Police officers' family members by visiting their workplaces. Some Police officers or their family members even received letters threatening to hurt them brutally.

These acts constitute serious intimidation and harassment to the Police officers and their family members, causing grievous concern over their personal safety and mental distress.

The Secretary for Justice as guardian of the public interest and the Commissioner of Police as a representative on behalf of all Police officers seek this injunctive order to restrain anyone from conducting any of these acts. The Court has granted an interim injunction which will remain in force up to and including November 8, 2019 at 10.30am.