## <u>Innovation and Technology Commission</u> <u>responds to media enquiries</u>

In response to media enquiries on the arrest operation in relation to fraud cases under the Technology Voucher Programme (TVP), the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) responds as follows:

The ITC and the Hong Kong Productivity Council, which serves as the Secretariat of the TVP (the Secretariat), received reports regarding TVP applications last year. After reviewing and analysing the relevant information, the ITC considered the cases prima facie suspicious, and therefore proactively relayed the relevant information to the Police for follow up immediately. After a few months of investigation, the Police initiated the arrest operation.

To ensure the proper use of public money, the ITC and the Secretariat have all along established a robust vetting mechanism to evaluate, monitor and identify whether the applications received involve irregularities. The ITC and the Secretariat will continue to work closely with the Police.

In view of the ongoing legal proceedings, it is not appropriate for the ITC to comment further.