<u>Public urged to stay alert to WhatsApp</u> <u>messages purported to be sent by</u> Student Finance Office

A spokesman for the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (WFSFAA) today (May 28) urged members of the public to stay alert to fraudulent WhatsApp messages purported to be sent by the Student Finance Office. The WFSFAA has reported the case to Police.

The spokesman stressed that the WFSFAA would not use WhatsApp or social media accounts to contact applicants of the financial assistance schemes, but would only use letters, phone calls, emails or SMS messages for such communication. To help members of the public verify the identities of SMS senders, all SMS messages from the WFSFAA would be sent by SMS Sender IDs with the prefix "#".

Members of the public are reminded to stay alert to suspicious messages and not disclose any personal information. Anyone who has been scammed should contact Police immediately.