#### **Exchange Fund Bills tender results**

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

Exchange Fund Bills tender results:

Tender date : February 27, 2024

Paper on offer : EF Bills Issue number : Q2409

Issue date : February 28, 2024

Maturity date : May 29, 2024

Amount applied : HK\$149,830 MN

Amount allotted : HK\$61,385 MN

Average yield accepted : 4.08 PCT

Highest yield accepted : 4.12 PCT

Pro rata ratio\* : About 61 PCT

Average tender yield : 4.21 PCT

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Tender date : February 27, 2024

Paper on offer : EF Bills Issue number : H2438

Issue date : February 28, 2024
Maturity date : August 28, 2024
Amount applied : HK\$48,385 MN
Amount allotted : HK\$14,000 MN

Average yield accepted : 4.04 PCT
Highest yield accepted : 4.08 PCT
Pro rata ratio\* : About 55 PCT
Average tender yield : 4.17 PCT

\*"Pro rata ratio" refers to the average percentage of allotment with respect to each tender participant's tendered amount at the "highest yield accepted" level.

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning March 4, 2024:

Tender date : March 5, 2024

Paper on offer : EF Bills Issue number : 02410

Issue date : March 6, 2024

Maturity date : June 5, 2024

Tenor : 91 Days

Amount on offer : HK\$60,083 MN

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Tender date : March 5, 2024

Paper on offer : EF Bills Issue number : H2439

Issue date : March 6, 2024
Maturity date : September 4, 2024

Tenor : 182 Days
Amount on offer : HK\$16,000 MN

#### <u>LegCo Panel on Transport visits</u> <u>Airport Express in-town check-in</u> <u>service (with photos)</u>

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council Panel on Transport visited the in-town check-in service at the Airport Express Hong Kong Station today (February 27) to learn about the latest facilities of in-town check-in and self baggage drop-off services.

Members first received a briefing on the operation of in-town check-in service and check-in baggage system by the representatives of the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) at the Airport Express Hong Kong Station. They noted that as air travel gradually resumed, the MTRCL had recommenced the intown check-in service at Hong Kong Station since July 2023, with a view to facilitating a more convenient and relaxing experience for travellers. Members expressed concern that in-town check-in service at the Kowloon Station was not yet available, and urged the MTRCL to actively discuss with airline companies to resume the relevant service as soon as possible.

Members then toured the four self-service bag drop counters newly introduced since February 1, 2024, which work with smart check-in kiosks to provide one-stop smart self-services for travellers. Passengers who have completed online check-in can use the smart check-in kiosks to print their boarding passes and baggage tags. They can proceed to the self-service bag drop counters for baggage check-in afterwards.

Members participating in the visit were the Panel Chairman, Mr Chan Hanpan, the Deputy Chairman, Mr Dominic Lee, and Panel members Mr Chan Pui-leung and Mr Yim Kong.







### Immigration Department repatriates Vietnamese illegal immigrants to Vietnam (with photos)

The Immigration Department (ImmD) carried out a repatriation operation today (February 27). A total of 23 Vietnamese illegal immigrants were repatriated to Vietnam. The persons removed comprised 12 men and 11 women, all of which were unsubstantiated non-refoulement claimants. Among them were discharged prisoners who had committed criminal offences and had been sentenced to imprisonment.

The ImmD will remain committed to expediting the removal process to repatriate illegal immigrants and overstayers from Hong Kong as soon as practicable according to the actual situation through appropriate measures as necessary.





# Landlord of specified premises convicted of taking barred action against tenant during protection period of rental enforcement moratorium

A landlord of specified premises, who took barred action during the protection period (i.e. from May 1 to July 31, 2022) specified under the Temporary Protection Measures for Business Tenants (COVID-19 Pandemic) Ordinance against a tenant for failing to pay rent in the relevant period, contravened the Ordinance. The landlord pleaded guilty today (February 27) at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts.

The Rating and Valuation Department received a complaint about the landlord who commenced distress legal proceedings against the property of the tenant during the protection period in respect of the tenant's failure to pay rent. Upon an in-depth investigation and evidence collection, prosecution was initiated against the landlord suspected of contravening the Ordinance.

Against the background of the fifth wave of the COVID-19 epidemic, in relation to a tenancy for specified premises, the Ordinance barred landlords from taking certain specified actions during a three-month protection period against business tenants of specified sectors for failing to pay rent in the relevant period (i.e. from January 1 to July 31, 2022). The protection period ended on August 1, 2022.

## Secretary for Health meets Hong Kong Dental Association to emphasise respect for profession and regulatory system of other regions

The Secretary for Health, Professor Lo Chung-mau, met with representatives of the Hong Kong Dental Association (HKDA) today (February 27) to listen to their views on the Elderly Health Care Voucher Greater Bay Area Pilot Scheme (Pilot Scheme). He also expressed his concern over the criticisms made by the HKDA on the Mainland dental profession (stomatology profession) and regulatory system while commenting on the Pilot Scheme.

Professor Lo emphasised, "The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government attaches great importance to the training and regulation of the dental profession. Similarly, the Mainland stomatologists, known as dentists in Hong Kong, have gone through comprehensive and standardised training which is recognised by the country. The stomatology profession is also regulated under the strict monitoring by the National Health Commission and health commissions/bureaux of various provinces and cities. I trust that the dental industry in Hong Kong would respect their counterparts in other regions, including those on the Mainland; and uphold the principles of mutual respect, mutual learning and exchange, with a view to promoting positive development of the profession.

"Citizens have a say in determining how well-received the dental profession in Hong Kong is within the community. I hope that dentists in Hong Kong would proactively promote further developments of the profession and their services, stay true to their aspiration in serving the public to fulfil the social responsibility, and continue joining hands with the Government in pushing forward with various initiatives for strengthening the city's dental services with a view to enhancing the overall oral health of citizens.

"The HKSAR Government has two objectives for implementing this Pilot Scheme. Firstly, it aims to provide more convenience for Hong Kong elderly persons residing in Mainland cities in the GBA by providing more service point options for them to use their Elderly Health Care Vouchers (EHCVs) to meet their primary healthcare needs. Secondly, it is intended to allow Hong Kong elderly persons to use their EHCVs for receiving dental services across the boundary at medical institutions in Shenzhen, with a view to addressing the pressing demand of Hong Kong elderly persons in seeking dental services, and thus to achieve a win-win situation."

Professor Lo stressed that the Government attaches great importance to the service quality of the pilot medical institutions under the Pilot Scheme. To this end, the medical institutions (including the dental institutions) were selected for inclusion through a robust process. From last November to early February this year, the Health Bureau and the Department of Health had conducted market research, sought opinions and recommendations from the Health Commission of Guangdong Province, and conducted site visits for direct inspection of facilities, equipment and operation of the medical institutions as well as meetings with relevant senior management to gain a thorough understanding of the institutions' management structures and models as well as operation.

He added, "Since the launch of the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme (EHVS) at the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital (HKU-SZH) by the Government in 2015, eligible elderly persons have been entitled to use EHCVs to receive dental services at the HKU-SZH during the past eight years or so. Under the Pilot Scheme, only two dental service points are added in Shenzhen while there are some 1 500 dentists in Hong Kong having enrolled in the EHVS and providing services at over 3 300 service points. Compared with the few service points in the GBA, local dentists are still the most accessible channel for Hong Kong elderly persons to seek dental services."