

Immigration Department combats Mainland visitors abusing transit arrangement for holders of PRC passports

Seven Mainland visitors were convicted of making false representation to Immigration Officers at Shatin Magistrates' Courts earlier and today (May 24).

To tackle abuse by Mainland visitors of the existing transit arrangement for holders of People's Republic of China (PRC) passports, the Immigration Department (ImmD) conducted an operation codenamed "Breakshadow" at Lo Wu Control Point, Lok Ma Chau Control Point, Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Control Point and Shenzhen Bay Control Point on April 17. During the operation, seven Mainland visitors, comprising three men and four women aged 24 to 54, were arrested. A total of six invalid onward flight tickets were also found in the operation. Upon arrival for immigration clearance, the Mainland visitors concerned falsely told Immigration Officers that they were transiting through Hong Kong to other countries. Upon further investigation by the ImmD, they admitted that their actual purpose of visit was not to transit via Hong Kong to other countries but sightseeing in Hong Kong.

All the arrestees were charged with making false representation to Immigration Officers. They all pleaded guilty and among them five were sentenced to five to six months' imprisonment. The other two arrestees were sentenced to four to six months' imprisonment suspended for 18 months to two years.

The ImmD spokesman warned that, under the laws of Hong Kong, any person who makes false representation to an Immigration Officer commits an offence. Offenders are liable to prosecution and, upon conviction, the maximum penalty will be a fine of \$150,000 and imprisonment for 14 years. In addition, if Mainland visitors abuse the existing transit arrangement for holders of PRC passports by not departing for other countries or territories according to their original itinerary, relevant information will be recorded by the ImmD. Upon their next arrival, Immigration Officers at control points will conduct detailed examination before a decision to grant or refuse permission to land is made.

Transcript of remarks by FS (with video)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, at a media session after attending Hong Kong Disneyland Welcome Party for "Moana: A Homecoming Celebration" this afternoon (May 24):

Reporter: Can you tell us more about the competitiveness of Hong Kong, as it dropped its ranking into number second, today?

Financial Secretary: The World Competitiveness Yearbook has published their ranking this year, and this year Hong Kong has slipped from the previous place one to place two. But we remain to be a very competitive economy because when compared to the one ranking in the first, that is the USA, the scores are very close.

In assessing the competitiveness of the economy, they look at four areas. One is economic performance, second is government effectiveness, the third one is business effectiveness and the fourth one is infrastructure. Our ranking in terms of business efficiency and government efficiency, we still ranked number one.

In terms of economic performance, as you know we did very well last year, but in the US last year President Trump announced cutting profits tax and also boosting investment in infrastructure. So in terms of business sentiment, the business sentiment in the US according to the surveys with the business sectors there, they rank before us.

The second area that we are a little behind is in terms of infrastructure. It is not the usual infrastructure like transportation, but technological infrastructure and scientific infrastructure. As you may have seen in the past two years we have devoted substantial resources in innovation and technology, with a view to improving our infrastructure and the ecosystem. We are working very hard on that. We will continue to invest on that and work very hard to enhance the overall infrastructure of Hong Kong in terms of technology, in terms of attracting people and in terms of building a better ecosystem for the innovation and technology sector.

On economic performance, perhaps one point I should supplement is that our unemployment rate has been coming down – 2.8 per cent – in other words it's full employment. It is not just that. It also reflects a very tight supply in terms of the labour market, and this has, in a way, hurt us in terms of availability of manpower.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

Cluster of Multi-drug Resistant Acinetobacter cases in Pok Oi Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Pok Oi Hospital (POH) made the following announcement today (May 24):

Three male patients, aged 57 to 89, in a Medical and Geriatric ward have been confirmed to have Multi-drug Resistant Acinetobacter (MDRA) since May 18. The patients are in a serious condition and are currently hospitalised under medical surveillance and isolation treatment.

The following enhanced infection and cleansing measures have already been adopted:

1. Enhance disinfection and cleansing of the ward concerned
2. Apply stringent contact precautions, including use of dedicated clinical equipment for MDRA carriers and enhance hand hygiene
3. Enhance attention to contamination-prone procedures

The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow up. The hospital will continue to closely monitor the situation of the ward.

2018 net pay trend indicators

The Civil Service Bureau (CSB) received today (May 24) the Report on the 2018 Pay Trend Survey validated and submitted by the Pay Trend Survey Committee, and derived the "net pay trend indicators" by deducting the civil service payroll cost of increments from the "gross pay trend indicators" as indicated in the report:

Salary band	Gross pay trend indicator	2017-18 cost of increment as a percentage of the total civil service payroll cost	Net pay trend indicator
	(a)	(b)	(a) minus (b)

Upper (monthly salary from \$67,066 to \$135,075)	5.25%	1.19%	4.06%
Middle (monthly salary from \$21,880 to \$67,065)	5.63%	1.12%	4.51%
Lower (monthly salary below \$21,880)	4.89%	2.05%	2.84%

"The Pay Trend Survey is effective and credible. The net pay trend indicators derived will continue to be one of the factors to be considered by the Chief Executive-in-Council in determining the 2018-19 civil service pay adjustment. Other factors include the state of Hong Kong's economy, the Government's fiscal position, changes in the cost of living, the pay claims of the staff side and civil service morale," a CSB spokesman said.

In accordance with the established practice, the staff side will submit their pay claims for the 2018-19 pay adjustment to the Government. The CSB will meet with representatives of the staff side of the four central consultative councils and the four major service-wide staff unions, and will reflect their views to the Chief Executive-in-Council.

[Pay Trend Survey Committee Meeting on May 24, 2018](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Pay Trend Survey Committee:

The Pay Trend Survey Committee (the Committee) met today (May 24) to consider the findings of the 2018 Pay Trend Survey.

The survey findings indicate that the following average pay adjustments have been awarded by the surveyed companies over the 12-month period from April 2, 2017 to April 1, 2018:

	Basic Pay Indicator	+	Additional Pay Indicator	=	Gross Pay Trend Indicator
--	---------------------	---	--------------------------	---	---------------------------

Lower Salary Band (below \$21,880 per month)	4.39%	+	0.50%	=	4.89%
Middle Salary Band (\$21,880-\$67,065 per month)	4.83%	+	0.80%	=	5.63%
Upper Salary Band (\$67,066-\$135,075 per month)	3.87%	+	1.38%	=	5.25%

The 2018 Pay Trend Survey is conducted by the Pay Survey and Research Unit of the Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service and based on an improved methodology as approved by the Chief Executive-in-Council in March 2007.

The survey results reflect the pay trend in 112 companies covering 157 504 employees over the 12-month period from April 2, 2017 to April 1, 2018. The survey takes into account adjustments to basic salary and additional payments awarded to employees of the surveyed companies attributable to factors in relation to cost of living, general prosperity and company performance, general changes in market rates, merit and inscale increment, in accordance with the improved survey methodology.

A breakdown of the 112 companies by size is as follows:

	No. of Companies
Larger companies (employing 100 or more staff)	86 (77%)
Smaller companies (employing 50-99 staff)	26 (23%)
Total:	112

The distribution of the 157 504 employees by the three salary bands is as follows:

	No. of Employees
Lower Salary Band (below \$21,880 per month)	78 497 (50%)
Middle Salary Band (\$21,880-\$67,065 per month)	67 910 (43%)
Upper Salary Band (\$67,066-\$135,075 per month)	11 097 (7%)
Total:	157 504

The Committee met on May 24, 2018 to verify and consider to validate the 2018 Pay Trend Survey Report. The representative of the Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service, the representative of the Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service, the two representatives of the Civil Service Bureau, the Secretary General of the Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and

Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service, the three Staff Side representatives of the Model Scale 1 Staff Consultative Council and one Staff Side representative of the Senior Civil Service Council validated the survey findings. The other Staff Side representative of the Senior Civil Service Council validated the survey findings with reservation.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Wilfred Wong Kam-pui, Chairman of the Pay Trend Survey Committee. Mr Wong is a member of the Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service.

Mr Wong said, "The 2018 Pay Trend Survey is conducted in accordance with the agreed methodology and in a professional and objective manner. The Pay Trend Survey Committee will submit the Committee Report to the Government for consideration."

"The relevant pay trend indicators are the result of a survey of the pay trend in companies of the private sector. Pay adjustment for the civil service is, however, a separate matter. The actual level of adjustment will have to be determined by the Government in consultation with relevant parties having regard to an array of considerations," Mr Wong added.

Mr Wong wishes to express the Committee's sincere appreciation for the co-operation and assistance rendered by the companies to the Pay Survey and Research Unit.