

# Tender results of re-opening of 10-year Government Bonds under Institutional Bond Issuance Programme

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority, as representative of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSAR Government), announced that a tender of 5-year Government Bonds through the re-opening of existing 10-year Government Bond (issue number 10GB2706) under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme was held today (November 29).

A total of HK\$3.0 billion 5-year Government Bonds were offered today. A total of HK\$12.406 billion tender applications were received. The bid-to-cover ratio, i.e. the ratio of the amount of bonds applied for over the amount of bonds issued, is 4.14. The average price accepted is 91.71, implying an annualised yield of 3.781 per cent.

HKSAR Government Institutional Bond Issuance Programme Government Bond tender results

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Tender results of the re-opening of 10-year Government Bonds under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme:

Tender Date	: November 29, 2023
Issue Number	: 10GB2706 (Re-open)
Stock Code	: 4235 (HKGB 1.25 2706)
Issue and Settlement Date	: November 30, 2023
Tenor	: 5-year
Maturity Date	: June 29, 2027
Coupon Rate	: 1.25%
Amount Applied	: HK\$12.406 billion
Amount Allotted	: HK\$3.0 billion
Bid-to-Cover Ratio*	: 4.14
Average Price Accepted (Yield)	: 91.71 (3.781%)
Lowest Price Accepted (Yield)	: 91.56 (3.831%)
Pro-rata Ratio	: About 100%
Average Tender Price (Yield)	: 91.20 (3.949%)

\* Ratio of the amount of bonds applied for over the amount of bonds issued.

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## LCQ8: Regulating the performance of invasive medical procedures

Following is a question by Dr the Hon David Lam and a written reply by the Secretary for Health, Professor Lo Chung-mau, in the Legislative Council today (November 29):

Question:

It has been reported that earlier on, some medical beauty centres provided injection services with slimming effects for their customers, resulting in a number of people being suspected of Mycobacterium abscessus infection. On the other hand, the Steering Committee on Review of the Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities set up a working group in 2012 to differentiate between medical procedures and beauty services. The working group published a relevant report in 2013 and it has been 10 years since then. However, it is learnt that the Government has not yet drawn up any legal definitions for "medical procedures" and "medical practices" and, as a result, invasive medical procedures available in the market can still be sold to members of the public as beauty items. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it has plans to draw up clear definitions for "medical practices" and "medical procedures"; and
- (2) whether it will expressly stipulate that only personnel who have passed rigorous healthcare professional training may provide medical services including invasive medical procedures, so as to safeguard the health of members of the public?

Reply:

President,

The consolidated reply to the question raised by Dr the Hon David Lam is as follows:

In November 2013, the Steering Committee on Review of Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities set up by the Government endorsed the report submitted by its Working Group on Differentiation between Medical Procedures and Beauty Services. It was recommended that certain procedures (including invasive procedures), in view of their inherent risks, should only be performed by registered medical practitioners or registered dentists, namely procedures that involve injections, procedures that involve the mechanical or

chemical exfoliation of the skin below the epidermis, hyperbaric oxygen therapy and dental bleaching.

Since 2013, the Department of Health (DH) has been using its website ([www.dh.gov.hk/english/useful/useful\\_medical\\_beauty/useful\\_medical\\_beauty.html](http://www.dh.gov.hk/english/useful/useful_medical_beauty/useful_medical_beauty.html)) and producing booklets, leaflets and promotional videos etc to provide the public with information on the differentiation between medical procedures and beauty services by setting out procedures that should only be performed by registered medical practitioners or registered dentists. Citizens are also reminded to understand the details, potential risks and possible complications associated with the relevant medical procedures, and consult registered medical practitioners or registered dentists before deciding to undergo such procedures. The DH has also issued an advisory note to beauty service providers ([www.dh.gov.hk/english/useful/useful\\_medical\\_beauty/files/Advisory\\_note\\_eng.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.hk/english/useful/useful_medical_beauty/files/Advisory_note_eng.pdf)) which clearly reminds them not to perform the aforementioned medical procedures if they are not registered medical practitioners or registered dentists, or else they may violate the law. Furthermore, the DH has issued letters to registered medical practitioners and registered dentists ([www.dh.gov.hk/english/useful/useful\\_medical\\_beauty/files/Letter\\_to\\_doctors.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.hk/english/useful/useful_medical_beauty/files/Letter_to_doctors.pdf) and [www.dh.gov.hk/english/useful/useful\\_medical\\_beauty/files/Letter\\_to\\_doctors2.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.hk/english/useful/useful_medical_beauty/files/Letter_to_doctors2.pdf)), reminding them to strictly observe the professional codes issued by their respective Councils when performing relevant procedures in their professional practice.

Any person who is not a registered medical practitioner or registered dentist shall not perform medical procedures that should be performed by registered medical practitioners or registered dentists; otherwise, the person may be charged for violating the Medical Registration Ordinance (Cap. 161) and the Dentists Registration Ordinance (Cap. 156) etc and liable on conviction upon indictment to imprisonment for seven years. Regarding the incident mentioned in the question, the Police has been investigating with the DH on the suspected practice of medicine without registration. The DH will continue to provide professional support to the Police in their subsequent work. Such incidents involve either performance of medical procedures by non-healthcare professionals, or suspected non-compliance with the respective professional codes by healthcare professionals in performing medical procedures. These acts are already subject to relevant statutory and professional regulation under the existing regulatory framework. As for some views that the performance of relevant procedures by the beauty service industry should be regulated, the Government considers that this will not only be unhelpful in preventing recurrence of similar incidents, but also probably lead to public misconception that the beauty service industry is allowed to perform medical procedures.

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## Man charged by Police National Security Department

The National Security Department of the Hong Kong Police Force today (November 29) laid charges against a 26-year-old man with one count of "doing an act or acts with seditious intention", one count of "possessing seditious publications" and one count of "possessing a Hong Kong identity card related to another person".

The case will be mentioned at the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts this afternoon.

On November 27 afternoon, Police received a report that a man was allegedly wearing a shirt with seditious wordings at the Hong Kong International Airport. Police officers sped to the scene and further seized some flags and clothing with seditious wording, as well as an identity card relating to another person from his personal belongings.

After investigation, Police arrested the man suspected of "possession of identity card relating to another", and "doing an act or acts with seditious intention", contravening Section 9 and 10 of the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200).

Police remind members of the public that "doing an act or acts with seditious intention" is a serious crime. Offenders shall be liable to imprisonment for two years on first conviction. Members of the public are urged not to defy the law.

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## Import of poultry meat and products from Morbihan Department in France suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (November 29) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5 avian influenza in Morbihan Department in France, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the area with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that according to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 170 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry

meat and about 280 000 poultry eggs from France in the first nine months of this year.

"The CFS has contacted the French authority over the issue and will closely monitor information issued by the WOA and the relevant authorities on the avian influenza outbreak. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.

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## LCQ3: Improving staff convenience facilities at public refuse collection points

Following is a question by the Hon Lam Chun-sing and a reply by the Secretary for Environment and Ecology, Mr Tse Chin-wan, in the Legislative Council today (November 29):

Question:

It has been reported that many public refuse collection points (RCPs) lack staff convenience facilities, including the absence of individual rest rooms, changing rooms and toilets, and insufficient furniture such as lockers, tables and chairs. Some cleansing workers even have to scavenge for waste furniture and electrical appliances for use at RCPs. In addition, many village-type RCPs lack water and electricity facilities, as well as areas for short breaks and meals. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) whether it will study the introduction of a scheme to improve various public RCPs and expedite the improvement, refurbishment or re-provisioning of some permanent off-street public RCPs with poor staff convenience facilities; if so, of the details and timetable; if not, the reasons for that;

(2) in the light of the Occupational Safety and Health Council's conversion of medium-sized modular houses into "Solar Cooling Kiosks" for use by outdoor workers, whether the Government will consider using this as a model for setting up mobile rest kiosks in rural and remote areas, so as to provide frontline cleansing workers with a better resting environment; and

(3) whether it will study the formulation of a building design code for staff convenience facilities at public RCPs, such as classifying RCPs according to their gross floor area and type, and requiring the authorities to provide corresponding staff convenience facilities based on such classification; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Reply:

President,

The Government attaches great importance to the working and resting environment of frontline cleansing workers, including civil servants and outsourced service contractor workers, who provide essential public services. Since the inauguration of the incumbent Government, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) had conducted a comprehensive review on the accommodation arrangement of the basic needs of frontline cleansing workers, including drinking water, places for a short break, water for cleansing tools and toilet facilities. Results of the review confirmed that the needs of the frontline cleansing workers have been accommodated. Due to geographical constraints, some facilities may be located outside the workplace. Although the relevant facilities are all located within 10-minute walk from the workplace, we have noticed that some frontline workers choose to rest or eat inside the refuse collection points (RCPs) or in open areas for convenience or other reasons. Subject to objective conditions, the FEHD will further improve the working condition of workers and provide more convenient staff facilities through refurbishment or facelifting of RCPs.

My reply to the question raised by the Hon Lam Chun-sing is as follows:

(1) and (2) At present, the FEHD provides approximately 170 off-street RCPs in urban areas, in which refuse collection vehicles can enter for collecting refuse instead of having to handle it on the roadside. It also provides around 900 village-type RCPs in rural areas. While there are cleansing workers stationed at off-street RCPs, there are none stationed at village-type RCPs. Instead, mobile cleansing teams are responsible for cleaning up refuse at village-type RCPs regularly every day.

At present, most off-street RCPs are equipped with facilities that can enable workers to work, rest temporarily and take meals, subject to actual circumstances. These facilities include resting space, changing rooms, storage space, toilets, shower cubicles, cold and hot water dispensers, microwave ovens, electric steamers, refrigerators, electric fans, tables and chairs and power sockets. Among the 163 permanent off-street RCPs, various facilities have been provided in 147 RCPs, out of which 92 RCPs have changing facilities, 116 RCPs have storage facilities, 127 RCPs have refrigerators, 111 RCPs have food reheating equipment and 63 RCPs have resting space. Nevertheless, the aforementioned facilities cannot be provided in 16 RCPs due to geographic constraints. Apart from the aforementioned facilities, individual resting rooms and air conditioning systems, etc, will be provided in 11 newly built off-street RCPs expected to be completed from 2024 onwards.

The FEHD has, in collaboration with the Architectural Services Department, progressively conducted comprehensive refurbishment and facelifting works for older off-street RCPs. Resting rooms and relevant facilities will be provided as far as possible, subject to the actual circumstances of the venues. Since 2020, refurbishment or facelifting works

for 38 off-street RCPs have commenced, out of which the works of 14 RCPs have been completed, and the remaining ones are in progress. The works of another 11 RCPs are expected to commence in 2024. While it may not be possible to provide all facilities at individual off-street RCPs owing to space constraints, the FEHD will resort to other means, including arranging cleansing workers to use the relevant facilities at nearby venues of the department, etc.

Village-type RCPs are generally smaller in size and have no attendants deployed to station there. Besides, due to geographic constraints, staff facilities cannot be provided in those RCPs. The FEHD will arrange workers to use facilities at nearby off-street RCPs or other venues of the department as far as possible.

To further enhance the resting environment of cleansing workers in rural areas, the FEHD has put on trial the solar cooling kiosks in three districts in summer this year. These kiosks are equipped with facilities powered by solar energy, including air-coolers, electric fans and exhaust fans, and the preliminary assessment has shown satisfactory results. The FEHD plans to install 54 kiosks in 12 districts and provide similar solar-powered facilities in 15 resting and storage places in rural areas for cleansing workers to use before April 2024. The FEHD will review the actual operational effectiveness of these solar cooling kiosks and collect views from frontline workers in order to optimise the design and operation of the relevant facilities to better meet frontline workers' needs. Subject to the review's results, the FEHD will identify more suitable locations for providing facilities for workers to rest and take meals.

(3) The Accommodation Regulations stipulate the standards for the design of all government buildings, including the provision of adequate staff facilities according to the number of workers. For example, the building design standards stipulate that each worker is entitled to certain changing and storage spaces. All newly built off-street RCPs are required to provide facilities based on the number of workers in compliance with the standards.

Apart from the building design standards, the FEHD, together with the relevant department, has reviewed the size of the resting room in off-street RCPs, in order to improve the resting environment and facilities for cleansing workers. Under the new standard, each newly built and reprovisioned off-street RCP will be fitted with a staff resting room of at least 20 square meters, equipped with tables and chairs and relevant facilities, for accommodating 10 to 15 workers to use. Such standard has been incorporated in the FEHD's Handbook On Standard Features for RCPs for implementation.

As for village-type RCPs, the FEHD will continue to provide resting facilities for workers at appropriate locations nearby, and will put up notices at all roll-call points which clearly indicate the locations of facilities, such as drinking water dispensers, toilets and areas for short breaks, available in the vicinity of each workplace, so that frontline cleansing workers will be aware of and can use such facilities.