

Red flag hoisted at Stanley Main Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (November 27) that due to big waves, the red flag has been hoisted at Stanley Main Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at the beach.

LCQ12: Pursuing studies at local universities

Following is a question by the Hon Gary Zhang and a written reply by the Acting Secretary for Education, Dr Sze Chun-fai, in the Legislative Council today (November 27):

Question:

On pursuing studies at local universities, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) of the respective numbers of persons admitted to the bachelor's degree programmes of local universities through the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) and the Non-Joint University Programmes Admissions System (Non-JUPAS) on the basis of their Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) results in each of the past three years, and set out in Table 1 a breakdown by their HKDSE results;

Table 1

Total grade points in the best five subjects	2022		2023		2024	
	JUPAS	Non-JUPAS	JUPAS	Non-JUPAS	JUPAS	Non-JUPAS
15 points or less						
16 to 18 points						

.....						
31 to 33 points						
34 to 35 points						

(2) of the respective numbers of persons sitting for the HKDSE in 2022 to 2025 as private candidates, and set out in Table 2 a breakdown by (i) Hong Kong permanent residents, (ii) Hong Kong residents not being permanent residents and (iii) non-Hong Kong residents;

Table 2

Year	(i)	(ii)	(iii)
2022			
.....			
2025			

(3) of the distribution of results of candidates sitting for the HKDSE as private candidates in the past three years, and set out in Table 3 a breakdown by (i) Hong Kong permanent residents, (ii) Hong Kong residents not being permanent residents and (iii) non-Hong Kong residents; and

Table 3

Total grade points in the best five subjects	2022			2023			2024		
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)
15 points or less									
16 to 18 points									
.....									
31 to 33 points									
34 to 35 points									

(4) among the students admitted to the bachelor's degree programmes of local universities through JUPAS over the past three years, of the number of private candidates holding dependent visas (i.e. document category LS5)?

Reply:

President,

(1) The numbers of students admitted to first-year first-degree programmes funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC) through the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) and non-JUPAS with the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) results in the past three years

are set out below:

Academic year	With HKDSE results		Total
	Admitted via JUPAS	Admitted via non-JUPAS	
2021/22	12 225	81	12 306
2022/23	12 178	19	12 197
2023/24	12 590	21	12 611

The admission results of new students of individual institutions participating in JUPAS can be found on the JUPAS website at www.jupas.edu.hk.

(2) There are no restrictions on the nationalities of candidates sitting for the HKDSE, nor is there any requirement for applicants to use a specified type of identity document. Individual students may, depending on their circumstances, provide valid identity documents other than Hong Kong Identity Cards (HKID cards) when registering for the HKDSE. Therefore, the nationality of a candidate and whether the candidate is a permanent resident of Hong Kong cannot be confirmed solely on the basis of the type of identity document concerned. The numbers of students who registered for the HKDSE as private candidates in the last four cohorts (from 2022 to 2025) and, among them, the numbers of those who registered with documents other than HKID cards are set out in the table below:

Year	No. of private candidates registered	Among which, the no. of those who registered with documents other than HKID cards
2022	6 959	295
2023	7 637	238
2024	7 431	549
2025 (As at October 28, 2024)	9 410	1 027

(3) The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority does not keep individual statistics on the results of private candidates, and the statistics do not include personal data such as the nationalities of the candidates and whether they are permanent residents of Hong Kong.

(4) The Education Bureau does not collect data on whether students admitted to UGC-funded programmes through JUPAS are holders of dependant visas or whether they are HKDSE private candidates.

LCQ9: Talent admission schemes

Following is a question by Dr the Hon Dennis Lam and a written reply by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Chris Sun, in the Legislative Council today (November 27):

Question:

It was announced in this year's Policy Address that a reform will cover the regime of the Top Talent Pass Scheme, the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS) and the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the respective numbers of talents admitted to Hong Kong under the above schemes so far this year, together with a breakdown by their country or place of origin;
- (2) of the respective average time taken to vet and approve the applications of the talents mentioned in (1);
- (3) of the respective numbers of persons who have come to Hong Kong as dependants of the talents mentioned in (1);
- (4) as the Government has enhanced the General Points Test under QMAS since the 1st of this month, whether the progress of the vetting and approval of the applications submitted before that date will be affected; and
- (5) as some QMAS applicants have relayed that it has been more than six months since they submitted their applications, and it has been reported that the Government encourages those who submitted their applications before the 1st of this month to cancel their original applications and submit new ones, whether the vetting and approval of new applications submitted by these individuals will be expedited?

Reply:

President,

To address the challenge of labour shortage in Hong Kong, the Chief Executive announced in the 2024 Policy Address to reform various aspects of the talent admission regime, so as to maintain the competitiveness of the relevant measures and build a quality talent pool for meeting Hong Kong's future development needs.

The Labour and Welfare Bureau implemented on November 1 this year's enhancement measures, including extending the validity period of the first visas of high-income talents under the Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS) from two

years to three years, expanding the list of eligible universities under the TTPS, and improving the criteria and arrangements for the General Points Test under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS).

Our reply, in consultation with the Immigration Department (ImmD), to Member's questions is as follows:

(1) to (3) In the first 10 months of 2024, about 180 000 applications were received under various talent admission schemes, with nearly 120 000 approved. Amongst those approved under various talent admission schemes, around 75 000 talents arrived in Hong Kong. At the same time, about 75 000 dependants arrived in Hong Kong together with the approved talents.

Among them, 34 360, 9 423 and 21 296 applications were approved under the TTPS, the QMAS and the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTTP) respectively. The breakdowns of the numbers of applicants by region and the numbers of applicants under Categories B and C of the TTPS by region of their graduating universities are at Annex 1. The numbers of dependants admitted to Hong Kong by the above three talent admission schemes are at Annex 2.

The processing of the applications for visa/entry permits under the TTPS and the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals will normally be completed within four weeks upon applicants' submission of all the required information and supporting documents. The applications submitted under the General Points Test (GPT) of the QMAS before November 1 this year have to go through the procedures of verification of eligibility and consultation with the Advisory Committee on Admission of Quality Migrants and Professionals. It takes a longer processing time than that of other talent admission schemes. The processing time also varies in view of the complexities of different cases. In general, it takes about six to nine months.

(4) and (5) The ImmD will continue to process the applications submitted under the GPT of the QMAS before November 1 this year in accordance with the pre-existing criteria and arrangements. Starting from November 1 this year, the enhanced GPT was introduced under the QMAS which adopts more objective and explicit assessment criteria and streamlined selection procedures. The processing efficiency will be enhanced. If applicants opt to withdraw their previous applications and submit new ones under the enhanced regime, the processing time will be shortened.

[Property owner fined over \\$88,000 for](#)

not complying with removal order

A property owner who persistently failed to comply with a removal order issued under the Buildings Ordinance (BO) (Cap. 123) was convicted and fined over \$88,000 at the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts this month.

The case involved an unauthorised structure with an area of about 67 square metres on the flat roof of a residential building at Wo Yi Hop Road, Kwai Chung. As the unauthorised building works (UBWs) were carried out without the prior approval and consent from the Buildings Department (BD), a removal order was served on the owner under section 24(1) of the BO.

Failing to comply with the removal order, the owner was prosecuted by the BD three times and was fined \$39,980 in total upon convictions by the court. As the owner persisted in not complying with the removal order, the owner was prosecuted for the fourth time and was fined \$88,900 upon conviction again at the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts on November 13.

A spokesman for the BD today (November 27) said "UBWs may lead to serious consequences. Owners concerned must comply with removal orders without delay. The BD will continue to take enforcement actions and consider instigating prosecution against owners again if they persist in not complying with orders, so as to ensure building safety."

Failure to comply with a removal order without reasonable excuse is a serious offence under the BO. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$200,000 and one year's imprisonment, and a further fine of \$20,000 for each day that the offence continues.

Reports of the Director of Audit

The Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the year ended 31 March 2024 (Report on the Government Accounts) and Report No. 83 of the Director of Audit on the results of value for money audits were tabled in the Legislative Council this morning (November 27).

The Report on the Government Accounts provides an overall assurance that the financial statements properly present the assets and liabilities of the Government as at March 31, 2024, and the receipts and payments for the year that ended on that date.

A value for money audit is an examination into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which any bureau of the Government Secretariat, department, agency or other public body has discharged its functions. Report

No. 83 of the Director of Audit covers a variety of subjects on the administration of government programmes and provision of public services.

Report No. 83 comprises the following eight chapters:

Chapter	Subject
1	Nano and Advanced Materials Institute
2	Planning and management of sheltered space within Hong Kong waters
3	Producer Responsibility Scheme on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
4	Regulation of operations of small unmanned aircraft
5	Residential Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly
6	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University: Repair and maintenance of university premises
7	Tuen Mun – Chek Lap Kok Link
8	Youth Development Fund

The Report on the Government Accounts and Report No. 83 of the Director of Audit on the results of value for money audits are available on the Audit Commission's website at www.aud.gov.hk.