

# Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (March 22) released the latest grading of water quality for eight gazetted beaches that are open for swimming.

Seven beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1) and one as Fair (Grade 2).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Big Wave Bay Beach	Repulse Bay Beach
Clear Water Bay Second Beach	Silver Mine Bay Beach
Deep Water Bay Beach	Stanley Main Beach
Golden Beach	

Grade 2 beach is:

Silverstrand Beach

Compared with the grading released last week, Silverstrand Beach has been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2.

"The changes are generally within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of the beaches," an EPD spokesman said.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades, namely Good (Grade 1), Fair (Grade 2), Poor (Grade 3) and Very Poor (Grade 4), according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches, the EPD spokesman reminded members of the public that water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain. Bathers should avoid swimming at beaches for up to three days after a tropical cyclone or heavy rainfall.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the EPD's website on Beach Water Quality ([www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach](http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach)) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666. Members of the public can also obtain the latest daily water quality forecast information for all beaches that are open for swimming through the Beach Water Quality Forecast mobile application (available for download from: [www.epd.gov.hk/en/BWQApp](http://www.epd.gov.hk/en/BWQApp)) or the dedicated beach water quality forecast page ([www.epd.gov.hk/en/BWQForecast](http://www.epd.gov.hk/en/BWQForecast)) on the EPD's beach thematic website.

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## 13 persons arrested during anti-illegal worker operations (with photo)

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mounted a series of territory-wide anti-illegal worker operations codenamed "Twilight", and joint operations with the Hong Kong Police Force codenamed "Champion" and "Windsand", for four consecutive days from March 18 to yesterday (March 21). A total of eight suspected illegal workers, three suspected employers and two overstayers were arrested.

During the anti-illegal worker operations, ImmD Task Force officers raided nine target locations including premises under renovation and restaurants. Three suspected illegal workers and two suspected employers were arrested. The arrested suspected illegal workers comprised two men and one woman, aged 36 to 47. Among them, one woman was suspected of using and being in possession of a forged Hong Kong identity card. One man and one woman, aged 48 and 53, were suspected of employing the illegal workers and were also arrested.

During operation "Champion", enforcement officers raided 80 target locations in Hung Hom, Kowloon City and Western Districts. Five suspected illegal workers, one suspected employer and two overstayers were arrested. The arrested suspected illegal workers comprised three men and two women, aged 42 to 57. Among them, one man was a holder of recognisance form, which prohibits him from taking any employment. In addition, two men were also suspected of using and being in possession of forged Hong Kong identity cards. One woman, aged 46, was suspected of employing the illegal worker and was arrested. Two female overstayers, aged 27 and 28, were also arrested. Among them, three suspected illegal workers, one suspected employer and two overstayers were handled by the ImmD.

An ImmD spokesman said, "Any person who contravenes a condition of stay in force in respect of him or her shall be guilty of an offence. Also, visitors are not allowed to take employment in Hong Kong, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of the Director of Immigration. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to two years' imprisonment. Aiders and abettors are also liable to prosecution and penalties."

The spokesman warned, "As stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, an illegal immigrant, a person who is the subject of a removal order or a deportation order, an overstayer or a person who was refused permission to land is prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. Under the prevailing laws, it is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong

Kong identity card or a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$100,000 and up to 10 years' imprisonment."

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. Under the Immigration Ordinance, the maximum penalty for an employer employing a person who is not lawfully employable, i.e. an illegal immigrant, a person who is the subject of a removal order or a deportation order, an overstayer or a person who was refused permission to land, has been significantly increased from a fine of \$350,000 and three years' imprisonment to a fine of \$500,000 and 10 years' imprisonment to reflect the gravity of such offences. The director, manager, secretary, partner, etc, of the company concerned may also bear criminal liability. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence.

According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$150,000 and to imprisonment for one year. In that connection, the spokesman would like to remind all employers not to defy the law by employing illegal workers. The ImmD will continue to take resolute enforcement action to combat such offences.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct an initial screening of vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the ImmD officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threats and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent intervention, medical services, counselling, shelter or temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments immediately.



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## [Government sells site at New Territories East for electric vehicles quick charging station purpose](#)

Following the issue of an open tender invitation for a site at Kowloon East for electric vehicles quick charging station (QCS) purpose on March 1, the Government announced today (March 22) the sale of another site located at Shan Mei Street, Fo Tan, Sha Tin, New Territories (Sha Tin Town Lot 646) for converting into a QCS through public tendering. The tender invitation will close on May 31.

A spokesperson for the Environment and Ecology Bureau said, "To promote green transformation of vehicles and to achieve zero vehicular emissions and carbon neutrality by 2050, the Government announced that there will be no new registration of fuel-propelled private cars (including hybrid vehicles) in 2035 or earlier. To cope with the rapid demand for charging facilities with the increase of electric vehicles (EV), the Government has expedited the expansion of the charging network for different types of EVs (including commercial EVs)."

Sha Tin Town Lot 646 has a site area of 369.9 square metres and is designated for QCS purpose. Land sale documents including the forms of tender, tender notice, Conditions of Sale and sale plan of the lot are now available on the Lands Department (LandsD) website ([www.landsd.gov.hk](http://www.landsd.gov.hk)) for download. The sale plan is available for inspection by the public from today until close of the tender. The sale plan in hard copy form may also be purchased from today till close of the tender at the Survey and Mapping

Office of the LandsD, 6/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong. The particulars of the tender have also been gazetted today.

The spokesperson continued, "In order to encourage owners of taxis and public light buses to expedite the adoption of electric taxis (e-taxis) and electric public light buses (e-PLBs), and by reference to the current arrangement of dedicated liquefied petroleum gas filling stations, a charging ceiling price mechanism will be established for e-taxis and e-PLBs at designated QCSs. The operators of designated QCSs cannot charge a price that is higher than the ceiling price to be announced by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on a monthly basis. The charging price for other EVs will be determined by the market."

Details of the charging ceiling price will be announced regularly on the EPD website ([www.epd.gov.hk](http://www.epd.gov.hk)) and the "EV-Charging Easy" app when the designated QCSs are in operation. In addition, the charging ceiling price will be posted at each QCS to enable the trade practitioners to monitor the changes in charging prices.

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## Special traffic arrangements on Hong Kong Island

Police will implement special traffic arrangements in Central and Wan Chai on March 23 (Saturday) and March 24 (Sunday) to facilitate the holding of a triathlon.

### A. Road closure

The following roads will be intermittently closed from 6am to 8am on March 23:

- Expo Drive between Legislative Council Road and Expo Drive Central;
- Yiu Sing Street;
- Eastbound Lung Wo Road between southbound Man Yiu Street and northbound Fleming Road;
- Westbound Lung Wo Road between southbound Lung Tat Path and southbound Tim Wa Avenue;
- Eastbound Lung Tat Path;
- Lung Hop Street;
- Legislative Council Road between Legislative Council Complex Car Park exit and westbound Lung Wo Road;
- The slip road of eastbound Central – Wan Chai Bypass Tunnel heading to its Expo Drive exit;
- The slip road of eastbound Man Kat Street heading to Central – Wan Chai

- Bypass Tunnel portal;  
– Expo Drive;  
– Expo Drive Central; and  
– Expo Drive East.

The following roads will be closed, except for vehicles with permit:

(1) From 10am on March 23 to 6pm on March 24:

Expo Drive between Legislative Council Road and Expo Drive Central.

(2) From 1am to 6pm on March 24:

- Yiu Sing Street;
- Eastbound Lung Wo Road between southbound Man Yiu Street and northbound Fleming Road;
- Westbound Lung Wo Road between southbound Lung Tat Path and southbound Tim Wa Avenue;
- Eastbound Lung Tat Path;
- Lung Hop Street;
- Legislative Council Road between Legislative Council Complex Car Park exit and westbound Lung Wo Road;
- Part of the traffic lanes of westbound Central – Wan Chai Bypass Tunnel heading to its exit to Central;
- Part of the traffic lanes of eastbound Man Po Street near Finance Street;
- Part of the traffic lanes of southbound Man Yiu Street between westbound Man Kwong Street and westbound Yiu Sing Street;
- Part of the traffic lanes of southbound Man Yiu Street near westbound Lung Wo Road;
- Part of the traffic lanes of westbound Lung Wo Road between Tim Wa Avenue and Man Yiu Street; and
- Part of the traffic lanes of westbound Convention Avenue near northbound Fleming Road.

(3) From 1am to 12.30pm on March 24:

- The slip road of eastbound Central – Wan Chai Bypass Tunnel heading to its Expo Drive exit;
- The slip road of eastbound Man Kat Street heading to Central – Wan Chai Bypass Tunnel portal;
- Expo Drive;
- Expo Drive Central;
- Expo Drive East;
- Eastbound Lung Tat Path between northbound Fleming Road and westbound Lung Wo Road; and
- Part of the traffic lanes of northbound Fleming Road between eastbound Harbour Road and westbound Lung Wo Road.

## B. Traffic diversions

In connection with the road closure as mentioned above, the following traffic diversions will be implemented:

(1) From 10am on March 23 to 1am on March 24:

- Traffic along eastbound Expo Drive heading to Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre will be diverted via eastbound Lung Wo Road and northbound Expo Drive East; and
- Traffic along eastbound Expo Drive heading to Central – Wan Chai Bypass Tunnel will be diverted via eastbound Lung Wo Road.

(2) From 1am to 12.30pm on March 24:

- Traffic along westbound Hung Hing Road via northbound Expo Drive East heading to Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre will be diverted via southbound Fleming Road and make a u-turn to northbound Fleming Road and westbound Harbour Road;
- Traffic along eastbound Connaught Road Central Flyover heading to Hung Hing Road via Central – Wan Chai Bypass Tunnel will be diverted via eastbound Man Po Street, southbound Man Yiu Street, eastbound Connaught Place, southbound Connaught Place, eastbound Connaught Road Central, eastbound Harcourt Road, eastbound Gloucester Road and northbound Fleming Road; and
- Traffic along eastbound Man Kat Street heading to Hung Hing Road via Central – Wan Chai Bypass Tunnel will be diverted via eastbound Connaught Road Central, eastbound Harcourt Road, eastbound Gloucester Road and northbound Fleming Road.

(3) From 1am to 6pm on March 24:

- Traffic along westbound Man Kwong Street heading to eastbound Lung Wo Road via southbound Man Yiu Street will be diverted via southbound Man Yiu Street, eastbound Connaught Place, southbound Connaught Place, eastbound Connaught Road Central, eastbound Harcourt Road, eastbound Gloucester Road and northbound Fleming Road;
- Traffic along eastbound Man Po Street heading to eastbound Lung Wo Road via eastbound Yiu Sing Street will be diverted via southbound Man Yiu Street, eastbound Connaught Place, southbound Connaught Place, eastbound Connaught Road Central, eastbound Harcourt Road, eastbound Gloucester Road and northbound Fleming Road;
- Traffic along eastbound Man Po Street heading to Admiralty or Mid-levels via eastbound Lung Wo Road can be diverted via the slip road of eastbound Man Po Street heading to westbound Finance Street, westbound Finance Street, temporary exit connecting Finance Street and Central – Wan Chai Bypass Tunnel, the slip road of westbound Central – Wan Chai Bypass Tunnel heading to eastbound Man Kat Street, eastbound Man Kat Street, eastbound Connaught Road Central and eastbound Harcourt Road;
- Traffic along eastbound Man Po Street heading to eastbound Lung Wo Road will be diverted via southbound Man Yiu Street, eastbound Connaught Place, southbound Connaught Place, eastbound Connaught Road Central, eastbound Harcourt Road, eastbound Gloucester Road and northbound Fleming Road;
- Traffic along southbound Man Yiu Street cannot turn left to eastbound Lung Wo Road and eastbound Yiu Sing Street, vehicles will be diverted via southbound Man Yiu Street, eastbound Connaught Place, southbound Connaught Place, eastbound Connaught Road Central, eastbound Harcourt Road, eastbound Gloucester Road and northbound Fleming Road;

- Traffic along eastbound Man Cheung Street heading to eastbound Lung Wo Road will be diverted via southbound Man Yiu Street, eastbound Connaught Place, southbound Connaught Place, eastbound Connaught Road Central, eastbound Harcourt Road, eastbound Gloucester Road and northbound Fleming Road;
- Traffic along westbound Lung Wo Road cannot turn right to northbound Yiu Sing Street, vehicles will be diverted via westbound Lung Wo Road and northbound Man Yiu Street;
- Traffic along eastbound Yiu Sing Street and southbound Yiu Sing Street heading to eastbound Lung Wo Road will be diverted via southbound Man Yiu Street, eastbound Connaught Place, southbound Connaught Place, eastbound Connaught Road Central, eastbound Harcourt Road, eastbound Gloucester Road and northbound Fleming Road;
- Traffic along northbound Legislative Council Road cannot turn left to westbound Lung Wo Road, vehicles will be diverted via southbound Legislative Council Road, eastbound Lung Wui Road, eastbound Fenwick Pier Street, Fenwick Pier Street roundabout, westbound Fenwick Pier Street, Fenwick Pier Street Flyover, westbound Harcourt Road, westbound Connaught Road Central and northbound Connaught Place;
- Traffic along westbound Lung Wo Road heading to Chief Executive's Office via southbound Tim Wa Avenue will be diverted via southbound Lung Tat Path, Convention Avenue, westbound Fenwick Pier Street, Fenwick Pier Street Flyover, westbound Harcourt Road, westbound Connaught Road Central and make a u-turn to eastbound Connaught Road Central and northbound Tim Wa Avenue;
- Traffic along eastbound Lung Wui Road cannot turn left to northbound Lung Hop Street;
- Traffic along westbound Fenwick Pier Street cannot turn right to northbound Lung Hop Street, vehicles will be diverted via Fenwick Pier Street, Fenwick Pier Street Flyover, westbound Harcourt Road, westbound Connaught Road Central and northbound Connaught Place;
- Traffic along westbound Convention Avenue heading to westbound Lung Wo Road via northbound Lung Tat Path will be diverted via Convention Avenue, Fenwick Pier Street roundabout, westbound Fenwick Pier Street, Fenwick Pier Street Flyover, westbound Harcourt Road, westbound Connaught Road Central and northbound Connaught Place;
- Traffic along westbound Hung Hing Road heading to westbound Lung Wo Road will be diverted to southbound Lung Tat Path, Convention Avenue, Fenwick Pier Street roundabout, westbound Fenwick Pier Street, Fenwick Pier Street Flyover, westbound Harcourt Road, westbound Connaught Road Central and northbound Connaught Place; and
- Traffic along westbound Lung Wo Road heading to Central Pier or Finance Street via Yiu Sing Street will be diverted via westbound Lung Wo Road and northbound Man Yiu Street.

(4) From 12.31pm to 6pm on March 24:

Traffic along southbound Expo Drive East heading to westbound Lung Wo Road will be diverted via southbound Lung Tat Path, Convention Avenue, Fenwick Pier Street roundabout, westbound Fenwick Pier Street, Fenwick Pier Street Flyover, westbound Harcourt Road, westbound Connaught Road Central and northbound Connaught Place.



### C. Suspension of parking spaces and pick-up/drop-off areas

All parking spaces and pick-up/drop-off areas on the following roads will be suspended:

(1) From 8am on March 23 to 6pm on March 24:

All metered parking spaces and pick-up/drop-off areas on Expo Drive.

(2) From 9pm on March 23 to 6pm on March 24:

– All metered parking spaces on Yiu Sing Street and Lung Hop Street; and  
– Pick-up/drop-off areas on westbound Lung Wo Road near City Hall and near Edinburgh Place.

(3) From 1am to 12.31pm on March 24:

All metered parking spaces and pick-up/drop-off areas on Expo Drive East.

All vehicles parked illegally during the implementation of the above special traffic arrangements will be towed away without prior warning, and may be subject to multiple ticketing.

Actual implementation of the traffic arrangements will be made depending on traffic and crowd conditions in the area. Motorists are advised to exercise tolerance and patience and take heed of instructions of the Police on site.

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## **Income and asset limits for public rental housing for 2024/25**

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

The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA)'s Subsidised Housing Committee (SHC) today (March 22) discussed the outcome of the review of income and asset limits for public rental housing (PRH) for 2024/25, and endorsed the proposed income and asset limits for applicants of different household sizes. The adjusted limits will take effect from April 1, 2024 (as detailed in Annex).

"The PRH income and asset limits are reviewed annually according to the established mechanism. If an adjustment is to be made strictly in accordance with the established formula, the PRH income limits for 2024/25 for one-person and four-person households will be adjusted downwards, while those for households with two persons, three persons and five persons or above will be adjusted upwards," a spokesman for the HA said.

"Having regard to the current economic conditions, past practices in reviewing the income limits and the overall situation of the income limit adjustments, the SHC endorsed freezing the income limits for one-person and four-person households at the existing (2023/24) levels, while adjusting upwards the income limits for households with two persons, three persons and five persons or above in accordance with the established methodology. In addition, the SHC also endorsed adjusting the PRH asset limits upwards by three per cent for all household sizes in accordance with the established mechanism, the spokesman said.

PRH income limits are derived using a household expenditure approach, which consists of housing costs and non-housing costs, plus a five per cent contingency provision. Housing costs, which measure the costs of renting a private flat comparable to PRH, depend on the differential unit rents of private accommodation per square metre and reference flat sizes (i.e. average space of flats allocated to PRH applicants in the past three years). Non-housing costs are determined with reference to the results of the latest Household Expenditure Survey conducted by the Census and Statistics Department, and adjusted in the intervening years by the latest movements in the Consumer Price Index (CPI)(A) (excluding housing costs), or the change in the nominal wage index as the income factor, whichever is higher. As regards the PRH asset limits, they are adjusted with reference to movements in the CPI(A) over the year.