

# 立法會

## *Legislative Council*

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### **Subcommittee on Public Health and Municipal Services (Fees and Charges) (Museums) (Amendment) Regulation 2016**

#### **Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat**

#### **Purpose**

This paper provides background information on the Public Health and Municipal Services (Fees and Charges) (Museums) (Amendment) Regulation 2016 ("the Amendment Regulation") (L.N. 84), and gives a brief account of previous discussion of the Panel on Home Affairs ("the Panel") on the subject.

#### **Background**

2. According to the Administration, the month-long free admission to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") museums<sup>1</sup> launched in January 2016 under the "Appreciate Hong Kong" Campaign was well received by the public. To further promote the appreciation of art, culture, history and science, as well as to widen the audience base, the Chief Executive announced in his 2016 Policy Address that the Government would make free admission to permanent exhibitions of designated museums of LCSD a standing practice.

3. Under the new initiative, the following changes will be made to the existing arrangements for the seven fee-charging designated museums :

- (a) all visitors should be allowed free admission to permanent exhibitions of five fee-charging designated museums, i.e., HKMA, Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence and Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum;
- (b) full-time students should be allowed free admission to permanent exhibitions of the Hong Kong Science Museum ("HKScM") and HKSpM (except the Space Theatre of HKSpM), with a view to

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<sup>1</sup> Except the Hong Kong Museum of Art ("HKMA") and the Hong Kong Space Museum ("HKSpM") which were closed for renovation during that time.

enhancing the promotion of science and astronomical knowledge among students;

- (c) to complement the arrangement in paragraph 3(b), the fees for admission to the permanent exhibitions of HKScM by visitors other than full-time students should be reduced by 20%;
- (d) the charges of annual museum passes should be reduced by 50%, because visitors would enjoy free admission (or admission at reduced fees) to permanent exhibitions of the fee-charging museums under the new initiative. All other museum passes (i.e., half-yearly, monthly and weekly passes) should be abolished in anticipation of significantly lower demand after the implementation of free admission; and
- (e) the existing free admission arrangement for all visitors on Wednesdays and International Museum Day, Hong Kong<sup>2</sup>, should be formalized.

4. The arrangements and fee levels for admission to permanent exhibitions of LCSD museums and museum passes before and after the implementation of the free admission initiative are set out in the **Appendix**.

### **The Amendment Regulation (L.N. 84)**

5. The Amendment Regulation is made by the Secretary for Home Affairs under section 124J(1) of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) to amend the Public Health and Municipal Services (Fees and Charges) (Museums) Regulation (Cap. 132CK) in order to give effect to the changes in paragraph 3 above. The Amendment Regulation will come into operation on 1 August 2016.

### **Consultation with the Panel**

6. At its meeting on 17 May 2016, the Panel was consulted on the proposed arrangements and fee levels for admission to the permanent exhibitions of LCSD museums and museum passes after the implementation of the free admission initiative. The major concerns expressed by members are summarized below.

7. While members in general expressed support for the new arrangements, some members enquired whether it was possible to offer free admission to the

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<sup>2</sup> Usually a specified Saturday and Sunday in May

permanent exhibitions of HKScM and HKSpM to the public as well instead of only full-time students. The Administration explained that given the larger number of interactive exhibits in HKScM and HKSpM and in light of the increased damage rate of interactive exhibits in HKScM during the free admission period under the "Appreciate Hong Kong" Campaign, the Administration had to pay heed to their capacity constraints in determining the number of visitors the museums could accommodate under the new initiative, in order to keep the interactive exhibits in good condition and ensure a safe and pleasant visit for the visitors. The Administration advised that the proposal was made taking into consideration the capacity constraints of HKScM and HKSpM, and the policy objective of enhancing the promotion of science and astronomical knowledge among students. Nevertheless, the current concessionary half-fare admission would continue to be offered to senior citizens aged 60 or above as well as persons with disabilities ("PWDs") and one accompanying carer of each PWD. The existing mechanism for fee-waiver applications would remain valid for schools, charitable and non-profit making organizations. The arrangement for free museum admission on Wednesdays and International Museum Day, Hong Kong, would also be maintained.

8. Some members expressed concern about the measures to be taken to help control the visitors' flow in anticipation of a large increase in the number of visitors to the permanent exhibitions of the designated museums under the new arrangements. The Administration assured members that appropriate measures would be taken when necessary to step up control of visitors' flow at the designated museums. Additional funding had also been allocated to LCSD in 2016-2017 to cover costs for additional service requirements on security guards, cleansing, technical and maintenance services in anticipation of an increase in attendance and breakdown rate of exhibits upon implementation of the new initiative.

### **Relevant papers**

9. The relevant papers are available on the Legislative Council website at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr15-16/english/panels/ha/agenda/ha20160517.htm>.

**Existing and Revised Fees to Permanent Exhibitions of the LCSD Museums**

Item	Existing Provisions	Existing fee (HK\$) <sup>1</sup>	Revised fee (HK\$)
<b>Museum Tickets for a Single Entry</b>			
1.	<b>Standard Ticket</b>		
	(i) Hong Kong Museum of Art (ii) Hong Kong Museum of History (iii) Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence (iv) Hong Kong Heritage Museum (v) Dr. Sun Yat-sen Museum	10	Free
	(vi) Hong Kong Science Museum	25	20
	(vii) Hong Kong Space Museum	10	10
2.	<b>Group Ticket</b> (for 20 persons or above)		
	(i) Hong Kong Museum of Art (ii) Hong Kong Museum of History (iii) Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence (iv) Hong Kong Heritage Museum (v) Dr. Sun Yat-sen Museum	7 (per person)	Free
	(vi) Hong Kong Science Museum	17.5 (per person)	14 (per person)
	(vii) Hong Kong Space Museum	7 (per person)	7 (per person)
3.	<b>Concessionary Ticket</b> (for full-time students, elderly aged 60 or above, disabled persons (including their accompanying carers on 1:1 basis))		
	(i) Hong Kong Museum of Art (ii) Hong Kong Museum of History (iii) Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence (iv) Hong Kong Heritage Museum (v) Dr. Sun Yat-sen Museum	5	Free
	(vi) Hong Kong Science Museum	12.5	10 (Free for full-time students)
	(vii) Hong Kong Space Museum	5	5 (Free for full-time students)

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to section 9 of Provision of Municipal Services (Reorganization) Ordinance, Cap.552, the admission fees for museums approved by the former Urban Council (“UC”) remain in force. For museums gazetted after 1.1.2000 in the post-UC era (viz. the Hong Kong Heritage Museum and Dr. Sun Yat-sen Museum), the fees are prescribed under sections 2 and 3 of the Public Health and Municipal Services (Fees and Charges) (Museums) Regulation (Cap.132CK).

Item	Existing Provisions	Existing fee (HK\$) <sup>1</sup>	Revised fee (HK\$)
<b>Free admission to all existing fee-charging museums</b>			
4.	Persons aged below 4	Free	Free
5.	Wednesdays	Free	Free
6.	Groups of 20 or more persons from schools, charitable and non-profit-making organisations applied for fee-waiver in advance	Free	Free
7.	International Museum Day, Hong Kong <sup>2</sup>	Free	Free
<b>Museum Passes (for unlimited number of entries to both permanent exhibitions and special exhibitions of designated museums)</b>			
8.	<b>A pass for 1 year</b>		
	- concessionary rate (for full-time students <sup>3</sup> , elderly aged 60 or above and disabled persons)	50	25
	- members of the same family (up to a maximum of 4 persons)	200	100
	- any other person	100	50
9.	<b>A pass for 6 months</b>		
	- concessionary rate (for full-time students, elderly aged 60 or above, and disabled persons)	25	To be abolished
	- any other person	50	To be abolished
10.	<b>A pass for 1 month</b>		
		50	To be abolished
11.	<b>A pass for 1 week</b>		
		30	To be abolished

<sup>2</sup> Usually a specified Saturday and Sunday in May

<sup>3</sup> The concessionary rate for annual museum pass for full-time students, which pertains to a fee solely for entries to special exhibitions of designated museums, will be separately determined by the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services subject to approval of the Financial Secretary by virtue of section 124K of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap.132).