

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Chapter 132)

Public Health and Municipal Services (Fees and Charges) (Museums) (Amendment) Regulation 2016

INTRODUCTION

By virtue of section 124J(1) of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap.132) (“the Ordinance”), the Secretary for Home Affairs (“SHA”) may by regulation provide for the admission fees to designated museums.

2. In exercise of this power, SHA has made the Public Health and Municipal Services (Fees and Charges) (Museums) (Amendment) Regulation 2016 (“Amendment Regulation”) at **Annex A** in order to revise the fee levels for admission to designated museums upon the implementation of the initiative to offer free admission to permanent exhibitions of designated museums under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”).

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATIONS

3. As one of the highlights of the “Appreciate Hong Kong” Campaign, the month-long “Enchanting Museums” programme was launched in January 2016 whereby visitors were offered free admission to all LCSD museums (except the Hong Kong Museum of Art (“HKMA”) and the Hong Kong Space Museum (“HKSpM”) which were closed for renovation during that time). The programme was well received by the public. To further promote the appreciation of art, culture, history and science, as well as 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 the LCSD a standing practice.

4. 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, viz. the 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 enhancing the promotion of science and astronomical knowledge among students;
- (c) to complement the arrangement in paragraph 4(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 (viz. 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 Kong¹ should be formalised.

We consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs (“LegCo HA Panel”) on the above arrangements on 17 May 2016. The detailed justifications are set out in LC Paper No. CB(2)1465/15-16(01).

PROPOSAL

5. Under section 124J(1) of the Ordinance, SHA may by regulation prescribe the fees and charges for matters specified in Schedule 16, and

¹ Usually a specified Saturday and Sunday in May.

such matters include admission fees for designated museums. In exercise of this power, SHA has made the Amendment Regulation² at **Annex A** in order to give effect to the changes in paragraph 4 above. A comparison of the existing and revised fees and charges is tabulated at **Annex B**.

OTHER OPTIONS

6. There is no alternative option as the changes proposed in paragraph 4 above² have to be implemented by legislative means as required under section 124J(1) of the Ordinance.

THE AMENDMENT REGULATION

7. The Amendment Regulation at **Annex A** prescribes the revised fees for admission to permanent exhibitions of designated museums. Salient provisions of the Amendment Regulation are outlined below –

- (a) section 1 provides for the commencement of the Amendment Regulation. Subject to the passage of the Amendment Regulation within the current legislative session, the new fees will come into effect on 1 August 2016. As LCSD needs time to upgrade the museum pass computerised system, re-print the admission tickets of the HKScM, update the information on the websites and arrange appropriate publicity, 1 August 2016 is the earliest date when the revised fees can be implemented;
- (b) under section 3 of the Amendment Regulation, a new section 2 of the Public Health and Municipal Services (Fees and Charges) (Museums) Regulation (Cap.132CK) (“principal Regulation”) substitutes the existing section 2. The new section 2 provides interpretation of the various terms used in the Amendment Regulation;
- (c) under section 4 of the Amendment Regulation, the existing section 3 of the principal Regulation is substituted by a new section 3, which specifies the new fees payable in connection

² Except the prescription of concessionary rate for the annual museum pass for full-time students, which pertains to a fee solely for entries to special exhibitions of designated museums, and 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 Ordinance.

with admission of certain people to permanent exhibitions of designated museums (including multiple entries to designated museums with an annual museum pass as well as a single entry to the HKSpM and the HKScM) in the Schedule to the principal Regulation; and

- (d) section 5 of the Amendment Regulation adds new sections 4 and 5 to the principal Regulation. The new section 4 provides free entries to a permanent exhibition of a designated museum on Wednesdays and International Museum Day, Hong Kong; and the new section 5 provides free entries to a permanent exhibition of a designated museum by persons aged below 4.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

8. The legislative timetable will be as follows –

Publication in Gazette	20 May 2016
Tabling at LegCo for negative vetting	25 May 2016
Commencement	1 August 2016

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

9. The estimated revenue forgone arising from the implementation of the new arrangements is about \$11.3 million per year. An additional funding of \$13.5 million has been earmarked for covering the extra manpower and costs for maintaining the quality of museum services and exhibits in 2016-17 in anticipation of an increased attendance of visitors.

10. The proposal is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights, and will not affect the binding effect of the existing provisions of the Ordinance and the existing regulations made under the Ordinance. It has no economic, environmental, productivity, or gender implications. The proposal will have some positive sustainability implications in terms of encouraging participation in leisure and cultural activities through visits to museums. It will also help enrich the choice on family activities, bringing about positive impact on the quality of family life and strengthening family ties through the appreciation of art and culture together.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

11. In April 2016, the three Museum Advisory Panels³ were consulted on the proposal referred to in paragraph 4 above and generally supported the new arrangements. We also briefed the LegCo HA Panel on the proposal at its meeting on 17 May 2016. Members were supportive of the proposal.

PUBLICITY

12. We will issue a press release on the implementation of the revised fee proposal on 20 May 2016 to tie in with the gazettal of the Amendment Regulation. Upon completion of the legislative process, we will publicise the commencement date of the new fees through press release, the websites of the relevant LCSD museums and other suitable publicity means.

ENQUIRY

13. For enquiries on this brief, please contact Ms Sandy Cheung, Principal Assistant Secretary (Culture)2, Home Affairs Bureau at 3509 8126 or Ms Esa Leung, Head (Heritage and Museum Services), Leisure and Cultural Services Department at 2601 8238.

Home Affairs Bureau
May 2016

³ The three Museum Advisory Panels advise the Government on the work of LCSD museums in relation to art, history and science streams respectively. Members comprise museum experts, academics, marketing professionals and community leaders.

Public Health and Municipal Services (Fees and Charges) (Museums) (Amendment) Regulation 2016

(Made by the Secretary for Home Affairs under section 124J of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132))

1. Commencement

This Regulation comes into operation on 1 August 2016.

2. Public Health and Municipal Services (Fees and Charges) (Museums) Regulation amended

The Public Health and Municipal Services (Fees and Charges) (Museums) Regulation (Cap. 132 sub. leg. CK) is amended as set out in sections 3 to 6.

3. Section 2 substituted

Section 2—

Repeal the section

Substitute

“2. Interpretation

(1) In this Regulation—

accompanying carer (同行照料者), in relation to a disabled person, means the one person identified by the disabled person as accompanying the disabled person for the purpose of providing care to the disabled person in a designated museum;

authorized officer (獲授權人員) means a public officer authorized by the Director;

designated museum (指定博物館) means the buildings, parts of buildings or places specified in an item in the Schedule to the Designation of Museums Order (Cap. 132 sub. leg. P);

Director (署長) means the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services;

permanent exhibition (常設展覽) means an exhibition that is held on a long-term basis in a designated museum and is designated as a permanent exhibition by the Director or an authorized officer;

special exhibition (專題展覽) means an exhibition that is held on a short-term basis in a designated museum and is designated as a special exhibition by the Director or an authorized officer.

(2) In this Regulation—

- (a) a reference to an entry to a designated museum—
 - (i) includes viewing a permanent exhibition after entering the museum; and
 - (ii) does not include viewing a special exhibition after entering the museum or an entry to the Space Theatre of the Hong Kong Space Museum; and
- (b) a reference to an entry to the Hong Kong Space Museum—
 - (i) includes viewing a permanent exhibition after entering the museum; and
 - (ii) does not include viewing a special exhibition after entering the museum or an entry to the Space Theatre of the museum.”

4. Section 3 substituted

Section 3—

Repeal the section

Substitute

“3. Fees for entries to designated museums

Subject to sections 4 and 5, the fee specified in column 3 of an item of Part 1 or 2 of the Schedule is payable in respect of the matter described in column 2 of the item.”.

5. Sections 4 and 5 added

After section 3—

Add

“4. Free entries on certain days

No fee is payable for an entry to a designated museum on a Wednesday or on a day designated as the International Museum Day, Hong Kong of a year by the Director or an authorized officer.

5. Free entries by persons aged below 4

No fee is payable for an entry to a designated museum by a person aged below 4.”.

6. Schedule substituted

The Schedule—

Repeal the Schedule

Substitute

“Schedule

[s. 3]

Fees

Part 1

Multiple Entries


Column 1 Item	Column 2 Matter	Column 3 Fee
1.	A pass for 1 year for an unlimited number of entries to designated museums—	
(a)	a disabled person or a person aged 60 or above	\$25
(b)	members of the same family, up to a maximum of 4 persons	\$100
(c)	a person who is neither a person referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) nor a full-time student	\$50

Part 2

Single Entry

Column 1 Item	Column 2 Matter	Column 3 Fee
2.	Hong Kong Space Museum Admission fee for a single entry by—	
	(a) a full-time student	Nil
	(b) either—	\$5
	(i) a disabled person;	
	(ii) an accompanying carer of a disabled person; or	
	(iii) a person aged 60 or above	
	(c) a group of 20 or more persons	\$7 per person
	(d) any other person aged 4 or above	\$10
3.	Hong Kong Science Museum Admission fee for a single entry by—	
	(a) a full-time student	Nil
	(b) either—	\$10
	(i) a disabled person;	
	(ii) an accompanying carer of a disabled person; or	
	(iii) a person aged 60 or above	

Column 1 Item	Column 2 Matter	Column 3 Fee
	(c) a group of 20 or more persons	\$14 per person
	(d) any other person aged 4 or above	\$20
4.	Any designated museum other than one referred to in item 2 or 3 Admission fee for a single entry by any person	Nil


Secretary for Home Affairs

17 May 2016

Explanatory Note

The object of this Regulation is to provide for the fees payable for entries to museums designated under the Designation of Museums Order (Cap. 132 sub. leg. P) for viewing permanent exhibitions.

Existing and Revised Fees to Permanent Exhibitions of the LCSD Museums

Item	Existing Provisions	Existing fee (HK\$) ¹	Revised fee (HK\$)
Museum Tickets for a Single Entry			
1.	Standard Ticket		
	(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.	Group Ticket (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.	Concessionary Ticket (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)

¹ 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\$) ¹	Revised fee (HK\$)
Free admission to all existing fee-charging museums			
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 ²	Free	Free
Museum Passes (for unlimited number of entries to both permanent exhibitions and special exhibitions of designated museums)			
8.	A pass for 1 year		
	- concessionary rate (for full-time students ³ , 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.	A pass for 6 months		
	- 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.	A pass for 1 month		
		50	To be abolished
11.	A pass for 1 week		
		30	To be abolished

² Usually a specified Saturday and Sunday in May

³ 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).