

香港特別行政區政府
保安局



The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Security Bureau

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By Fax & Email

1 April 2019

Clerk to the Panel on Security
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Betty MA)

Dear Miss MA,

Panel on Security

Matters arising from the meeting on 5 March 2019

In response to your letter dated 6 March 2019 referring the matters mentioned in Hon Chu Hoi-dick's letter dated 5 March to the Chairman of the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council, after consulting the relevant bureaux, departments and the Airport Authority (AA), our consolidated reply is as follows:

As an air transportation hub of Hong Kong and in the region, the Hong Kong International Airport handles a large volume of air traffic and a large number of passengers every day. We must ensure that a high level of aviation security is maintained. Under sections 4 and 5 of the Aviation Security Regulation (Cap. 494A), any person who enters an airport restricted area (ARA) shall have a valid airport restricted area permit (ARAP) unless he/she is an air-crew member, or a passenger entering the area for the purpose of embarking on/disembarking an aircraft, or being escorted by a person authorised by AA. Besides, according to the Aviation Security Regulation, AA is responsible for devising and implementing the ARAP system. The ARAP system is established to regulate persons going into and out of the ARA,

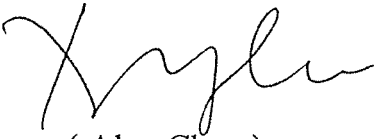
and to ensure civil aviation is not subject to unlawful interference. ARAPs are issued by AA under the Aviation Security Regulation.

Those who are employed to work within the ARA and those whose business requires their access to the ARA from time to time (including members of the consular post) may apply for an ARAP from the AA. Such applications should be supported by the relevant sponsoring organisations. AA rigorously safeguards the access control of the ARA, and ARAP holders are required to observe the relevant laws and rules (including the conditions of issue of ARAP) when using ARAPs. If any ARAP holder is found to conduct any unlawful act within the ARA, the case will be referred to the Police for follow-up.

As regards the case mentioned by Hon Chu, while it is not appropriate for us to go into details, the Police already advised that they received reports from a foreign male and two foreign females respectively in early September 2018. After investigation, the case reported by the former was classified as "Missing Person Located", while the case reported by the latter was classified as "Request for Police Investigation" and was followed up by Crime New Territories South Regional Headquarters. The investigation is still ongoing. If it is found that the case may involve criminal elements, the Police will consult the Department of Justice and handle in accordance with the law.

A mechanism among airlines is in place for handling changes or cancellation of flights for transfer passengers. If a transfer passenger has to change or cancel his or her schedule, the airline which commuted the passenger to Hong Kong would directly inform the airline which would serve the transfer passenger on the outbound journey. Passengers may follow up with the relevant airline(s) on their schedule arrangements. Should the parties fail to reach an agreement, the case can be followed up through legal recourse.

Yours sincerely,


(Alex Chan)
for Secretary for Security

c.c. Chief Executive Officer, AA (Attn: Mr John LAMOND)