

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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Miss Betty Ma
Secretary General
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong

(Fax No: 2185 7845)

Dear Miss Ma,

Policies and measures to combat illegal prostitution activities

I refer to the discussion of the above item at the meeting of Panel on Security on 12 April 2016. As requested by Members, we provide the following supplementary information.

The number of private premises being “kept as a vice establishment”

Under the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200), any person who permits or lets premises for use as a vice establishment shall be charged with “letting premises for use as a vice establishment”, “tenant etc. permitting premises or vessel to be kept as a vice establishment” or “tenant etc. permitting premises or vessel to be used for prostitution”, and shall be liable on conviction to a maximum imprisonment of seven years. In the past five years (i.e. 2011-2015), there were a total of 18 prosecutions involving the three offences above, among which 12 were convicted.

The Police remind owners and tenants from time to time that if they permit their premises to be used for prostitution activities, they commit an offence and are liable to prosecution. The Police do not maintain statistics on the number of private building units involved in the above cases. In fact, the types of buildings involved in the cases of different districts might not necessarily be the same. For instance, in Yuen Long Police District, all 17 cases in connection with “keeping a vice establishment” in the first quarter of 2016 involved tenement building units.

Number of applications for a closure order

If any person is convicted of any of the offences of “keeping a vice establishment”, “letting premises for use as a vice establishment”, “tenant etc. permitting premises or vessel to be kept as a vice establishment” or “tenant etc. permitting premises or vessel to be used for prostitution”, and is convicted again within a specified period for any such offence connected with the same premises, the Police may apply to the court for a closure order under section 153A of the Crimes Ordinance to close the premises in question for six months.

The Police do not compile statistics on the overall number of applications for a closure order. Every police district will adjust its strategies against illegal prostitution activities (including applying for a closure order) in the light of the actual situation of the district. Taking Yuen Long Police District as an example, the Police successfully applied for a closure order from the court in the first quarter of 2016 to close a premises kept as a vice establishment twice under the disguise of a foot spa shop.

Yours sincerely,

(Andrew Tsang)
for Secretary for Security

c.c.:

Commissioner of Police

(Attn: Senior Superintendent, Crime Wing Headquarters) Fax No: 2528 2284