

(Translation)

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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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26 June 2020

Miss Betty MA
Clerk to Legislative Council Panel on Security
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss MA,

**Request to follow up the repeated incidents of unknown sources of gas
in the vicinity of Lau Fau Shan**

I refer to your letter dated 2 June 2020 to the Secretary for Security. Having consulted the Hong Kong Police Force ("HKPF"), the Fire Services Department ("FSD") and the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD"), I am authorised to reply as follows.

Regarding the incidents of unknown gases occurred at around 2 p.m. on 1 June 2020 in the vicinity of Lau Fau Shan as mentioned in Hon Andrew WAN's letter, the departments concerned have received a number of reports or enquiries. Their follow-up actions are detailed in the ensuing paragraphs:

(A) FSD

At 2:03 p.m. on 1 June 2020, FSD received a report of suspected emission of an unknown odour in the vicinity of Sheung Pak Nai and Ha Pak Nai, Lau Fau Shan. FSD immediately despatched officers to the scene, who arrived at 2:14 p.m. to investigate the matter. They used gas detectors to detect gases at the scene and found no combustible and/or noxious gases, and no unusual odours were found during the period.

At around 2:10 p.m. on the same day, FSD received another report of suspected emission of an unknown odour from the forecourt of House 13 in Sheung Pak Nai. Given that the location reported was only around 40 metres from the location first reported, FSD's officer-in-charge at the scene promptly deployed appropriate manpower to conduct investigation there. Gas detectors were also used to detect gases nearby and no unusual odours were found.

In the operation, a total of four males and three females reported feeling unwell after smelling unknown odours, but all of them ultimately required no assistance from FSD officers and refused to be sent to the hospital. Subsequently, FSD had not received any more emergency calls from members of the public reporting unusual odours in those areas.

(B) HKPF

HKPF received enquiries from the media on 1 June 2020 and replied at night via the Police Public Relations Branch, confirming that the Police Tactical Unit Headquarters had conducted a regular training session at the Tsing Shan Firing Range on 1 June 2020, during which police officers had used tear gas. Due to the wind direction that day, the tear gas might have been blown to the vicinity of Lau Fau Shan.

To strengthen police officers' responsiveness to different situations, HKPF regularly arranges training to test and strengthen the responsiveness and co-ordination capabilities of different departments. In anti-riot training, the firing of live rounds and use of tear gas are routine training modules. To minimise the impact of training on nearby residents, training sessions will be conducted at firing ranges that are further away from residential areas. The Tsing Shan Firing Range in Tuen Mun is one of the sites for regular training. Before the training, the Police will inform the public by broadcasting messages and hoisting red flags in the vicinity to ensure that the public will stay away from the area of the firing range concerned. HKPF will continue to strengthen communication with relevant departments and local residents with a view to minimising any inconvenience which might be caused to the public.

(C) EPD

EPD did not receive any complaint or enquiry about unknown gases on 1 June 2020. Upon receiving enquiries from member(s) of the Yuen Long District Council and the media, EPD sent its staff to inspect the areas

concerned, including the vicinity of the roundabout in Lau Fau Shan, Sheung Pak Nai and Ha Pak Nai in the morning of 2 June 2020. Neither irritant odour nor odd smell was found. EPD also analysed the air quality monitoring data obtained on 1 June 2020. According to the monitoring data, the main pollutants (including ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates) that day maintained at a low level in various districts (including Yuen Long) of Hong Kong and no unusual change was detected.

Yours sincerely,

(Joceline CHUI)
for Secretary for Security