

香港特別行政區政府

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INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGY BUREAU

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

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By email

8 January 2021

Mr Daniel SIN,
Clerk to Panel,
Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting,
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Sin,

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting
Application of information technology to combat COVID-19

At its meeting on 9 November 2020, the Panel requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on the number of persons under compulsory quarantine who did not activate the "StayHomeSafe" mobile app on the same day of their arrival in Hong Kong. The relevant information is appended below.

In accordance with the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) and the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E), all persons arriving from the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan have to undergo compulsory quarantine for 14 days while those persons arriving at Hong Kong (either via the airport or land boundary control points) who have stayed in places outside China on the day of arrival at Hong Kong or during the 21 days before that day have to undergo compulsory quarantine for 21 days. On arrival at the Hong Kong International Airport and the boundary control points, quarantine orders will be issued to these persons. They will then be provided with electronic wristbands and requested to install the "StayHomeSafe" mobile app for the purpose of monitoring whether they stay in the designated place during the home quarantine period. After they arrive at their respective designated dwelling places, confinees are required to complete the

activation process by pressing the “*I am now home*” button in the mobile app. The mobile app will scan the environment of the dwelling places and record the electronic signals around (e.g. Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and mobile telecommunications signals). The specific electronic signals collected will then be used with the help of artificial intelligence/data analytics to check whether the said persons might have left their dwelling places.

According to our system records, around 92% of those under compulsory quarantine completed the activation process within one day after their arrival in Hong Kong. The main reasons for the longer time taken to do so in the remaining 8% are mostly difficulties in activating the mobile app and the need for replacement of electronic wristbands due to hardware issue. Most of these cases were resolved after the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) provided the necessary technical advice and assistance. The remaining cases were referred to the Department of Health and the Police for follow-up actions.

In the light of the local epidemic situation, the Government mandates all returnees from countries outside China to undergo 21-day compulsory quarantine at designated quarantine hotels with effect from 25 December 2020. Designated transportation is arranged to send returnees from the airport to their designated quarantine hotels. The designated quarantine hotels need to put in place stringent measures to restrict members of the public from accessing the hotel premises other than the reception area, and disallow visit to quarantine guests, thereby minimising the risk of infection in the community. The Government deploys dedicated staff to inspect the designated quarantine hotels to ensure the Government’s requirements are complied with. OGCIO also continues to deploy electronic wristbands to monitor these confinees. Through a combination of measures, we believe that the risk of people leaving their mandated place of quarantine will be minimised.

Yours sincerely,



(Eva YAM)

for Secretary for Innovation and Technology