

15 August 2023

For immediate release

Competition Commission conducts surprise visit to New Territories (Shatin) Forensic Medicine Centre

The Competition Commission (Commission) conducted a surprise visit this morning (15 August 2023) to the New Territories (Shatin) Forensic Medicine Centre (the reprovisioned Fu Shan Public Mortuary, referred to as “Forensic Medicine Centre”). The Commission had received intelligence earlier alleging that funeral service practitioners engaged in market sharing by coordinating their solicitation of customers at the Forensic Medicine Centre, in contravention of the First Conduct Rule under the Competition Ordinance (Ordinance).

Upon receiving the intelligence, the Commission gathered information relating to the background of the case and also conducted inspections on-site. The Commission analysed the information collected and is of the view that market sharing behaviour might have been taking place. The Commission therefore paid a surprise visit to the Forensic Medicine Centre today with the aim of getting more information from the funeral service practitioners on-site and the staff members working at the Forensic Medicine Centre.

The case is still under investigation and in the meantime, the Commission will maintain close contacts with relevant departments. Same as other cases, the Commission is happy to provide advice to relevant authorities if need be, with a view to safeguarding the industry against anti-competitive conduct.

The Commission calls on members of the funeral service industry and members of the public who can provide information on the case or the practices in the industry to contact the Commission by telephone at 3462 2118, e-mail (complaints@compcomm.hk), post, or in person at the Commission’s office (by appointment only); while those who are already involved in cartel conduct should approach the Commission for leniency or cooperation (Leniency Hotline: 3996 8010; e-mail: leniency@compcomm.hk). The Commission will seek to protect any confidential information provided, including the identity of the informants, in accordance with the Ordinance and the Commission’s Guideline on Investigations.

The Commission would like to express its deep appreciation to the Police for their assistance in today’s operation.

(Photo on the next page)



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