

LCQ13: Postal services

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Following is a written reply by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Frederick Ma, to a question by the Hon Choy So-yuk in the Legislative Council today (June 18):

Question:

Regarding postal services provided by the Hongkong Post, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) how many post offices were opened, closed and relocated respectively last year, the expected corresponding numbers for next year, and the relevant details;
- (b) whether it has consulted the District Councils concerned before closing and relocating the above post offices; if it has, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (c) of the respective numbers of street posting boxes newly provided, cancelled and relocated last year; and
- (d) of the number of applicants who have completed the application procedure for renting private post office boxes and are currently waiting for such post office boxes, broken down by name of post office, and the current average waiting time?

Reply:

Madam President,

(a) In the past year, Hongkong Post has closed five post offices, relocated two and temporarily closed one post office. For those post offices that have been closed, new posting boxes have been installed in the vicinity. At present, Hongkong Post has no plan to close existing post offices or open new post offices in the coming year, but individual post offices might need to be relocated to premises within the district due to special circumstances (such as renovation of shopping centres).

(b) Hongkong Post would explain the situation to the relevant District Council in advance of the closure of a post office. In cases of relocation, Hongkong Post would display notices at the concerned post offices, issue press releases to inform the public, and notify the District Council.

The details of closure, relocation and temporary closure of post offices in the past year are at Appendix 1.

(c) In the past year, Hongkong Post has installed 11, withdrawn seven and relocated nine street posting boxes.

(d) Among the 45 post offices that provide Private Post Office Box rental service, 27 have vacant boxes. Hence, members of the public who apply for such service will not need to wait. For the other 18 post offices, applicants will have to wait as there are no vacant boxes. As at June 5, 2008, there are 1,102 applications on the waiting list for Private Post Office Boxes (details at Appendix 2). The waiting time depends on the number of applications on the waiting list at the relevant post office and the number of existing users ceasing to rent their boxes. Apart from a few post offices, the waiting time is in general less than six months.

Ends/Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Post Office	Closure/ Relocation Date	Reasons & Details	Details of Attending Meetings of or Informing District Councils
<b>Closure of Post Office</b>			
Wong Chuk Hang Post Office	2 October 2007	Demolition of Wong Chuk Hang Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Postmaster General attended the Southern District Council meeting on 28 June 2007 to brief members on the postal service in the Southern District and details of the closure of the Wong Chuk Hang Post Office due to the demolition of Wong Chuk Hang Estate</li> </ul>
Garden Road Post Office	1 November 2007	Low utilisation of the post office and existence of sufficient post offices in the area to serve the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Postmaster General attended the Central &amp; Western District Council meeting on 28 June 2007 to brief members on the postal service in the Central &amp; Western District and details of the closure of the Garden Road Post Office and Harbour Building Post Office</li> <li>- Postmaster General attended the Culture, Leisure &amp; Social Affairs Committee meeting of the Central &amp; Western District Council on 19 July 2007 to further explain the details of the closure of the Garden Road Post Office</li> </ul>
Harbour Building Post Office	1 November 2007	Same as above	Same as above
Canton Road Post Office	2 January 2008	Same as above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to the suspension of District Council meetings from October 2007 to December 2007, Hongkong Post wrote to the Secretariat of Yau Tsim Mong District Council on 31 October 2007 to explain to the</li> </ul>

Post Office	Closure/ Relocation Date	Reasons & Details	Details of Attending Meetings of or Informing District Councils
			District Council the details of the closure of the Canton Road Post Office
North Point Post Office	19 May 2008	Significant rent increase and existence of sufficient post offices in the area to serve the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Postmaster General attended the Eastern District Council meeting on 21 September 2007 to brief members on the postal service in the Eastern District and inform the District Council in advance that the North Point Post Office might have to be closed due to significant rent increase after expiry of the tenancy, and the existence of sufficient post offices in the area to serve the public</li> <li>- Hongkong Post wrote to the Secretariat of the Eastern District Council on 14 March 2008 to inform the District Council the details of the closure of the North Point Post Office</li> </ul>
<b>Relocation of Post Office</b>			
Kowloon Bay Post Office	27 August 2007	Unable to reach an agreement on tenancy renewal with the landlord. The post office has been relocated to Enterprise Square, Sheung Yuet Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Postmaster General attended the Kwun Tong District Council meeting on 19 July 2007 to brief members on the postal service in the Kwun Tong District and inform the District Council in advance that the Kowloon Bay Post Office might have to be relocated if an agreement on tenancy renewal could not be reached with the landlord</li> </ul>

Post Office	Closure/ Relocation Date	Reasons & Details	Details of Attending Meetings of or Informing District Councils
Texaco Road Post Office	21 April 2008	Due to the condition of the premises, Architectural Services Department recommended against the renewal of the tenancy. The post office has been relocated to Indihome, Yeung Uk Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assistant Postmaster General (Corporate Development) and General Manager (Planning and Development) attended the Community Affairs Committee meeting of the Kwai Tsing District Council on 8 April 2008 to brief members on the details of the relocation of the post office</li> </ul>
<b>Temporary Closure of Post Office</b>			
Causeway Bay Post Office	18 February 2008	The landlord resumed the premises upon the expiry of the tenancy. Hongkong Post is searching for suitable sites to relocate the post office in the vicinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hongkong Post wrote to the Secretariat of the Wan Chai District Council on 4 January 2008 to explain to the District Council the details of the temporary closure of the post office</li> <li>- Assistant Postmaster General (Corporate Development) and General Manager (Planning and Development) attended the Development, Planning and Transport Committee meeting of the Wan Chai District Council on 1 April 2008 to brief members on the details of the temporary closure of the post office</li> </ul>

## Appendix 2

	<b>No. of Applications on the waiting list of Private Post Office Boxes (as at 5 June 2008)</b>
<b>Hong Kong</b>	
Aberdeen Post Office	23
Gloucester Road Post Office	21
Hennessy Road Post Office	17
Hing Fat Street Post Office	34
King's Road Post Office	31
Tsat Tsz Mui Post Office	11
Wan Chai Post Office	59
Shau Kei Wan Post Office	15
<b>Kowloon</b>	
Mong Kok Post Office	15
Sham Shui Po Post Office	38
<b>New Territories</b>	
Ma On Shan Post Office	23
Fanling Post Office	14
San Tin Post Office	5
Shek Wu Hui Post Office	364
Tuen Mun Central Post Office	186
Tsuen Wan Post Office	115
Yuen Long Delivery Office	44
Yuen Long Post Office	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>1102</b>