

選舉事務處

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REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE

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30 March 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Suspected Theft of Notebook Computers of the Registration and Electoral Office

On 27 March 2017, i.e. the day following the 2017 Chief Executive Election, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) found that two notebook computers stored inside a locked room in the AsiaWorld-Expo in Chek Lap Kok, the fallback site of the election, were suspected to be stolen. One computer contains the names of Election Committee members without other personal particulars. As the relevant names have already been promulgated through public platforms, there is no risk of data leakage. The other computer contains the names, addresses and Hong Kong Identity Card numbers of about 3.78 million Geographical Constituencies electors in the 2016 Final Register. All the information has been encrypted in accordance with the relevant security requirements and is protected by multiple encryptions which are extremely difficult to break through.

The REO reported the above incident of suspected theft to the Police on 27 March and the Police is currently carrying out investigation and has classified the case as theft. The REO is fully assisting in the police investigation of the incident and will launch a comprehensive review on the handling of voter registration particulars in the Chief Executive Election to further strengthen the security arrangements of the relevant information.

The REO has all along been handling the voter registration particulars very carefully and attaching great importance to the security of information, and complying with the security regulations and codes, and the requirement of encryption as required by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) in relation to the handling of important personal data.

The REO has also reported the incident to the PCPD. Following the PCPD's guidance and advice, we hereby provide the details of the incident to the data subjects, i.e. electors concerned, to increase public awareness and mitigate the potential damage. On the other hand, the REO has informed Government departments and relevant organisations from various sectors, including finance, insurance, telecommunications, retail, estate agents, information technology, etc., about the incident and called upon them to adopt appropriate measures to protect their own interest and also the interest of the data subjects. We sincerely apologise for the inconvenience and distress to electors caused by the incident.

You may log in to the Online Voter Information Enquiry System (OVIES) (www.voterinfo.gov.hk) to check your registration status and latest registration particulars. If you have any questions about this letter or find any irregularities about your voter registration particulars through the above OVIES, please contact the REO (reoenvq@reo.gov.hk) and we shall try our best to provide assistance to you.

WONG See-man
Chief Electoral Officer