

## **Response to press enquiries on Central Police Station (CPS) Open Days**

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In response to the media enquiries, the Government confirmed its intention to organize open days for the Central Police Station site. However, the area of the Victoria Prison will be excluded as it is still in operation until end 2005. The open days will allow the public to understand more about the history of the compound and the current conditions of the site. The opportunity will also be taken to gauge the community's views on the future usage of the site.

2. The tentative dates for the open days are the 3 consecutive weekends before the Lunar New Year. While detailed arrangements are still being carefully worked out, tentatively the content of the open days would include guided tours for the public, information corners to view displays on the history of the site and a workshop on issues related to the development of the Project.

3. The Government is consulting the interested parties, including the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, the Conservancy Association and the Central and Western District Council (DC) on the proposed arrangements, and has discussed with them during the meeting of a Working Group under the DC today. In general, the relevant organizations agreed in principle to Government's proposal and also agreed to participate in the organization of the open days, but they wished that Government could consider extending the duration of the event.

4. The open days' arrangement would need to be carefully planned to address the concerns on public safety, security and protection of monuments. While the Police has vacated from the site in mid December 2004, the Immigration Department (ImmD) is still operating in the site. Its Victoria Immigration Centre (VIC) is processing offenders handed over by the Police and discharged by the Correctional Services Department through the Victoria Prison daily. Therefore, in fixing the dates and hours of the open days, we need to minimise the impact on the operation of the relevant disciplinary forces. In view of the present conditions of some of the historic buildings which cannot meet with the current safety standards, the areas to be opened

and the routing of guided tours would need to be carefully planned to ensure public safety and proper preservation of the buildings. Proper crowd control arrangement is also necessary given the narrow and steep roads surrounding the site.

5. The Government is now finalizing the arrangements in consultation with the interested parties and formal announcement on the detailed arrangements, including ticketing, will be made once the arrangements have been confirmed. The public who are interested in attending the open days are invited to pay attention to the subsequent government announcement.

End

**Tourism Commission**  
**Economic Development and Labour Bureau**  
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