

Transcript for video on Approved Charitable Fund-raising Activities

A part of the TV programme "Police Magazine".

Superintendent John Cameron: Charitable fundraising is regularly seen on Hong Kong streets and in public areas. Tonight's episode, we're going to take a look at a new website which gives details of all bona fide fundraising activities.

Police Constable Yim Chi-kong, Philip: It is better to give than to receive. If you have the means, help those in need. This is a good thing to do. However, have you ever been wary of those charities asking for money in public, not knowing if they are real or not? What should you do in this situation?

Case Reconstruction:

A man who is selling flag walks towards a man and a woman.

Flag Seller 1: Miss, please buy a flag for charity.

Man: For Charity? Sure.

Woman: What organisation is this? I've never heard of it.

Man: I'm not sure either.

Another flag seller comes.

Flag Seller 2: Hello. We're a charitable fund. We're selling flags today to raise money for the elderly to help them and improve their health services.

Man: Oh, okay.

He takes out a coin from his wallet and put it into the flag bag. Flag Seller 1 then sticks a flag onto the man's t-shirt.

Flag Seller 2: Thank you.

Man: You're welcome.

All of them walk away.

Case reconstruction ends.

Philip and Russell Tang, Executive Officer of E-government Service Delivery Division of Office of the Government Chief Information Officer / HKSAR, walk towards the camera.

Philip: To help you know, quickly and easily, whether the fundraising activities in public are approved or not, the government has created a new website containing such information. Russell, can you tell us a bit about the website?

Russell: Sure, Philip. We all see a lot of fundraising activities on the street daily: people selling flags, donation boxes, charitable coupons or goods etc. Charitable fundraising activities have to be approved by the Social Welfare Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department or Home Affairs Bureau. Previously, to know whether fundraising activities are real or not, you would need to check the respective websites of those departments.

(The screen shows the website of “Approved Charitable Fund-raising Activities” on GovHK.)

To make it more convenient to the public, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer is working with all three departments and created an Approved Charitable Fund-raising Activities page on the www.gov.hk website to consolidate all information related to charitable fundraising together. This makes it clear for the public.

Philip: Can you tell us how we can find out specific information on this website?

(The screen shows the website of “Approved Charitable Fund-raising Activities” on GovHK.)

Russell: Sure. Once you’re on the page, you’ll see all approved charitable fundraising activities for that day, including the organisation, location, time and date etc. It’s very convenient. There is also a search function on this page. You

just need to input simple information and you can search for approved fundraising activities and detailed information about their activity and organisation including type of licence, permit number, or contact numbers etc. Different charitable organisations might be carrying out different types of fundraising activities at the same time. They would need to apply for a separate permit for each activity. You can also bear this in mind when you visit our website. Then you can know which activity has been approved or not.

Philip: If you see a fundraising activity on the street, can you log on to the website with your smartphone right away and check if it's been approved or not?

Russell: Of course. This website can be accessed anywhere. Basically, you can access this website no matter where you are. You can use a smartphone or a tablet to see which activities have been approved for that day, or conduct a more detailed search.

Philip: I would like to remind everyone here that if anyone has not been granted a permit to carry out any kind of charitable fundraising activity in public, but continues to do so, he or she is breaking the law. Once convicted, apart from a fine, there is a good chance of 3 months imprisonment. So please don't this. If you would like to find out more about this Approved Charitable Fund-raising Activities page, visit this website: www.gov.hk/fundraising

The scene changes. Superintendent John appears and talks.

John: The website is of course available in English as well as Chinese. Please make use of it, so that you can confidently continue to give generously to charity. Bye-bye