

PREVENTION OF BRIBERY ORDINANCE
(Chapter 201, Laws of Hong Kong)

Extract of sections 3, 4, 5, 10, 12AA and 16

Soliciting or
accepting an
advantage

3. Any prescribed officer who, without the general or special permission of the Chief Executive, solicits or accepts any advantage shall be guilty of an offence.

Bribery

4. (1) Any person who, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, offers any advantage to a public servant as an inducement to or reward for or otherwise on account of that public servant's –

- (a) performing or abstaining from performing, or having performed or abstained from performing, any act in his capacity as a public servant;
- (b) expediting, delaying, hindering or preventing, or having expedited, delayed, hindered or prevented, the performance of an act, whether by that public servant or by any other public servant in his or that other public servant's capacity as a public servant; or
- (c) assisting, favouring, hindering or delaying, or having assisted, favoured, hindered or delayed, any person in the transaction of any business with a public body,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Any public servant who, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, solicits or accepts any advantage as an inducement to or reward for or otherwise on account of his -

- (a) performing or abstaining from performing, or having performed or abstained from performing, any act in his capacity as a public servant;
- (b) expediting, delaying, hindering or preventing, or having expedited, delayed, hindered or prevented, the performance of an act, whether by himself or by any other public servant in his or that other public servant's capacity as a public servant; or

- (c) assisting, favouring, hindering or delaying, or having assisted, favoured, hindered or delayed, any person in the transaction of any business with a public body,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) If a public servant other than a prescribed officer solicits or accepts an advantage with the permission of the public body of which he is an employee being permission which complies with subsection (4), neither he nor the person who offered the advantage shall be guilty of an offence under this section.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3) permission shall be in writing and -

- (a) be given before the advantage is offered, solicited or accepted; or
- (b) in any case where an advantage has been offered or accepted without prior permission, be applied for and given as soon as reasonably possible after such offer or acceptance,

and for such permission to be effective for the purposes of subsection (3), the public body shall, before giving such permission, have regard to the circumstances in which it is sought.

Bribery for giving assistance, etc. in regard to contracts

5. (1) Any person who, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, offers an advantage to a public servant as an inducement to or reward for or otherwise on account of such public servant's giving assistance or using influence in, or having given assistance or used influence in -

- (a) the promotion, execution, or procuring of -
 - (i) any contract with a public body for the performance of any work, the providing of any service, the doing of any thing or the supplying of any article, material or substance, or
 - (ii) any subcontract to perform any work, provide any service, do any thing or supply any article, material or substance required to be performed, provided, done or supplied under any contract with a public body; or

- (b) the payment of the price, consideration or other moneys stipulated or otherwise provided for in any such contract or subcontract as aforesaid,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Any public servant who, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, solicits or accepts any advantage as an inducement to or reward for or otherwise on account of his giving assistance or using influence in, or having given assistance or used influence in -

- (a) the promotion, execution or procuring of, or
- (b) the payment of the price, consideration or other moneys stipulated or otherwise provided for in,

any such contract or subcontract as is referred to in subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence.

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Possession of unexplained property

10. (1) Any person who, being or having been a prescribed officer -

- (a) maintains a standard of living above that which is commensurate with his present or past official emoluments; or
- (b) is in control of pecuniary resources or property disproportionate to his present or past official emoluments,

shall, unless he gives a satisfactory explanation to the court as to how he was able to maintain such a standard of living or how such pecuniary resources or property came under his control, be guilty of an offence.

(2) Where a court is satisfied in proceedings for an offence under subsection (1)(b) that, having regard to the closeness of his relationship to the accused and to other circumstances, there is reason to believe that any person was holding pecuniary resources or property in trust for or otherwise on behalf of the accused or acquired such resources or property as a gift from the accused, such resources or property shall, in the absence of evidence to the

contrary, be presumed to have been in the control of the accused.

(3)-(4) (Repealed)

(5) In this section, “official emoluments” (公職薪俸) includes a pension or gratuity payable under the Pensions Ordinance (Cap 89), the Pension Benefits Ordinance (Cap 99) or the Pension Benefits (Judicial Officers) Ordinance (Cap 401).

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Confiscation of assets

12AA.(1) Subject to this section, where a person is convicted on indictment of an offence under section 10(1)(b) the court may, in addition to any penalty imposed under section 12(1), order the confiscation of any pecuniary resources or property-

- (a) found at the trial to be in his control as provided in section 10; and
- (b) of an amount or value not exceeding the amount or value of pecuniary resources or property the acquisition of which by him was not explained to the satisfaction of the court.

(2) Any application for an order under subsection (1) shall be made by the Secretary for Justice within 28 days after the date of the conviction.

(3) An order under subsection (1) shall not be made in respect of pecuniary resources or property held by a person other than the person convicted unless that other person has been given reasonable notice that such an order may be made and has had an opportunity to show cause why it should not be made.

(4) An order under subsection (1) shall not be made in respect of pecuniary resources or property held by a person other than the person convicted if that other person satisfies the court in any proceedings to show cause under subsection (3) that he had -

- (a) acted in good faith as regards the circumstances in which the pecuniary resources or property came to be held by him; and
- (b) so acted in relation to the pecuniary resources or property that an order in the circumstances would be

unjust.

(5) Nothing in subsection (4) shall be construed as limiting the court's discretion to decline to make an order under subsection (1) on grounds other than those specified in subsection (4).

(6) An order under subsection (1) -

(a) may be made subject to such conditions as the court thinks fit in all the circumstances of the case; and

(b) may be made in respect of an offence under section 10(1)(b) where the facts that gave rise to that offence occurred before the date of commencement of the Prevention of Bribery (Amendment) Ordinance 1987.

(7) A court may make orders under both subsection (1) and section 12(3) in respect of the same offence but shall not make orders under both provisions in respect of the same pecuniary resources or property.

(8) An order under subsection (1) may make provision for taking possession of pecuniary resources or property to which the order applies and for the disposal of such resources or property by or on behalf of the Government.

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Power to obtain assistance

16. (1) Any investigating officer conducting an investigation into an offence alleged or suspected to have been committed under this Ordinance may apply to any public servant for assistance in the exercise of his powers or the discharge of his duties under this Ordinance.

(2) Any public servant who when requested under subsection (1) to render assistance, without reasonable excuse neglects or fails to render such assistance shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of \$20000 and to imprisonment for 1 year.