

8 July 2025

For Immediate Release

### **Competition Commission conducts search in case relating to swimming pool services**

The Competition Commission (Commission) executed search warrants this morning at 12 premises, including the offices of a number of swimming pool service providers and the residences of seven individuals. The companies were suspected of having engaged in bid-rigging, price fixing, market sharing and exchange of competitively sensitive information when providing quotations for services to private swimming pools, including those in private housing estates, in contravention of the First Conduct Rule under the Competition Ordinance (Ordinance). The value of the relevant swimming pool services contracts totaled over HK\$30 million.

The Commission received complaints earlier alleging that certain swimming pool service providers engaged in anti-competitive conduct when submitting quotations which involved the supply of swimming pool maintenance services, equipment and lifeguard services, etc. The Commission followed up on the case and was satisfied that there is “reasonable cause to suspect” a contravention of a competition rule. The Commission therefore escalated the case to the investigation phase.

During today’s operation, in addition to executing the search warrants, the Commission also exercised its compulsory powers under Sections 41 and 42 of the Ordinance to request relevant parties to produce documents and information, and to attend before the Commission to provide information relating to the case.

Swimming is a popular recreational activity in Hong Kong and the demand for swimming pool services is strong. The suspected anti-competitive conduct not only harms competition in the market, but may also affect venue fees and service quality, potentially impacting many private housing residents and swimming pool users. The Commission would like to reiterate that cartels affecting people’s livelihood remain one of its key enforcement priorities. The enforcement action today demonstrated the Commission’s determination in combating such conduct.

The Commission calls on any parties who can provide information on the case or the practices concerned to contact the Commission by telephone at 3462 2118, e-mail ([complaints@compcomm.hk](mailto:complaints@compcomm.hk)), post, or in person at the Commission’s office (by appointment only). Those who may have engaged or been involved in cartel conduct should approach the Commission for leniency or cooperation (Leniency Hotline: 3996 8010; e-mail: [leniency@compcomm.hk](mailto:leniency@compcomm.hk)).

No further comment will be made at this stage as the investigation is ongoing. The Commission stresses that existence of the investigation does not prejudice its outcome.

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