

## Ambulancemen and CMPs charged for alleged medical expenses fraud

22 January 2014

Two Ambulancemen of the Fire Services Department (FSD) and two registered Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) have been charged by the ICAC today (Wednesday) with conspiracy to use false receipts to defraud the FSD and an insurance company of medical expenses totalling over \$72,000.

The defendants are Lam Kwok-keung and Tam Chun-hing, both 54 and Ambulancemen of the FSD; and Lie Pok-ha, 72 and Ho Wing-kam, 65, both registered CMPs, facing a total of 30 charges of conspiracy to defraud, contrary to the Common Law.

The defendants will appear in the Kwun Tong Magistracy at 9:30 am on Friday (January 24) for plea.

The case arose from a corruption complaint referred by the FSD. Subsequent ICAC enquiries revealed the above alleged conspiracy offences.

At all material times, Lam and Tam were Ambulancemen posted to Lam Tin Ambulance Depot and Tai Chik Sha Ambulance Depot of the FSD respectively. Lie and Ho were both registered CMPs practising at a dispensary in Yau Tong.

Lam and Tam sustained injuries while they were on duty in November 2010 and March 2011 respectively. Subsequently, they were diagnosed to suffer from back sprain.

Government employees, including staff members of the FSD, who have sustained injuries-on-duty or suffered from occupational diseases, are eligible to claim reimbursements of medical expenses incurred for direct out-patient treatment by registered CMPs at a maximum daily rate of \$200.

Nineteen of the charges allege that Lam conspired with Lie and a staff member of the dispensary to defraud the FSD and an insurance company by falsely representing that Lam had attended medical consultation with Lie; had purchased herbal medicine from the dispensary; and was entitled to claim for reimbursements of medical expenses.

As a result, the FSD and the insurance company were caused to pay Lam \$41,000 and \$3,640 respectively as reimbursements of medical expenses.

Four other charges allege Lam of having conspired with Ho and the staff member of the dispensary to defraud the FSD and the insurance company by using similar fraudulent means, causing the FSD and the insurance company to pay Lam \$5,400 and \$840 respectively as reimbursements of medical expenses.

The remaining seven charges allege Tam of having conspired with Lie and the staff member of the dispensary to defraud the FSD by using similar fraudulent means, causing the FSD to pay Lam \$21,200 as reimbursements of medical expenses.

The above alleged conspiracy offences took place between January 2011 and December 2012.

The FSD had rendered full assistance to the ICAC during the investigation.

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## 廉署起訴救護員及中醫師四人涉嫌 詐騙醫療費用

2014年1月22日

廉政公署今日(星期三)落案起訴兩名消防處救護員及兩名註冊中醫師，控告他們涉嫌串謀以虛假收據詐騙消防處及一間保險公司醫療費用共逾七萬二千元。

被告為林國強及譚振興，同為五十四歲及消防處救護員；李博霞，七十二歲，及何榮錦，六十五歲，同為註冊中醫師。他們被控共三十項串謀詐騙罪名，涉嫌違反普通法。

被告將於星期五(一月二十四日)上午九時三十分在觀塘裁判法院答辯。

廉署早時接獲消防處轉介的貪污投訴，調查其後揭發上述涉嫌串謀罪行。

林及譚於案發時為消防處救護員，分別隸屬該處藍田救護站及大赤沙救護站。李及何為註冊中醫師，同在油塘一間藥房執業。

林及譚分別於二〇一〇年十一月及二〇一一年三月因公受傷，他們其後被診斷為腰部扭傷。

政府僱員包括消防處人員，如因公受傷或患職業病，有資格就註冊中醫師為其提供的直接門診治療，申請償付醫療費用，每日最高款額為二百元。

其中十九項控罪指，林涉嫌串謀李及該藥房一名職員詐騙消防處及一間保險公司，即虛假聲稱林曾向李求診；曾在該藥房購買中藥；及有權申請償付醫療費用，因而導致消防處及有關保險公司向林分別發放償付醫療費用共四萬一千元及三千六百四十元。

另外四項控罪指，林涉嫌串謀何及該名藥房職員，以相類欺詐手法詐騙消防處及有關保險公司，導致消防處及有關保險公司向林分別發放償付醫療費用共五千四百元及八百四十元。

餘下七項控罪指，譚涉嫌串謀李及該名藥房職員，以相類欺詐手法詐騙消防處，導致消防處向譚發放償付醫療費用共二萬一千二百元。

上述涉嫌串謀罪行於二〇一一年一月至二〇一二年十二月期間發生。

消防處在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

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