Ex-enumerator charged with fraud over ICAC annual survey

A former part-time enumerator of a marketing research company has been charged by the ICAC today (Wednesday) with fraud and attempted fraud by using its 2013 annual survey questionnaires containing false information to deceive remuneration from the company.

Hsu Shui-pang, 40, a former part-time enumerator of MVA Hong Kong Limited (MVA), faces 16 charges - nine of fraud, contrary to Section 16A of the Theft Ordinance; and seven of attempted fraud, contrary to Section 16A of the Theft Ordinance and Section 159G of the Crimes Ordinance.

The defendant has been released on ICAC bail, pending his appearance at the Eastern Magistracy in the morning of this Friday (November 7) for plea.

The case arose from a corruption complaint. Subsequent ICAC enquiries revealed the above alleged offences of fraud and attempted fraud.

At the material time, the defendant was a part-time enumerator of MVA, which was engaged by the ICAC's Community Relations Department to conduct its 2013 annual survey on the public's perception of corruption.

Nine of the charges allege that the defendant falsely represented to MVA that he had conducted nine interviews with the targeted household members living in nine addresses as recorded in the ICAC Annual Survey 2013 questionnaires, and with intent to defraud, induced MVA to pay him remuneration at the rate of \$100 per questionnaire.

Seven other charges allege that the defendant falsely represented to MVA that he had conducted seven interviews with the targeted household members, who were within the age range of 15 to 64 or whose coming birthdays were closest to the interview dates, as recorded in the ICAC Annual Survey 2013 questionnaires, and with intent to defraud, attempted to induce MVA to pay him remuneration at the rate of \$100 per questionnaire.

The ICAC commissioned the marketing research company to conduct its annual survey last year, and the household interviews were conducted between October 19 and December 17, 2013. A small number of questionnaires were found to fail the quality check and were eliminated. The ICAC had given a detailed account to the Community Research Sub-Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations. Both committees were fully aware of the matter and considered that elimination of such questionnaires did not affect the integrity of the survey or the validity of the data collected. Findings of the ICAC Annual Survey 2013 were released in June this year after both committees endorsed the overall survey findings.

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廉署起訴前問卷調查員涉廉署周年

民意調查詐騙案

廉政公署今日(星期三)落案起訴一名市場研究公司前兼職問卷調查員·控告他涉嫌以載有虛假資料的二 〇一三年廉署周年民意調查問卷·向該公司欺詐及企圖騙取酬金。

許水鵬,四十歲,弘達交通顧問有限公司(弘達)前兼職問卷調查員,被控共十六項罪名,即九項欺詐, 涉嫌違反《盜竊罪條例》第16A條;及七項企圖欺詐,涉嫌違反《盜竊罪條例》第16A條及《刑事罪行 條例》第159G條。

被告已獲廉署准予保釋外出,以待星期五(十一月七日)上午在東區裁判法院答辯。

廉署早前接獲貪污舉報,調查後揭發上述涉嫌欺詐及企圖欺詐罪行。

被告於案發時為弘達的兼職問卷調查員。弘達當時受廉署社區關係處委託進行二〇一三年廉署周年民 意調查,以收集公眾對貪污情況的看法。

其中九項控罪指被告涉嫌向弘達偽稱他已如二〇一三年廉署周年民意調查問卷所載,訪問了九名居住 在九個地址的目標家庭成員,並意圖詐騙而誘使弘達向他支付每份問卷一百元的酬金。

另外七項控罪指被告涉嫌向弘達偽稱他已如二〇一三年廉署周年民意調查問卷所載,訪問了七名目標 家庭成員,而其年齡介乎十五歲至六十四歲,或其下一個生日最接近訪問日期,並意圖詐騙而企圖誘 使弘達向他支付每份問卷一百元的酬金。

廉署於去年委託該市場研究公司為廉署進行的周年民意調查,於二〇一三年十月十九日至十二月十七 日以家訪形式進行。在過程中發現小量未能通過品質檢定的問卷後,該些問卷已被剔除。廉署先後向 「社區研究小組委員會」及「社區關係市民諮詢委員會」詳細報告事件。在充分了解事件後,委員會 認為,在剔除相關問卷後,並不影響該民意調查的完整性及數據的真確性。廉署在獲得委員會確認整 體調查結果後,於今年六月公布二〇一三年廉署周年民意調查的結果。

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