

Press release

The Performing Industry Association urges the Government to introduce legislation to combat scalpers

The Performing Industry Association (PIA) spokesperson said today (9 April) that the scalping activities continue despite the recent increase in the number of tickets for public sale for large-scale concerts. They urged the Government to enact legislation with a clear timetable as soon as possible to act as a deterrent and tackle the problem at the crux.

The PIA has been concerned about the problem of scalping. To tackle the issue, despite the cost and administrative work, the industry has already introduced the following measures in recent large-scale concerts proactively:

- Increase the number of tickets offered for public sale
- Tickets for public sale are restricted to internet booking, mobile app booking and credit card telephone booking
- Tickets for public sale adopts the 'delayed ticket collection' practice. Customers can collect their pre-paid tickets from Cityline Ticket Dispensing Machines or at the sales counter at any of the URBTIX outlets with the credit card used for online booking starting from 14 days before the show date until the show date

Despite the above measures being rolled out, the problem of scalping is still serious. In recent months, the scalping for Hong Kong Coliseum concert tickets has continued. Some tickets have been resold to tens of thousands of dollars to nearly a hundred thousand dollars today, reflecting the increase in the number of tickets for public sale is impossible to solve the problem.

The PIA expresses disappointment regarding the Government's unilateral proposal on changing the 80:20 ticketing arrangement as it will pass on the problem to the industry unfairly. It reiterates that such proposal has no deterrent effect since it lacks legal backing and any changes on ticketing arrangement alone will only pour gasoline on the fire, failing to resolve the problem from the root. The Government should amend the laws to bring Hong Kong Coliseum and Queen Elizabeth Stadium under regulation, increase penalties, enact laws to regulate ticket resale platforms, put forward a specific legislative timetable and improve the ticketing systems to combat automatic purchasing computer programmes so as to crack down on scalpers effectively and safeguard the interests of consumers, fans, the industry and the general public.