

Eleven charged for alleged bribery over referral of hotel guests to tailor

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Eleven persons have been charged by the ICAC in four separate cases for their suspected roles in bribery scams in relation to referral of guests of various hotels to patronize a tailor.

In the first case, the defendants are George Kay Wai-ming, 48, proprietor of Baron Kay's Tailor (BKT); Ngai Yan-lung, 61, salesman of BKT; Wong Lai-ching, 52, and Lee Fung-ho, 47, both accounts clerk of BKT.

Kay, Ngai and Wong face one count of conspiracy to offer advantages to agents, contrary to Section 9(2)(a) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance and Section 159A of the Crimes Ordinance.

Kay, Ngai and Lee each faces a similar conspiracy offence with Wong, while Lee further faces one count of doing a series of acts tending and intended to pervert the course of public justice.

The defendants, currently on ICAC bail, will appear in Kowloon City Magistracy at 9:30 am on Thursday (June 26) for transfer to the District Court for plea.

The bribery charges allege that between December 2001 and January 2007, the defendants had conspired together to offer advantages to concierge staff of six hotels - The Marco Polo Prince, The Peninsula, The Marco Polo Gateway, Renaissance Kowloon Hotel Hong Kong, Marco Polo Hong Kong Hotel and Marriott Hong Kong Ltd. - as rewards for referring guests of the hotels to patronize BKT.

The remaining charge alleges that Lee, on January 4, 2007, with intent to pervert the course of public justice, had destroyed and discarded the commission forms placed at the premises of BKT, and deleted the files containing records of commission payments at the computer situated at the premises, knowing that there was an ongoing criminal investigation in respect of BKT and that the above documents were likely to be evidence in the said investigation.

In the second case, the defendants are Wong Hing-cheung, 60, Pan Wai-man, 43, Yeung Wing-wai, 33, all concierge staff of The Marco Polo Gateway; Cheng Chi-chiu, 59, and Leung Siu-ho, 46, both bell captains of the hotel.

The defendants face one count of agents conspiring to accept advantages, alleging that between mid 2005 and January 2007, they had conspired together with other persons to accept from BKT payments as rewards for referring guests of the hotel to patronize BKT.

In the third case, Chan Wing-yin, 46, chief concierge of Harbour Plaza Metropolis, has been charged with one count of agents conspiring to accept advantages.

The charge alleges that between January 2004 and November 2006, the defendant had conspired with other persons to accept from BKT payments as rewards for referring guests of the hotel to patronize BKT.

In the last case, Felix Wong Tim-ki, 27, concierge clerk of The Peninsula, faces one count of agent accepting an advantage.

The charge alleges that in early 2004, the defendant had accepted from Ngai Yan-lung a suit jacket, a pair of trousers and a shirt as rewards for having shown favour to BKT in relation to the hotel's business.

The defendants in the above three cases, currently on ICAC bail, will appear in Kowloon City Magistracy at 9:30 am tomorrow (Tuesday) for plea.