

**Chronology of events relating to the replenishment
of ballot boxes on the polling day**

Period	Events
6:30 am to 8:30 am	<p>CCC Helpdesk 2 (manned by 37 REO staff) and the four emergency depots at Quarry Bay, Kowloon Bay, Tai Po and Tuen Mun (manned by 51 REO staff) started operation at 6:30 am. 170 polling staff were also stationed at the four depots as reserve. 43 REO vehicles arrived at the four depots at around 6:30 am.</p> <p>35 vehicles (each with two reserve polling staff and one REO staff) departed from the four depots for delivery of ballot papers to 281 polling stations to increase their stock up to the level of the total registered electorate at around 7:45 am. Three other vehicles had already been deployed to deliver additional polling equipment to polling stations at around 7:30 am. One other vehicle also departed after 7:30 am to deliver polling equipment to polling stations.</p> <p>Throughout the day, the Helpdesk dealt with all kinds of enquiries and requests for polling equipment.</p>
At around 8:30 am	<p>Two requests for additional ballot boxes were received by Helpdesk 2. One request was made by the PRO of polling station T0107 (Mui Wo Sports Centre) at 8:28 am. According to the PRO, the ballot box was full after inserting several dozens of ballot papers. (This polling station was originally provided with two ballot boxes given the small number of registered electors. The voter turnout of the station as at 8:30 am was 40).</p>

The other request was made by the PRO of polling station T0101 (Tai O) at 8:30 am.

8:30 am to
9:30 am

A REO vehicle with closed road permit for Tung Chung Road departed from the Quarry Bay Depot at around 9:00 am to deliver additional ballot boxes to the two polling stations.

Requests for additional ballot boxes were received from 13 polling stations*.

As there were still some empty ballot boxes (varying from three to twelve) in these stations, delivery of additional ballot boxes to these stations was not made. The PROs were told to fold the GC ballot papers before issuing them to electors and shake the ballot boxes at regular intervals.

9:30 am to
10:30 am

14 requests for additional ballot boxes were received*.

The PROs were asked to inform the Helpdesk again when there were only two ballot boxes left.

CCC arranged a message sent through IVRS at 9:50 am to remind all PROs that the polling staff should fold the GC ballot papers before issuing them to electors. Instructions of the requirement to occasionally shake the ballot boxes and to use rulers or other apt instruments to flatten and press the content through the slot were also given to all polling stations whenever they called the CCC for additional boxes. Delivery of additional ballot boxes was made to some stations.

10:30 am to
11:30 am

67 requests for additional ballot boxes were received*.

Only four REO vehicles were immediately available for delivery of additional ballot boxes to polling stations. The Helpdesk started using taxis for urgent deliveries.

Some PROs started to call the Helpdesk repeatedly. Apart from requesting additional ballot boxes, they also enquired about the arrival time of the ballot boxes if urgent deliveries had already been made.

At around 11:15 am, the Helpdesk sought assistance from the Police Liaison Officer stationed at CCC at the Hong Kong International Trade and Exhibition Centre, who agreed to help and started to liaise with various Police districts.

11:30 am to
12:30 pm

81 requests for additional ballot boxes were received*.

Similar advice on folding of ballot papers, shaking of ballot boxes and using rulers to press the content of the boxes was given to the stations. Additional ballot boxes were delivered to stations using the second last or last ballot box.

Government Logistics Department's contractor (Dah Chong Hong (Motor Leasing) Limited) was contacted and they agreed to provide four more vans. At 12:00 noon, in consultation with the CEO, CCC decided to have resort to the 1200 old-style white GC ballot boxes kept in the Tuen Mun Depot. The transportation company, 大舊佬, was contacted immediately for deploying three large lorries to take 300 old-style white ballot boxes from the Tuen Mun Depot to each of the other three depots.

At 12:23 pm, the Helpdesk obtained a consolidated list of the number of additional ballot boxes required

by individual polling stations in the Central and Western District from the DLO of the Central and Western District.

(Based on the information collected by REO by way of questionnaire after the election, at least 26 polling stations received additional ballot boxes before 12:45 pm.)

12:30 pm to
1:30 pm

80 requests for additional ballot boxes were received*.

Some PROs were making repeated calls. Sometimes, the PRO, DPRO and APRO of a station called the Helpdesk and made the same request.

The four additional vans from the Government Logistics Department's contractor arrived at various depots at around 12:30 pm to 1:00 pm. Some REO vehicles deployed for delivery of ballot papers in the morning returned to various depots. All these vehicles were deployed to deliver additional ballot boxes to polling stations immediately. As in previous periods, priority was given to stations using the second last or last ballot box.

At around 12:45 pm, the Helpdesk asked the remaining 17 DLOs to help provide a consolidated list of the number of additional ballot boxes required by individual polling stations within their respective districts so that the Police in each district would arrange the delivery of additional ballot boxes to the polling stations according to the list.

Three large lorries from 大舊佬 arrived at the Tuen Mun Depot for delivery of 900 old-style white ballot boxes to the other three depots.

1:30 pm to
2:30 pm

89 requests for additional ballot boxes were received*.

PROs of stations without urgent needs were advised to wait for the replenishment by the Police. For stations using the last ballot box or located in remote areas (e.g. restricted areas or outlying islands etc), separate delivery by REO vehicles/taxis was made.

From 1:45 pm to 3:50 pm, the 17 DLOs provided the Helpdesk with the consolidated lists of requests for additional ballot boxes. The Helpdesk adjusted some requests immediately having regard to the number of registered electors of the polling stations concerned and the number of ballot boxes that had been allocated to the polling stations beforehand. The Helpdesk then passed the lists to the Police Liaison Officer for onward forwarding to relevant Police Districts for action.

A Police vehicle arrived at the Tai Po Depot at around 2:00 pm and departed with 36 ballot boxes for distribution to the stations in the North District at around 2:30 pm.

Lorries with old-style white ballot boxes departed the Tuen Mun Depot between 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm to the three other depots. One of the three lorries arrived at the Kowloon Bay Depot at around 2:00 pm and the Police vehicles of Yau Tsim Mong and Sham Shui Po districts were already there. Ballot boxes were transferred to the Police vehicles immediately, and all vehicles departed for the delivery at around 3:00 pm.

From 2:30 pm onwards, the Police started the delivery of the old-style white ballot boxes to polling stations from the four depots and had deployed up to 30 vehicles. They had made deliveries to some 450 polling stations throughout the day.

(Based on records kept by the Quarry Bay Depot, Kowloon Bay Depot and Tai Po Depot, a total of 294 additional ballot boxes were delivered to polling stations between 10:30 am and 2:30 pm. However, the records for Tuen Mun Depot were not available because the staff there were busy at arranging for the distribution of the old-style white ballot boxes to the other three depots and dealing with other tasks.)

2:30 pm to
3:30 pm

48 requests for additional ballot boxes were received*.

Some PROs called to amend their previous requests while some wanted to know the arrival time of the additional ballot boxes. Urgent delivery of ballot boxes to stations was still made by REO vehicles/taxis.

The lorry with old-style white ballot boxes arrived at the Quarry Bay Depot at around 2:30 pm. Ballot boxes were loaded to the Police vehicles at once, and the last Police vehicle left for the delivery at around 4:00 pm.

The old-style white ballot boxes arrived Tai Po Depot at about 3:00 pm. As staff at the Tai Po Depot and Tuen Mun Store were too busy, no records were kept on when the Police vehicles left for the delivery.

3:30 pm

CEO and members of EAC realized that the situation had got out of hand when they heard of the prolonged queuing of electors at a station in Sheung Wan for want of ballot boxes. CCC on the instructions of EAC, advised all PROs to unlock the front slot of the ballot boxes for ballot papers to be compressed through the slot if necessary.

3:30 pm to
4:30 pm

42 requests for additional ballot boxes were received*.

Some PROs called to check the arrival time of the additional ballot boxes. Urgent delivery of ballot boxes to stations was still made by REO vehicles/taxis.

Police vehicles of Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin and Kowloon City districts arrived at the Kowloon Bay Depot to collect the old-style white ballot boxes and then departed for delivery between 3:45 pm to 4:30 pm.

At around 4:00 pm, the Helpdesk asked the Tai Po Depot and Quarry Bay Depot to deliver 100 and 35 ballot boxes respectively to the Kowloon Bay Depot which was running out of ballot boxes quickly.

After 4:30 pm

52 requests for additional ballot boxes were received*.

Urgent delivery of ballot boxes to stations was still made by REO vehicles/taxis.

At around 4:40 pm, EAC instructed PROs to open the back of the ballot boxes for ballot papers to be re-arranged tidily to free up space for more ballot papers if necessary. The opening needed to be done in the presence of candidates/agents/police officers.

As the Tai Po District did not indicate its requirement until around 5 pm, Helpdesk 2 decided to deliver two additional ballot boxes to each station in that District.

At around 5:30 pm, some PROs in Sai Kung District told the Helpdesk that additional ballot boxes had not yet arrived. The Helpdesk immediately requested

the Kwun Tong Police District to help out. Three Police vehicles departed from the Kowloon Bay Depot at around 6:15 pm to distribute ballot boxes to stations in Sai Kung District.

At around 5:30 pm, 620 old-style red ballot boxes and 130 old-style blue ballot boxes stored in the Tuen Mun Depot were delivered to various District Offices for standby service.

- * The figures were compiled by REO based on available information upon the Committee's request. According to REO, the records were not complete as the situation was hectic on the polling day. Besides, the number of requests included repeated calls but the number concerned could not be established based on the available information.