

Press Releases

ICAC charges ex-ED of Insurance Authority with misconduct in public office over daughter-in-law's hiring by insurer

2024-3-7

A then Executive Director of the Insurance Authority (IA) and her daughter-in-law were charged by the ICAC today (March 7) with conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office (MIPO) by allegedly coercing and inducing an insurance company to hire the daughter-in-law with an enhanced salary package.

Hui Mei-ying, 61, former Executive Director and a member of the IA Board, and her daughter-in-law Chan Tsz-wai, 32, jointly face one count of conspiracy to commit MIPO, contrary to Common Law and Section 159A of the Crimes Ordinance. Hui further faces an alternative charge of MIPO.

The duo were released on ICAC bail, pending their appearance in the Eastern Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (March 8) for mention.

The IA is a statutory body regulating and supervising insurance industry and all members of its Board are appointed by the Chief Executive. Executive Directors of the IA are required to observe the "Code of Conduct for Authority Members" and "Employee Handbook". They are prohibited from using their official positions in a manner that is intended to coerce or induce another person to provide any benefit to them or their relatives or friends; and should avoid and declare any conflict of interest.

At the material time, Hui was the Executive Director, Long Term Business, of the IA cum a member of the IA Board. She oversaw the supervision and regulation of insurance companies carrying on long term business in Hong Kong, including

Prudential Plc and Prudential Hong Kong Limited (collectively known as Prudential). Her daughter-in-law, Chan, was a digital consultant.

It is alleged that between September 2022 and March 2023, Hui and Chan conspired together for Hui, in the course of or in relation to Hui's public office, without reasonable excuse or justification, to wilfully misconduct herself by using her official position in a manner that was intended to coerce or induce Prudential to offer employment to Chan with an enhanced salary package.

Apart from HUI's misuse of her official position, the alternative charge also alleges that Hui had failed to avoid and declare to the IA a conflict of interest.

The IA referred the case to the ICAC after receiving a report on the matter filed by Prudential. The ICAC investigation revealed that Hui allegedly sent Chan's curriculum vitae to a senior executive of Prudential to explore a job opportunity for Chan. When Chan and Prudential were discussing her salary package, Hui made negative comments to Prudential's senior management on its failure to hire the right talents with market salaries. Hui added that if the issue was not properly addressed, she would exercise IA's supervision power to institute a review on Prudential's operation which could cause Prudential millions of dollars.

The ICAC investigation also revealed that Chan, who was earning about \$960,000 annually at the material time, demanded a 30% increase of her salary to \$1.3 million from Prudential. When Chan was discussing her salary package with Prudential, she also allegedly told an employee of Prudential that she could help Prudential maintain a good relationship with the IA and that she could share insider information of the IA with Prudential. Prudential subsequently terminated the employment process in view of the potential conflict of interest.

The IA and Prudential have rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation into the case.

The ICAC reminds public officers that the powers which they are entrusted with should be used to serve the public good. They should uphold a high standard of integrity and discharge their duties honestly and impartially, and should never abuse their official capacity to obtain benefits for themselves, their relatives or friends.



新聞公佈

廉署起訴保監局前執董公職人員行為失當涉濫用職權威迫利誘保險公司高 薪聘用其媳婦

2024年3月7日

廉政公署今日(3月7日)落案起訴保險業監管局(保監局)一名時任執行董事及其媳婦,控告二人涉嫌串謀公職人員行為失當,威迫利誘一間保險公司以更高薪酬聘用該媳婦。

許美瑩,61歲,保監局前執行董事兼董事局成員,及其媳婦陳芷慧,32歲,同被控一項串 謀公職人員行為失當罪名,違反普通法及《刑事罪行條例》第159A條。許美瑩另被控一項 公職人員行為失當交替罪名。

二人已獲廉署准予保釋,以待明日(3月8日)在東區裁判法院應訊。

保監局是負責規管及監督保險業的法定機構,其董事局成員均由行政長官委任,執行董事 須遵守《保監局成員行為守則》及《僱員手冊》,不得利用職權,意圖脅迫或誘使他人向 其本人、親屬或友好提供好處,並須避免及申報利益衝突。

案發時許美瑩是保監局執行董事(長期業務)兼董事局成員,負責規管及監督在香港執行長期業務的保險公司,包括保誠有限公司及保誠保險有限公司(統稱保誠)。許美瑩的媳婦陳芷慧則從事數碼科技顧問工作。

許美瑩及陳芷慧涉嫌於2022年9月至2023年3月期間,一同串謀使許美瑩在擔任公職期間或在有關的情況下,無合理辯解或理由,故意作出不當行為,即利用許美瑩的公職,意圖脅 迫或誘使保誠以更高的薪酬待遇聘用陳芷慧。

交替控罪指許美瑩除涉嫌不當地利用其公職外,亦沒有避免利益衝突及向保監局申報利益 衝突情況。 保監局接獲保誠的事件報告後,將個案轉介廉署。廉署調查發現,許美瑩涉嫌向保誠一名 高層人員發送陳芷慧的履歷表求職。其後在陳芷慧與保誠商討薪酬待遇期間,許美瑩又涉 嫌向保誠高層批評保誠未能以市場薪酬聘請合適人才,並指若保誠不妥善處理此問題,她 會動用保監局的規管權力,要求保誠檢視其運作,這樣可以令保誠花費數以百萬元計。

廉署調查又發現,陳芷慧要求保誠給予她一個較她當時年薪(約96萬元)高出30%以上的待遇至逾130萬元。在與保誠商討薪酬待遇期間,陳芷慧又涉嫌向保誠員工表示,她可為保誠與保監局維持良好關係,及提供保監局的內部消息。保誠考慮到有關聘用可能存在利益衝突,主動終止聘用程序。

保監局及保誠在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

公職人員獲賦予的權力應為公眾利益而行使,其責任重大。廉署提醒公職人員必須恪守高度誠信,並誠實無私地履行公職,不可利用職權為自己或其親友謀取利益。

《返回目錄