

Who are “public servants”? According to the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (the POBO), “public servant” means any government officer and any employee or member of a public body, whether paid or unpaid.

So which organisations are “public bodies”? The Schedule of the POBO specifies over a hundred of public bodies in Hong Kong. Their operations and services have important bearings on the interests of the public and society as a whole. Here are some examples:

- Major service providers given a monopoly, franchise or license by the government, such as public transport companies and public utility companies;
- Organisations spending or disbursing substantial public funds, such as tertiary education institutions and public hospitals;
- Organisations performing public regulatory functions, such as regulatory bodies of the financial sector, insurance and real estate industries;
- Mass media organisations, such as TV and radio stations; and
- Organisations performing other important public functions such as housing and land development bodies as well as charitable organisations.

With the community’s ever growing demand for accountability, public servants should not only carry out their duties professionally, but also uphold a high standard of integrity, with a view to complying with the law, meeting public expectations and maintaining public trust. To know more about the probity requirements for public servants, please check out all other animated videos in this series!