



Press Releases

Ex-senior executive duo of duty-free chain store charged by ICAC over \$26m red wine purchase fraud

2022-7-25

Two former senior executive of a duty-free chain store were charged by the ICAC today (July 25) with conspiracy to defraud for allegedly inflating bottled red wine sourced from a French supplier by over \$12 million and reselling them to the chain store at over \$26 million.

Au Tsz-kei, 68, former merchandising and buying director of Sky Connection Limited (Sky Connection); and Lau Shu-yin, 75, former general manager of Sky Connection, jointly face one count of conspiracy to defraud, contrary to Common Law.

The defendants were released on ICAC bail, pending their appearance in the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts on Wednesday (July 27) for the case to be transferred to the District Court.

The ICAC investigation arose from a corruption complaint. The duo were charged upon legal advice sought from the Department of Justice after completion of the investigation.

The alleged offence took place between August 2004 and May 2011. At the material time, Sky Connection sold duty-free goods under the business name "Free Duty". The merchandising and buying department of Sky Connection, headed by Au, was responsible for sourcing wine and tobacco for sale at "Free Duty" shops. A winery in France was one of the vendors supplying bottled red wine to Sky Connection.

The charge alleges that the defendants conspired with a then chief executive officer of Sky Connection and a then subordinate buyer of Au to defraud the company by dishonestly causing it to place purchase orders for bottled red wine with Jetfair Development Limited (Jetfair) and Master Good Trading Limited (Master Good) instead of with the above French winery, thereby inducing Sky Connection to pay inflated prices for those red wine.

During the above period, Sky Connection had placed 56 purchase orders for bottled red wine with Jetfair and Master Good at over \$26 million. It is alleged that Jetfair and Master Good had sourced the bottled red wine concerned from the French winery at over \$14 million and resold them to Sky Connection at inflated prices, causing Sky Connection to make extra payments of over \$12 million.

ICAC investigation revealed that Lau and his daughter were the respective sole shareholder-cum-director of Master Good and Jetfair at the material time. It is alleged that Lau had never disclosed to Sky Connection his association with the two companies.

Sky Connection has rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation into the case.

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新聞公佈

廉署起訴兩名連鎖免稅店前高層採購2,600萬元紅酒涉詐騙

2022年7月25日

廉政公署今日(7月25日)落案起訴兩名連鎖免稅店前高層人員串謀詐騙，控告二人涉嫌從法國供應商購入瓶裝紅酒，抬高價錢逾1,200萬元後，以2,600萬元將紅酒轉售給該連鎖免稅店。

歐子琪，68歲，天傳有限公司(天傳)前營銷採購總監；及劉樹賢，75歲，天傳前總經理，同被控一項串謀欺詐罪名，違反普通法。

兩名被告已獲廉署准予保釋，星期三(7月27日)在西九龍裁判法院應訊，以待案件轉介區域法院。

廉署接獲貪污投訴遂展開調查，完成調查後向律政司徵詢法律意見，並按有關法律意見落案起訴二人。

案件涉嫌於2004年8月至2011年5月期間發生，當時天傳以「Free Duty」商號銷售免稅品。歐子琪是天傳營銷採購部主管，該部門負責尋覓煙酒貨源，供「Free Duty」店舖銷售。一間法國酒廠是天傳其中一家瓶裝紅酒供應商。

控罪指兩名被告涉嫌與一名天傳前行政總裁及歐子琪一名前屬下買手串謀詐騙天傳，即不誠實地致使天傳向輝添發展有限公司(輝添)和萬好貿易有限公司(萬好)而非上述法國酒廠發出瓶裝紅酒購買訂單，因而誘使天傳以被抬高的價錢購買該些紅酒。

天傳在上述期間向輝添及萬好發出56張瓶裝紅酒購買訂單，涉款共逾2,600萬元。輝添及萬好涉嫌以逾1,400萬元從上述法國酒廠購入紅酒，抬高價錢後把紅酒轉售給天傳，致使天傳多付逾1,200萬元。

廉署調查發現，案發時劉樹賢及其女兒分別是萬好及輝添的唯一股東兼董事，但劉樹賢被指從沒有向天傳披露他與該兩間公司的關係。

天傳在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

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