Ex-manager of insurance company charged with bribing bank staff for opening account for clients

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A former manager of an insurance company has been charged by the ICAC today (May 12) with offering bribes to three employees of a bank for assisting his clients to open bank accounts.

Chan Yuk-cheung, 28, former key account manager of China Taiping Life Insurance (Hong Kong) Company Limited (China Taiping Life Insurance HK), faces four counts of offering an advantage to an agent, contrary to Section 9(2)(a) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance.

The defendant will appear at the Eastern Magistracy on Thursday (May 14) for plea.

At the material time, the defendant was a key account manager of China Taiping Life Insurance HK which provided various types of insurance products to its clients.

Two of the charges allege that on December 19, 2018, the defendant, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, offered an unspecified sum of money to each of two employees of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) posted to a branch in Causeway Bay as an inducement to or reward for assisting clients referred by the defendant to open bank accounts with HSBC.

Another charge alleges that the defendant offered around \$1,000 to \$1,500 to another employee of HSBC posted to the aforesaid branch on the same day for the same purpose. The remaining charge alleges that the defendant offered around \$1,000 to \$1,500 to the same employee of HSBC on the following day for the same purpose.

The three employees of HSBC rejected the defendant's offers immediately and reported the matter to the management of the bank.

HSBC, which referred a complaint to the ICAC, has rendered full assistance to the Commission during its investigation into the case.

The defendant has been released on ICAC bail, pending his court appearance on Thursday.