

**Meeting of the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC)
with the Complaints & Internal Investigations Branch (C&IIB) (Open Part)
held at the IPCC Secretariat Office at 1535 hours on Tuesday, 20 September 2022**

Present:

IPCC

Ms Priscilla WONG Pui-sze, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP (Vice-chairman)
Hon Ronick CHAN Chun-ying, JP (Vice-chairman)
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP (Vice-chairman)
Mr Clement CHAN Kam-wing, MH, JP
Mr Alex CHU Wing-yiu
Ms Ann AU Chor-kwan, JP
Miss Sylvia LEE Hiu-wah
Dr David LEE Ka-yan, BBS, MH, JP
Prof Martin WONG Chi-sang
Mr Roland WONG Ka-yeung
Ms Jane Curzon LO, BBS, JP
Mrs Helen YU LAI Ching-ping, SBS
Dr Daniel CHAN Ching-yan, MH
Miss Mabel CHAN Mei-bo

Police

Ms Rebecca LAM Hiu-tong, DMS
Ms Anna TSANG Yim-sheung, ACP SQ
Ms Monica AU YEUNG Mun-yee, CSP C&IIB
Mr Joe CHAN Hin-kwan, SSP CAPO
Mr Simon CHAN Wai-ming, SSP SD CAPO
Ms Vicky CHAN Sze-ting, SP HQ CAPO
Ms Miki WU Miu-yee, SP SUP CRM

Secretariat

Mr Daniel MUI Tat-ming, SG
Ms Regina LAU Ngai-kit, DSG (OPS) (Atg.)
Ms Patricia WOO, DSG (MGT)
Ms Cherry CHAN Man-yi, LA

**Absent with
apologies**

Mr Wilson KWONG Wing-tuen
Ms Melissa Kaye PANG, BBS, MH, JP
Mr Johnny YU Wah-yung, JP
Dr Anissa CHAN WONG Lai-kuen, SBS, MH, JP
Mr LEE Man-bun, MH, JP
Mr Randy YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP

Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 June 2022 (Open Part)

2. The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed without amendment.

II. Presentation on ‘Protection and Support of Vulnerable Witnesses’

3. SP SUP CRM gave a presentation on the Police’s strategy in strengthening the handling of vulnerable witnesses and victims of sexual violence.

4. She introduced the multi-agency approach adopted by the Police and the relevant initiatives in collaboration with other government departments and non-government organisations. She also highlighted some newly promulgated measures, including (i) the strengthened co-operation with Department of Justice to speed up the handling of child abuse cases; (ii) the establishment of ‘Vulnerable Witness Support Cadre (VSC)’ to professionally deal with cases involving vulnerable witnesses; and (iii) the ‘Let’s T.A.L.K.’ Child Protection Campaign to enhance the public awareness of protecting children’s safety.

5. Mr Clement CHAN expressed concerns about the Police’s handling of victims’ personal data and sensitive case information. SP SUP CRM explained that all case details and personal data would be handled securely with proper access control in accordance with the well-established information security policy of the Police. Besides, the location of special interview suites designated for interviewing vulnerable witnesses would be kept confidential for privacy protection and safety.

6. Dr David LEE raised that teachers and school staff played a key role in identifying and reporting cases of child abuse, as they were in the position to observe the well-being of students and recognize any signs of abuse. He stressed that it would be of paramount importance to strengthen cooperation between schools and the Police at local working level. DMS assured that the Police treated all child abuse reports seriously and would continue to attach great importance to safeguarding the well-being of children in a joint effort with the education sector. The Police would render full support to the legislation of mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse which was being taken forward by the Administration.

7. Dr Daniel CHAN agreed that effective collaboration among stakeholders would facilitate early identification of child abuse cases. He added that timely report of such cases could be aided by deployment of closed-circuit television cameras at the childcare organisations and premises. Having said that, organisations should strike a balance between children's safety and privacy concerns. ACP SQ responded that the Police would continue to maintain close liaison with the concerned sectors and provide necessary assistance in implementing their enhancement measures.

8. Mrs Helen YU supplemented that the school sector should be reminded to act in compliance with the guideline on 'Handling Suspected Cases of Child Maltreatment and Domestic Violence' issued by the Education Bureau. She suggested that the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration might consider reviewing the relevant provisions in regulating the broadcast of obscene and indecent contents, so as to minimize any negative impact on younger generations.

9. Miss Mabel CHAN appreciated the Police's proactive approach and initiatives in public education and publicity campaigns to raise community awareness of child protection. She encouraged the Police to continue its efforts and initiatives on this.

10. Miss Sylvia LEE enquired about the Police's practice to protect the rights and welfare of vulnerable victims. In response, SP SUP CRM explained that upon receipt of suspected child abuse cases, the Police would as soon as practicable convene a 'Multi-Disciplinary Case Conference' with other professionals to formulate suitable welfare plans. In many cases, the Social Welfare Department could arrange accommodation to ensure the safety and welfare of victims.

11. Hon Ronick CHAN enquired about the ratio of VSC members to abuse reports and whether the cadre would be expanded. SP SUP CRM responded that there were over 1,200 child abuse cases in 2021. In other words, a single VSC member was required to handle approximately eight to ten child abuse cases last year. Nonetheless, the VSC had been adopting a proactive recruitment strategy and enhancing training for serving officers to cope with future challenges.

12. The Chairman appreciated the Police's efforts in safeguarding the best interests and rights of vulnerable witnesses through enforcement and education. She looked forward to establishing a culture of timely reporting of all kinds of abuse cases in the society.

13. SG thanked the Police for the informative presentation which provided an overview of the Police’s multi-agency strategies to handle cases involving vulnerable victims. He noted a decline in the number of complaints raised by vulnerable victims and recognised the effectiveness of relevant initiatives.

III. Matters for Information

(a) CAPO’s Monthly Statistics

14. SSP CAPO reported that in the first eight months of 2022, 763 RCs were registered, representing a decrease of 172 cases (-18.4%) when compared with 935 cases in the same period of 2021 and an increase of 16 cases (+2.1%) when compared with 747 cases in the same period of 2020. There were 337 cases resolved by ‘*Expression of Dissatisfaction Mechanism*’ (‘EDM’), representing an increase of one case when compared with 336 cases in the same period of 2021 and a decrease of 8 cases when compared with 345 cases in the same period of 2020. Breakdown of RC figures was detailed at Annex–Table 1.

(b) Statistics – Complaints Arising from FOO-related POEs

15. SSP SD CAPO updated the meeting on the figures of FOO-related complaints. As at 31 August 2022, there were a total of 1,949 complaints, including 618 RCs (31.7%) and 1,331 NCs (68.3%). Breakdown of the FOO-related RCs was detailed at Annex – Table 2.

(c) CAPO’s Criminal and Disciplinary Checklist

16. SSP CAPO reported that relevant information had been provided to IPCC Members for their reference prior to the meeting. No question was raised under this item.

IV. Any Other Business

17. There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 1630 hours.

(Vicky CHAN)
Joint Secretary
Complaints and Internal
Investigations Branch

(Patricia WOO)
Joint Secretary
Independent Police
Complaints Council

Table 1 - Detailed Breakdown and Comparison of RC figures

Year (Jan – Aug)		2022	2022vs2021	2022vs2020
RC (Total)		763	-18%	+2%
Minor	Neglect of Duty	419 (55%)	-17%	+23%
	Misconduct/Impoliteness	281 (37%)	-18%	+14%
	Offensive Language	14 (2%)	-30%	+0%
Sub-total		714 (94%)	-18%	+18%
Serious	Assault	38 (5%)	-21%	-57%
	Threat	2 (0.3%)	-67%	-80%
	Unnecessary Use of Authority	7 (0.9%)	-50%	-82%
	Fabrication of Evidence	2 (0.3%)	+100%	-67%
Sub-total		49 (6%)	-29%	-66%

Table 2 - Detailed Breakdown and Progress of FOO-related RCs

Minor	Neglect of Duty	105 (17%)
	Misconduct	184 (29%)
	Impoliteness	42 (7%)
	Rudeness	11 (2%)
	Offensive Language	11 (2%)
	Police Procedures	2 (0.3%)
Sub-total		355 (57%)
Serious	Assault	113 (18%)
	Threat	11 (2%)
	Unnecessary Use of Authority	137 (22%)
	Fabrication of Evidence	2 (0.3%)
Sub-total		263 (43%)
Total		618
Submitted to IPCC	Sub-total	586 (95%)
Yet to be submitted to IPCC	Suspended under ‘Sub-Judice’	30 (5%)
	Investigation Ongoing	1 (0.2%)
	Report being Compiled	1 (0.2%)
	Sub-total	32 (5%)