

IPCC's Position Statement
on the Introduction of the IPCC Bill to LegCo

The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) has noted the Administration would introduce the IPCC Bill into LegCo shortly.

The IPCC believes that the Bill will serve to further enhance its status as an independent body to monitor and review investigations of public complaints against the Police conducted by the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO). The IPCC therefore welcomes the Administration's proposed IPCC Bill, which provides a legal basis for the IPCC to operate independently in the discharge of its functions.

The IPCC wishes to emphasise that its effectiveness rests, to a considerable extent, on its ability to obtain free and unrestricted access to all materials relied upon by CAPO in the formulation of its report. The IPCC hopes that the proposed Bill would not hamper the IPCC's access to all information pertaining to any complaint, would allow the IPCC to give its recommendations and opinions on CAPO's complaint investigations, and would further require the Commissioner of Police to respond adequately to such recommendations and opinions.

The IPCC notes that in becoming a statutory body, the present Secretariat will be hived off from the Government and come directly under the control of the IPCC. The IPCC looks forward to the Administration and to LegCo's full support in providing the necessary resources and assistance to set up a proper administrative structure which is essential to the proper running of the IPCC.

The IPCC looks forward to participating in the discussion with the community and LegCo on the proposed Bill so as to ensure that a statutory IPCC is put in place to meet public interest and expectations.

Independent Police Complaints Council
27 June 2007