

**Reply to initial written question raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2024-25**

**Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security
Head : 121 Independent Police Complaints Council
Programme : Police Complaints Administration**

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member
<u>SB147</u>	0262	Hon CHAN Pui-leung

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0262)

Head: (121) Independent Police Complaints Council

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Police Complaints Administration

Controlling Officer: Secretary-General, Independent Police Complaints Council (Daniel MUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The objective of the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) is to ensure that investigation of Reportable Complaints by the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) of the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) is carried out in a thorough, impartial and efficient manner. In this connection, would the authority concerned please advise this Committee:

1. The staff establishment and salary expenditure of the IPCC in the past five years;
2. The number of complaints against the Police received and handled by the IPCC, as well as the average time required to examine the cases in the past five years; whether the IPCC has compiled a breakdown of complaint cases by category;
3. The number of recommended improvements to police practices or procedures made by the IPCC, and the number of recommended improvements accepted by the Police in the past five years;
4. The provision for 2024-25 is \$0.9 million (1.0%) lower than the revised estimate for 2023-24, representing another year-on-year decrease in the IPCC's provision. In this regard, would the authority concerned please advise in detail the specific reasons for the reduction in the provision; and
5. As mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25, the IPCC will continue to strengthen its communication and engagement with stakeholders to facilitate their understanding of the IPCC's work. Please provide details of the channels through which the IPCC communicated with stakeholders, the number of participants and the relevant expenditure in the past five years. Has the authority concerned assessed the effectiveness of such practices? If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

1. The number of posts and salary expenditure of the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) in the past five years are set out below:

Financial Year	Number of Posts	Staff Costs (\$'000)
2023/2024	68	\$59,124 ^{Note 2}
2022/2023	74	\$59,524
2021/2022	74	\$58,927
2020/2021	74 ^{Note 1}	\$59,825
2019/2020	68	\$61,234

Note 1: The IPCC recruited additional staff between 2020/2021 and 2022/23, to address complaint cases relating to the riots in 2019.

Note 2: This figure may be subject to adjustment.

2. Under the prevailing two-tier police complaints system, all complaints against the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) are received, handled and investigated by the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) of the Police. Upon completion of the investigation, CAPO will submit the investigation reports of Reportable Complaints, together with all relevant files, documents and materials, to the IPCC for scrutiny. A Reportable Complaint case may involve a number of allegations. The number of Reportable Complaint cases and allegations received and handled by the IPCC, and the average time required for complaint examination in the past five years are set out below:

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (As of February 2024)
Number of Reportable Complaint cases received and handled	1 293	1 390	1 705	1 419	1 471
Number of allegations received and handled	2 209	2 311	2 747	2 218	2 080
Average number of days required for complaint examination	125	162	142	105	65

A breakdown of the complaint allegations received and handled by the IPCC in the past five years (by category) is set out below:

Category of Allegation/ Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (As of February 2024)
Neglect of Duty	1 003	968	1 169	1 033	1 000
Misconduct/ Improper Manner/Offensive Language	910	1 011	1 307	942	945
Assault	175	168	119	137	77
Unnecessary Use of Authority	55	116	106	73	32
Threat	26	27	20	20	18
Fabrication of Evidence	40	16	22	12	6
Police Procedures	0	3	0	1	1
Other Offences	0	2	4	0	1
Total	2 209	2 311	2 747	2 218	2 080

3. In the past five years, the Police has accepted all the Service Quality Improvement Initiatives (SQIIs) made by the IPCC covering various policing areas, such as optimising traffic enforcement and stop-and-search procedures; making good use of computer forensic equipment and body-worn video cameras, thereby enhancing the efficiency and accuracy of policing work; and strengthening the communication skills and training of police officers, to enhance their capability in responding to different situations whilst on duty. The relevant figures are set out below:

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
SQIIs made by the IPCC to the Police	17	22	24	19	20

4. The IPCC will reduce its recurrent expenditure by 1% in 2024-25, in line with the Productivity Enhancement Programme applicable to all policy bureaux and departments. By optimising resource utilisation, the provision for the IPCC in 2024-25 will be sufficient to cover its operating expenditure.

5. In the past five years, the IPCC has enhanced public understanding of the Council by

engaging with stakeholders from various sectors, organising school programmes, producing publications and television drama, etc.

The IPCC has maintained close communication with the Police. In addition to regular working-level meetings and joint meetings with police representatives, the IPCC has conducted over 20 visits to various police units since 2019-20. These visits aim to facilitate in-depth exchanges with frontline police officers and gain insights into different challenges they face.

To reach out to more young people, the IPCC has organised about 60 talks and exhibitions in tertiary institutions and secondary schools through its school programme in the past five years. The IPCC has also met and exchanged views with over 20 professional groups, educational associations, representatives of relevant Mainland organisations and District Fight Crime Committees. Through game booths and large display boards at district carnivals and on-site introduction by staff, the public could also gain a better understanding of the IPCC’s work. The total number of participants in these events exceeded 20 000. During the activities, the IPCC received immediate feedback and gathered comments through questionnaires from various stakeholders, who showed their support for the IPCC’s work with positive responses. A number of schools have extended invitations for continuous collaboration with the IPCC, a proof of the recognition of the IPCC’s educational work among teachers and students.

Furthermore, the IPCC introduces its work to the public through radio interview programmes and feature articles in newspapers. Between 2020 and 2021, the IPCC produced “IPCC Frontline”, a television drama series which was broadcast on local free television channels and online platforms, attracting over 1.3 million viewers in total. In 2023-24, the IPCC has produced an animated promotional video targeting primary and secondary school students.

The publicity expenditure of the IPCC in the past five years is set out below:

Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Expenditure (\$'000)	8,821 ^{Note 1}	846	1,335	1,338	1,144 ^{Note 2}

Note 1: This figure includes the production cost of the television drama series “IPCC Frontline”.

Note 2 : This figure may be subject to adjustment.

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