

Press release

IPCC releases 2010/11 Report with increase of endorsed cases and allegations

286 investigation results were reclassified after IPCC's queries

(HONG KONG – 20 December 2011) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) today releases the 2010/11 Report, its second Report after incorporation in June 2009. The report reveals a slight increase of the number of endorsed complaint cases and allegations comparing with the same period last year. The report also includes some actual complaints cases which reflect IPCC is meticulous and impartial in reviewing and monitoring the handling and investigation of reportable complaints by the Police.

In 2010/11, IPCC scrutinised and endorsed the findings of 3,968 complaint cases involving 7,182 allegations investigated by the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) of the Hong Kong Police Force, an increase of 3.7% and 10.5% respectively over the previous year. During this period, the three most common allegations were “Neglect of Duty” (with 3,211 counts), “Misconduct/ Improper Manner/ Offensive Language” (with 2,632 counts), and “Assault” (with 515 counts). These three types of allegations accounted for 88.5% of all allegations made in 2010/11.

Of the 7,182 allegations endorsed in 2010/11, 2,105 allegations were fully investigated. Of these, 130 (6.2% of fully investigated allegations) were classified as “Substantiated”; 96 (4.6%) as “Substantiated Other Than Reported”; 61 (2.9%) as “Not Fully Substantiated”; 1,107 (52.6%) as “Unsubstantiated”; 567 (26.9%) as “No Fault” and 144 (6.8%) as “False”.

A total of 2,427 queries and suggestions were made by IPCC to CAPO in 2010/11. Out of these queries and suggestions, 1,708 were accepted by CAPO and the remainder were met with satisfactory explanations from CAPO. The acceptance rate was 70.4%. As a result of such queries, the classification of 286 allegations was changed from that earlier concluded by the Police.

Under the Observers Scheme, 1,974 observations were conducted by Members and Observers of IPCC (1,233 scheduled observations and 741 surprise observations) in 2010/11.

The number of observations increased by 6.1% compared with the 1,861 observations in 2009/10. Of the 1,974 observations, 1,771 involved the conducting of interviews and 203 involved the collection of evidence.

Mr Jat Sew-tong, Chairman of the IPCC said: "With increasing public awareness and higher expectations of accountability and transparency, the IPCC plays a significant role in ensuring that complaint investigations are handled by the CAPO in a fair, just and efficient manner. With our ongoing advice, CAPO has adopted a wider range of measures of establishing and analysing the facts of a complaint, which lead to more effective and efficient investigation findings. We have been working closely with CAPO to streamline the complaints handling process so as to ensure that all complaints would be handled as effectively as possible. In particular, in the past few years, over 70% of all reportable complaints are of relative minor nature."

Mr Ricky Chu, Secretary General of the IPCC, also shared three real complaint cases against the Police which were included in the Report. Two of these cases involve traffic related matter which is one of the common scenarios which leads to complaints against the Police. The other case is related to the Police's action in criminal investigation and bail arrangement. All these cases reflect IPCC's impartiality and meticulousness in examining investigation reports.

The IPCC 2010/11 report, released today, is available on the IPCC's website at <http://www.ipcc.gov.hk/>.

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Notes to editor:

About the Independent Police Complaints Council

The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) is an independent body established under the Independent Police Complaints Council Ordinance (IPCCO) (Cap. 604) to observe, monitor and review the handling and investigation of reportable complaints (RCs) against the Police by the Commissioner of Police (CP). The IPCC has become a statutory body since the commencement of IPCCO on 1 June 2009.