

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members  
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13**

**Head : 121 Independent Police Complaints Council  
Programme : Police Complaints Administration**

| <b>Reply<br/>Serial No.</b> | <b>Question<br/>Serial No.</b> | <b>Name of Member</b>     |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <a href="#">SB206</a>       | 2791                           | Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph |
| <a href="#">SB207</a>       | 2059                           | Hon. LI Fung-ying         |
| <a href="#">SB208</a>       | 1931                           | Hon. TO Kun-sun, James    |

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**SB206**

Question Serial  
No.

2791

Head: Independent Police Complaints Council                      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Police Complaints Administration

Controlling Officer: Secretary-General, Independent Police Complaints Council

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2012-13, additional staff is recruited by the Independent Police Complaints Council due to the increase in workload of vetting cases received from Complaints Against Police Office. Could the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) the number of staff planned to be recruited;
- (b) whether any assessment has been conducted on the number of staff to be recruited in order to fully cope with the increase in workload;
- (c) whether any assessment has been conducted on the average number of cases to be handled by each staff; and
- (d) whether an indicator for the maximum number of cases to be handled by each staff will be established in order to facilitate the assessment of manpower needs?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

- (a) In order to cope with the increase in workload of vetting complaint cases received from the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO), to strengthen public awareness of the role of the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC), and to fill vacated posts, IPCC is now recruiting a Senior Vetting Officer, a Vetting Officer, an Assistant Manager, an Assistant Public Relations Officer and an Assistant Information Technology Officer. The new recruits are expected to report duty in 2012-13.
- (b) Since it became an independent statutory body in June 2009, IPCC saw a continuous rising of expectation on the two-tier police complaint handling system along the changes in community sentiments. In the coming year, IPCC will strive to achieve the best utilization of its resources to respond to the society's demand. It will work towards the objective of fully discharging all functions conferred to it by the IPCCO.

- (c) In 2010-11, IPCC endorsed 3 968 complaint cases, involving 7 182 allegations. During the vetting process, 2 427 queries were raised. The Secretariat also assisted the 110 Observers and 24 IPCC Members to conduct 1 974 observations and follow up on the written reports of the 1 974 observations.

With the Secretary-General and Legal Adviser of IPCC aside, out of the 32 permanent staff of the Secretariat, 19.5 are responsible for vetting complaint cases and providing corresponding support; 2.6 are responsible for the Observers Scheme; 1.5 are responsible for public relations, engagement with stakeholders and the corresponding support; 7.9 are responsible for council support, information technology and administrative support. Recently, IPCC has made extra effort to juggle its existing resources so as to spare 0.5 staff for conducting preparatory work for the research on police procedures and practices.

In 2010-11, IPCC had 8 Senior Vetting Officers in post. In 2010-11, each officer handled an average of 496 endorsed complaint cases (or an average of 898 allegations) and raised 303 queries. Under the Observers Scheme, each staff handled an average of 759 observations and followed up on the written reports related to the observations. The workload was heavy indeed.

- (d) There are wide variations in circumstances and complexity between each complaint case vetted by IPCC. During the vetting process, IPCC carefully and thoroughly analyzes each case. Where necessary, CAPO is requested to clarify or provide further information. If IPCC and CAPO fail to reach consensus on the outcome of a complaint, the case will be submitted to working level meetings and joint meetings for discussion. This is an illustration of the high analytical capacity required by IPCC vetting, so as to achieve its objective of “equal respect of the interests of police officers and members of the public, independent and fair monitoring of complaints”. IPCC will strive to achieve the best utilization of its resources, including working together with CAPO to simplify procedures in order to speed up case vetting and handling of complaints, which has seen encouraging results.

IPCC became an independent statutory body in June 2009 and has been discharging its statutory powers for some two years. IPCC will conduct a review based on the actual case vetting experience accumulated in this period, with a view to establishing appropriate criteria for the indicators on number of cases to be handled by our staff.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: RICKY CHU

Post Title: Secretary-General,  
Independent Police  
Complaints Council

Date: 27.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**SB207**

Question Serial  
No.

2059

Head: Independent Police Complaints Council                      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Police Complaints Administration

Controlling Officer: Secretary-General, Independent Police Complaints Council

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) will strive to reduce the time taken to examine investigation reports submitted by Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO). In this connection, would the Administration provide the following information:

- a) What is the average time required for vetting each investigation report submitted by CAPO?
- b) What is IPCC's planned reduction of the vetting time in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

- a) The average time required by IPCC to vet police complaint cases in the past three years is set out below:

| Year | Average time required for completing a case | Completion rate within 6 months | Completion rate within 12 months | Cases pending processing at the end of year | Remarks  |
|------|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 2009 | 120 days                                    | 85%                             | 94%                              | 786   |  |
| 2010 | 153 days                                    | 81%                             | 90%                              | 474   | There was a significant increase in the number of police complaint cases in 2009-10. The IPCC Secretariat faced severe |

|      |         |     |     |           |   |
|------|---------|-----|-----|-----------|---|
|      |         |     |     |           | manpower shortage. The new staff recruited after IPCC became an independent statutory body also needed time to accumulate the necessary vetting experience. |
| 2011 | 95 days | 88% | 94% | About 150 | In 2011-12, the number of vetting teams increased from four to six. The number of cases pending processing was able to be reduced.                          |

- b) In 2012-13, IPCC will recruit one more Vetting Officer, hence increasing the vetting strength by 7.7%. IPCC believes that this will help speeding up the vetting process. However, it must be noted that the time required for vetting each police complaint case is affected by a number of factors, including the circumstances and complexity of the complaint, the time required by CAPO to respond to IPCC's queries, how experienced is our vetting staff, and other matters IPCC needs to tackle in parallel (for example, in 2009-10, IPCC took the initiative to explore with Police the operational procedures and guidelines relating to the illegal car racing activities on the Kwun Tong Bypass; or the current preparation of a report on incidents arising from the Vice Premier's visit to Hong Kong last year).

In the coming year, IPCC hopes to strengthen its capacity in discharging its statutory functions under sections 8 (c) and (e) of IPCC Ordinance<sup>Note</sup>, and at the same time strives to reduce the average time required for vetting cases to 90 days, or even less.

Note: IPCC Ordinance section 8

- (c) To identify any fault or deficiency in any practice or procedure adopted by the police force that has led to or might lead to reportable complaints, and to make recommendations (as the Council considers appropriate) to the Commissioner or the Chief Executive or both of them in respect of such practice or procedure.
- (e) To promote public awareness of the role of the Council.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: RICKY CHU

Post Title: Secretary-General,  
Independent Police  
Complaints Council

Date: 27.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**SB208**

Question Serial  
No.

1931

Head: Independent Police Complaints  
Council

Subhead (No. &  
title):

Programme: Police Complaints Administration

Controlling Officer: Secretary-General, Independent Police Complaints Council

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the differences between the Administration's budgeted provision to the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) and IPCC's requested provision, in terms of the types of purposes and the amount? How would IPCC's work be most affected as a result of the difference between the Administration's provision and IPCC's request?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

Section 8 of the Independent Police Complaints Council Ordinance (Cap 604) (IPCCO) provides for 5 major functions of IPCC. In 2012-13, the Government will provide an additional \$1.8 million to enhance the work of IPCC. Part of the additional provision provides extra recurrent resources for IPCC's functions under sections 8 (a) and (b) (i.e. vetting investigation reports of reportable complaints submitted by the Complaints Against Police Office) and enhancing information technology support. Another part of this provision provides additional resources for IPCC in respect of its function under section 8 (e) of the IPCCO (i.e. to promote public awareness of the role of the Council) for this financial year.

Since it became an independent statutory body in June 2009, IPCC saw a continuous rising of expectation on the two-tier police complaint handling system along the changes in community sentiments. In the coming year, IPCC will strive to achieve the best utilization of its resources to respond to the society's demand. It will work towards the objective of fully discharging all functions conferred to it by the IPCCO.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: RICKY CHU

Post Title: Secretary-General,  
Independent Police  
Complaints Council

Date: 27.2.2012