

Press release

The IPCC strengthens its publicity work to enhance public confidence towards the two-tier police complaints system

A real complaint case is released in the sixth issue of the IPCC Newsletter

(HONG KONG – 21 June 2012) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) today released its sixth issue of the *IPCC Newsletter*. The cover story recapitulates the IPCC's interim report on complaint cases arising from the Police's handling of the Vice Premier's visit to Hong Kong, while recent activities and latest publicity projects of the Council are also shared. Mr Edwin Cheng, one of the newly appointed IPCC Members has also contributed an article. A real complaint case concerning the Police's accountability is released.

Ir Albert Cheng, Chairman of the IPCC's Publicity and Survey Committee, said, "We are very concerned about the complaint cases on the Police's handling of the Vice Premier's visit last August, which has attracted widespread public interest. We have raised a number of queries in our interim report which are being addressed by the Police. We aim at releasing our final report as soon as practicable once the Police has answered those queries and provided the IPCC with the information requested in the interim report."

As the Chairman of the IPCC's Publicity and Survey Committee, Ir Albert Cheng is also enthusiastic about the Council's recent proactive publicity initiatives. "To discharge our function under S.8 (1)(e) of the Independent Police Complaints Council Ordinance, we plan to enhance public understanding about our work and to strengthen public confidence towards the two-tier police complaints system. A major perception issue of the current police complaints system is its credibility. As an independent complaint oversight body, it is important for us to gain public trust. The success of the two-tier system relies on the public trust towards the IPCC."

Ir Albert Cheng continued, "As one of our publicity initiatives, we are proud to have partnered with the RTHK to produce a series of eight short, viewer-friendly TV episodes adapted from real complaint cases, and we are looking forward to the filming work which will start soon." Through the series of TV episodes, the IPCC hopes to improve public understanding of the two-tier police complaints system, and to introduce the IPCC's meticulous approach in reviewing

and monitoring the Police's complaints investigation with an ultimate objective to enhance public confidence towards the two-tier police complaints system.

Mr Ricky Chu, Secretary-General of the IPCC, shared a real complaint case which embodies the meticulous approach adopted by the IPCC in terms of accountability. The complainant, a company owner, felt aggrieved by the Police's failure to conduct a thorough investigation into a theft case reported by him, lodged a complaint of "Neglect of Duty" against the investigating officer (i.e. the PC). After investigating the incident, CAPO recommended that the allegation of "Neglect of Duty" be classified as "Substantiated" and that the PC be warned without Divisional Record File entry in his record. Following a query from the IPCC, CAPO further held the PC's supervising officer accountable for negligence, and agreed to initiate disciplinary actions against both officers.

The sixth issue of the *IPCC Newsletter* is now available on the IPCC's website at: http://www.ipcc.gov.hk/en/reports_newsletter.html

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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.