

***Press release***

**IPCC releases 2011/12 Report with emphasis on reaching out to stakeholders**

***Less complaints and enhanced efficiency allow room for carrying out the expanded statutory duties under the Ordinance***

(HONG KONG – 19 December 2012) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) today releases the 2011/12 Report, its third report after incorporation in June 2009. In this reporting year, the IPCC has started to build a new pinnacle by intensifying its work in reaching out to stakeholders as part of its continuous effort in carrying out the new statutory duties as stipulated in S.8(1)(c) & (e) of the Independent Police Complaints Council Ordinance (IPCCO). The report also reveals a decrease number of endorsed complaint cases, as well as the substantial shortening of average number of days required for completing the scrutiny and endorsement of investigation reports submitted by the Complaint Against Police Office (CAPO) comparing with the same period last year. Three complaints cases are quoted in the report to reflect the IPCC's holistic and fair approach in reviewing and monitoring the handling and investigation of Reportable Complaints by CAPO.

When the IPCC became a statutory body on 1 June 2009, the Council was bestowed with two additional functions, i.e. to identify any fault and deficiency in police practices and procedures that has led to or might lead to a Reportable Complaint (S.8[1][c]), and to promote public awareness of the role of the Council (S.8[1][e]). Mr Jat Sew-Tong, Chairman of the IPCC said, "These new functions are uncharted waters which the statutory IPCC has to explore and conquer. Because of the surging number of complaint cases in the past few years, the statutory IPCC has not been able to fully discharge these functions. We are glad that satisfactory progress in these new areas has been made during the reporting year."

For stakeholder engagement, in addition to meeting with various units of the Police on regular intervals, the Council also had meetings with the Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor, the Civil Human Rights Front and the Hong Kong Journalists Association to gather their views on police handling of public order events and other related issues. These meetings helped the Council to better understand stakeholders' sentiments regarding police practices and procedures of handling the public order events. The IPCC has also increased its transparency

by arranging media interviews, collaborating with the media on feature articles, and responding to media enquiries promptly.

Mr Jat Sew-Tong further commented, "While we will continue to ensure thoroughness and fairness in the investigation to both complainants and complainees, the IPCC has considerably improved the efficiency of the complaint case review process. The average number of days required to review an investigated case has dropped from 145 days in 2010/11 to 86 days in 2011/12. This significant improvement was a result of streamlining the vetting procedures within the IPCC Secretariat which included a simplified protocol in raising queries with CAPO as well as a more flexible and pragmatic mechanism to facilitate exchanges of views and ideas between Members since early 2011. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Members and the Secretariat for the achievement."

In 2011/12, the IPCC scrutinised and endorsed the findings of 3,145 complaint cases involving 6,239 allegations investigated by the CAPO, a decrease of 20.7% and 13.1% respectively over the previous year. The three most common allegations continue to be "Neglect of Duty" (with 2,910 counts), "Misconduct/ Improper Manner/ Offensive Language" (with 2,271 counts), and "Assault" (with 417 counts). These three categories of allegations accounted for 89.7% of all allegations made in 2011/12. Of the 6,239 allegations endorsed in 2011/12, 1,829 allegations were fully investigated, of which 98 (5.4% of fully investigated allegations) were classified as "Substantiated"; 80 (4.4%) as "Substantiated Other Than Reported"; 54 (3%) as "Not Fully Substantiated"; 884 (48.3%) as "Unsubstantiated"; 596 (32.6%) as "No Fault", and 117 (6.4%) as "False".

The Observers Scheme continues to progress steadily last year, with 2,021 observations on CAPO investigative actions (1,747 on interviews and 274 on collection of evidence) conducted by IPCC Members and Observers, representing an increase of 2.4% compared with the 1,974 observations in 2010/11.

Mr Jat Sew-Tong concluded, "With our enhanced efficiency of reviewing investigation reports, and the decrease number of complaint cases, we should be able to develop our capacity further in discharging the new duties by proactively engaging our stakeholders as well as commencing research works on complaint related issues. Looking ahead, the IPCC will continue to raise its public awareness and enhance public understanding of the two-tier police complaints system through regular liaison with all stakeholders, including the Police, civilian concerned groups and the media."

Mr Ricky Chu, Secretary General of the IPCC, shared three real complaint cases in the Report. One case involved an “assault” allegation against the Police during a public order event. After the IPCC’s meticulous approach in reviewing the investigation report, and interviewing both the complainant and complaine, the IPCC was of the view that a definitive finding of “No fault” should be more appropriate. For the other two cases, in addition to offering its views on the classifications of the allegations, the IPCC had also made observations and recommendations, which were accepted by the Police, for the purpose of improving police practices and procedures.

The IPCC 2011/12 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.