

Press release

The IPCC continues to strengthen its outreach activities with stakeholders to enhance public confidence of the two-tier police complaints system

Two retired IPCC members recapitulated changes since the independence of the Council

(HONG KONG – 7 February 2013) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) today released its eighth issue of the *IPCC Newsletter*. The cover story recapitulates the IPCC's final report on complaint cases against the Police arising from the visit by the Vice Premier (VP) Mr Li Keqiang. This issue features an interview article with two retired IPCC Members and recent activities of the Council. A real complaint case is also disclosed.

Ir Albert Cheng, Chairman of the IPCC's Publicity and Survey Committee, said, "To discharge our function under S.8 (1)(e) of the Independent Police Complaints Council Ordinance (IPCCO), we have continued to enhance our transparency by exchanging views with the public through attending various public forums. In the past few months, both the Chairman and the Secretary-General have taken part in various public forums to explain the content of the IPCC's final report on complaint cases against the Police arising from the visit by the VP. In engaging stakeholders, the Council has planned to meet with representatives from the organising parties of the 1 January procession to listen to their views regarding the rally arrangements on that day. We believe face to face communications with the public and stakeholders would enhance the mutual understanding between the Council and the public, and we hope these efforts would strengthen the public confidence of the two-tier police complaints system."

Speaking of some recent changes in the Council, *Ir* Albert Cheng continued, "On behalf of the IPCC, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the two retired IPCC Members, Dr Hon Joseph Lee Kok-long and Dr Lam Chi-kit, who had witnessed the evolution of the IPCC from an executive-led administrative organisation to an independent statutory body in their six years of tenure. Both Dr Lee and Dr Lam had contributed significantly to the Council's work, ranging from scrutinising Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO)'s investigation reports to making suggestions for improving police service quality so as to minimise complaints. We believe that despite their departure they will continue to support the Council in the future."

Mr Daniel Mui, Deputy Secretary-General of the IPCC, shared a real complaint case which reflected the Council's meticulous and objective approach in reviewing a "Not Pursuable" complaint case which was reclassified as "Not Fully Substantiated". A complainant made a complaint of "Assault" against a Sergeant, after being arrested by police officers, charged and brought to court. In the subsequent hearing, she was released unconditionally by the court, as the prosecution offered no evidence against her. CAPO completed a comprehensive inquiry including interviewing the Sergeant and analysing the relevant crime case evidence, and classified the complaint case as "Not Pursuable" since CAPO concluded that without the complainant's further assistance, the inquiry was unable to arrive at a definitive finding, and that the complainant had not responded to CAPO's letters inviting her to assist in the investigation of her complaint, and had no other means of contacting her. After viewing the CCTV footage capturing the arrest of the complainant by the Sergeant, the IPCC was of the view that it contained reliable evidence to support the "Assault" allegation, and suggested the case should be classified as "Not Fully Substantiated". Furthermore, during its examination of the evidence, the IPCC noted that the Sergeant had made an inadequate statement in the criminal case against the complainant. Therefore, the IPCC suggested registering an additional "Substantiated Other Than Reported" count of "Neglect of Duty" against him. CAPO subscribed to the IPCC's suggestions and the Sergeant was issued a warning.

The eighth 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.