

**Press release**

## **The IPCC Releases Public Opinion Survey conducted by the University of Hong Kong**

### *Significant Increase in Public Awareness of the Council and its Duties*

(HONG KONG – 29 May 2013) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) today released its ninth issue of the *IPCC Newsletter*. The cover story recapitulates the results of IPCC Public Opinion Survey conducted by the Public Opinion Programme of the University of Hong Kong. A real complaint case is also disclosed, along with other contents including some reaching out activities of IPCC Members as well as an article by Mr Henry So, Acting Assistant Secretary-General of the IPCC.

The IPCC was first established in 1994 and became an independent statutory body on 1 June 2009. The public opinion survey conducted immediately before its independence in 2009 reflected that the public awareness of the then IPCC, which had been in existence for 15 years, was 61%. However, the public awareness has dropped to 33% in the 2010 survey after the Council became a statutory body. To address this anomaly, the Council has actively endeavoured to promote public awareness of the role of the Council, a statutory function as stipulated in S.8(1)(e) of the IPCC Ordinance. In the past two years, through media engagement and publicity activities, public awareness of the IPCC has surged to 68% with a significant increase in the 2013 survey.

It was also transpired from the 2010 survey that the public did not have a clear understanding and perception on the duties and functions of the IPCC. The latest survey results reflect major improvement in these areas as well. Public understanding of the functions of the IPCC has been increased from 13% in 2009 and 26% in 2010 to 58% in 2013, again a significant improvement. At the same time, 60% of the respondents aware of the Council knew that the IPCC is an organisation independent of the Police, an increase from 51% in 2009 and 59% in 2010.

Mr Jat Sew-Tong, Chairman of the IPCC, said, “The IPCC has been actively promoting public awareness of the role of the Council in recent years, in particular we have enhanced our external communications. This includes changing the *IPCC Newsletter* from a bi-annual publication to a quarterly one, organising regular media briefings, participating in public forums,

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The question number listed above follows the numbering in the questionnaire of the 2013 IPCC public opinion survey.

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meeting with various stakeholders, arranging media interviews, collaborating with the media on writing feature articles, responding to media enquiries promptly, and co-producing the *IPCC Files*, a mini-TV series, with the RTHK. All these publicity efforts have brought rewarding results. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Members' effort, especially the Publicity and Survey Committee's good work for such significant achievement."

In addition, the 2013 public opinion survey introduced some new questions concerning public confidence in the IPCC and the two-tier police complaints system; 43% and 44% of the respondents expressed confidence in the IPCC and the two-tier complaints system, respectively. Mr Jat Sew-Tong further commented, "This is the fourth year since the IPCC became a statutory body, and there is still room for improvement. This survey allows the IPCC to better understand the views of the public and to solicit their suggestions. We will continue to improve our efficiency and make efforts to identify new channels in enhancing public understanding of the IPCC. Our ultimate goal is to ensure the police complaints system of Hong Kong is fair, effective and transparent."

The survey was conducted by the University of Hong Kong Public Opinion Programme through telephone interview on a random sample between 5 March and 12 March 2013. There were 1,009 successful interviews of Hong Kong residents age 18 or above.

For stakeholder engagement, in addition to regular meetings with various Police units, the Council also had meetings with the Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor, the Civil Human Rights Front and professional drivers group. These meetings helped the Council to better understand stakeholders' opinions regarding police practices and procedures in handling events of public concerns.

Mr Daniel Mui, Deputy Secretary-General of the IPCC, shared a real complaint case which reflected the Council's meticulous evidence-based approach adopted in examining a serious allegation of "Fabrication of Evidence" which was eventually reclassified as "Substantiated" from "Not Fully Substantiated" after IPCC's queries. This particular case helps the public to understand the standard of proof adopted in determining the classifications of allegations in Police complaint investigations.

The ninth issue of the *IPCC Newsletter* is now available on the IPCC's website at: [http://www.ipcc.gov.hk/en/reports\\_newsletter.html](http://www.ipcc.gov.hk/en/reports_newsletter.html)

The results of IPCC Public Opinion Survey conducted by the Public Opinion Programme of the University of Hong Kong is now available on the HKU POP Site at: <http://hkupop.hku.hk/english/report/ipcc2013/index.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.

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# 監警會公眾意見調查比較資料

## The IPCC Public Opinion Survey Results Comparison Fact Sheet

	2009	2010	2013
電話訪問進行日期 Fieldwork period	3月11日至24日 11 to 24 March	3月6日至18日 6 to 18 March	3月5日至12日 5 to 12 March
樣本數目 Total sample size	N=1,007	N=1,015	N=1,009

Q1: 在電話訪問前，你有否聽過「投訴警方獨立監察委員會」，或簡稱「監警會(IPCC)」這個機構？

Q1: Have you heard of the Independent Police Complaints Council, the IPCC in short?

	2009	2010	2013
有 Yes	61%	33%	68%
沒有 No	39%	67%	31%

\*1% 不知道 Don't Know

Q3: 據你的了解，監警會的主要工作是甚麼呢？還有嗎？(不讀答案，可選多項)

Q3: From your understanding, what are the official duties of the IPCC? (Respondents can name more than one duty)

	2009	2010	2013
能正確說出監警會職責 IPCC's official duty	13%	26%	58%
不能正確說出監警會職責 Non-IPCC's official duty	79%	70%	59%
不知道 Don't know	11%	10%	10%

Q4: 有聽過監警會的受訪者認為監警會是:

Q4: The IPCC is (respondents aware of the Council):

	2009	2010	2013
完全獨立，不隸屬於警隊 Independent from the Police	51%	59%	60%
屬於警隊的一部份 Part of the Police	47%	38%	35%
不知道 Don't know	2%	3%	5%

Q5: 你認為市民投訴警察最有效的渠道是哪一種呢？(不讀答案，只選一項)

Q5: Which is the most effective channel to complain against the Police?

	2009	2010	2013
警方 (沒有註明部門) Police (not specified)	30%	30%	11%
投訴警察課 CAPO	24%	29%	20%
監警會 IPCC	20%	11%	24%
其他 Others	12%	11%	19%
不知道 Don't know	15%	20%	27%

Q9, Q10, Q11 及 Q12 對監警會以下四方面表現的評價

Q9, Q10, Q11 & Q12 Comments on the IPCC's performance in four areas below

	2009	2010	2013
獨立 Independence	60%	59%	53%
客觀及公平 Impartiality and Objectivity	53%	55%	46%
有效率 Efficiency	31%	39%	26%
透明度 Transparency	22%	25%	21%

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Q9: 你覺得監警會能否以一個獨立的身份，監察和覆檢市民投訴警察的個案? (讀出答案，只選一項)

Q9: Do you think the IPCC is independent in monitoring and reviewing police complaints?

	2009	2010	2013
獨立 Independent	60%	59%	53%
一般 Half-half	29%	28%	19%
不獨立 Not independent	10%	9%	19%
不知道 Don't know	1%	4%	9%

Q10: 你覺得監警會能否公平公正地監察和覆檢「投訴警察課」的調查工作? (讀出答案，只選一項)

Q10: Do you think the IPCC is impartial and objective in monitoring and reviewing police complaints?

	2009	2010	2013
客觀及公平 Impartiality and Objectivity	53%	55%	46%
一般 Half-half	38%	35%	28%
不客觀及不公平 Not impartiality and objectivity	6%	6%	13%
不知道 Don't know	3%	4%	13%

Q11: 你覺得監警會監察和覆檢投訴個案的效率如何? (讀出答案，只選一項)

Q11: Do you think the IPCC is efficient in monitoring and reviewing police complaints?

	2009	2010	2013
有效率 Efficient	31%	39%	26%
一般 Half-half	51%	43%	35%
沒有效率 Not efficient	6%	6%	13%
不知道 Don't know	12%	12%	27%

Q12: 你覺得監警會的監察和覆檢投訴個案的透明度如何? (讀出答案，只選一項)

Q12: Do you think the IPCC is transparent in monitoring and reviewing police complaints?

	2009	2010	2013
具透明度 Transparent	22%	25%	21%
一般 Half-half	50%	47%	40%
低透明度 Not transparent	23%	19%	24%
不知道 Don't know	5%	9%	15%

Q17: 整體上你覺得監警會的形象如何? (讀出答案，只選一項)

Q17: Generally speaking, how do you think the image of the IPCC?

	2009	2010	2013
正面 Positive	65%	68%	57%
一般 Half-half	31%	28%	32%
負面 Negative	3%	3%	4%
不知道 Don't know	2%	2%	6%

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