



Press release

The IPCC attends 1 July procession preparatory meetings as independent observer for the first time

Possible role as a bridge between the Police and stakeholders to enhance communications and reduce the number of complaints

(HONG KONG – 17 October 2013) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) today released its tenth issue of the *IPCC Newsletter*. The cover story recapitulates the IPCC's attendance of 1 July procession preparatory meetings and on-site observations on that day. This issue features recent activities of the Council and the Secretariat staff members' duty visit to police oversight bodies in Canada. A real complaint case is also disclosed.

Mr Jat Sew-Tong, Chairman of the IPCC, said, "To discharge our function under S.8 (1)(c) of the Independent Police Complaints Council Ordinance (IPCCO), for the first time, the IPCC assigned Secretariat staff members to attend, in an independent capacity, the 1 July procession preparatory meetings, to understand how a large-scale event was planned and prepared, and how those plans are executed on the day of the event. Staff members who attended the preparatory meetings then reported their observations to the Council in order to help Council Members better understand the general arrangements for a procession."

Mr Jat Sew-Tong continued, "The IPCC has always been in close contact with stakeholders and the Police, and recommended that the CHRF, the organiser of the 1 July procession, hold early meetings with the Police to discuss the arrangements. The preparatory meetings for the 1 July procession were moved up to start in mid-May this year. The better arrangements of 1 July procession this year was a result of the early preparatory meetings and the sufficient time for preparation. The IPCC looks forward to continuing its liaison with the Police and with stakeholders, and to act as a bridge between the two sides to improve communications and reduce the number of unnecessary complaints."

Mr Daniel Mui, Deputy Secretary-General of the IPCC, shared a real complaint case which reflected the Council's pragmatic and positive attitude in resolving different views with CAPO. In this instant case, CAPO had initially classified the allegation "Neglect of Duty" as "No Fault", for the complainees placed the complainant on the "Immigration Watch List", because this was a serious criminal case involving a large sum of money. Upon examination of investigation report and related files, the IPCC considered the case was too weak to form a reasonable suspicion of an offence and the complainees were negligent in putting the complainant on the "Immigration Watch List" at the beginning of the investigation and thus the allegation should be reclassified as "Substantiated".

Following a detailed case discussion at a working level meeting convened by the IPCC Members and Secretariat staff with representatives from CAPO, CAPO though reiterated that the inclusion of a subject on the "Immigration Watch List" should be decided on a case-by-case basis, it agreed with IPCC's view. The allegation was reclassified as "Substantiated" and "Not Fully Substantiated" subject to the different involvements of the complainees in the incident. Suitable advice would be given to the complainees.

The tenth 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.