



## ***Press release***

# **IPCC releases 2012/13 Report aiming at bridging the Police and stakeholders**

## ***Handles issues of significant public interest and transforms into a multi-faceted independent police complaints oversight organisation***

(HONG KONG – 27 November 2013) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) today releases the 2012/13 Report, its fourth Report after incorporation in June 2009. The report reveals the IPCC has strengthened the liaison with the Police and other stakeholders on issues of significant public interest. The IPCC has also been actively promoting public awareness of the role of the Council by enhancing the external communications. The report also includes four actual complaints cases which reflect the IPCC is meticulous and impartial in reviewing and monitoring the handling and investigation of reportable complaints by the Police.

Mr Jat Sew-Tong, Chairman of the IPCC said: "Apart from regular visits to police formations, the Council met with various public order events concerned groups, journalists and photographers associations as well as the professional drivers groups during the reporting year, to gather their views on police handling of public order events. Our aim is to act as a bridge between the Police and all stakeholders, to provide a platform for the exchange of views and to foster better understanding between everyone concerned. This would allow us to effectively discharge the IPCC's statutory function in preventing complaints from these stakeholders."

In addition to the usual work of monitoring complaints investigations carried out by the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) of the Hong Kong Police Force, the IPCC has also handled complaints of public interest and related matters, such as completed the review and monitoring of complaint cases arising from the Vice Premier's visit in August 2011. The Final Report on complaint cases arising from the visit by the Vice Premier was released in December 2012. The IPCC understands that the public concern about the police handling of public order events. Hence, IPCC Members attended the 1 July procession by accepting the invitation from the Police and stakeholders to better understand how the Police handled public order events. The IPCC has also proactively

increased its public awareness by engaging the media and initiating several publicity projects to enhance public understanding of its role and functions.

Mr Jat Sew-Tong continued: "We also engaged the Public Opinion Programme of the University of Hong Kong to conduct a survey so we could better understand how the public perceives our work and the areas in which we can improve. I am pleased to say the results inform us that our work is well recognised by the public and that public awareness of the IPCC has significantly increased in the past two years. Since the IPCC became a statutory body, we have transformed from a 'back-seat' review and monitoring body to a multi-faceted independent police complaints oversight organisation. This would have been impossible without the unfailing support of the Council Members and the sterling work of the Secretariat."

In 2012/13, IPCC scrutinised and endorsed the findings of 2,489 complaint cases involving 4,884 allegations investigated by CAPO, a decrease of 20.9% and 21.7% respectively over the previous year. During this period, the three most common allegations were "Neglect of Duty" (with 2,317 counts), "Misconduct/ Improper Manner/ Offensive Language" (with 1,789 counts), and "Assault" (with 323 counts). These three types of allegations accounted for 90.7% of all allegations made in 2012/13. Of the 4,884 allegations endorsed in 2012/13, 1,507 allegations were fully investigated. Of these, 101 (6.7% of fully investigated allegations) were classified as "Substantiated"; 61 (4.0%) as "Substantiated Other Than Reported"; 29 (1.9%) as "Not Fully Substantiated"; 630 (41.8%) as "Unsubstantiated"; 605 (40.1%) as "No Fault" and 81 (5.4%) as "False".

Under the Observers Scheme, 2,012 observations were conducted by IPCC Observers (1,667 scheduled observations and 345 surprise observations) in 2012/13. The number of observations slightly decreased by 0.4% compared with the 2,021 observations in 2011/12. In this reporting year, IPCC Observers attended 2,012 observations, comprising 67.5% of 2,980 notifications received from CAPO. The percentage represents a significant increase of 20% over the 47.5% attendance rate in 2011/12.

Mr Jat Sew-Tong concluded, "The Council is in the course of formulating a five-year plan to provide a roadmap for what we hope to achieve in the major areas of our work by the time the Council celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Looking ahead, we will continue to engage proactively with the Police and other stakeholders on issues of public interest; to exchange views with and, where appropriate, make suggestions to the Police on issues that affect service quality and the prevention of Reportable Complaints; to

strengthen the Secretariat's capacity to conduct complaint-related research to enable us to offer constructive suggestions and solutions to improve police services, to name a few."

Mr Ricky Chu, Secretary-General of the IPCC, also shared four real complaint cases against the Police which were included in the Report. Two of these cases involve the Police's action in criminal investigation and bail arrangement. The other case helps to illustrate the correct procedures for police handling of unclaimed "Found Property". All these cases reflect IPCC's impartiality and meticulousness in examining investigation reports.

The IPCC 2012/13 report, released today, is available on the IPCC's website at [http://www.ipcc.gov.hk/tc/reports\\_annual.html](http://www.ipcc.gov.hk/tc/reports_annual.html).

###

**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.