

**Press release**

**The IPCC observes 1 July procession from various perspectives**

*IPCC symposium shares international experiences*

(HONG KONG – 3 September 2014) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) today released its thirteenth issue of the *IPCC Newsletter*. The cover story recapitulates the IPCC observations of 1 July procession with a special feature on the IPCC Symposium. Other contents include the Council's recent activities and an article contributed by new IPCC Chairman, Mr Larry Kwok. A real complaint case about the IPCC's role in examining the Police handling of a reported crime is also disclosed.

Mr Larry Kwok, Chairman of the IPCC said, "In view of complaints arising from large-scale public order events from time to time, the IPCC had followed up the police handling of such event since 2009, including Members' on-site observation of 1 July procession starting from 2012, and Secretariat staff members' attendance of preparatory meetings between procession organisers and the Police since 2013. This has allowed the IPCC to consider public order events from various points of view while maintaining its impartiality."

To discharge its functions under IPCCO S8(1)(C), Secretariat staff attended preparatory meetings on 15 May, 5 June and 27 June before the 1 July procession this year, to learn of the arrangements for the procession, its route, the location of gathering points and the contents of the Letter of No Objection. Staff member who attended the preparatory meetings then reported their observations to the Council in order to help Council Members better understand the general arrangements of a procession. Moreover, a number of Council Members and Secretariat staff attended a briefing held by the Police before the procession and participated in the on-site observation on 1 July. Secretariat staff members were divided into small groups to observe the procession at different sites along its route so as to acquire a comprehensive understanding of the situation. In August, the IPCC met with the representatives of Civil Human Rights Front, the organiser of the 1 July procession, to listen to their opinions of police arrangement.

Mr Larry Kwok continued, "In recent years, there has been an increasing number of processions. Demonstrators often query the Police's deployment of their forces. Both the organisers and the Police were very concerned about the safety of the participants and the

smooth conduct of the procession. It is just that they had different views on crowd management. For better understanding and assessment of the situation, the IPCC has met with the Police, the event organisers and other stakeholders over the past two years to hear their plans and arrangements for the procession as well as their views on the handling of the procession. The IPCC hopes to serve as a bridge to build trust and reduce misunderstanding between them.”

This issue of newsletter also features the IPCC Symposium held on 27 May 2014 in collaboration with the Centre for Comparative and Public Law and Policing Studies Forum at the Centre for Criminology from the University of Hong Kong. The symposium aimed to strengthen public understanding of the IPCC as a police complaints monitoring body, to promote the two-tier police complaints system, and also to gather views from the public and stakeholders regarding the two-tier police complaints system as well as the future direction of the IPCC. The symposium began with a speech by the guest of honour, the Honourable Mr Justice Robert Tang Ching, Permanent Judge of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal and a former Chairman of the IPCC, and a welcoming speech by Mr Jat Sew-Tong, the former Chairman of the IPCC. It was then divided into three plenary sessions, namely, “An Overview of Police Complaints Systems from an International Perspective: Experience Sharing”, “The Police Complaints System in Hong Kong: Operational Challenges and Opportunities” and “Balance between Police Powers and Civil Rights”, for in-depth discussions between overseas and local guests.

Mr Daniel Mui, Deputy Secretary-General of the IPCC, shared a real complaint case that highlighted the meticulous approach adopted by the IPCC in examining a complaint of “Neglect of Duty” in the police handling of a crime reported by the complainant. The complainant had clearly told a station sergeant that the CCTV company was suspected of unlawfully accessing the computer system. Because the complainant failed to provide evidence, the station sergeant had ruled out the possibility of a crime having been committed without further enquiry. The IPCC observed that there was probably a prima facie case of “Access to Computer with Criminal or Dishonest Intent” pursuant to section 161(1) of the Crimes Ordinance. Upon IPCC’s queries, CAPO agreed that the station sergeant’s negligence was an error of judgment showing a lack of professional sensitivity, hence the allegation is reclassified as “Not Fully Substantiated” and is recommended advising the station sergeant.

The thirteenth 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)

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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.