

Press release

IPCC releases 2013/14 Report aiming at engaging stakeholders on issues of police complaints

Enhancing communication between the Police and the public and improving transparency through social media platforms

(HONG KONG – 3 December 2014) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) today releases its 2013/14 Report, the fifth Report after its statutory incorporation in June 2009. The report reveals that the IPCC has continued its liaison with the Police and other stakeholders and observations of the Police's handling of public order events. The Council, for the first time, has attended the procession preparatory meetings between the Police and the organiser to understand how large-scale events are arranged. The report also includes four actual complaints cases which show the IPCC being meticulous and impartial in reviewing and monitoring the handling and investigation of Reportable Complaints by the Police.

The IPCC, being in close contact with both stakeholders and the Police, recommended that the Civil Human Rights Front, the organiser of the 1 July procession, should hold early meetings to discuss arrangements for the event. The first preparatory meeting for the 1 July 2013 procession was moved up to mid-May, followed by three more meetings. The agenda included arrangements for the procession, its route, the location of gathering points, and the contents of the Letter of No Objection. Both parties had ample time to refine the preparatory arrangements. Moreover, for the first time, the IPCC assigned Secretariat staff members to attend the 1 July procession preparatory meetings in an independent capacity to understand how a large-scale event is 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 Members in their further discussions. In 2014, the IPCC was once again invited to attend the preparatory meeting held by the organiser and the Police, and conducted on-site observation for the arrangement of 1 January procession.

Mr Larry Kwok, Chairman of the IPCC said, "Although I was appointed the IPCC Chairman after the period covered by the Annual Report, I would like to thank the former Chairman, Mr Jat Sew-Tong, SC, for initiating the IPCC's on-site observations of public order events. I believe that this area of the IPCC's work is considered positive and helpful by all concerned parties as the IPCC has repeatedly been invited to take part in on-site observations and to attend the preparatory meetings for these events. Enhancing communication between

the Police and the public can help prevent disputes and reduce misunderstanding. The IPCC hopes to serve as a bridge to build trust and reduce misunderstanding between them.”

To discharge its function under S8(1)(e) of the IPCCO, the Council has expanded its external communications to promote public awareness of the IPCC’s functions. This includes converting the IPCC Newsletter from a biannual publication to a quarterly publication, holding regular press briefings, conducting media interviews and producing a mini TV series, *The IPCC Files*. The setting up of the “IPCC Channel” on YouTube and the production of the *IPCC Perspective* were further steps towards strengthening public awareness. The “IPCC Channel” allows the public to view archived footage of the IPCC from different periods. It reflects the IPCC’s objective of increasingly making use of social media to connect with the public, and to introduce its work and functions through videos, in order to enhance its transparency.

In 2013/14, IPCC scrutinised and endorsed the findings of 2,591 complaint cases involving 4,740 allegations investigated by CAPO, an increase of 4.1% and a decrease of 2.9% respectively over the previous year. During this period, the three most common allegations were “Neglect of Duty” (with 2,304 counts), “Misconduct/ Improper Manner/ Offensive Language” (with 1,735 counts), and “Assault” (with 316 counts). Of the 4,740 allegations endorsed in 2013/14, 1,318 allegations were fully investigated. Of these, 86 (6.5% of fully investigated allegations) were classified as “Substantiated”; 72 (5.5%) as “Substantiated Other Than Reported”; 43 (3.3%) as “Not Fully Substantiated”; 557 (42.3%) as “Unsubstantiated”; 467 (35.4%) as “No Fault” and 93 (7.1%) as “False”.

Under the Observers Scheme, 2,471 observations were conducted by IPCC Observers (2,128 scheduled observations and 343 surprise observations) in 2013/14. The number of observations increased by 22.8% compared with the 2,012 observations in 2012/13. For this reporting year, IPCC Observers attended 2,471 observations, comprising 83.2% of 2,971 notifications received from CAPO. The percentage represents a significant increase of 15.7% over the 67.5% attendance rate in 2012/13.

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 were reclassified from “Unsubstantiated” to “Substantiated” and “No Fault” to “Not Fully Substantiated” respectively upon the IPCC’s meticulous examination. The IPCC also suggested adding counts of “Substantiated Other Than Reported” classifications for the other two cases.

The IPCC 2013/14 report, released today, is available on the IPCC’s website at http://www.ipcc.gov.hk/tc/reports_annual.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.