

Press release

IPCC Report 2014/15 reveals a decreasing trend in the overall number of complaints

(HONG KONG – 2 December 2015) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) today released its 2014/15 report, the sixth report since its statutory incorporation in June 2009. The report recapitulates the IPCC’s work in the fiscal year 2014/15. During the reporting period, the overall number of complaints continued to show a decreasing trend. The report also includes three complaint cases that showcase the IPCC’s meticulous and evidence-based approach in reviewing the handling of Reportable Complaints by the Police.

Mr Larry Kwok, Chairman of the IPCC, stated, “During this fiscal year, investigation reports on 2,159 new cases were received from CAPO, with a decrease of 12 percentage points comparing with the 2,454 cases of 2013/14. This number includes the complaints arising from the Occupy Movement, which generated over 100 Reportable Complaints. We believe that this decreasing trend is partly due to the introduction of the Expression of Dissatisfaction Mechanism (EDM), which successfully re-directed minor complaints for separate handling, so that we could focus our efforts and resources on handling complaints of a more serious nature. In the past few years since the EDM has been implemented, it has effectively handled over one third of all complaint cases.”

Mr Larry Kwok continued, “At the same time, we understand that the Police have also been doing a lot of work on complaints prevention, and IPCC Members have been regularly invited to attend the Regional Complaints Prevention Committee meetings. I believe that the Police’s dedicated efforts in complaints prevention also helped reduce the number of complaints.”

In 2014/15, the IPCC scrutinised and endorsed the findings of 2,241 complaint cases involving 4,088 allegations investigated by the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO), a decrease of 13.5 percentage points and 13.8 percentage points respectively over the previous year. During this period, the three most common allegations were “Neglect of Duty” (with 2,082 counts), “Misconduct/ Improper Manner/ Offensive Language” (with 1,376 counts), and “Assault” (with 291 counts). These three types of allegations accounted for 91.7% of all

allegations made in 2014/15. Of the 4,088 allegations endorsed in 2014/15, 1,309 allegations were fully investigated. Of these, 76 (5.8% of all fully investigated allegations) were classified as “Substantiated”, 51 (3.9%) as “Substantiated Other Than Reported”, 26 (2%) as “Not Fully Substantiated”, 560 (42.8%) as “Unsubstantiated”, 522 (39.9%) as “No Fault” and 74 (5.7%) as “False”.

Under the Observers Scheme, 2,259 observations were conducted by IPCC Members and Observers in 2014/15. The number of observations slightly decreased by 8.6 percentage points compared with the 2,471 observations in 2013/14. For this reporting year, IPCC Observers attended 2,259 observations, comprising 79.3% of the 2,847 notifications received from CAPO. The percentage represents a slight decrease of 3.9 percentage points over the 83.2% attendance rate in 2013/14.

Mr Ricky Chu, Secretary-General of the IPCC, also shared three real complaint cases against the Police which were included in the report. Two cases involved classification changes from “No Fault” to “Not Fully Substantiated” and “Withdrawn” to “Substantiated” upon the IPCC’s examination. However, the IPCC also identified the misinterpreted accusations against a police officer on the basis of objective evidence, so in another case, the investigation results were reclassified from “Unsubstantiated” to “No Fault”.

The *IPCC Report 2014/15*, released today, is available on the IPCC website: http://www.ipcc.gov.hk/en/publications/annual_report/2014.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.