

Press release

The IPCC continuously outreaches to various stakeholders

Retired Members' sharing on their memories and challenges with the IPCC

(HONG KONG – 9 March 2016) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) today released its eighteenth issue of the *IPCC Newsletter*. The cover story features the IPCC's continuous engagement with various stakeholders. Former Chairman of the Publicity and Survey Committee (PSC), Mr Edwin Cheng Shing-lung, and recently retired Member Dr Chan Pui-kwong both contributed an article to the Viewpoint from IPCC. The council's recent activities and a real complaint case are also included.

Mr Larry Kwok Lam-kwong, Chairman of the IPCC, said that in discharging the IPCC's statutory function of promoting public awareness of the role of the Council under section 8(1)(e) of the Independent Police Complaints Council Ordinance, the IPCC has been regularly meeting with various stakeholders to hear their views on the two-tier police complaints system.

Mr Kwok said, "During the reporting period, the Council met with the Hong Kong Police Inspectors' Association, the Superintendents' Association and the Overseas Inspectors' Association to listen to their concerns about the IPCC's impartiality and the Police's difficulties in handling public order events. Members found these meetings immeasurably fruitful, as they helped the Council understand the Police's perspective from various levels within the police force. We have also fixed a meeting with the Junior Police Officers' Association in mid-March to better understand the views of frontline officers regarding the IPCC's work and the police complaints system."

In this issue's Viewpoint from IPCC, former Chairman of the PSC, Mr Edwin Cheng Shing-lung, and recently retired Member Dr Chan Pui-kwong shared memories and challenges during their tenures as IPCC Members. Mr Kwok said, "On behalf of the IPCC, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Cheng and Dr Chan for their commitment to the Council's work over the past few years."

Mr Kwok continued, "Mr Cheng and Dr Chan's contribution to the Council's work during the Occupy Movement have been significant. Not only have they worked tirelessly in reviewing the complaint cases, both Mr Cheng and Dr Chan took part in the on-site observation of the Police's clearance operation in Admiralty. We would like to thank them for their service to the

IPCC in the past few years, we believe that they will continue to serve the society in different posts.”

Miss Lisa Lau Man-man, Chairman of the PSC, said, “The District Fight Crime Committees have close working relations with both the Police and the citizens, so their work is connected with our work as well. With a view to increasing the DFCCs’ understanding of the IPCC and the two-tier police complaints system, the Council launched an outreach initiative last year to introduce the role and work of the IPCC to the DFCCs of all 18 districts. Currently we have visited the DFCCs of Wong Tai Sin, Tuen Mun, Central and Western, Sham Shui Po, Yau Tsim Mong and Sha Tin. We would like to thank all the DFCCs for making time in their meetings for our presentation and the DFCC members who shared their valuable feedback with us. These fruitful exchanges will enhance mutual understanding, and we look forward to visiting the remaining DFCCs in the coming months.”

Mr Daniel Mui, Deputy Secretary-General (Operations) of the IPCC, shared a real complaint case illustrating the IPCC’s examination of a complaint against a police investigation into a “Theft” report. In this particular case, the complainant was a tenant who made a “Theft” report against his landlord when he found that the landlord had entered his premises without his knowledge and some of his personal belongings were missing. The Police locked up the premises for two days before returning it to the complainant. The complainant then lodged a complaint of “Unnecessary Use of Authority” against the Police for locking up his premises without justification.

The Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) considered that because neither the landlord nor complainant could produce any proof at the scene that they were the bona fide occupant of the flat and they had their own personal belongings in the flat at that time, the Police’s decision to lock up the premises was fair, and therefore CAPO classified the allegation as “No Fault”. The IPCC was of the view that the roles of the complainant and the alleged intruder as the tenant and landlord were clear from the outset of the incident and there was hardly any investigation conducted to clarify their relationship before the premises were returned to the complainant, so the Police’s decision to lock up the premises was not fair or reasonable. Upon further deliberation, CAPO agreed with IPCC’s views and reclassified the allegation to “Substantiated”.

The eighteenth issue of the *IPCC Newsletter* is now available on the IPCC’s website at: <http://www.ipcc.gov.hk/en/publications/newsletters/2015.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.