

Press Release

**IPCC visited Police Tactical Unit Headquarters
to follow up on recommendations in its Thematic Study Report**

(HONG KONG – 1 June 2022) An Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) delegation of 11 Council Members and 15 Secretariat staff members, led by IPCC Chairman Ms Priscilla WONG Pui-sze, SBS, JP, visited Police Tactical Unit (PTU) Headquarters on 30 May. The visit was to follow up on the progress of police’s implementation of recommendations made by IPCC in its 2020 Thematic Study Report to review police’s use of force guidelines and practices and to strengthen training for police officers when dealing with riots.

During the visit, Commandant (Police Tactical Unit) briefed the delegation of follow up actions PTU had taken in five major areas, namely: (1) Riot training for frontline officers, (2) Command and coordination in tackling riots, (3) Dissemination of information to public in riots, (4) Effect of tear gas, and (5) Police guidelines on handling riots. PTU Commandant stressed that police’s use of force guidelines strictly conform to the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials adopted by the United Nations Congress (UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force).

PTU Commandant showed the delegation an array of less-lethal weapons, the use of which strictly complies with operation manuals written by the overseas manufacturers and conforms to UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force. These less-lethal weapons are currently used by overseas law enforcement agencies. Since the handover in 1997, PTU has progressively switched to weapons and ammunitions that are less lethal in order to minimize bodily harm to rioters, but at the same time allow frontline officers to effectively handle riot situations. The delegation also looked at the bullet-proof “Sabre-toothed tiger” armoured personnel carrier and the small size Specialised Crowd Management Vehicle that the police have newly acquired and would soon put into use.

The IPCC delegation further watched a series of scenario-based practical training exercises, and saw how frontline police officers, with an enhanced knowledge of the use of force, applied different levels of appropriate force and

anti-riot tactics to tackle riots of variable magnitude. Four IPCC Members took part in the drills in full internal security kits to experience how a riot platoon dealt with severe challenges in a riot. The experience would facilitate Members to have a better understanding of situations that might give rise to complaints against riot officers.

IPCC Chairman, Ms Priscilla WONG said after the visit, “The police have been actively implementing the 52 recommendations put forward by the Council in the Thematic Study Report. As to the recommendations on the use of force, the police have rolled out a number of improvement measures that would enhance frontline officers’ capability to deal with riot situations. This visit gives Members an insight into how the police deal with riots, using minimum force when necessary, to restore public order. It helps the Council to impartially examine complaint cases stemming from riots.”

With Photos:





Ms Priscilla WONG Pui-sze (IPCC Chairman) and Members, accompanied by Ms Rebecca LAM Hiu-tong (Director of Management Services), Mr Johnson CHAN Joon-sun (Director of Operations) and representatives of the Police, visited the Police Tactical Unit Headquarters.

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