

*Press Release*

**Press Statement from the Independent Police Complaints Council**

(Hong Kong - 16 April 2020) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) welcomes the judgement handed down today by the High Court regarding the judicial review of IPCC's Thematic Study on Public Order Events (POEs) since 9 June 2019 (the "Thematic Study"). It affirmed that the conduct of IPCC's Thematic Study did not exceed the remit of its statutory power.

The IPCC spokesman stated, "The Thematic Study is conducted to provide background information and ascertain facts which will facilitate Council's review of related complaints investigation reports based on evidence and in a fair and impartial manner, as well as identification of areas where Police procedures may have been deficient for the IPCC to make timely recommendations to the Commissioner or the Chief Executive or both of them in accordance with Section 8(1)(a) and (c) of the IPCC Ordinance."

The first interim report was originally planned to be published in early 2020. In light of the judicial review, the IPCC decided in January 2020 that it would not be appropriate to publish the report as planned. However the IPCC has continued its work on the Thematic Study in a fair and impartial manner under the IPCC Ordinance.

The IPCC spokesman added, "The IPCC understands that the Thematic Study is of great interest to the general public. As the court has made a ruling, the Council will convene a meeting to decide on the publication arrangement of the Report as soon as practicable. The Thematic Study Report will be a full report covering incidents related to POEs on 9 June, 12 June, 1 July, 21 July, 11 August, 31 August 2019, and issues related to San Uk Ling Holding Centre as well as Police Identification."

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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.