

Press release

Public confidence in the IPCC continues to rise

IPCC Organises symposium to map out future development

(HONG KONG – 7 May 2014) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) today released its twelfth issue of the *IPCC Newsletter*. The cover story recapitulates the results of IPCC Public Opinion Survey conducted by the Public Opinion Programme of the University of Hong Kong and details of the IPCC symposium. Other contents include the Council's recent activities and two articles contributed by new IPCC Members. Two real complaint cases about abusive language and behaviour are also disclosed.

Mr Edwin Cheng, Chairman of the Publicity and Survey Committee, said, "In order to assess public perception of the IPCC and its duties, as well as gathering views on the two-tier police complaints system and issues in relation to police complaints, the IPCC again commissioned the University of Hong Kong (HKU) Public Opinion Programme to conduct a public opinion survey in March 2014. We appreciate Dr Robert Chung's help in conducting this survey and the survey findings will be useful for us to map out our future development and publicity plan. We hope public opinion survey is to be conducted on an annual basis for a regular tracking of IPCC related matters."

In recent years, the IPCC has boosted public confidence to the Council and the two-tier police complaints system through proactive media engagement and publicity activities. The survey reflected that the public confidence in the IPCC has increased to 48% in 2014 compared with 43% recorded in 2013 whereas 52% of respondents were confident in the two-tier police complaints system compared with 44% in 2013.

In addition, public awareness of the IPCC as well as knowledge about its independent nature remains at a high level. In 2013, public awareness of the IPCC reached 68% and it remains at 67% this year. These figures have doubled the public awareness level of 33% in 2010 when the IPCC became a statutory body. At the same time, 63% of respondents who have heard of the Council knew that the IPCC is an organisation independent of the Police compared with 60% in 2013. This shows that members of the public have a better understanding about the IPCC's independent nature.

Results of the public opinion survey reflect the public perceptions of the IPCC since it became a statutory body in 2009. Five years have passed since the enactment of the IPCCO, 2014 is an appropriate time to take stock of what the IPCC has achieved and to reflect on its way forward. To this end, the IPCC is organising a symposium in collaboration with the Centre for Comparative and Public Law and Policing Studies Forum at the Centre for Criminology from the University of Hong Kong with a view to map out the future development of the police complaints system in Hong Kong.

Mr Edwin Cheng, Chairman of the Publicity and Survey Committee, continued, “The symposium will be held on 27 May 2014 at the Large Moot Court of the University of Hong Kong. This symposium aims at strengthening public understanding on the work of the IPCC and the two-tier police complaints system. We also expect to gather views from the public and stakeholders regarding the two-tier police complaints system and the future direction of the IPCC through the discussion of the symposium.”

Representatives from local judiciary, overseas academia and oversight bodies are to attend this symposium. There will be three main plenary sessions in this symposium. In the first session, overseas speakers will provide an overview of police complaints systems by international experience sharing. In light of these international experiences sharing, the second plenary session will examine the operational aspects of the system of complaints, and discussions will include ideas for minimising complaints and improving the complaints system. In the last session, local stakeholders and concerned groups will offer views on how to strike a balance between civil rights and police powers. The IPCC plans to explore the future development of the police complaints system in Hong Kong after gathering different views from stakeholders.

Mr Ricky Chu, Secretary-General of the IPCC, shared two real complaint cases that reflected the IPCC’s evidence-based approach to determine the independence of a witness. In a scenario where a police officer is alleged to have used offensive language in an encounter with a civilian, it is usually difficult to determine exactly what verbal exchange took place. Therefore such allegation (offensive / foul language) is usually classified as “Unsubstantiated”. These two cases illustrates the IPCC is meticulous in evaluating the weight of evidence provided by witnesses. CAPO re-interviewed the witnesses to clarify some ambiguities upon the IPCC’s recommendation and the allegations were re-classified as “False” and “Unsubstantiated”.

The twelfth issue of the *IPCC Newsletter* is now available on the IPCC’s website at:
http://www.ipcc.gov.hk/en/reports_newsletter.html

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.

監警會公眾意見調查比較資料

The IPCC Public Opinion Survey Results Comparison Fact Sheet

	2009	2010	2013	2014
電話訪問進行日期 Fieldwork period	3月11日至24日 11 to 24 March	3月6日至18日 6 to 18 March	3月5日至12日 5 to 12 March	3月3日至14日 3 to 14 March
樣本數目 Total sample size	N=1,007	N=1,015	N=1,009	N=1,039

Q1: 在電話訪問前，你有否聽過「獨立監察警方處理投訴委員會」，或簡稱「監警會(IPCC)」這個機構？

Q1: Have you heard of the Independent Police Complaints Council, the IPCC in short?

	2009	2010	2013*	2014*
有 Yes	61%	33%	68%	67%
沒有 No	39%	67%	31%	32%

*1% 不知道 Don't Know

Q3: 據你的了解，監警會的主要工作是甚麼呢？還有嗎？(不讀答案，可選多項)

Q3: From your understanding, what are the official duties of the IPCC? (Respondents can name more than one duty)

	2009	2010	2013	2014
能正確說出監警會職責 IPCC's official duty	(13%)	(26%)	(58%) 49%^	(47%) 40%^
說出錯誤的監警會職責 Non-IPCC's official duty	(79%)	(70%)	(59%) 53%^	(65%) 59%^
不知道 Don't know	(11%)	(10%)	(10%) 10%^	(14%) 14%^

^受訪者淨比率 Net % of Respondents

Q4: 有聽過監警會的受訪者認為監警會是:

Q4: The IPCC is (respondents aware of the Council):

	2009	2010	2013	2014
完全獨立，不隸屬於警隊 Independent of the Police	51%	59%	60%	63%
屬於警隊的一部份 Part of the Police	47%	38%	35%	31%
不知道 Don't know	2%	3%	5%	6%

Q5: 你認為市民投訴警察最有效的渠道是哪一種呢？(不讀答案，只選一項)

Q5: Which is the most effective channel to complain against the Police?

	2009	2010	2013	2014
警方 (沒有註明部門) Police (not specified)	30%	30%	11%	11%
投訴警察課 CAPO	24%	29%	20%	21%
監警會 IPCC	20%	11%	24%	24%
其他 Others	12%	11%	19%	17%
不知道 Don't know	15%	20%	27%	27%

Q9: 你覺得監警會能否以一個獨立的身份，監察和覆檢市民投訴警察的個案？(讀出答案，只選一項)

Q9: Do you think the IPCC is independent in monitoring and reviewing police complaints?

	2009	2010	2013	2014
獨立 Independent	60%	59%	53%	53%
一般 Half-half	29%	28%	19%	19%
不獨立 Not independent	10%	9%	19%	17%
不知道 Don't know	1%	4%	9%	11%

以上問題號碼依照 2014 年監警會公眾意見調查問卷編號。The question number listed above follows the numbering in the questionnaire of the 2013 IPCC public opinion survey.

由於進位原因，百分率的總和可能與總數略有出入。Percentage shares may not add up to the total due to rounding.

2009 年的調查是在監警會成為法定機構前(即警監會)進行。The 2009 public opinion survey was conducted before the IPCC became a statutory body

Q10: 你覺得監警會能否公平公正地監察和覆檢「投訴警察課」的調查工作? (讀出答案，只選一項)

Q10: Do you think the IPCC is impartial and objective in monitoring and reviewing police complaints?

	2009	2010	2013	2014
客觀及公平 Impartiality and Objectivity	53%	55%	46%	47%
一般 Half-half	38%	35%	28%	27%
不客觀及不公平 Not impartiality and objectivity	6%	6%	13%	14%
不知道 Don't know	3%	4%	13%	13%

Q11: 你覺得監警會監察和覆檢投訴個案的效率如何? (讀出答案，只選一項)

Q11: Do you think the IPCC is efficient in monitoring and reviewing police complaints?

	2009	2010	2013	2014
有效率 Efficient	31%	39%	26%	27%
一般 Half-half	51%	43%	35%	32%
沒有效率 Not efficient	6%	6%	13%	13%
不知道 Don't know	12%	12%	27%	29%

Q12: 你覺得監警會的監察和覆檢投訴個案的透明度如何? (讀出答案，只選一項)

Q12: Do you think the IPCC is transparent in monitoring and reviewing police complaints?

	2009	2010	2013	2014
具透明度 Transparent	22%	25%	21%	20%
一般 Half-half	50%	47%	40%	39%
低透明度 Not transparent	23%	19%	24%	24%
不知道 Don't know	5%	9%	15%	17%

Q13: 你對監警會有沒有信心? (2013 年調查新加入題目)

Q13: Are you confident in the IPCC? (Question introduced in the 2013 survey)

	2013	2014
有信心 Confident	43%	48%
一般 Half-half	32%	26%
沒有信心 Not confident	19%	20%
不知道 Don't know	7%	6%

Q15: 你對現時兩層架構投訴制度有沒有信心? (2013 年調查新加入題目)

Q15: Are you confident in the two-tier complaints system? (Question introduced in the 2013 survey)

	2013	2014
有信心 Confident	44%	52%
一般 Half-half	28%	22%
沒有信心 Not confident	18%	19%
不知道 Don't know	9%	7%

Q17: 整體上你覺得監警會的形象如何? (讀出答案，只選一項)

Q17: Generally speaking, how do you think the image of the IPCC?

	2009	2010	2013	2014
正面 Positive	65%	68%	57%	60%
一般 Half-half	31%	28%	32%	26%
負面 Negative	3%	3%	4%	6%
不知道 Don't know	2%	2%	6%	8%

以上問題號碼依照 2014 年監警會公眾意見調查問卷編號。The question number listed above follows the numbering in the questionnaire of the 2013 IPCC public opinion survey. 由於進位原因，百分率的總和可能與總數略有出入。Percentage shares may not add up to the total due to rounding.

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