

**Press release**

**Brand new series of *IPCC Files* to be broadcast in May**

***Retired Members share their insights and future outlook for the IPCC***

(HONG KONG – 5 March 2015) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) today released its fifteenth issue of the *IPCC Newsletter*. The cover story recapitulates the new TV drama series *IPCC Files*, jointly produced by the IPCC and RTHK. Highlights also include an interview with recently retired Vice-Chairman, Dr Hon Lam Tai-fai, and Members, Mr Eric Cheung Tat-ming and Ms Christine Fang Meng-sang. An article contributed by another recently retired Vice-Chairman Hon Abraham Shek Lai-him is also included in the newsletter. The Council's recent activities and a real complaint case illustrating the IPCC's efforts in identifying deficiencies in police practices are also included.

Mr Larry Kwok Lam-kwong, Chairman of the IPCC, said, "The production of *IPCC Files* is one of the major initiatives taken by the Council to discharge its function under the Independent Police Complaints Council Ordinance (IPCCO) Section 8(1)(e) - to promote public awareness of the role of the Council."

Mr Kwok also expressed gratitude to the insights imparted by the recently retired Vice-Chairmen and Members in this issue's Viewpoint. In their interview, Dr Hon Lam, Mr Cheung and Ms Fang discussed the challenges facing police-citizen relations, the importance of professionalism within the IPCC and the Police Force, and the value of IPCC's independence. Hon Shek shared his reflections upon departure from the IPCC and described the past six years at the IPCC as pleasant and meaningful.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Hon Lam Tai-fai, Hon Abraham Shek Lai-him, Mr Eric Cheung Tat-ming and Ms Christine Fang Meng-sang for their valuable insights, as well as their remarkable dedication and contribution to the Council's work. The Council has benefitted immensely from their support and wisdom in the past six years. We wish them every success in their future endeavours as they continue to contribute to our society from different posts," said Mr Kwok.

Mr Edwin Cheng Shing-lung, Chairman of the Publicity and Survey Committee, introduced the upcoming TV series *IPCC Files*. "The Council first partnered with RTHK in 2012

to produce a five-minute mini TV series and it was well received by the public. The series was one of the top 20 programmes shortlisted in the third stage of the '2012 TV Programme Appreciation Index Survey' conducted by the University of Hong Kong Public Opinion Survey," said Mr Cheng.

"The results were very encouraging," Mr Cheng continued, "And with the new 30-minute long episodes and the themes specifically selected to depict real-life situations where complaints against the police commonly arise, we hope to provide a more in-depth perspective on the concept and operation of the two-tier police complaints system through the new *IPCC Files*." *IPCC Files* will be officially released on 5 May 2015 and will be broadcast on RTHK31 and TVB Jade every Tuesday at 7pm. There will be eight 30-minute episodes based on real complaint cases.

Mr Daniel Mui, Deputy Secretary-General of the IPCC, shared a real complaint case that identified deficiencies in police practices. In this particular case, the complainant failed to produce her identity document upon request and attempted to leave the scene. During the struggle, the complainant was handcuffed and detained inside a police vehicle, but the police officers did not arrest the complainant. Instead, reinforcements were called in to make the arrest. CAPO explained that it was a working practice of frontline police officers for those who committed an "Assault on Police Officer" offence to be arrested by someone other than the officers involved in the incident.

The IPCC stated that this practice could lead to an absurd and unresolvable situation where either the suspect could not be arrested in a timely manner or the police officers concerned could face the risk of unlawfully detaining the suspect. CAPO agreed with the IPCC's view and registered a "Substantiated Other Than Reported" count of "Neglect of Duty" against the police officers for failure to arrest the complainant in a timely manner. CAPO also issued a reminder to frontline officers advising them of the importance of arresting suspects in a timely manner in accordance with proper procedures. Even in chaotic situations where offences concern assault or other criminal acts against one or more police officers, arrest action should be considered if there is prima facie evidence.

The fifteenth issue of the *IPCC Newsletter* is now available on the IPCC's website at: [http://www.ipcc.gov.hk/en/reports\\_newsletter.html](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.