

Press Release

**IPCC releases its 2017/18 Report –
Discharging its monitoring role to enhance quality of police services**

(HONG KONG – 5 December 2018) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) today released its 2017/18 Report, the ninth report since it had become an independent statutory body in June 2009.

During the reporting period of 2017/18, the IPCC received reports from Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) on the investigations of 1,616 new cases, which represented an increase of 3.1% compared to that of last year. Within the same period, the IPCC endorsed 1,617 complaint cases with a year-on-year increase of 4.3%,

The IPCC received 1,616 investigation reports on new cases, which represented an increase of 3.1% compared to that of last year. Within the same period, the IPCC endorsed 1,617 complaint cases with a year-on-year increase of over 4.3%. A total of 2,872 allegations were endorsed, representing a year-on-year increase of approximately 2.3%. The most common allegation was “Neglect of Duty” (1,452 counts, 50.6%) and the second most common allegation was “Misconduct/ Improper Manner/ Offensive Language” (1,043 counts, 36.3%). In other words, relatively minor allegations accounted for nearly 87% of the total number of allegations which was higher than that in last year (81.3%). The allegation that came third in terms of amount was “Assault” (181 counts, 6.3%), representing a year-on-year decrease of over 26%.

Although the number of complaints was broadly similar to that in the last year, in terms of investigation results, 134 allegations were classified as “Substantiated”, “Substantiated Other Than Reported” or “Not Fully Substantiated”, which represented an upsurge of 35.4% compared to 99 allegations in the last year. These three classifications, to a certain degree indicating the faults of the police officers involved, accounted for 13.3% of the allegations that required full investigation and higher than that in 2016/17 (10.6%). (Please refer to Annex I for more statistics)

Mr Richard Yu, Secretary-General of the IPCC pointed out that, “For the past nine years, the number of complaints received by the IPCC has dropped from the

peak of 3,686 in 2009/10 to approximately 1,500-1,600 in the past two years. Furthermore, number of serious allegations such as “Assault”, “Unnecessary Use of Authority”, “Threat” and “Fabrication of Evidence” has declined continuously from 1,366 counts in 2009/10 to the record low of 373 counts in 2017/18. Despite the decline in number of complaint cases and allegations, disciplinary proceedings or internal actions were taken against 130 police officers during the reporting period which accounted for an increase of 47.7% when compared to that of last year (88 police officers). Among the allegations classified as “Substantiated”, “Substantiated Other Than Reported” and “Not Fully Substantiated”, the number of serious allegations (e.g. “Assault”, “Unnecessary Use of Authority”, “Threat” and “Fabrication of Evidence”), as well as allegations related to “Police Procedures” and “Other Offences” involving disciplinary proceedings increased from 8 counts last year to 12 counts this year, representing a year-on-year increase of 50%. This situation caused our concerns. The IPCC suggests the Police to look into the matter and take appropriate actions.”

Apart from examining complaint cases, IPCC also puts great emphasis in performing its monitoring role. By enhancing its research efforts and analyzing data collected over the years, the IPCC identifies the causes that may lead to or have led to complaints to provide the Police with practical recommendations for improvement.

During the year, the IPCC made 26 recommendations regarding training for frontline police officers, police guidelines and practices. The recommendations included modification of police guidelines on the use of personal mobile phones for official duty purposes; improvement in the user-friendliness of the computer record system; and strengthening knowledge-building and training for police officers, including regularly reviewing the classification and assessment criteria for handling domestic violence cases. Nineteen out of 26 recommendations were accepted by the Police and the acceptance rate increased from 60% last year to 73% this year. The police also gave satisfactory explanations for the recommendations that could not be implemented immediately.

During the reporting period, the IPCC raised 1,090 Queries to CAPO on the investigation reports of Reportable Complaints. These Queries included classification of investigation results, recommended improvements to police practices and procedures, clarification of information in investigation reports and comments on actions against defaulting officers. Among them, the investigation results of 174 allegations were reclassified to more definite findings, including

“Substantiated”, “Not Fully Substantiated”, “No Fault” and “False”, which accounted for 17% of the allegations that required full investigation, ensuring both the Complainants and Complainees received fair treatment.

Mr Anthony Francis Neoh, QC, SC, Chairman of the IPCC stated that, “The IPCC believes that every investigation result serves as a good reference for the future even if the complaint allegations are minor ones. IPCC and CAPO are planning to launch a joint project to reduce complaints and enhance police’s service quality. We will analyze the big data on complaints over the years and share the results with the Police, which will enable them to learn from the past experience and enhance the training of frontline police officers.”

The IPCC will soon celebrate its tenth anniversary. The public opinion survey conducted by the University of Hong Kong Public Opinion Programme indicated that the public’s confidence in the IPCC has been on the rise for three consecutive years. This was not only a recognition to the IPCC’s work, but also a vote of confidence in the two-tier police complaints system. Firmly committed to upholding a high standard of impartiality, the IPCC will continue to examine all complaint cases based on a conscientious and evidence-based manner, in line with the public's expectation.

The IPCC Chairman Mr Neoh concluded that, “The IPCC will continue to strengthen its engagement with people from various professions, age groups, sectors and stakeholders at all levels. In addition to the on-going activities, the IPCC will launch two special events, namely “IPCC Youth Day 2019” to enhance youth’s recognition of the police complaints monitoring system in Hong Kong; and the “IPCC Symposium” which will allow us to review the progress and achievements in the past 10 years and learn from overseas experience to enhance public’s confidence in our work and to collect valuable opinions. At the same time, the IPCC will keep up its effort to facilitate the improvement of police service quality to better serve the people of Hong Kong.”

The IPCC Report 2017/18, released today, is available on the IPCC website:
http://www.ipcc.gov.hk/en/publications/annual_report/2017.html

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獨立監察警方處理投訴委員會 2017/18 工作報告
Independent Police Complaints Council Report 2017/18

數字摘要 Fact Sheet

接獲及通過的須匯報投訴個案數字

Number of Reportable Complaint cases received and endorsed

| <i>p.42</i> | 2017/18 | 2016/17 |
|---|-------------------------|---------|
| 接獲的須匯報投訴個案 Reportable Complaint cases received | 1,616 (↑3.1%) | 1,567 |
| 通過的須匯報投訴個案 Reportable Complaint cases endorsed | 1,617 (↑4.3%) | 1,550 |

監警會通過的指控 Allegations endorsed by the IPCC

| <i>p.43</i> | 2017/18 | 2016/17 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| 指控總數 Total number of allegations | 2,872 (↑2.3%) | 2,807 |

其中主要的三項指控 Three major allegations

| <i>p.43</i> | 2017/18 | 2016/17 |
|--|--------------------------|---------|
| 疏忽職守 Neglect of Duty | 1,452 (↑13.0%) | 1,285 |
| 行為不當／態度欠佳／粗言穢語 Misconduct/ Improper Manner/ Offensive Language | 1,043 (↑4.5%) | 998 |
| 毆打 Assault | 181 (↓26.1%) | 245 |

監警會通過的調查結果

Investigation results of allegations endorsed by the IPCC

| <i>p.45</i> | 2017/18 | 2016/17 |
|--|------------------------|---------|
| 獲證明屬實 Substantiated | 68 (↑38.8%) | 49 |
| 未經舉報但證明屬實 Substantiated Other Than Reported | 45 (↑12.5%) | 40 |
| 無法完全證明屬實 Not Fully Substantiated | 21 (↑110%) | 10 |
| 無法證實 Unsubstantiated | 419 (↑7.7%) | 389 |
| 並無過錯 No Fault | 401 (↑6.9%) | 375 |
| 虛假不確 False | 56 (↓23.3%) | 73 |
| 無法追查 Not Pursuable | 893 (↓11.9%) | 1,014 |

警方就監警會通過的投訴個案向違規的警務人員採取的行動

Police actions taken against defaulting officers in cases endorsed by the IPCC

| <i>p.48</i> | 2017/18 | 2016/17 |
|---------------------------|------------|---------|
| 刑事訴訟 Criminal proceedings | 0 | 0 |
| 紀律覆檢 Disciplinary review | 10 | 9 |
| 警告 Warnings | 31 | 17 |
| 訓諭 Advice | 89 | 62 |
| 總數 Total | 130 | 88 |

監警會向投訴警察課提出的質詢 Queries raised by the IPCC to CAPO

| <i>p.51</i> | 2017/18 | 2016/17 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| 質詢總數 Total number of Queries | 1,090 | 994 |

監警會通過的再分類調查結果
Change of investigation classification endorsed by the IPCC

| <u>p.53</u> | 2017/18 | 2016/17 |
|--|-----------------------|---------|
| 指控總數 Total number of allegations | 223 (↑6.7%) | 209 |
| 再分類為「獲證明屬實」 Reclassified to “Substantiated” | 30 | 21 |
| 再分類「無法完全證明屬實」 Reclassified to “Not Fully Substantiated” | 21 | 9 |
| 再分類為「並無過錯」 Reclassified to “No Fault” | 104 | 83 |
| 再分類為「虛假不確」 Reclassified to “False” | 19 | 22 |

監警會就改善警隊常規和程序提出的建議
Recommended improvements to police practices and procedures

| <u>p.54</u> | 2017/18 | 2016/17 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 建議總數 Total number of suggestions | 26 | 10 |

審核個案所需時間
Time required for examining complaint cases

| <u>p.55</u> | 2017/18 | 2016/17 |
|--|-----------|---------|
| 審核個案所需的平均日數 Average number of days required to examine a complaint case | 96 | 133 |

觀察數字及觀察員出席率
Number of observations and attendance rate of IPCC Observers

| <u>p.56&57</u> | 2017/18 | 2016/17 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| 觀察數字 Number of observations | 1,999 | 1,817 |
| 出席率 Attendance rate | 94.5% | 87.9% |

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