

Press Release

Press Statement from Independent Police Complaints Council

(Hong Kong – 11 December 2019) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) has the following response regarding the media coverage on the International Expert Panel (IEP) today: The IPCC convened two meetings on 13 November and 3 December 2019 to review progress of various aspects of the Thematic Study after soliciting views on the write-up of the study report from the International Expert Panel (IEP) at its meeting in early November.

Taking into consideration the work progress of the Special Task Force, IEP's views and the original timeline to issue the Thematic Study Report in the beginning of 2020, the Council resolved that the scope of the study would include incidents after 2 July which were of vast public concern. These referred to incidents occurred on 21 July, 11 August and 31 August including the handling procedures for arrested persons at the San Uk Ling Holding Centre on 11 August. The Council further directed the Special Task Force to incorporate IEP's advice in developing the first interim report for incidents occurred on 9 June, 12 June and 1 July, so that the Community, the Government and the Commissioner of the Police as a whole may consider the plan and direction for next steps.

The Council deeply appreciates the participation and contribution of the IEP members. Having considered the objective of producing an essentially factual interim report under the exceptionally tight time frame, the Special Task Force is tasked to consider IEP's advice thoroughly in finalising the first interim report to ensure a factual, impartial and fair account of incidents. The IPCC is pleased that IEP members' desire to remain engaged. After publishing the first interim report, depending on the development of events and needs, the IPCC will review the way forward and liaise with the IEP members on appropriate arrangements going forward.

Concerning the views on IPCC's investigation power, Council Chairman Dr Anthony Neoh, QC, SC, JP stated, "IPCC has taken note that we do not have investigation power under current setting hence support from the Chief Executive and the Commissioner of Police have been solicited for the Thematic Study. Nevertheless IPCC has to progress this initiative within the present IPCC Ordinance (IPCCO) with a view to offer improvement recommendations to the police and assist the examination of related complaint cases. Any change to current IPCCO would require consensus from the community and stakeholders and to be pursued in accordance with the statutory procedures."

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