

Press Release

Press Statement from the Independent Police Complaints Council

(Hong Kong – 16 January 2020) The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) held a Special In-house Meeting today to review the progress of the Thematic Study on Public Order Events (POEs) since 9 June 2019 (the Thematic Study) as well as to consider the impact of the application for Judicial Review (JR) to challenge the power of the IPCC to carry out the Thematic Study. The IPCC has proactively initiated the Thematic Study in July 2019 in accordance with the current IPCC Ordinance with a view to offering recommendations in improving Police practices or procedures and assisting the examination of complaint cases arising from related POEs. The first interim report was originally planned to be published in early 2020. On 20 December 2019, the High Court granted leave to an application for the JR which seek to challenge IPCC's power to conduct the Thematic Study. The parties are going to submit evidence so that the matter can be heard before the court.

The IPCC has been advised by its legal advisers that as court proceedings are ongoing, it will not be appropriate to comment on the merits of the application except in the course of the court proceedings. Having discussed with its legal advisers about the ongoing court proceedings and after considering the various implications of the possible outcomes of the JR, it was unanimously resolved at the meeting to postpone the decision on the publication of the interim report of the said Thematic Study until after the delivery of judgment in the JR. Nevertheless, taking note that it is in the public interest that an early decision on publication of the interim report should be made, the IPCC will use all efforts necessary to seek an early determination of the JR.

The IPCC Special Task Force has been working hard on the Thematic Study and was planning to submit the draft first interim report to the Council for consideration in the near future. The IPCC very much regrets that in light of the JR, it would not be appropriate to publish the first interim report as planned, but it will continue to work on the Thematic Study and to monitor and examine all Reportable Complaint cases arising from the POEs in a fair and impartial manner under the present IPCC Ordinance, and will as soon as the judgment of the court has been received, make a decision on publication.

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