

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Security

Public Access to Police General Orders

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on Hong Kong Police Force's review and decision on making Police General Orders (PGO) available for direct public access in all police report rooms.

Background

2. The issue was discussed at the meeting of the Panel on Security held on 7 November 2002. Having regard to the views expressed by Members, the Force agreed to re-consider the issue of allowing direct public access to PGO.

Force's plan to display PGO at Information Kiosks

3. As already explained in LC Paper No. CB(2)235/02-03(05), the Force has been committed to meeting requests for information, including relevant extracts from PGO. Requests may only be declined under conditions stipulated in Part 2 of Code on Access to Information.

4. Given Members' views on public access to PGO, the Force has reviewed the current practice and agrees to reinstate the provision of direct access to PGO for members of the public. It is the Force's intention to make available the whole set of PGO, except a number of chapters in which

disclosure may harm or prejudice the prevention, investigation and detection of crime and offences, or the proper and efficient conduct of the Force's operations. The public will be able to gain access to PGO electronically through the Information Kiosks in police report rooms.

5. Meanwhile, the Force requires more time to study which chapters need to be exempted for the above operational reasons. The Force also needs time to configure the existing Information Kiosks to better facilitate easy and user-friendly access to such information by members of the public. It is anticipated that the review and the uploading of the information onto Information Kiosks would take at least three months to complete.

Hong Kong Police Force
November 2002