

政府總部
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GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
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3 October 2007

Clerk to Panel on Security
(Attn: Mr Raymond Lam)
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Lam,

The Panel on Security discussed, among others, the following items at its meeting on 5 June 2007 –

- (a) Item VI : Police's support for the enforcement work of other government departments; and
- (b) Item VII : Processing of notification of public meetings and processions under the Public Order Ordinance (POO).

I am writing to provide the supplementary information requested by the Panel Members at the meeting.

In relation to item VI, the meeting asked for information on cases, if any, where Tobacco Control Inspectors (TCIs) had encountered resistance or violence in their enforcement of the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance (the Ordinance) and sought the assistance of the Police. According to the Police's record, from 1 January 2007 (when the Ordinance came into operation) up to 31 July 2007, there were 30 such requests for assistance. In all these cases, the offenders either refused or

were unable to produce Identification Cards and/or personal particulars when demanded by Tobacco Control Office staff. No violence was encountered.

On item VII, the Panel asked whether the Police had any record on public meetings and public processions held before 1997. According to the Police, before October 1998, they captured only simple statistics on public meetings and processions, specifically the total number of cases processed by the Police and the total number of cases that were prohibited / objected to. Based on available information, from 1984 to 1997, the Police processed notification for a total of 8 273 public meetings and 4 611 public processions. Of these, the Police prohibited 19 public meetings and objected to 27 public processions.

The Panel also asked whether apart from the case concerning the public procession which the League of Social Democrats proposed to hold on 10 March 2007, the Police had previously used "low visibility" as a ground for objecting to the holding of any public processions. The Force's record shows that from 1998 up to August 2007, there had been no other such cases.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Linda Leung)
for Secretary for Security