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Panel on Security

Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat

Communal Information System of the Hong Kong Police Force

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the Police's Communal Information System (CIS), which was introduced in January 1997.

Funding for the Communal Information System

2. On 29 January 1993, the Finance Committee approved a non-recurrent expenditure of \$299.37 million for the implementation of the Police's Information Technology Strategy (ITS). The main objective of ITS was to enable the Police to make use of modern information technology to maximise the utilisation of available resources and hence deliver speedy and quality service to the public. The estimated non-recurrent expenditure for CIS, which was one of the major application groups under ITS, was \$132.86 million.

3. The Finance Committee approved an additional non-recurrent commitment of \$66 million on 19 July 1996 for the full implementation of ITS in the Police. The Secretariat has made enquiries with the Administration regarding the portion allocated for CIS. The Administration has advised that it is unable to confirm the amount.

4. At its meeting on 7 February 2002, the Panel on Security was briefed on the Administration's proposal to upgrade CIS and expand its system capacity to cope with the growing operational needs. Members did not raise any questions on the Administration's proposal. A non-recurrent commitment of \$17.44 million was approved at the Finance Committee meeting on 10 May 2002 for upgrading CIS.

Functions of the Communal Information System

5. According to information provided by the Administration for Panel on Security in February 2002, CIS comprised three major components, viz. the Formation Information Communal System (FICS), the Regional Information Communal System (RICS) and the Traffic Operations and Management System (TOMS). Details of these systems are set out below -

- (a) FICS was designed to facilitate the daily operations of frontline Police officers at each Police station, with the following major functions :
 - (i) to record all case details such as incident, location and person details and supporting case enquiries;
 - (ii) to administer the record of detention, movement and release of arrested persons;
 - (iii) to keep track of all properties including safe properties and money, case exhibits, stolen properties and properties of detainees;
 - (iv) to allow matching of lost and found properties, stolen properties and missing persons;
 - (v) to support the preparation of case papers for court cases; and
 - (vi) to support various daily operations, such as bail processing, maintenance of bring-up reminders and crime messages, generation of police forms and reports and end of shift handover at report room etc.;
- (b) RICS was designed to facilitate daily operations at six Regional Headquarters and 15 bureau formations in the Police Headquarters. The functions of the system included all functions available in FICS and some special functions such as covert enquiries and cases handled by the Complaints Against Police Office; and
- (c) TOMS was designed for use by the traffic units. It handled traffic operations such as traffic and accident investigations, vehicle pound management for detained vehicles, traffic summons applications, traffic message processing and recording of alcohol test results for drink driving.

Relevant papers

6. Members may wish to refer to the following minutes and papers for further details about CIS -

Minutes

- (a) Minutes of meeting of the Finance Committee meeting on 19 July 1996;
- (b) Minutes of meeting of the Panel on Security on 7 February 2002;
- (c) Minutes of meeting of the Finance Committee meeting on 10 May 2002;

Papers

- (d) Administration's paper for the Finance Committee meeting on 19 July 1996;
- (e) Administration's paper for the meeting of the Panel on Security on 7 February 2002; and
- (f) Administration's paper for the Finance Committee meeting on 10 May 2002.

7. The above minutes and papers are also available on the website of the Legislative Council (<http://www.legco.gov.hk>).

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