

香港特別行政區政府  
保安局



The Government of the  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
Security Bureau

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19 July 2013

Miss Betty Ma  
Clerk to Legislative Council Panel on Security  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss Ma,

**Meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Security on 4 July 2012  
Item VI—Police’s crowd control arrangements in relation to public  
meetings and public processions—Follow-up Issues**

Regarding the supplementary information requested by Members at the meeting of the Panel on Security on 4 July 2012 in respect of agenda item VI “Police’s crowd control arrangements in relation to public meetings and public processions” (Item 4 of List of follow-up actions), the Administration’s reply is as follows.

**(a) & (b) Use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) foam**

Police officers may need to use OC foam to stop violent acts in a bid to restore public safety and public order when persons are involved or likely to become involved in violence or other behaviour likely to injure themselves or others. Safety regulations and guidelines on the use of OC foam are well in place. All front-line officers equipped with OC foam are required to undergo proper training in order that they have a clear understanding of the relevant safety guidelines. Officers have to ensure that the use of OC foam shall be in compliance with the principle of using minimum force.

OC foam in “large canisters” is not a standard equipment for front-line officers. Police officers shall obtain prior approval of the Police Tactical Unit’s Commandant or Deputy Commandant before equipping themselves with OC foam in “large canisters” during operations. Officers using OC foam in “large canisters” shall receive relevant training before they are allowed to use it.

According to the information provided by manufacturers, the ingredients of OC foam and those used in OC foam in “large canisters” are the same. While OC foam can be used to effectively stop violent acts, it does not cause permanent harm. As the detailed information on the use of OC foam by the Force concerns details of police operational deployment, it is inappropriate to disclose such information.

(c) Use of OC foam by the Police in an assembly at Harbour Road, Wan Chai on 30 June 2012

As requested by the Panel, a compact disc with the relevant Cable TV’s news footage on 30 June 2012 is attached for reference.

(d) Use of “water barriers”

During political dignitaries’ visits to Hong Kong, it is the absolute duty of the Police to ensure their personal safety. “Water barriers”, as part of the security measures, have been used on occasions such as the former US President Clinton’s visit to Hong Kong, the Conference of the World Trade Organisation, the Olympic Equestrian Events and the East Asian Games.

It is considered inappropriate to disclose information on the detailed analysis of the force required to topple a water barrier, as this will compromise future security operations. The Police do not have photos showing the detailed conditions of water barriers during the operation on that day.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Millie Ng)  
for Secretary for Security

c.c.:

Commissioner of Police  
(Attn: Assistant Commissioner of Police (Operations)) Fax No: 2865 1383