

**Item 1 : Details of ICAC's policy, rules and guidelines on duty visits when Mr Timothy TONG was serving as the Commissioner of ICAC; whether there have been any reviews on the policy, rules and guidelines during and after Mr TONG's tenure, and what changes have been made as a result of such reviews.**

- (a) The ICAC follows government regulations in drawing up its policy, rules and guidelines on duty visits outside Hong Kong, in the form of Commission Standing Orders. Duty visits are considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the operational needs such as obligation to attend certain international conferences, duration and place of visit, the status and number of officials to be met, etc. There was no review conducted on the subject during Mr TONG's tenure as Commissioner of ICAC.
- (b) The approving authorities for duty visits outside Hong Kong are as follows :
  - (i) the Chief Executive : for the Commissioner;
  - (ii) the Commissioner : for all non-investigation related duty visits; and for investigation related duty visits by the Deputy Commissioner (who is also the Head of Operations) and Directors of Investigation of the Operations Department; and
  - (iii) Directors of Investigation : for investigation related duty visits of other officers in the Operations Department.
- (c) After a review in May 2013, the ICAC issued further guidelines emphasising that the number of officers joining a duty visit, their duration of stay and participation in programmes of the visit should be kept to the minimum as far as the official purposes of a visit are met.