

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)110/16-17(05)

Ref : CB2/PL/SE

Panel on Security

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 11 November 2016**

Measures adopted by the Police to combat telephone deception

Purpose

This paper summarizes past discussions of the Panel on Security ("the Panel") on issues relating to measures adopted by the Police to combat telephone deception.

Background

2. According to information provided by the Police on the crime situation in Hong Kong, 9 353 cases of deception were recorded in 2015, representing an increase of 5.6% or 492 cases over 2014. Among these, there was a significant increase of 660 cases in telephone deception to 2 880 cases.

Deliberations of the Panel

3. While the Panel had not discussed the subject of combating telephone deception per se, members expressed concern about the recent prevalence of telephone deception when the Panel was briefed on the crime situation in Hong Kong. The deliberations are summarized in the following paragraphs.

4. Members were concerned that culprits of telephone deceptions had employed many different defrauding tricks, for example, by making excuses such as saving the life of a family member, to deceive the victim. Many of

these deception cases which involved great financial loss to the victims were targeted at the elderly.

5. The Police advised that they had all along been adopting a three-pronged strategy which included prevention of crime, carrying out intelligence-led operations, and conducting prompt investigations to combat deception activities including telephone deceptions targeting at the elderly.

6. In respect of crime prevention, members noted that the Police had stepped up efforts in preventing deception activities through enhanced publicity. Besides raising the awareness of members of the public through the media, District Response Teams had been established to strengthen the liaison with banks and elderly day care centres, etc. to increase the alertness of relevant persons, especially the elderly. The Police regularly updated its information base and mounted intelligence-led operations. Regular contact was also maintained with the Mainland authorities to deal with Mainland-based syndicates. Where appropriate, the Police would handle deception cases centrally at regional/district levels for more effective investigation of such crimes.

7. Information was sought on the penalty on a person who allowed a third party to use his bank account for depositing money connected with deception activity. Members were informed that depending on particular circumstances of the case, the person might be charged with the offence of money laundering. One of the key elements of the offence was that the person "knew or had reasonable grounds to believe" that the money concerned was the proceeds of an indictable offence. The Police had stepped up publicity and education to enhance public awareness of the serious consequence of allowing a third party to use their bank accounts.

Relevant papers

8. A list of relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in the **Appendix**.

**Relevant papers on
measures adopted by the Police to combat telephone deception**

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Security	3.3.2009 (item VII)	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Security	27.1.2015 (item I)	Agenda Minutes
Legislative Council	28.10.2015	Official Record of Proceedings (Question 10)
Panel on Security	26.1.2016 (item I)	Agenda Minutes

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
8 November 2016