

(Translation)

LC Paper No. CB(2)1987/16-17(01)

香港特別行政區政府  
保安局



The Government of the  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
Security Bureau

香港添馬添美道 2 號

2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

本函檔號 Our Ref.:

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

電話號碼 TEL. NO.: 2810 2632

傳真號碼 FAX. NO.: 2810 7702

1 August 2017

Miss Betty MA  
Clerk to Panel on Security  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Fax: 2185 7845)

Dear Miss MA,

I refer to your letter dated 5 July 2017 to the Secretary for Security. With regard to the matters raised by Hon LAM Cheuk-ting in his letter to the Chairman of the Legislative Council Panel on Security, I am authorised to reply as follows.

Protection of peaceful demonstrators

Hong Kong residents enjoy the freedom of assembly, procession and demonstration, etc. under the Basic Law. It is the established policy of the Police to strike a balance between facilitating the smooth conduct of lawful and peaceful public order events and reducing the impact of such events on the public and road users, and to ensure public safety and public order. Participants of public order events must abide by the law, behave in a peaceful and orderly manner in the events, and refrain from illegal or violent acts. The Police have the responsibility to maintain public safety and public order and protect the lives and properties of the public. Should there be any illegal or violent acts, the Police will, irrespective of the backgrounds of the offenders or victims, treat them

equally and handle the matters in accordance with the law in a fair, just and impartial manner.

Several public order events were held in various districts in the territory on 1 July this year, and most of them were conducted in a lawful, peaceful and orderly manner. However, quarrels and clashes between people holding different views had occurred during certain public order events, causing chaos. In light of the situations, the Police took measures to ensure public safety and public order. In respect of the alleged illegal acts committed at different locations that day, the Police have so far arrested 13 people, and the offences involved include “common assault”, “criminal damage”, “disorderly conduct in public places” and “obstructing authorised officers in the execution of duty”. One of the arrestees was a wanted person.

#### Participants of public order events complaining about unfair treatment by police officers

At about 7 am on 1 July, a group of people held a public order event near 130 Hennessy Road in Wan Chai, during which they clashed with another group of a large size holding different views. Crowds gathered there and caused chaos. Police officers had appealed to and warned the two groups at the scene repeatedly, and also tried to separate them, but the chaotic situation persisted. In handling such chaotic situations involving a large number of people, if the Police consider that social peace has been breached, and public safety and public order are affected, the Police will normally take actions in accordance with section 10 of the Police Force Ordinance (Cap. 232) to prevent injury to life and preserve order in public places. Such actions include escorting those whose personal safety are under potential threats away from the chaotic scene as soon as possible to avoid further escalation of the clash and remove the risk of their being attacked. In cases where people become agitated and risk harming themselves or others, the Police will take corresponding measures to suitably restrain them from doing harmful acts. The measures will be lifted when the risk no longer exists.

In respect of the incident at about 7 am on 1 July, the Police arrested three persons at the scene for suspected “common assault”. Relevant persons involved in the incident have made complaints to the Complaints Against Police Office (“CAPO”), which will handle them in a fair and just manner according to established procedures.

An organisation distributing leaflets outside Causeway Bay MTR Station

At about 1:30 pm on 1 July, the Police found that an organisation was distributing leaflets outside Exit E of Causeway Bay MTR Station. As there was a high pedestrian flow at the exit, which was also the main access for members of the public to proceed to the Victoria Park to participate in a public procession, the Police had to implement crowd safety management measures on-site. Since the organisation concerned was handing out leaflets at a location that obstructed pedestrian flow, the police officers on-site had appealed to the people concerned to move to other suitable places to continue handing out leaflets in order to ensure public safety and public order.

With regard to the allegation by members of the organisation of misconduct of police officers on-site, CAPO has also received relevant complaints and will handle them in a fair and just manner according to established procedures.

Yours sincerely,

(Andrew TSANG)  
for Secretary of Security

cc:

Commissioner of Police

(Attn: Assistant Commissioner of Police (Operations))

Fax: 2294 0002

(Attn: Assistant Commissioner of Police (Support))

Fax: 2200 4329