

# 立法會

## *Legislative Council*

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### **Panel on Security**

**Minutes of special meeting  
held on Tuesday, 23 January 2018, at 2:00 pm  
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon James TO Kun-sun (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP  
Hon Claudia MO  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP  
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon Kenneth LEUNG  
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang  
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP  
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan  
Hon LAM Cheuk-ting  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding  
Hon SHIU Ka-chun

Hon YUNG Hoi-yan  
Hon CHAN Chun-ying  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP  
Hon HUI Chi-fung  
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai

**Members absent** : Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Hon Alvin YEUNG  
Hon CHU Hoi-dick  
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP  
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP  
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH

**Public Officers attending** : Item I  
  
Mr LO Wai-chung, PDSM, PMSM  
Commissioner of Police  
  
Mr LI Chi-hang  
Director of Crime & Security  
Hong Kong Police Force  
  
Mr WONG Chung-chun  
Senior Superintendent of Police, Crime Wing Headquarters

**Clerk in attendance** : Miss Betty MA  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 1

**Staff in attendance** : Mr Raymond LAM  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 7  
  
Ms Kiwi NG  
Legislative Assistant (2) 1

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Action

**I. Crime situation in 2017**

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)706/17-18(01) and (02))

Commissioner of Police ("CP") briefed Members on the overall law and order situation of Hong Kong in 2017, as detailed in the paper provided by the Police.

2. Members noted an updated background brief entitled "Crime situation in Hong Kong" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat.

Indecent assault

3. Referring to paragraph 18 of the Police's paper, Mr CHAN Chun-ying asked how the Police would cooperate with public transport companies to combat indecent assault on board public transport. He said that as female passengers were more likely to be victims to indecent assault in crowded train compartments, consideration should be given to establishing "female-only" train compartments.

4. Dr Elizabeth QUAT commended the Police for maintaining a low crime rate in Hong Kong. She asked whether the Police would request MTR Corporation Limited ("MTRCL") to establish "female-only" train compartments.

5. CP responded that the Police maintained close communication with MTRCL on prevention of indecent assault and the installation of closed-circuit television cameras ("CCTVs") at new stations. Patrol was carried out by plain clothed and uniformed police officers in train compartments and stations. Publicity was also launched to alert public transport passengers to remain vigilant against indecent assault. The Police would continue to collaborate with MTRCL to prevent such crime.

Crime related to money lending

6. Referring to paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Police's paper, Mr CHAN Chun-ying asked whether the number of cases of criminal intimidation, wounding and serious assault relating to debt collection had decreased after introduction of the new regulatory measures to tackle money lending-related malpractices.

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7. CP responded that with the efforts of the Police, new regulatory measures to tackle money lending-related malpractices and the broadcasting of relevant Announcements of Public Interest (借錢梗要還咪俾錢中介) via televisions and radios, the number of cases of criminal intimidation, wounding and serious assault relating to money lenders and intermediaries had decreased from 215 in 2016 to 82 in 2017.

Telephone deception

8. Mr Michael TIEN expressed concern that the number of telephone deception cases, although decreased in comparison with the previous year, was still high and the monetary loss involved was huge. As many victims had been asked to remit money to the Mainland, the Police should combat the problem with Mainland law enforcement agencies ("LEAs"). Noting that the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre ("ADCC") had been established in July 2017, he asked whether efforts were made by ADCC with telecommunication companies and banks to intercept suspicious telephone calls and payments.

9. CP responded that intelligence was exchanged with Mainland LEAs on bogus telephone calls from the Mainland. While telecommunication companies were cooperative with the Police in tracing such calls, it was generally difficult to trace the origin of "Voice over Internet" calls. The Police and banks maintained close liaison to intercept payments to fraudsters. In the past few months, payments to fraudsters amounting to about \$180 million in total had been intercepted.

Security of buildings

10. Mr POON Siu-ping commended the Police for maintaining Hong Kong as a safe city. He asked whether the Police had any plan to extend Project Guarding Eyes ("the Project"), which had been successfully implemented in Sham Shui Po, to other districts in Hong Kong. The Chairman considered that the Project should be extended to rural villages.

11. CP responded that the Project, under which CCTV systems were installed under sponsorship at low-security private residential buildings, had been successfully launched in Sham Shui Po. The Police would, in consultation with District Fight Crime Committees and District Councils, assist in extending the idea to other districts. The Police were promoting the installation of CCTV systems in rural villages.

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12. Mr KWOK Wai-keung commended the Police for maintaining a low crime rate in Hong Kong. He said that as there were more buildings undergoing large scale repair works before the Chinese New Year, more attention should be paid to the security of such buildings, especially those at which scaffoldings had been erected. CP responded that it was the Police's practice to step up enforcement against burglary at buildings undergoing repair works. The Police's crime prevention teams also liaised with the property management offices of such buildings to remind them of the security risks involved.

Crime committed by non-ethnic Chinese persons released on recognizance

13. Dr Elizabeth QUAT expressed concern that there was an increase in crime committed by non-ethnic Chinese ("NEC") persons released on recognizance. She asked whether there were black spots of such crime besides Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long, and sought information on the measures adopted to combat the problem. CP responded that the number of NEC residents and NEC non-residents arrested for crime had decreased by 9 % and 1.9% respectively in the previous year. However, the number of NEC persons released on recognizance arrested for crime had increased by 2.4% in the previous year and the major offences committed included shop theft, serious drug offences, wounding and serious assault as well as miscellaneous theft. The Police would step up patrol at black spots of such crime. Dr QUAT requested the Police to provide information on black spots of crime committed by NEC persons released on recognizance.

Police

Problems arising from parallel trading activities

14. Mr LAM Cheuk-ting commended the Police for their efforts in combating tender rigging in building repair works which involved triad activities. He expressed concern that a special task force established by the Police to combat parallel trading activities in Sheung Shui District only comprised seven police officers. He considered that more police manpower should be deployed for combating parallel trading activities in the North District.

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15. CP responded that besides a police sergeant and seven police constables of the Sheung Shui Police Division, six police sergeants and 32 police constables of the Border Police District were also deployed for dealing with issues arising from parallel trading activities, including blockage of passages, illegal employment and breach of the by-laws of MTRCL. In 2016 and 2017, the Police had launched an average of over 110 enforcement operations per year targeting parallel trading related offences, resulting in the arrest of 150 persons who entered Closed Areas without relevant permits and 690 Mainland visitors for breach of condition of stay. The Police had also issued over 30 000 fixed penalty tickets to parallel traders for traffic offences in the North District in 2016 and 2017. The number of complaints relating to parallel trading activities had decreased from 1 543 in 2015 to 1 441 in 2016 and further to 541 in 2017.

Drug trafficking

16. Mr MA Fung-kwok expressed concern about reports that some young people were recruited by crime syndicates for bringing parallel goods to other countries, without knowledge that drug was hidden inside the parallel goods. He asked whether there was information on the number of Hong Kong residents arrested in other places for such kind of drug trafficking.

17. CP responded that the Police were aware of the problem and had stepped up publicity. The Police did not maintain figures on the number of Hong Kong residents arrested by overseas LEAs for drug trafficking activities because overseas LEAs did not have the duty to inform the Hong Kong Police on their arrest actions.

Child abuse and domestic violence

18. Mr KWOK Wai-keung said that police officers handling noise nuisance complaints should look into the nature of noise involved so that domestic violence and child abuse cases could be identified at an early stage.

19. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung expressed concern that there was a difference in the number of child abuse cases released by the Police and the Social Welfare Department ("SWD"). He asked whether all child abuse cases handled by the Police were referred to SWD for follow-up.

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20. CP responded that checklists had been issued to police officers to facilitate early identification of such cases. Domestic violence or child abuse cases in which there was no element of crime would also be referred to SWD for follow-up if necessary. There was a slight decrease in the number of child abuse cases over the past few years, with 1 136, 870 and 847 cases reported in 2013, 2016 and 2017 respectively. The difference in the statistics of SWD and the Police was mainly due to the difference in the definition adopted for child abuse.

21. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen asked about the difference in the definitions of child abuse adopted respectively by the Police and SWD. CP explained that in the classification of cases, the Police followed the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Cap. 221). According to the definition adopted by the Police, a child was a person aged under 17 for sexual crimes against children and a person aged below 14 for other crimes against children. According to the definition adopted by SWD, a child was a person aged under 18. In addition, the Police's statistics on child abuse only covered cases reported to the Police.

22. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen expressed grave concern about a recent case in which a five year-old child died of alleged child abuse. He expressed concern about the actions taken by the Police in relation to child abuse. CP responded that criminal investigation was conducted into each alleged child abuse case. The Police would refer the cases considered to be of high risk to SWD for follow-up, irrespective of the victim's consent for referral. School liaison officers would encourage students and schools to report child abuse cases to the Police or social workers.

23. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen requested the Police to provide information on the respective number of child abuse cases in 2017 involving death and serious injuries. He also requested the Police to provide a breakdown of cases of sexual crimes against children in 2017 by the relationship between the offender and the victim. CP agreed to provide the requested information in writing.

Police

24. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung asked whether a case could be classified as a domestic violence case and a child abuse case at the same time. CP replied that the Police maintained separate sets of statistics for domestic violence and child abuse cases. However if an incident involved both domestic violence and child abuse elements, it would be captured and reflected in the relevant database.

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Illegal prostitution activities

25. Mr KWOK Wai-keung expressed concern that many sex workers in "one-woman brothels" were visitors. The Police and relevant government departments should step up enforcement to reduce nuisance caused by prostitution activities on local residents. CP responded that there were designated teams at district level to combat illegal prostitution activities. For Mainland visitors who took up unlawful employment involving sex work in Hong Kong, the particulars of convicted visitors would be passed to the Mainland authorities concerned for prohibiting them from visiting Hong Kong again for a designated period of time.

Human trafficking

26. Mr Dennis KWOK asked how human trafficking was tackled by the Police and whether statistics on human trafficking could be included in the annual crime statistics in future.

27. CP responded that the Police attached great importance to human trafficking and had been cooperating with Mainland and overseas LEAs in combating the problem. Although there was no specific law in Hong Kong for such illegal activities, human trafficking was prohibited in Hong Kong under different laws, including legislation against human trafficking for the purpose of sex exploitation under the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200), the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57), the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115), and Offences Against the Person Ordinance (Cap. 212). Since 2017, the Police introduced an enhanced mechanism which deployed a checklist to facilitate the screening of potential victims in human trafficking. He said that there were two victims in 2015, 14 victims in 2016 and five victims in 2017.

Cruelty to animals

28. Ms Claudia MO said that although the Police had established the Animal Watch Scheme, the detection rate of cases of cruelty to animals was very low. She asked whether consideration would be given to establishing "animal police" teams in all districts.

29. Mr POON Siu-ping asked whether more resources would be allocated for combating cruelty to animals.

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30. CP responded that the Police had assigned dedicated investigation teams to handle cases of cruelty to animals in 13 police districts. They included Yau Tsim, Mong Kok, Yuen Long, Tuen Mun, Tai Po, Tsuen Wan, Lantau, Kowloon City, Central, Western, Eastern, Wan Chai and Marine Police districts. For the remaining police districts, consideration might be given to assigning similar investigation teams if there was significant number of animal cruelty cases in the district. Depending on the manpower situation, the nature and severity of cases and the crime trend of the district concerned, the commander of each police district would consider assigning cases of cruelty to animals to dedicated teams for investigation and analysis. He added that all cases of cruelty to animals were handled by criminal investigation teams. Officers of these teams had received specialized training and possessed sufficient experience as well as investigation skills to follow up such kind of cases. Under the Animal Watch Scheme, the Police cooperated with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and other stakeholders to combat cruelty to animals.

Missing motor vehicles

31. Mr MA Fung-kwok expressed concern about an increased number of missing motor vehicles in 2017. He asked about the reasons for the increase and the types of vehicles involved.

32. Mr POON Siu-ping expressed concern that a majority of missing motor vehicles were motorcycles. He sought information on the measures adopted by the Police to combat the problem.

33. CP responded that the increase in the number of missing motor vehicles was mainly due to a rise in the theft of low-to-mid-priced motorcycles which were left unattended on the street. He said that about 70% of the missing vehicles had been recovered. It was believed that some of the stolen vehicles were scrapped into parts while some were stolen for joyride or drug delivery purpose. The Police were combating the problem through intelligence-led operations.

Morale and personal safety of frontline police officers

34. Mr Jeffrey LAM commended the Police for maintaining Hong Kong as one of the safest city in the world. He expressed concern about injuries sustained by police officers during the Occupy Movement and the

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riot at Mong Kok in February 2016. He said that there was a need to better protect the personal safety of frontline police officers through the deployment of equipment such as specialized crowd management vehicles with water spray devices and tear gas, which were widely used in other places.

35. The Chairman said that body worn video cameras ("BWVCs") had been found to have a de-escalating effect in confrontational situations on both sides. He considered that each frontline police officer should be equipped with a BWVC.

36. Mr Holden CHOW commended the Police for their professionalism and efforts in combating crime. He expressed concern that police officers were facing threat to personal safety and insulting languages when handling large scale public assemblies in recent years. He asked whether measures were taken by the Police to address the problem and whether there was a timetable for the procurement of more BWVCs.

37. CP responded that more protective gears had been procured to protect police officers from being injured in confrontational situations. Tactical training and relevant guidelines for police officers had been updated. Financial resources had been sought for increasing the number of BWVCs, which had a de-escalating and restraining effect in confrontational scenarios, from currently 1 660 units to about 3 000 units in the near future. In the longer term, the Police planned to equip each frontline uniformed police officer with a BWVC around 2021 and tie in with the Fourth Generation Command and Control Communications System.

38. Ms Claudia MO expressed concern about reports in the United Kingdom that specialized crowd management vehicles with water spray device could cause serious bodily harm or death. She asked whether the procurement plan could be withdrawn. She said that if such vehicles had already been procured, the pressure of water sprays from such vehicles should be adjusted to a low level. CP responded that such the specialized crowd management vehicles were expected to be delivered in mid-2018. Guidelines and training on the use of such vehicles would be provided to relevant police officers. He pointed out that such kind of vehicles had been deployed by LEAs in many countries.

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Enactment of legislation against insulting police officers

39. Mr WONG Kwok-kin commended the Police for maintaining law and order in Hong Kong. He expressed concern that some members of the public were provoking police officers by insulting them and their family members with abusive language. He said that if the dignity of police officers could not be protected, it would be very difficult for police officers to enforce the law and protect the general public. Measures should be taken to prevent such provocation.

40. Dr Priscilla LEUNG said that she had drawn up a Member's bill on the offence of insulting police officers, after having regard to relevant laws of other jurisdictions and the by-laws of local public transport companies. She asked whether the problem of some members of the public insulting police officers with abusive language had become less serious.

41. CP responded that the Police had issued guidelines for officers in handling abusive behaviour by members of the public in 2014 and requested police officers to report such cases to their supervisors. The numbers of such cases reported in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 were 35, 19, 10 and 25 respectively. Regarding the suggestion of enactment of the offence of insulting public officers, CP said that the Police management supported any lawful and reasonable request for better protection of police officers in discharge of their duties.

42. Referring to the conviction of seven police officers for their acts during law enforcement, Mr Jeffrey LAM expressed concern about the impact of the conviction on the morale of police officers. Mr Holden CHOW asked about the impact of recent conviction of some police officers for their acts during law enforcement on the morale of police officers. The Chairman said that low morale among police officers might affect the prevention of crime. Dr Elizabeth QUAT expressed concern about the actions to be taken by the Police to uphold the morale of police officers.

43. Dr Priscilla LEUNG expressed concern about the impact of the sentencing of a former police superintendent to imprisonment for his acts in the course of law enforcement on the morale of police officers.

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44. CP responded that the Force members were saddened by the convictions, especially given that police officers were under immense pressure during the 79-day Illegal Occupy Movement. The Police had strengthened training in psychological competency for police officers. The guidelines for police officers had been updated to better protect police officers in law enforcement. The Police had also formed a working group to review the use of force by police officers and the guidelines for handling abusive behaviour by members of the public. The Police management also sought for improvement of the welfare of police officers, covering provision of more departmental quarters, the introduction of a five-day work week and increasing the public rental housing quota for retired police officers. CP reiterated that despite facing huge pressure, police officers had all along been standing fast to their posts and performing their duties with devotion, which had been reflected in a low crime rate in Hong Kong.

Other issues

45. Mr Jeffrey LAM asked how crime involving the deployment of unmanned aircraft systems ("UAS") were dealt with by the Police. CP responded that cases of reckless operation of UAS causing injury or damage to property were investigated in the same manner as other crime.

46. Mr Frankie YICK commended the Police for maintaining a low crime rate in Hong Kong. He said that there were about 8 000 to 10 000 vehicles engaged in illegal carriage of passengers for reward in Hong Kong. The Police should do more in combating the problem. He considered that the penalty of a fine of about \$2,000 to \$3,000 on convicted persons was too light and the Police should appeal against such a light sentence. CP responded that prosecutions relating to the offence had increased from 18 cases in 2016 to 50 cases in 2017. The Police would continue to combat illegal carriage of passengers and would liaise with the Department of Justice on the sentencing matter.

47. Ms Claudia MO expressed concern that there were reports about a large number of Mainland residents withdrawing cash from automatic teller machines in Hong Kong. She asked whether the Police had investigated into the possible money laundering or illegal activities involved. CP responded that investigations conducted by the Police revealed no evidence of money laundering or illegal acts in the activities concerned.

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48. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:50 pm.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
11 April 2018