

Item 1(d): What was the justification(s) for the ICAC to operate the seven Regional Offices?

The Community Relations Department (CRD) of the ICAC now maintains seven regional offices (ROs) – two on Hong Kong Island, two in Kowloon and three in the New Territories. ROs are not just a district-level entity but also part and parcel of a fully integrated team of the CRD in carrying out a comprehensive and structured programme of preventive education and enlisting public support (elaborated in (c) below). Scope of work by each RO is attached. Altogether the manpower establishment of ROs are 68 officers and 24 general grade staff (as at 3.6.2013), comprising 50 % of the establishment of CRD. The remaining half are establishment of the offices at headquarters.

Receiving corruption reports and enquiries is only part of the functions of ROs. ROs in the CRD broadly perform these four aspects of work:

(a) Providing preventive education for various targets

CRD's public education is conducted principally through the ROs. Each RO works proactively to provide, under different target-based programme areas, face-to-face preventive education services to a wide range of targets, namely

- business sector
- public sector (including civil servants and employees of public bodies)
- building management bodies
- district organisations
- youth (including schools and NGOs providing services for the youth)
- ICAC Club
- stakeholders of public elections (including candidates, helpers and voters)

Such services include initiating liaison and building up network with intended targets, providing consultancy advice on the design of suitable preventive education programmes, and conducting tailor-made talks commensurate with the work nature and corruption risks faced by targets of different background.

(b) Enlisting support of the local community

ROs also play the role in reaching out to the local community under their geographically charter. Strategically the ROs show the ICAC's physical presence in the community. CRD's public entrenchment work, through face-to-face contacts, is important in getting qualitative feedback to our work, dispelling any misconceptions in relation to laws or work of ICAC, and tapping public support to the ICAC, in terms of reporting corruption, providing financial resources, and/or active participation in education and publicity activities. These efforts include the organisation of projects jointly with District Councils and district organisations for the local communities, and Meet-the-Public Sessions for district organisations (e.g, women societies, residents associations, Mutual Aids Committees, etc.) so that fruitful exchange of views could be conducted in a friendly ambience. ROs also attend meetings of district consultative committees (e.g. District Councils, District Fight Crime Committees, Area Committees) and major district functions on a need basis to gauge sentiments of the public on corruption-related issues and work of the ICAC.

In relation to (a) and (b), during the period from 2008 to 2012, the seven ROs each year conducted an average of 4,320 ongoing activities (comprising visits, meetings and talks) and 227 publicity projects of various scale, amounting to 92% and 80% of the total ongoing activities and publicity projects conducted by the CRD per year.

(c) Serving as Programme Co-ordinators

The role and scope of work of ROs also goes beyond the traditional concept of government public relations in a local community setting. ROs also serve as Programme Coordinators (PCs) of specified programme areas under the programme-by-objective management structure of CRD. At present, RO(Kowloon West), RO(Kowloon East/Sai Kung), RO(New Territories East) and RO(New Territories West), are PCs of District Organisations, Public Sector, Elections and ICAC Club respectively. These PCs, together with PC/Business Sector (including building management bodies) and PC/Youth which are now taken up by Hong Kong Ethics Development Centre and Youth and Moral Education Office in the CRD headquarters respectively, are responsible for the important duties of researching the needs of their specific clients, formulating an appropriate strategy, producing the necessary preventive packages and products, co-ordinating the work of all ROs to achieve results of that programme area and evaluating the outcome. PC/Elections (in RO/New Territories East) also mans an election hotline.

(d) Receiving reports and enquiries on corruption

ROs also provide the services of receiving corruption reports and enquiries from members of the public. ROs are either wholly or partly located on ground floors to facilitate walk-in complaints and enquiries. During the period 2008–2012, ROs received a total of 3,903 reports, representing 22% of all 17,853 reports received by the ICAC for the same period. About 82% (3,186 reports) of all 3,903 reports received by ROs are in-person reports, which is higher than the corresponding percentage of 26% in-person reports (4,575) received by the ICAC as a whole for the same period. The percentage of non-anonymous reports received by ROs (3,390 reports) is 87%, which is also higher than the 73% (13,069) non-anonymous reports received by the ICAC for the same period.

Scope of Work of ICAC Regional Offices

<u>Regional Office</u>	<u>Responsible District</u>	<u>Programme Co-ordinator</u>
Hong Kong West / Islands	Central and Western, Southern, Islands	—
Hong Kong East	Eastern, Wanchai	—
Kowloon West	Yau Tsim Mong, Shamshuipo, Kowloon City	District Organisations
Kowloon East / Sai Kung	Wong Tai Sin, Kwun Tong, Sai Kung	Public Sector
New Territories East	North, Shatin, Tai Po	Elections
New Territories South West	Kwai Tsing, Tsuen Wan	ICAC Club
New Territories North West	Yuen Long, Tuen Mun	