

For information
on 5 February 2013

Legislative Council Panel on Security
Final report of the Independent Police Complaints Council
on complaint cases arising from the visit by the
Vice Premier Mr LI Keqiang

Introduction

The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) issued, on 19 December 2012, the Final Report on complaint cases arising from the policing arrangements of the visit by Mr LI Keqiang, the Vice Premier of the State Council, to Hong Kong in August 2011. Also on the same day, the IPCC tabled the Final Report to the Legislative Council Panel on Security for the Members' reference (LC Paper No. CB(2)389/12-13(01)).

IPCC's Final Report

2. The IPCC's Interim Report, which was released in May 2012, endorsed the investigation reports of 9 complaint cases. The Final Report summarised the IPCC's monitor and review on the remaining 7 complaint cases, as well as its observations and recommendations on the security measures implemented by the Police.

3. As regards the remaining 7 complaint cases, the IPCC's review results are as follows: 5 complaint cases were endorsed; 1 complaint case remained "Sub-Judice" as the complainant lodged an appeal against his/her conviction on a criminal case, which was still pending; the last complaint case involved 6 allegations, 4 of which were endorsed in the Interim Report; the remaining 2 allegations were classified as "Unsubstantiated" upon the IPCC's examination of the information supplied by the Police.

Security arrangements and improvement measures for political dignitaries' visits to Hong Kong by the Police

4. During political dignitaries' visits to Hong Kong, it is the absolute duty of the Police to ensure their personal safety as well as the public order

and public safety of the occasions they attend, and to minimise inconvenience to members of the public. The Police respect Hong Kong people's freedom of expression and assembly, and endeavour to facilitate the conduct of peaceful assemblies and processions. On the implementation of security arrangements, the Police have to balance various factors, including the people's rights of expression, freedom of press and the security requirements, and to conduct professional risk assessments with regard to the prevailing circumstances for a timely and appropriate decision. It is the operational policy of the Police to endeavour to strike a balance and to adopt reasonable and appropriate management measures for the purpose of safeguarding human rights and freedoms and maintaining public order, while ensuring the personal safety of the visiting political dignitaries.

5. The IPCC made recommendation to the Police that the Operations Wing should coordinate and scrutinize the formulation of Operational Orders to ensure consistency. Furthermore, it was recommended that while considering the security issues, the Police should appropriately and reasonably set up security zones, designated press areas (DPA) and designated public activity areas (DPAA). Clear guidelines for such arrangements should also be laid down to facilitate media coverage and peaceful demonstrations. The Police will give due consideration to the IPCC's observations and recommendations as stated in the Final Report and draw up suitable measures for handling similar situations in the future.

6. The IPCC noted and welcomed the Police's implementation of a series of improvement measures in relation to the security arrangements of the President HU Jintao's visit to Hong Kong in mid 2012. Such measures include strengthening communication with the public and the media on the relevant arrangements, setting up DPAs and petition areas at locations closer to the venues of the events to be attended by the political dignitary, as well as taking measures to mitigate the impact of such arrangements on the public.

Facilitating media work

7. The Police respect press freedom and media's freedom and right of reporting and will implement measures to facilitate media coverage as

far as practicable. On the facilitation of the work of media, there are clear principles and guidelines in place for the Police. The duties of the Police in this regard are set out in the Force Procedures Manual, which state that police officers should facilitate the media to film, record or take photographs, and provide opportunities for them to conduct such activities at vantage points.

8. The Police has completed its review on its policy on the setting up of DPA and has implemented such policy. The IPCC also noted that a series of further measures were adopted by the Police to facilitate media coverage during President HU's visit to Hong Kong in 2012, namely organising briefings on media coverage arrangements for reporters beforehand, setting up DPA at locations closer to the venues of events to be attended by the political dignitary, deploying Media Liaison Teams to the DPA within the security area to render immediate assistance, as well as setting up hotlines for media enquiries.

9. Police will continue to maintain a close partnership with the media on the basis of mutual respect and understanding and maintain communication with them to facilitate their work.

**Security Bureau
Hong Kong Police Force
January 2013**