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**Panel on Security**

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for the meeting on 2 July 2013**

**Upgrading of Tseung Kwan O Police Division to a police district**

**Purpose**

This paper summarizes the past discussions of the Panel on Security ("the Panel") on the issues relating to the upgrading of Tseung Kwan O ("TKO") Police Division to a police district.

**Background**

2. Currently, the law and order in TKO is maintained by the TKO Police Division under the Kwun Tong Police District of the Kowloon East ("KE") Region, which comprises Kwun Tong Police District, Wong Tai Sin Police District and Sau Mau Ping Police District. The TKO Police Division was established in 1992 when the population in the district was around 100 000. In the past two decades, TKO has seen a considerable increase in population along with significant infrastructure improvements, especially upon the commissioning of the MTR TKO Extension in August 2002. The existing population in TKO is around 410 000. It is anticipated that the population will reach 470 000 in 2019.

3. According to the Police, the police-to-population ratio for the TKO Police Division is about one to 1 600, as compared with an overall ratio of one to 250 for the entire territory of Hong Kong.

## **Deliberations of the Panel**

### Implementation progress of upgrading the TKO Division to a police district

4. Members noted that there had been a strong call from the district for upgrading the TKO Police Division to a police district. In view of the relatively low police-to-population ratio for the TKO Police Division, many members expressed support for the upgrading proposal. There was, however, another view that as the law and order situation in TKO was generally stable, there was no pressing need or strong reason for a merging of the TKO Police Division with another Police Division into a police district. The Administration should rather focus on the formulation of crime prevention measures, having regard to the past trend in the development of new towns. Concern was raised over the criteria for determining whether a police division should be upgraded to a police district.

5. The Administration advised that the population in TKO had increased substantially over the past 10 years. For many years, local residents and groups in TKO had raised concerns over law and order in TKO and requested the upgrading of the TKO Division to a police district. In addition, members belonging to different political parties/groupings in the Sai Kung District Council were generally supportive of the upgrading exercise. The Administration further advised that a police division would in general be established for an area with a population of 100 000 to 200 000. According to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, consideration should be given to the establishment of a police district for an area with a population size of 200 000 to 500 000. Besides population size, other factors such as whether the area was mainly residential or commercial in nature, the distribution of population in the area, crime situation and trend, prevailing infrastructural development in the district and operational effectiveness were taken into consideration.

6. Regarding the concern about the completion date of the upgrading exercise, the Administration advised that the upgrading exercise would take some time to complete, as it would require the creation of a new directorate post of Chief Superintendent of Police to serve as the District Commander of TKO District and relocation of the Crime KE Regional Headquarters and Traffic KE which were currently stationed in the TKO Divisional Police Station. Members were advised that as part of another initiative, the Police planned to construct a new KE Regional Headquarters at the site of the existing Kai Tak Operational Base. Upon completion of the new Headquarters, officers of the KE Region would move out of the TKO Divisional Police Station. To meet the schedule of

the upgrading exercise, they would move out of the police station by phases before 2015. The Administration aimed to complete the upgrading exercise as soon as possible in 2015.

7. According to the Administration, for more efficient utilization of regional policing resources, the Police was studying the re-demarcation of current boundaries of police districts in the KE Region upon the completion of the upgrading exercise. The Police was considering incorporating the Sai Kung Police Division into the future TKO Police District. Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sau Mau Ping, Railway and the upgraded TKO Police District would then constitute the KE Region.

#### Police manpower in TKO

8. Concern was raised over the possible increase in police manpower arising from the upgrading exercise. Members were advised that the manpower establishment of a police station was determined having regard to the characteristics and policing needs of the area. Besides the manpower allocated to a police station, police officers of the emergency unit, police tactical unit and other units of the same police region were deployed flexibly to meet operational needs.

9. On whether the police-to-population ratio for TKO district would improve after the upgrading exercise, the Police responded that the issue was still being studied. It was anticipated that the police-to-population ratio for the TKO district after the upgrading exercise would be similar to that for the Wong Tai Sin district, where there was a population of about 400 000 and a police-to-population of about one to 600.

10. Some members expressed concern whether the Police would increase the manpower of the TKO Police Division in the interim to maintain the law and order in the district pending the completion of the upgrading exercise. According to the Police, it had closely monitored the policing needs in the TKO Police Division, and had taken appropriate measures accordingly. Since 1999, the establishment of the TKO Police Division had been enhanced by an addition of some 120 frontline police officer posts. Since 2006, the actual manpower allocated to the TKO Police Division and the Sai Kung Police Division had been at a level higher than the number of posts on the establishment of the two Divisions.

11. The Police assured members that it would, if necessary, further enhance the frontline policing capability of the TKO Police Division and the Sai Kung

Police Division. The Police could from time to time deploy manpower from the Kwun Tong Police District Uniform Branch and Crime Branch, the Emergency Unit of the Kowloon East Region, the Police Tactical Unit and the Regional Crime Unit to assist the officers stationed in the TKO Police Division and the Sai Kung Police Division in their policing work. As some units of the KE Regional Headquarters were currently stationed in the TKO Divisional Police Station, police officers of such units could actually arrive at a scene in TKO within a shorter time. Where necessary, request for additional resources would be made under the annual resource allocation exercise.

### Youth crime in TKO

12. Some members expressed concern about youth crime and triad activities in TKO. In these members' view, apart from tackling the problem of youth crime by law enforcement action, the Administration should also tackle the problem through strengthening social and community services for the youth in the area and extending the opening hours of sports and recreational facilities.

13. According to the Police, uniformed and plain clothed police officers were deployed to perform high profiled operations at black spots of youth crime. The Police had set up an anti-youth crime team under the Anti-triad Section of the Kwun Tong Police District in April 2011 to combat youth crime in TKO. The Police had also set up a hotline for the reporting of triad activities in TKO and strengthened triad-related intelligence gathering work. Furthermore, the Police was tackling the problem of youth crime through the work of School Liaison Officers and stepping up patrol in school areas. Besides the Police, the problem was tackled through the joint efforts of district councils, district fight crime committees, the Social Welfare Department, the Education Department and non-governmental organizations. Notwithstanding this, the Police pledged to strengthen up patrol in quiet areas, crime black spots and areas with a higher crime rate in TKO such as Metro City, Hau Tak Estate and Choi Ming Court, in the interim before the upgrading exercise was completed.

### Delineation of police districts

14. A concern was raised about the need for bringing the delineation of police districts in line with that of district councils. Some members considered it undesirable and a waste of police resources for police district commanders of more than one police district to be required frequently to attend a district council meeting due to the current difference in the delineation of police districts and district councils. According to the Administration, given the change in population size and characteristics of different districts over time, there was a

need to review the demarcation of current boundaries of police divisions for better utilization of resources and meeting the latest policing needs of different areas. In the process, a number of factors including demographic changes, main activities of the area (including commercial, industrial, residential and cultural activities), crime rates and trends, as well as planned developments were taken into account.

### **Relevant papers**

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

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
26 June 2013

**Relevant papers on  
Upgrading of Tseung Kwan O Police Division to a police district**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Paper</b>
Panel on Security	19.1.2004 (Item V)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>
	24.1.2005 (Item V)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>
	5.6.2007 (Item V)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>
	4.1.2013 (Item IV)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>
Legislative Council	18.5.2005	<u>Official Record of Proceedings</u> <u>(Question 3)</u>
	30.3.2011	<u>Official Record of Proceedings</u> <u>(Question 1)</u>

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