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30 August 2013

Mr Raymond Lam Secretariat, Panel on Security Legislative Council Complex 1 Legislative Council Road Central Hong Kong

Dear Mr Lam,

Legislative Council Panel on Security
Letter from Hon WONG Kwok-kin on "Discussion of provocative behaviour against police officers on duty at public meetings and processions"

I refer to the Secretariat's letter dated 13 August 2013 and the attached letter from Hon WONG Kwok-kin on the captioned issue. Our reply is as follows:

The Police always handle all public order events in a fair, just and impartial manner in accordance with the laws of Hong Kong. The enforcement policy of the Police is to endeavour to facilitate lawful and peaceful public meetings and processions on one hand, while on the other, minimizing the impact of such activities on other members of the public and road users, as well as ensuring public order and public safety. In expressing their views, participants of public meetings or processions are advised by the Government to observe the laws of Hong Kong and respect others' rights so that the activities could proceed in a peaceful and orderly manner, without hindering the efforts of the Police to maintain law and order.

Confrontations between different groups of participants in activities such as public meetings and demonstrations have intensified in recent years. Some participants even insult or provoke front-line police officers to the extent that the officers face tremendous pressure in the discharge of their duties. Notwithstanding such circumstances, police officers display their professionalism and exercise restraint. To bring the scene under control, the Police will take enforcement actions decisively and adopt effective measures against any unlawful behaviour with a deliberate intent to obstruct officers from performing their duties.

Maintaining law and order, preventing and detecting crimes, as well as safeguarding lives and properties are important missions of police officers. Their effective discharge of duties depends on the co-operation, respect and support of the general public. The Police will continue to uphold their professionalism and handle public order events in a fair and just manner in accordance with the law.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Millie Ng) for Secretary for Security

c.c.

Commissioner for Police

(Attn.: Assistant Commissioner for Police(Support)) Fax No.: 2200 4328