

(Translation)

LC Paper No. CB(2)1580/15-16(01)

香港特別行政區政府  
保安局



The Government of the  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
Security Bureau

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25 May 2016

Miss Betty Ma  
Secretary General  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road, Central  
Hong Kong

(Fax No: 2185 7845)

Dear Miss Ma,

### **Panel on Security**

We refer to the letter from Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan of 27 April 2016 entitled “Blackmailing by way of display of bills smearing the victims” to the Chairman of the Security Panel (“the letter”). This Bureau’s reply is as follows.

Under section 23 of the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210), a person commits blackmail if, with a view to gain for himself or another or with intent to cause loss to another, he makes any unwarranted demand with menaces. Any such person shall be liable on conviction upon indictment to imprisonment for 14 years. In addition, any person who has in his possession or under his control any letter or writing making any unwarranted demand of any person with menaces shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction upon indictment to imprisonment for 10 years.

There has been a marked annual increase in the number of blackmail cases since 2013, and the rise was mainly attributed to the blackmail cases involving “Naked Chat”. For example, in 2015, there were a total of 1 098 blackmail cases involving “Naked Chat”, representing a rise of 72.1% over 2014 and accounting for 80.4% of all blackmail cases.

The numbers of blackmail cases recorded by the Police in the past five years are as follows:

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of blackmail cases involving “Naked Chat”	(Not available)	60	477	638	1 098
<b>Total number of blackmail cases</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>1 366</b>

We note from Dr Hon CHIANG’s letter her concerns over cases of blackmail by way of display of bills. Public Health and Municipal Ordinance (Cap. 132) provides that any person displaying or affixing a poster without permission commits an offence. Upon receipt of such a report, the Police will, in the light of the circumstances of each case, commence investigations and take follow-up actions accordingly if other criminal offence(s) (including blackmail) is/are involved. The Police do not have a breakdown on blackmail cases by way of display of bills.

Blackmail is one of the violent crimes. It has been one of the Commissioner of Police’s operational priorities to combat such crimes. The Police absolutely will not tolerate any unlawful or violent act, or any act that is detrimental to public safety and public order and will definitely take resolute enforcement actions against such acts. In-depth investigations will be conducted by the Police into every case in a professional manner.

Yours sincerely,

( Andrew Tsang )  
for Secretary for Security

c.c.:

Commissioner of Police

(Attn: Senior Superintendent, Crime Wing Headquarters) Fax No: 2528 2284