

香港特別行政區政府
保安局



The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Security Bureau

香港添馬添美道 2 號

2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

本函檔號 Our Ref.:

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

電話號碼 TEL. NO. : 2810 2632

傳真號碼 FAX. NO. : 2810 7702

By Fax : 2509 9055
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14 June 2016

Miss Betty Ma
Clerk to Panel on Security
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss Ma,

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary for Security dated 19 May 2016. Our reply on the matters mentioned in Hon Wong Yuk-man's letter to the Chairman of the Legislative Council Panel on Security is as follows.

Whenever national leaders or foreign dignitaries come to Hong Kong, the Police have the responsibility to take appropriate security measures for their personal safety, and have to ensure that the meetings and other events to be attended by them will be conducted in a safe and orderly manner. The arrangement when the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Mr Zhang Dejiang, inspected Hong Kong between 17 and 19 May was no exception. In this connection, the Police have conducted comprehensive and professional risk assessments considering a series of factors including the situations of the world, the Mainland and neighbouring areas, local circumstances in Hong Kong, intelligence, the dignitary under protection and the events in which he would participate etc, and then adopted appropriate counter-terrorism security measures and deployment.

When Chairman Zhang was in Hong Kong, the Police have provided appropriate and necessary protection, including personal and traffic escort. On account of the relevant risk assessments and the actual situation at the time, the Police implemented temporary traffic diversions and intermittent traffic control measures along the route of the motorcade, as well as short-term crowd control measures on the adjacent walkways and crossing facilities. In adopting such security measures, the Police have made every effort to minimise the impact on the public.

During the operation, police officers were deployed for on-scene guidance and assistance to pedestrians or road users. Under the principle of not compromising the confidentiality of such security operation, the Police have deployed Police Community Relations Officers to liaise with the district organisations, business operators or units concerned to explain the special arrangements during the security operation, with a view to minimising any possible impact.

Only when it is necessary shall the Police introduce necessary traffic and crowd control measures. Prior to the implementation of the security measures and deployment when Chairman Zhang inspected Hong Kong, the Police held a press conference on 15 May to promulgate the arrangements of setting up security zones in Wan Chai North, which included closure of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre peninsula to the north of Convention Road from 00:00 hours of 18 May to 12 mid-night that followed.

The purpose of setting up security zones by the Police in their operations for protection of political dignitaries is to protect persons with security risks. Such measure is necessary and taken by the Police for their proper discharge of duties. As a matter of fact, the Police made similar arrangements when other political dignitaries visited Hong Kong in the past. Setting up of security zones is an internationally recognised good practice commonly adopted by security agencies of other countries or regions in security operations involving important persons or with high security risks.

In respect of media reporting, the Police all along respect press freedom and the media's right of reporting. The Police also fully recognise the importance of facilitating media reporting and maintaining effective communications and co-operation with the media. During the Belt and Road Summit which Chairman Zhang attended, press areas were set up both inside and outside the venue to facilitate the media. Regarding reporting outside the venues in other activities, the Police have already provided facilitation to the media as far as practicable having regard to factors including security requirements, venue restrictions and operations etc. The Police have also deployed the Force Media Liaison Cadre to provide on-site assistance.

The Police respect the public's rights to assembly, procession and expression of opinion. The Police's principle all along is to discharge duties in a fair and impartial manner. The Police endeavour to facilitate the public to conduct public order events peacefully. At the same time, the Police also have the responsibility to take effective measures to maintain public safety and public order. When Chairman Zhang was in

Hong Kong, the Police have set up a number of public activity areas to facilitate public assemblies and expression of opinion by the public. The Police have also arranged forward petition areas inside security zones to facilitate the public to hand over their petitions.

In formulating and implementing the security measures when Chairman Zhang inspected Hong Kong, the Police have made every effort to strike a balance amongst various objectives, including facilitating peaceful public assembly and procession, respecting the media's right of reporting, ensuring public safety and public order, as well as protecting the personal safety of the visiting dignitary etc.

Yours sincerely,

(Andrew Tsang)
for Secretary for Security

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(Attn: Assistant Commissioner of Police (Operations)) Fax : 2294 0002