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28 March 2000

Mrs. Sharon TONG
Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central

Dear Mrs. TONG,

LegCo Panel on Security

**Follow up to the meetings held on
7 December 1999 and 6 January 2000**

As agreed at the LegCo Security Panel meeting held on 7 December 1999 and 6 January 2000, the following information is enclosed for Members' reference –

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Annex A | Crime statistics on reported and detected cases by type of crime in 1998 and 1999. |
| Annex B | A note providing information on savings arising from the amalgamation of the Field Patrol Detachment with the Border District and the improvement of the shift arrangements of the Marine Police launch crews; the decentralisation of leave and training reserve posts; and the time-off taken by Police officers from February to October 1999. |
| Annex C | Statistics on serious commercial crime in the period of 1997 to 1999. |

As regards Members' request for information on the three districts with the highest number of cases of serious crimes at the meeting on 6 January 2000, it is noted that the Police Force keep statistics on violent crimes, instead of serious crimes. Violent crimes include rape, indecent assault, murder and manslaughter, attempted murder, wounding, serious assault, assault on Police, kidnapping and child stealing, cruelty to child, criminal intimidation, robbery with genuine firearms/pistol like object, other robberies, aggravated burglary, blackmail and arson. According to the Police's records, the three Police districts with the highest number of reported violent crime cases in 1999 were Yau Tsim, Tai Po and Yuen Long.

When comparing the crime statistics among different districts, we should bear in mind that a variety of factors may account for the incidence of a particular type of crime in a Police district and we should take them into account when examining the figures. Such factors include the size and development of a district, its population number and density, its demographic distribution, and the number of residential, industrial and commercial premises, recreational and entertainment facilities as well as its traffic and commuters' flow.

In addition, it is confirmed that the Commercial Crime Bureau of the Police has already taken up the investigation of the complaints about fraud cases relating to subscription for hotel room units. The issue was raised by Members at the meeting on 6 January 2000.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Eliza YAU)
for Secretary for Security

c.c. CP (Attn: Mr. CHEUNG Siu-wah)

Reported and Detected Cases by Type of Crime, 1998 - 1999

TYPE OF CRIME	1998			1999		
	R	D	Rate	R	D	Rate
(A) VIOLENT CRIME						
01. Rape	90	68	75.5%	91	70	76.9%
02. Indecent Assault	1 214	837	68.9%	1 047	729	69.6%
03. Murder & Manslaughter	64	51	79.6%	63	47	74.6%
04. Attempted Murder	2	2	100.0%	9	9	100.0%
05. Wounding	1 568	907	57.8%	1 973	1 141	57.8%
06. Serious Assault	5 623	3 410	60.6%	5 437	3 302	60.7%
07. Assault on Police	519	517	99.6%	602	598	99.3%
08. Kidnapping & Child Stealing	3	3	100.0%	4	4	100.0%
09. Cruelty to Child	122	113	92.6%	197	190	96.4%
10. Criminal Intimidation	978	479	48.9%	1 320	578	43.8%
11. Robbery with Genuine Firearms	7	3	42.8%	5	1	20.0%
12. Robbery with Pistol Like Object	50	4	8.0%	65	8	12.3%
13. Other Robberies	3 167	800	25.2%	3 570	796	22.3%
14. Aggravated Burglary	5	4	80.0%	8	3	37.5%
15. Blackmail	453	333	73.5%	576	416	72.2%
16. Arson	817	112	13.7%	738	82	11.1%
(B) OTHER CRIME						
17. Burglary with Breaking	7 272	617	8.4%	6 987	509	7.3%
18. Burglary without Breaking	2 493	427	17.1%	2 138	290	13.6%
19. Theft (Snatching)	966	202	20.9%	1 107	231	20.9%
20. Theft (Pickpocketing)	675	249	36.8%	806	296	36.7%
21. Theft (Shop Theft)	6 032	5 599	92.8%	6 227	5 704	91.6%
22. Theft from Vehicle	2 801	457	16.3%	3 430	466	13.6%
23. Taking Conveyance w/o Authority	2 449	210	8.5%	2 642	220	8.3%
24. Abstracting of Electricity	84	81	96.4%	92	82	89.1%
25. Theft from Construction Site	1 247	117	9.3%	1 324	113	8.5%
26. Other Miscellaneous Thefts	12 275	4 077	33.2%	13 418	4 071	30.3%
27. Handling Stolen Goods	121	120	99.1%	113	113	100.0%
28. Deception	2 705	824	30.4%	3 423	852	24.9%
29. Business Fraud	27	23	85.1%	27	20	74.1%
30. Forgery and Coinage	752	546	72.6%	894	604	67.6%
31. Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	294	257	87.4%	308	258	83.8%
32. Keeping Vice Establishment	655	654	99.8%	381	381	100.0%
33. Procuration, Abduction of Female	183	182	99.4%	178	175	98.3%
34. Unnatural Offences	35	31	88.5%	16	13	81.3%
35. Other Off. Against Public Morality	22	16	72.7%	16	13	81.3%

**Impact on Police's efficiency
by the granting of time-off
in lieu of overtime payments**

Background

At the LegCo Panel on Security Meeting held on 7 December 1999, the Chairman requested the Administration to provide quantitative information in terms of man hours on the following :-

- (a) a breakdown of savings achieved arising from amalgamating the Field Patrol Detachment (FPD) with the Border District and improving the shift arrangements of the Marine Police launch crews;
- (b) the additional front-line Police officers provided to the respective Formations due to the decentralization of the leave and training reserve posts; and
- (c) time-off taken by Police officers, in particular CID staff, during the period from February to October 1999.

Response

3. The requested information is as follows :-

- (a) (i) Amalgamation of FPD : FPD was established in 1991 to take over responsibility for ensuring the integrity of the land boundary from the British Forces. It forms part of the Police Tactical Unit attachment. The Police initially followed the military shift pattern and deployment strategy. The shift pattern included 40 hours overtime in each four week cycle. In a typical month FPD officers worked 34,000 hours overtime. The Disciplined Services Overtime Allowance (DSOA) incurred was about \$50 million per annum.

The military style deployment tactics adopted by the FPD do not afford police officers, with their local knowledge and language skills, an appropriate pro-active response. In addition, co-ordination with Border divisional duties in performing anti-illegal immigration work in the sectors is hampered by the frequent turn over of the FPD

personnel. Hence, there was a call for a change. Since the change of sovereignty, enhanced liaison and improved communication with the Border Defence Bureau from the Mainland have brought daily operational exchanges by telephone and fax. The co-operative working relationship has enabled the amalgamation of the FPD and the Border District; and the removal of the special shifts and overtime payment.

- (ii) Marine Police Launch crews : The old shift pattern included overtime in each four week cycle. In a typical month launch crews worked 60,000 hours overtime which was recompensed by time off and DSOA at a ratio of 3:1. The DSOA incurred was about \$64 million per annum.

Since the change of sovereignty, enhanced liaison and improved communication with Mainland enforcement agencies have been established. Designated liaison officers on both sides of the sea boundary have direct communications. The co-operative working relationship plus the increase in the number of operational bases and speedy new police vessels have enabled the Police Force to change its marine policing methods.

Experience gained from overseas visits and the Police Force's own initiatives on working patterns mean deployment at sea is now more flexible and based on patrol areas. Priority is given to anti-illegal immigration, anti-smuggling, anti-crime and marine safety. The present deployment has improved operational efficiency and has removed overtime from the shift pattern.

- (b) Decentralisation of leave and training reserve posts : The Police Study Team Report 31/93 recommended that leave and training reserve posts be decentralised to increase flexibility and allow for effective, efficient and economical use of human resources. The decentralisation programme commenced in the 1996/97 FY and is ongoing. To date, 448 Training Reserve posts and 1243 Leave Reserve posts have been devolved to Police Regions and Districts, i.e., a total of 1691 posts. These are all front-line uniformed posts bringing Districts and Divisions up to and beyond their establishments.
- (c) Time off taken : During the period February to October 1999 1,458,864 hours of overtime were compensated by time off. The

hours are broken down as follows:

Uniform Branch Duties:	1,249,576 hours
Crime Duties :	209,288 hours

Conclusion

The Police Force acknowledges the LegCo Security Panel's concerns in regard to the detection rate. It must be reiterated, however, that the detection rate can only serve as an indicator of the extent of Police success but not as a precise reflection of the efforts that go into the prevention and detection of crimes.

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STATISTICS ON SERIOUS FRAUD CASES**I) TOTAL**

Year	Number of Reported Cases	Amount Involved (Reported Losses in HK\$)
1997	108	\$1.6 billion
1998	144	\$3.8 billion
1999	91	\$3.0 billion

II.) BREAKDOWN

<u>Category</u>	<u>1997</u>		<u>1998</u>		<u>1999</u>	
	(Cases)	(HK\$M)	(Cases)	(HK\$M)	(Cases)	(HK\$M)
1. L/C & Documentary Credit Fraud	16	568.8	25	893.8	23	668.8
2. Fraud by Company Director	7	50.1	13	836.5	17	1010.9
3. Property Fraud	10	150	11	383.8	11	277.7
4. Employee Fraud	10	141.7	9	165.2	8	116.8
5. Investment Fraud	1	0	2	120	4	162.2
6. Stocks & Shares, Forex & Futures	3	155.8	9	382.8	3	36
7. Bank Fraud	5	306.4	9	244.3	3	114.6
8. Insurance Fraud	3	77.8	1	1.2	1	0
9. Advance Fee Fraud	2	4.5	3	16.3	1	0.8
10. Long Firm Fraud	4	18.3	4	58.2	0	0
11. Pyramid/Inertia Selling	1	6	0	0	0	0
12. Others	46	121.4	58	697.9	20	612.2
Total number of cases and reported losses	108	1.6 billion	144	3.8 billion	91	3 billion

Statistics on Youth Crime

- Of the 40,745 persons arrested for all categories of crime in 1999, there were 5,486 juvenile offenders (7-15 years of age) arrested (13.5% of total). This represents a decrease of 6% and 8% respectively, over 1998 and 1997.
- In 1999, there were 7,038 young persons (aged 16-20) arrested (17.3% of total) for crime which represents an increase of 6.4% and 2.7% respectively, when compared with 1998 and 1997.
- The most prevalent types of offences the juveniles were arrested for include shop theft, miscellaneous thefts, and wounding and serious assault. They accounted for 30.8%, 18.1% and 14.1% respectively of the total juveniles arrested for crime in 1999.
- The most common crimes committed by young persons were wounding and serious assault, miscellaneous thefts, shop theft, disorder/fighting in public place and robbery. They accounted for 16.8%, 12.8%, 10.6%, 7.7% and 5.6% respectively of the total young persons arrested for crime in 1999.
- In 1999, 4,641 juvenile offenders were students (84.6% of total); a decrease of 4.2% and 5.7% respectively when compared with 1998 and 1997. For young persons arrested for crime in 1999, 1,333 of them were students (18.9% of total), an increase of 19.8% as compared with both 1998 and 1997.
- 463 juveniles and 881 young persons were arrested for triad related offences in 1999, an increase of 3.1% and 4% respectively over 1998, and an increase of 10.2% and 29.4% respectively when compared with 1997.