

ICAC Annual Survey 2014

A. Public Attitude towards Corruption

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Tolerance of corruption in Hong Kong (0: Total intolerance; 10: Total tolerance)				
Mean score :	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.0
Willingness to report corruption				
— Willing	77.2%	79.2%	80.6%	76.7%
— Unwilling	4.7%	5.1%	4.9%	6.7%
— Depending on circumstances	15.5%	14.1%	12.5%	13.6%
— Don't know/no opinion	2.6%	1.5%	2.0%	3.1%

Different corrupt behaviour	Acceptance level				Whether the act is illegal		
	Acceptable	Depend on circumstances	Unacceptable	Don't know/no comment	Yes	No	Don't know/no comment
(i) A company staff exaggerates his/her travelling expenses when making claims from the company.	5.9%	5.6%	85.1%	3.4%	80.8%	9.6%	9.5%
(ii) A restaurant buyer accepts rebates from meat suppliers without the knowledge of the restaurant operator.	6.4%	3.2%	86.7%	3.8%	87.5%	5.7%	6.8%
(iii) A frontline law enforcement officer of the government solicits festive "laises" from shop owners.	1.6%	0.4%	97.3%	0.7%	94.6%	2.9%	2.5%
(iv) A civil servant helps his/her relatives to bid the department's tender by providing internal information.	1.5%	0.5%	96.7%	1.3%	96.0%	1.8%	2.3%
(v) A member of an owners' incorporation accepts gifts from the maintenance contractor and agrees to consider using materials which do not conform with the tender specifications.	0.3%	0.5%	98.5%	0.7%	96.9%	1.2%	1.9%
(vi) The operator of entertainment business offers advantages to government officers for lenient treatments in the inspection of fire safety facilities.	0.4%	0.2%	98.4%	1.0%	98.0%	0.8%	1.1%

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Perceived prevalence of corruption in Hong Kong				
– Very common/quite common	18.4%	25.4%	29.1%	27.6%
– Not quite common/very uncommon	71.3%	68.5%	64.9%	64.5%
– Don't know/no opinion	10.3%	6.0%	5.9%	7.9%

B. Public Concern over Corruption Problem

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Perceived importance of keeping Hong Kong corruption-free to overall development of Hong Kong				
– Very important/quite important	99.2%	98.8%	99.1%	98.7%
– Not quite important/very unimportant	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%
– Don't know/no opinion	0.6%	1.0%	0.9%	0.7%
Perceived changes in the level of corruption next year				
– Will increase	11.0%	14.0%	17.0%	20.1%
– Will decrease	9.5%	10.1%	8.6%	9.6%
– More or less the same as at present	68.0%	67.5%	66.2%	61.5%
– Don't know/no opinion	11.4%	8.5%	8.2%	8.9%

Perception of corruption problem in different sectors

With regard to corruption problem in different sectors in Hong Kong, “government officials/civil servants” (27.9%) topped the list as the area of greatest concern, followed by “real estate” (12.5%) and “construction and engineering industry” (12.0%). 12.4% of the respondents did not express any opinions.

Among those who opted “government officials/civil servants” as the sector of greatest concern, the main reasons cited were “it affected people’s livelihood/interest of the public” (56.5%), “they were in high position and had much power in the society” (33.7%) and “it affected the equitable development of the society” (18.4%).

Among those respondents who thought that corruption problem in “real estate” was their greatest concern, the key reasons mentioned were “high property prices and rental caused by developers” (58.1%), “it affected people’s livelihood/interest of the public” (47.8%) and “large amount of money involved was conducive to corruption” (21.3%).

Among those respondents who thought that corruption problem in “construction and engineering industry” was their greatest concern, the most common reason cited was “it affected people’s livelihood/interest of the public” (54.6%), followed by “corruption would result in substandard works or materials/it affected the quality of construction works” (39.6%) and “frequent sub-contracting was conducive to corruption” (30.0%).

C. Public Opinion towards the Work of the ICAC

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Effectiveness of ICAC’s anti-corruption work				
– Very effective/quite effective	87.8%	88.3%	79.9%	80.6%
– Not quite effective/very ineffective	5.5%	6.5%	14.2%	12.4%
– Don’t know/no opinion	6.7%	5.1%	5.9%	7.0%
Support for the ICAC				
– Deserved	98.0%	98.7%	95.6%	96.9%
– Not deserved	0.1%	0.4%	1.8%	1.4%
– Don’t know/no opinion	2.0%	0.9%	2.6%	1.8%

Aspects of work the ICAC should strengthen

With regard to the aspects of work that the ICAC should strengthen, over half of the respondents (51.5%) mentioned “publicity and education work for anti-corruption”, followed by “law enforcement work” (23.4%).

For those respondents who said that the ICAC should strengthen “publicity and education work for anti-corruption”, the major reason cited was “to enhance public awareness of anti-corruption” (59.1%), followed by “to enhance public understanding of corruption problem” (19.1%) and “to educate the next generation about anti-corruption” (10.5%).

On the other hand, the main reasons cited by respondents who considered that the ICAC should strengthen “law enforcement work” were “to raise the effectiveness of investigation” (44.2%), “to enhance deterrent effect” (23.0%) and “to reduce corruption cases” (17.8%).

Target groups that the ICAC should strengthen preventive education work

42.5% of the respondents indicated that the ICAC should strengthen corruption preventive education work for “students”. The other target groups mentioned were “government departments/civil servants/councillors/public servants” (38.2%), “real estate/construction industries” (15.3%), “youths” (9.5%) and “new arrivals” (9.0%).

“Conducting talks/seminars” was the most commonly cited format for the ICAC to strengthen corruption preventive education work for these target groups.

D. Public Behaviour on Reporting Corruption

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Whether respondents had come across corruption in the past 12 months				
– Yes	1.2%	1.8%	1.2%	1.5%
– No	98.5%	98.1%	98.8%	97.8%
– Don't know/no opinion	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.7%

Whether respondents who had come across corruption in the past 12 months had reported to the ICAC*				
– Yes	–	–	4 persons	3 persons
– No	–	–	13 persons	20 persons

Whether friends and relatives of respondents had come across corruption in the past 12 months				
– Yes	1.3%	2.5%	0.7%	1.2%
– No	95.2%	94.1%	96.6%	95.5%
– Don't know/no opinion	3.5%	3.4%	2.8%	3.4%

Whether respondents' friends and relatives who had come across corruption in the past 12 months had reported to the ICAC*				
– Yes	–	–	2 persons	6 persons
– No	–	–	8 persons	9 persons
– Don't know/no opinion	–	–	0 person	3 persons

* The estimates should be interpreted with caution owing to a small base.