

ICAC Annual Survey 2017

A. Public Attitude towards Corruption

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Tolerance of corruption in Hong Kong				
(0: Total intolerance; 10: Total tolerance)				
Mean score :	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.6
Willingness to report corruption				
- Willing	76.7%	78.8%	78.1%	78.0%
- Unwilling	6.7%	5.7%	5.1%	6.2%
- Depending on circumstances	13.6%	14.0%	14.8%	13.7%
- Don't know/no opinion	3.1%	1.6%	2.0%	2.1%

Scenario-type Behaviours	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 pub proprietor offers advantages to government officers for lax inspection of fire safety facilities.	0.1%	0.1%	99.3%	0.6%	98.2%	0.5%	1.3%
(ii) A member of an owners' incorporation accepts gifts from the maintenance contractor in return for agreeing to consider using materials which do not conform with the tender specifications.	—	0.4%	98.6%	1.0%	97.9%	0.4%	1.7%
(iii) A frontline law enforcement officer of the government solicits festive 'laises' from shop owners.	0.6%	0.6%	98.1%	0.7%	95.5%	2.6%	1.9%
(iv) A civil servant helps his/her relative to bid the department's works project tender by providing him/her with internal information.	1.0%	0.5%	97.2%	1.4%	95.4%	1.9%	2.7%
(v) A fast food shop buyer accepts rebates from food suppliers without the knowledge of the shop proprietor.	1.5%	0.6%	96.0%	1.8%	93.0%	3.9%	3.1%
(vi) A company's employee exaggerates his/her entertainment expenses when making claims from the company.	1.1%	1.7%	96.0%	1.2%	91.2%	4.8%	3.9%
(vii) A District Council election candidate asks his/her voters to vote for him/her when providing the service of blood pressure checking free of charge.	17.5%	1.2%	77.8%	3.5%	69.9%	22.0%	8.1%

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Perceived prevalence of corruption in Hong Kong				
– Not quite common/very uncommon	64.5%	65.5%	64.4%	64.5%
– Very common/quite common	27.6%	28.1%	29.6%	28.2%
– Don't know/no opinion	7.9%	6.5%	6.0%	7.4%

B. Public Concern over Corruption Problem

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Perceived importance of keeping Hong Kong corruption-free to overall development of Hong Kong				
– Very important/quite important	98.7%	99.0%	99.2%	99.2%
– Not quite important/very unimportant	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%
– Don't know/no opinion	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.7%
Perceived changes in the level of corruption next year				
– Will increase	20.1%	16.8%	18.5%	15.8%
– Will decrease	9.6%	8.3%	8.9%	11.4%
– More or less the same as at present	61.5%	62.6%	63.5%	64.3%
– Don't know/no opinion	8.9%	12.3%	9.1%	8.4%

Perception of corruption problem in different sectors

With regard to corruption problem in different sectors in Hong Kong, “government officials/civil servants” (25.2%) topped the list as the area of greatest concern, followed by “construction and engineering industry” (23.4%) and “real estate” (6.0%). 17.9% of the respondents did not express any opinion.

Among those who opted “government officials/civil servants” as the sector of greatest concern, the main reason cited was “it affected people’s livelihood/interest of the public” (63.7%). Other reasons were “they were in high position and had much power in the society” (17.4%) and “it set a bad example to the public” (11.1%).

Among the respondents who thought that corruption in “construction and engineering industry” was their greatest concern, the most common reason cited was “it affected people’s livelihood/interest of the public” (71.9%), followed by “corruption would result in substandard works or materials/it affected the quality of construction works” (60.1%) and “large amount of money involved was conducive to corruption” (17.9%).

Among the respondents who thought that corruption in “real estate” was their greatest concern, the key reasons mentioned were “high property prices and rental caused by developers” (64.6%), “it affected people’s livelihood/interest of the public” (52.7%) and “large amount of money involved was conducive to corruption” (18.1%).

C. Public Opinion towards the Work of the ICAC

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Effectiveness of ICAC’s anti-corruption work				
– Very effective/quite effective	80.6%	80.3%	80.1%	78.8%
– Not quite effective/very ineffective	12.4%	12.4%	12.7%	13.2%
– Don’t know/no opinion	7.0%	7.4%	7.2%	7.9%
Support for the ICAC				
– Deserved	96.9%	97.0%	96.2%	96.8%
– Not deserved	1.4%	1.0%	1.7%	1.5%
– Don’t know/no opinion	1.8%	2.0%	2.2%	1.7%
Whether respondents had received any information concerning the ICAC in the past 12 months @				
– Yes			72.8%	75.7%
– No			23.7%	21.8%
– Can’t remember/no opinion			3.5%	2.5%

Note

@ This question has been introduced since 2016.

D. Public Behaviour and Experience in Reporting Corruption

	2017
Whether respondents had come across corruption personally in the past 12 months @	
– Yes	0.6%
– No	99.1%
– Don't know/no opinion	0.4%
Whether respondents who had come across corruption personally in the past 12 months had reported to the ICAC	
– Yes	11.3%
– No	88.7%
Sample size	(8) ^
^ The estimates should be interpreted with caution owing to a small base (<30).	
Reporting channels used by respondents who had reported corruption to the ICAC	
– In person	—
– By phone	100.0%
Sample size	(1) ^
^ The estimates should be interpreted with caution owing to a small base (<30).	
Whether respondents who had reported corruption to the ICAC had provided their names and phone numbers or addresses	
– Yes	100.0%
– No	—
Sample size	(1) ^
^ The estimates should be interpreted with caution owing to a small base (<30).	

Notes

@ An additional question has been added since 2017 to confirm whether the respondent had come across corruption personally. Therefore, the findings should not be compared with those recorded in the previous years.