Training the Law Enforcers, Building an Enforcement Unit, Handling Uncooperative Offenders

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Chief Inspector of Police

Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office

Department of Health, Hong Kong SAR





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- Organization of Police Training Team
- Modes of Trainings

2. Building an Enforcement Unit

- Organization and Functions of Enforcement Division
- Enforcement Strategy

3. Handling Uncooperative Offenders

- Tactics
- Application of Technology





Development of Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office (TACO) in Hong Kong

2001

Established as Tobacco Control Office (TCO) for promoting smoke-free culture

2006

Granted with Enforcement Power upon Legislative Amendment on Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance, Cap. 371

2018

Renamed as Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office (TACO) upon passage of Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2017

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Service Areas of TACO (Smoking related)



Health Promotion

- Promotion of Smoke-free culture
- Ensure public compliance to the anti-smoking legislation



Legislation

- Enforcing and monitoring Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance (Cap. 371)
- Handling Complaints and Enquiries related to Cap. 371



Smoking Cessation

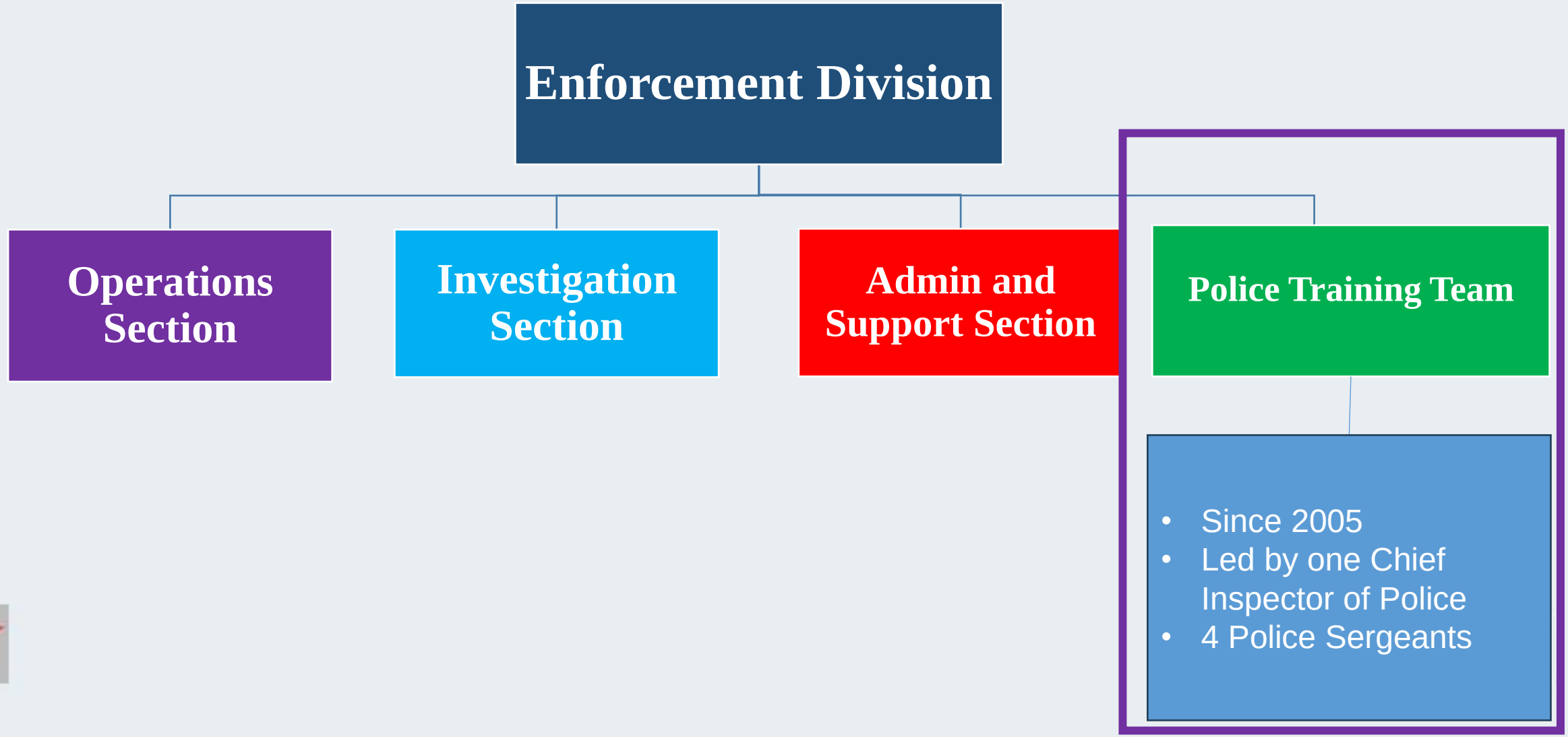
- Coordinating smoking cessation services
- Providing counselling on smoking cessation thro' hotline



Part 1
Training of the Law Enforcers

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TACO Police Training Team (PTT)



Responsibilities of Police Training Team

Trainer

- Providing trainings to TACIs, in-house and other government departments
- Reviewing training contents based on operational need
- Identifying training needs

Law Enforcement Consultant

- Sharing Police Knowledge and Experience
- Identifying loopholes in existing practices
- Formulating/ Revising Operational Procedures

Interdepartmental Focal Point

- Coordination & communication with police units
- Focal point with Law Enforcement Agents (LEA)
- Devising collaboration protocols

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Training Tactics

- Need-based Strategy – From Operations to Trainings

Identify Operational Needs → **Formulate Protocols With Stakeholders** → **Training and Implementation**



Take-down and Data Request

Instagram

WeChat

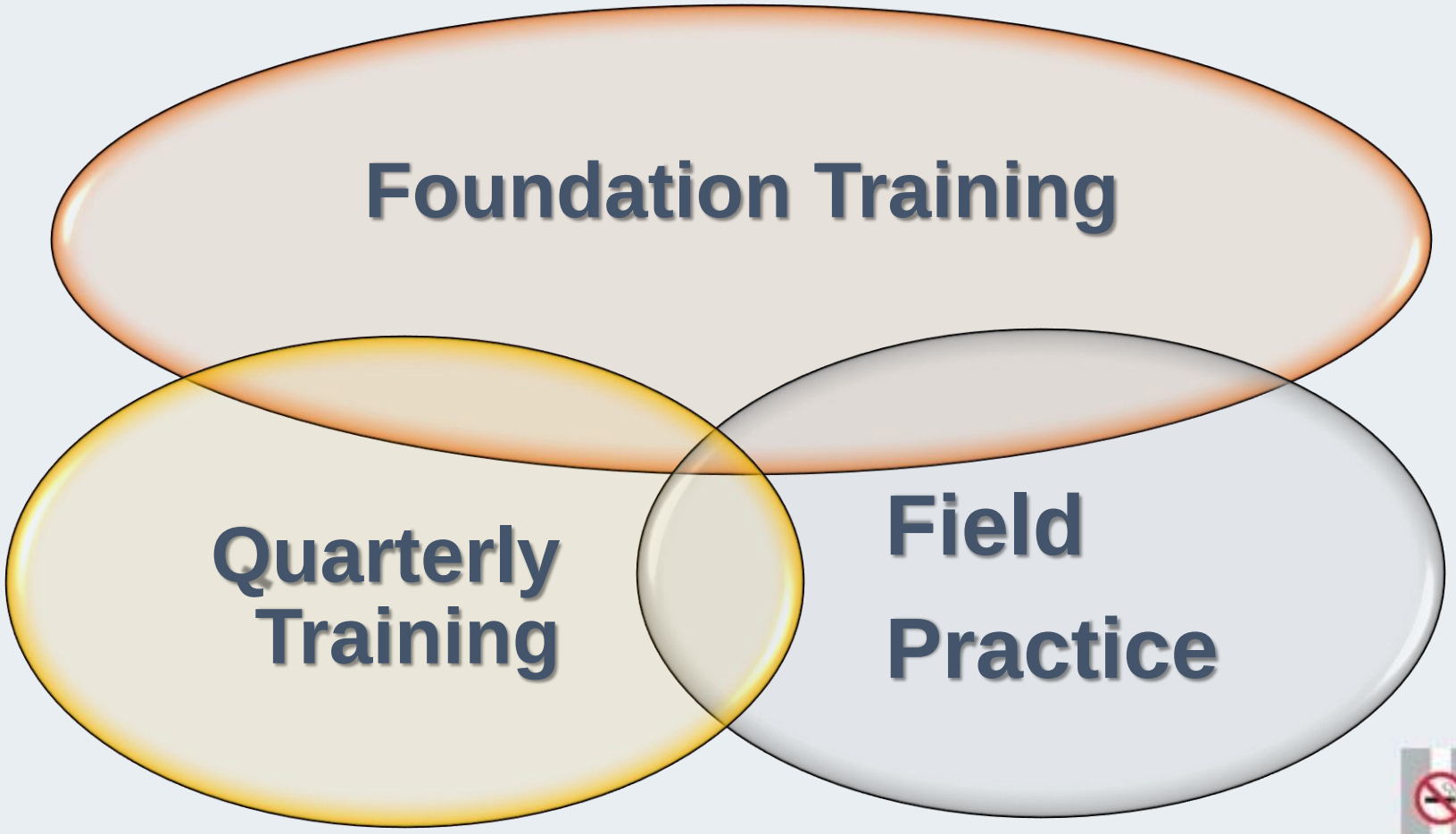
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Modes of Training



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Foundation Training

- Targeting New Recruits
  - Organization Knowledge
  - Legislation and Power
  - Procedures and Tactics
  - Investigation and Evidence Collection
- Developing Mindset of Law Enforcer

Foundation Training

Modes of Training

1. Lecture
2. Practical Exercise
3. Visit
4. Live Demonstration
5. Examination







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Quarterly Training

- Existing TACO officers
- Thematic-based Refresher Training

  e.g. latest trend, new legislation, new protocol
- Interactive mode of delivery

  e.g. guest lectures, group discussions, role play, case review, training videos, practical exercises
- Value-added Sessions

  e.g. experience / case sharing, team building exercises
- Shorter Training Time



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Field Training

Advice / Debriefing

- Accompany TACO Inspectors on field operations
- Observe the performance of TACO Inspectors and provide consultation / advice / conduct debriefings





Part 2
Building an Enforcement Unit



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Law Enforcement - Responsibilities

- Enforced by Tobacco and Alcohol Control Inspector (TACI)



- Relevant Legislation
  - ➢**Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance (Cap. 371)**
    - Smoking in No Smoking Area (NSA) / Public Transport
    - Tobacco Advertisement
    - Packaging of Tobacco Products
    - Selling/Giving Smoking Products to Underage
    - Uncooperative behaviours during enforcement
    - Alternative Smoking Products (ASP) related offence (total ban since April 2026)
  - ➢**Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60)**
    - Import of ASP (since 2023)
  - ➢**Fixed Penalty (Smoking Offences) Ordinance (Cap.600)**
  - ➢**Dutiable Commodities (Liquor) Regulations (Cap.109B)**

Structure of Enforcement Division



Operations Section - Responsibilities

- **Handling smoking complaint and conducting inspection**
  - E.g. Respond to complaints of smoking at NSA by enhanced patrol and Fixed Penalty Notice enforcement
- **Rotating on shift for initial handling of ASP referral cases**
  - Import of ASP by Passenger/ via Cargo/ Parcel
  - Other ASP offences in downtown
- **Thematic operations targets:**
  - Shisha Bars
  - Physical Tobacco Advertisement
  - Physical ASP leaflet and face-to-face sale cases
- **Joint operation with other Departments**



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Investigation Section - Responsibilities

- **Taking over cases from OPS Section for investigation and prosecution**
  - ➢ Except cases enforced by way of Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN)
  - ➢ Including statement taking, seeking legal advice, issuing summons, laying of charge, etc
- **Inspection and Investigation of online ASP and tobacco advertisement cases**
  - ➢ Involving taking down of online advertisement of concern
- **Handling serious Import of ASP cases referred by Customs and Excise Department**
  - ➢ Involving arrest and laying of charge
- **Taking over ASP cases referred by other departments**
- **Handling of appeal against FPN**



Admin & SUP Section - Responsibilities

- **Initial Complaint Receipt and Distribution**
  - ➢ Through reporting hotline, email, letter, fax, in person, referral from other departments, etc
- **Maintenance of Enforcement Statistic**
- **Logistic arrangement**
  - ➢ Vehicles and equipment
- **Maintenance of Departmental System**
- **Office Administration**

Enforcement Strategy

- Complaint Basis
- Classification of Black Spots
- Mixed Modes of Enforcement
  - Plainclothes Operation
  - Surprise Inspection
  - Decoy Operation
  - Joint Operation
- Empowerment of Stakeholders





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Internal and External Collaborations

Internal Collaborations

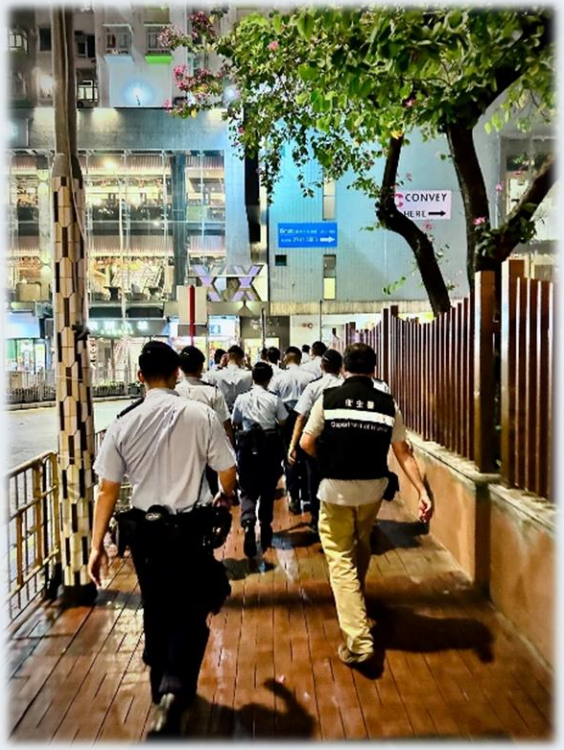


- **Administrative Section**
  - Manpower management
  - Finance management
  - Property Office – Storage and Handling of seized exhibits

- **Health Informatics and Technology Office**
  - Provision and maintenance of enforcement and prosecution systems
  - Development of enforcement technology

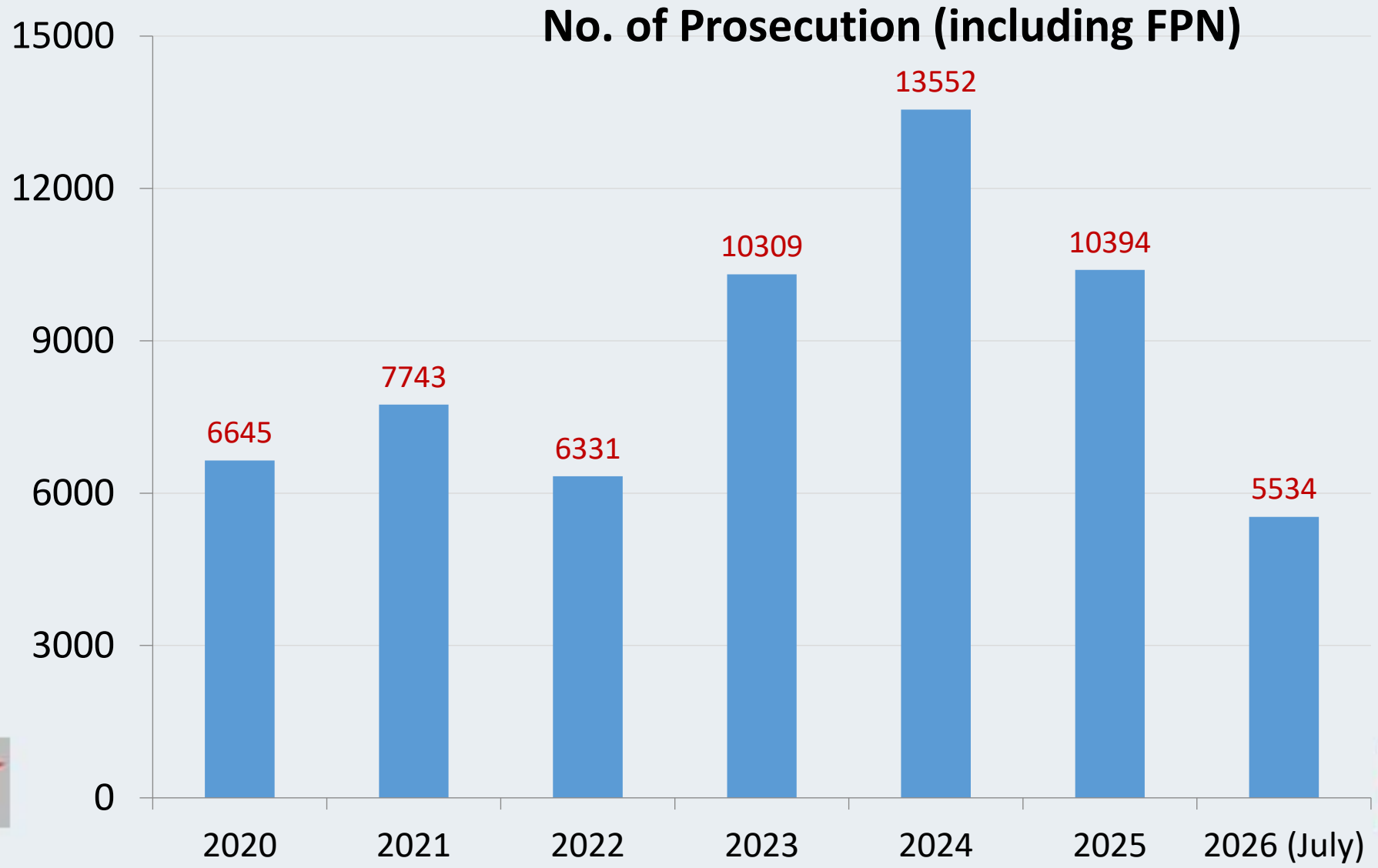
External Collaborations

- Other government departments empowered to take enforcement action on smoking offences
  - Hong Kong Police Force
  - Food, Environment and Hygiene Department
  - Housing Department
  - Leisure, Culture and Sports Department
  - Customs and Excise Department
  - Labour Department (construction site since July 2026)
- Stakeholder/ Venue Manager
  - Airport Authority
  - Kai Tak Sports Park
  - Educational Institutes, Universities
- The Judiciary



Enforcement Statistics

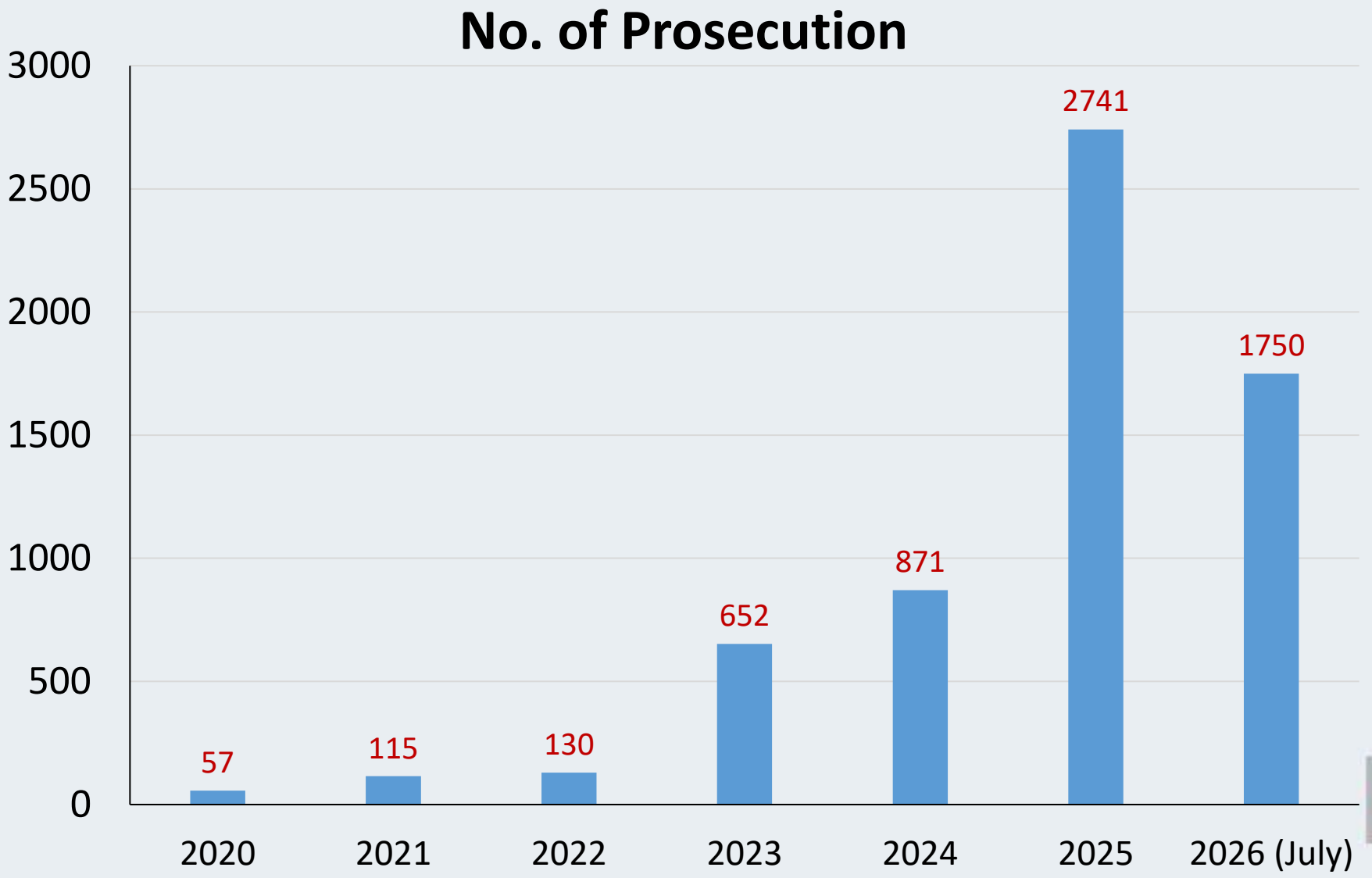
Smoking act related offences



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Enforcement Statistics

Non-smoking act related offences



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Part 3
Handling Uncooperative Offenders

Handling Uncooperative Offenders

- Extension of No Smoking Area
- Expansion of Enforcement Scope
- Increase of Fine from HK$1,500 to HK$3,000 since 2026-01-01
- Total ban of Alternative Smoking Products in Public Place since April 2026

Handling Uncooperative Offenders

Psychological Preparation

- Understanding that the offenders would be emotionally agitated or defensive towards enforcement action
- Verbal abuse or even provocation from the public does NOT constitute a criminal offense
- Professionalism and Empathy

Handling Uncooperative Offenders

Tactics

- Small-Team Enforcement

  2 persons per team; 2-3 teams on guard dispersedly to form an outer cordon line

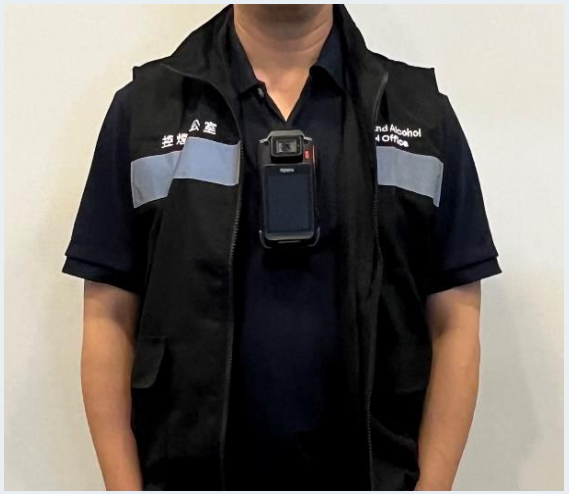
- Keep distance with offenders to avoid bodily touch

Recent Enforcement Development

Application of Technology

- Body Worn Video Camera (since 2025-08-20)
- Mobile Ticketing (since 2025-10-28)







檔號： 82-7142122-7 表格 1
Reference No.: FORM 1

《定額罰款（吸煙罪行）條例》（第 600 章）
FIXED PENALTY (SMOKING OFFENCES) ORDINANCE (Cap. 600)
關於指稱犯定額罰款吸煙罪行的詳情的通知書（第 3(1) 條）
NOTICE OF PARTICULARS OF ALLEGED FIXED PENALTY SMOKING OFFENCE (Section 3(1))

「轉數快」FPS

英文全名 (先寫姓氏) Name in full in English (Surname first): LOK WING CHING
中文全名 Name in full in Chinese: 樂永晴
中文電碼 Chinese Commercial Code: 2867 3057 2532
香港身份證號碼: Hong Kong Identity Card No.: Z683365(A)
性別: 女 Sex: Female
出生日期: 日 day 月 month 年 year Date of birth: 03 / 06 / 1985
地址: 九龍黃大仙區紅梅路5號彩紅邨紅華樓 Address:
聯絡電話(如有的話) Contact Tel. No. (if any): 66778899

現被指稱犯吸煙罪行 IS ALLEGED TO HAVE COMMITTED A SMOKING OFFENCE

罪行事項 LIST OF OFFENCES
將傳統吸煙產品給予18歲以下人士，但不多於指明數量，亦非為商業目的（《吸煙（公眾衞生）條例》（第371章）第15C(1)條）
Giving of any conventional smoking product to a person under the age of 18 years for not more than a specified quantity and other than for commercial purposes (section 15C(1) of the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance (Chapter 371))

定額罰款 FIXED PENALTY: 港幣三千元 HK$3,000

罪行詳情 OFFENCE DETAILS
日期: 日 day 月 month 年 year Date: 15 / 01 / 2026
時間: Time: 17:00
將傳統吸煙產品給予18歲以下人士，但不多於指明數量，亦非為商業目的
Giving of any conventional smoking product to a person under the age of 18 years for not more than a specified quantity and other than for commercial purposes
地點: 梳士巴利道18號 K11 MUSEA Location:

發出通知書人員簽署: Signature of Officer Giving Notice: N/A
發出通知書人員姓名（全名）: Name (in full) of Officer Giving Notice: LI TWO MAN
發出日期: 日 day 月 month 年 year Date of Issue: 15 / 01 / 2026
編號 Number: N/A
職位及地區 Post and District: STAC1 911 / OP101
部門 Department: 衞生署 Department of Health

請細心閱讀背頁列明的繳款指示及附註。
Please read carefully the payment instructions and notes set out overleaf.
機印所示款項收訖。 Received the sum printed.

郵遞繳款回條 Slip for Payment by Post

CRC 141	表格 FORM	編號 SERIAL NUMBER	數額 AMOUNT
	1	8 2 7 1 4 2 1 2 2 7 1 5 0 1 2 6	HK$3,000

日 day 月 month 年 year 發出日期 Date of issue

8706114100000000300000001827142122701501 26

DH 2681 (g)

Body Worn Video Camera (BWVC)

- Similar practices adopted by other government departments
- For recording on-site situation when necessary
- Incident-specific recordings
- Notify the person(s) concerned, where reasonably practicable
- Safeguard the safety of the public and enforcement officers
- Collecting evidence



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Mobile Ticketing (since 2025-10-28)

- Similar practices adopted by other government departments
- Issuing Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN)
- Shorter processing time than manual ticketing
- Identical to handwritten Fixed Penalty Notices
- Streamline procedures, improve data accuracy and enhance enforcement efficiency



82-7142122-7 表格 1 FORM 1

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「轉數快」FPS

LOK WING CHING

樂永晴 2867 3057 2532

Z683365(A)

女 Female 出生日期 Date of birth: 03 / 06 / 1985

九龍黃大仙區紅梅路5號彩紅邨紅蓮樓

66778899

現被指稱犯吸煙罪行 IS ALLEGED TO HAVE COMMITTED A SMOKING OFFENCE

罪行事項 LIST OF OFFENCES

將傳統吸煙產品給予18歲以下人士，但不多於指明數量，亦非為商業目的（《吸煙（公眾衞生）條例》（第371章）第15C(1)條）
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定額罰款 FIXED PENALTY 港幣三千元 HK$3,000

罪行詳情 OFFENCE DETAILS

日期 Date: 15 / 01 / 2026

時間 Time: 17:00

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Giving of any conventional smoking product to a person under the age of 18 years for not more than a specified quantity and other than for commercial purposes

地點 Location: 槐士巴利道18號 K11 MUSEA

發出通知書人員簽署 Signature of Officer Giving Notice: N/A

發出通知書人員姓名（全名）Name (in full) of Officer Giving Notice: LI TWO MAN

發出日期 Date of Issue: 15 / 01 / 2026

編號 Number: N/A

單位及地區 Post and District: STAC1 911 / OP101

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日 day 月 month 年 year 發出日期 Date of issue

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DH 2681 (g)

Live Demonstration





Handling Uncooperative Offenders

Assess environment and call backup

Keep 1.8M

Keep 1.8M

Keep 1.8M

On guard and maintain order



Officer issuing FPN by Mobile Ticketing
Use BWVC if necessary

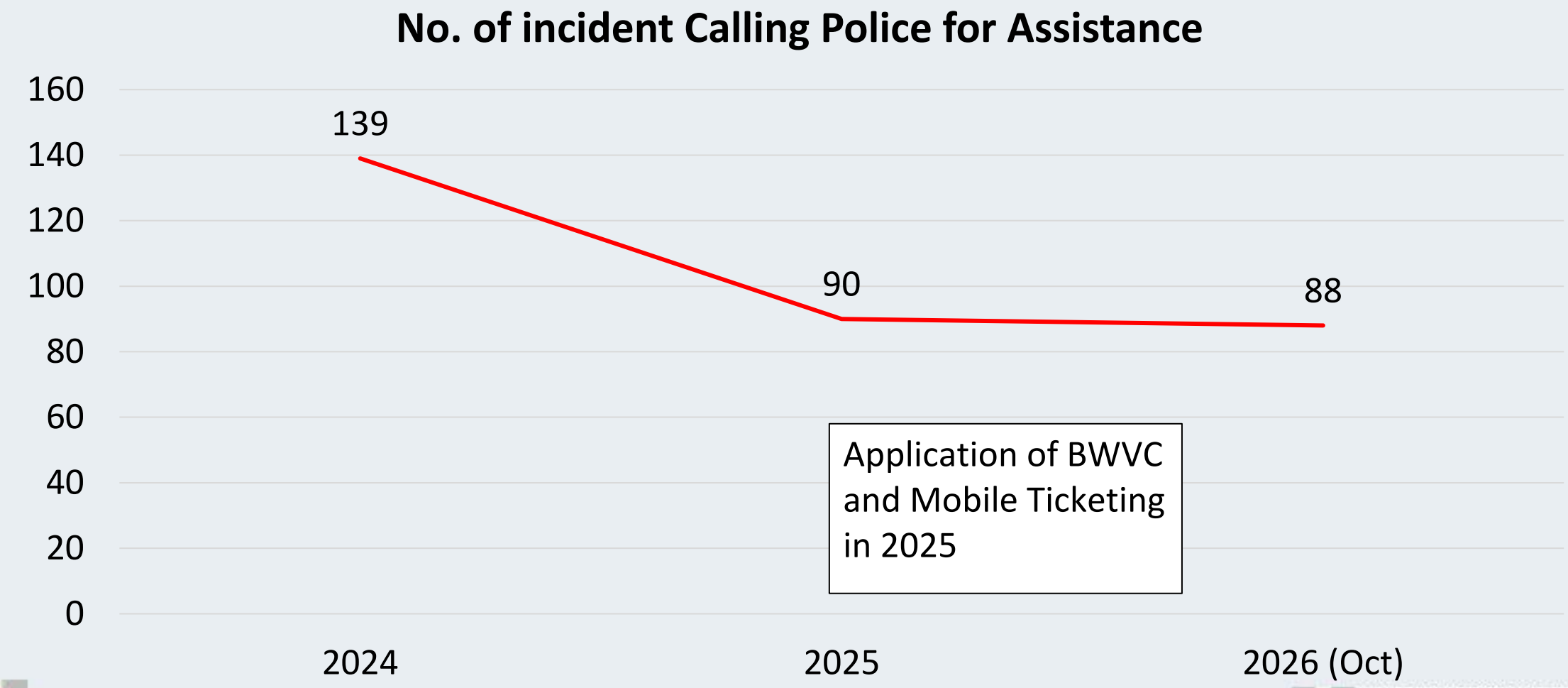
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Handling Uncooperative Offenders

Tactics

- Explanation of legislation and consequence
- Verbal warning (Activation of BWVC)
- Situation deteriorates (Call for backup or Police assistance)
- Arrest the offenders
- Smoking/ Non-smoking offence
- Additional offence(s)

Handling Uncooperative Offenders



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Way Forward

- Historical low smoking in Hong Kong in 2025 (8.5%)
- Formulating New Protocol for New Legislations
- Multi-pronged Approach
- Partnership with venue manager/ stakeholder
- Application of Technology and AI
- Continuation Training

Q&A

Thank You

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