



CHAPTER III
GENERAL DESCRIPTION WITH STATISTICS

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3.1 Number of Cases Recorded

In 2008, the CCAC received a total of 796 cases, registering an 8.2% year-on-year increase. 553 were criminal cases while 243 were administrative complaints. Though there was a slight growth of overall number of cases compared with 2007, the number was rather low compared with recent years.

Table 1
General trend of complaints recorded from 2000 to 2008

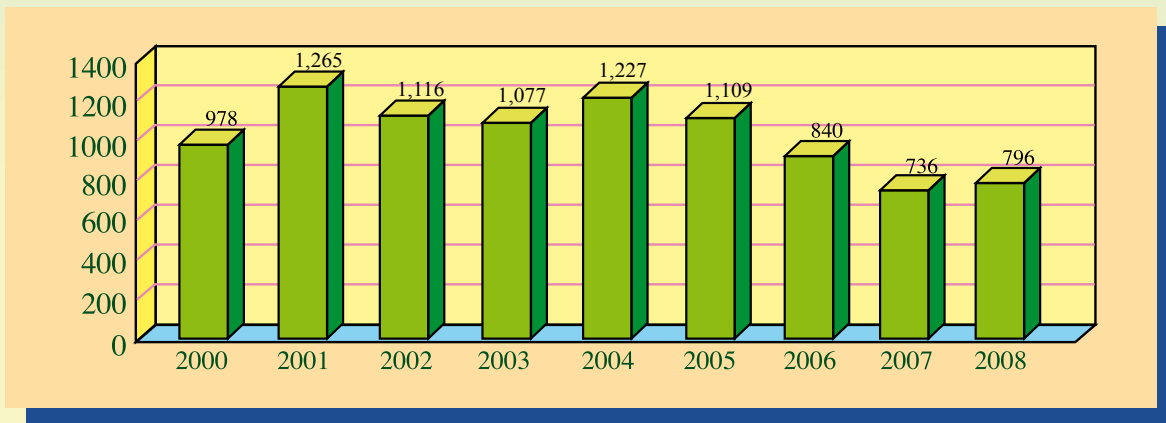
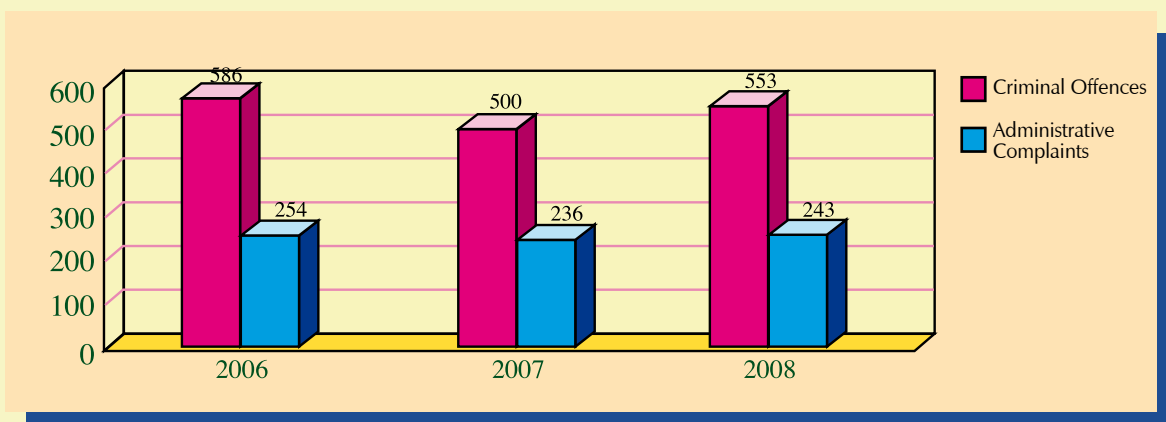


Table 2
Comparison of the number of complaints by type from 2006 to 2008



Among the 796 cases recorded, 742 were reports and complaints by citizens. 368 were anonymous or requested anonymity by complainants, while 374 were signed or lodged by complainants willing to provide personal data. The proportion of signed complaints increased gradually. In 2008, the number of signed complaints even exceeded that of anonymous complaints for the first time, reflecting that the citizens' trust in the CCAC was growing continuously. The number of cases transferred / reported / requested by other public bodies reached 24, similar to that of the previous year. Moreover, the CCAC also received 14 cases from law enforcement agencies outside the territory that requested assistance and 3 cases initiated for investigation by judicial agencies, while 13 cases were actively followed up by the CCAC.

Table 3
Comparison of cases recorded from 2006 to 2008 (by source)

Sources		2006		2007		2008	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Reports from citizens	Anonymous or requested anonymity	437	52.0%	333	45.3%	368	46.2%
	Signed or willing to provide personal data	335	39.9%	312	42.4%	374	47.0%
Referred / reported / requested by public entities		12	1.4%	26	3.5%	24	3.0%
Cases requiring assistance		30	3.6%	18	2.5%	14	1.8%
Referred / reported by media		0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Initiated by judicial institutions		6	0.7%	4	0.5%	3	0.4%
Instigated by the CCAC		20	2.4%	43	5.8%	13	1.6%
Total recorded cases		840	100.0%	736	100.0%	796	100%

Over the years, mail and telephone have been the main methods to report cases, which accounted for 66.1% of the reports. Also, there was a slight year-on-year increase in the number of cases reported by citizens in person to 152. In-person report plays an important role in obtaining information and investigation, so the CCAC encourages the citizens to try to lodge signed complaints in person in order to boost the efficiency of investigation and protect complainants' rights and interests.

Table 4
Components of cases recorded in 2008 (by reporting method)

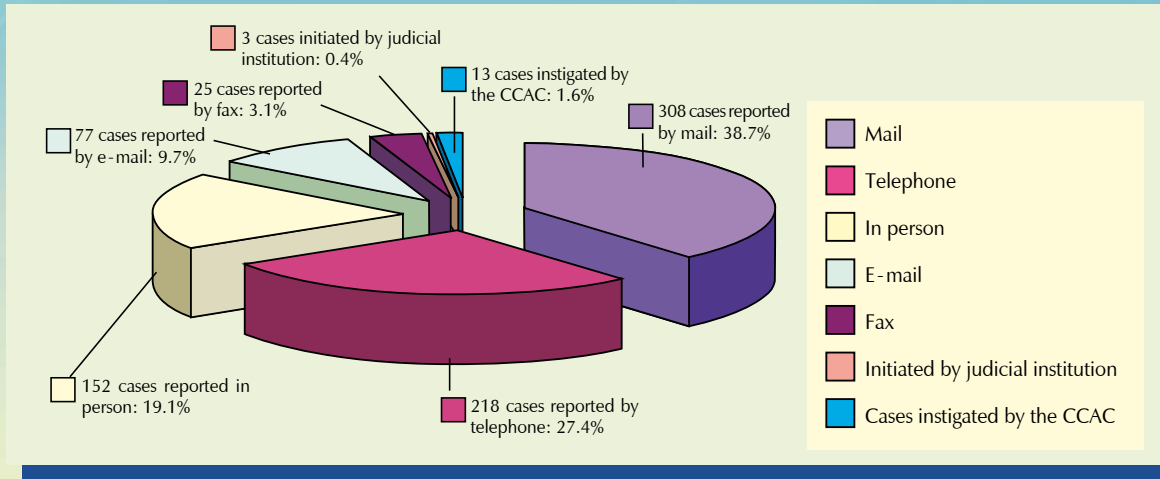


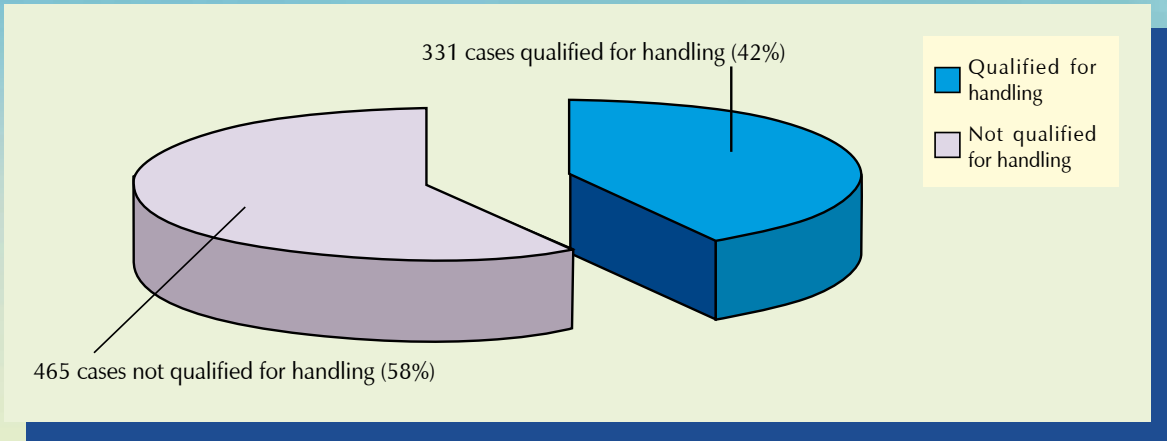
Table 5
Comparison of cases received from 2006 to 2008 (by reporting method)

Reporting method	2006		2007		2008	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
By mail	288	34.3%	305	41.4%	308	38.7%
By telephone	247	29.4%	135	18.4%	218	27.4%
In person	138	16.4%	125	17.0%	152	19.1%
By e-mail	119	14.2%	106	14.4%	77	9.7%
By fax	22	2.6%	18	2.5%	25	3.1%
Initiated by judicial institution	6	0.7%	4	0.5%	3	0.4%
Instigated by the CCAC	20	2.4%	43	5.8%	13	1.6%
Total cases	840	100.0%	736	100.0%	796	100.0%

3.2 Case Handling Methods

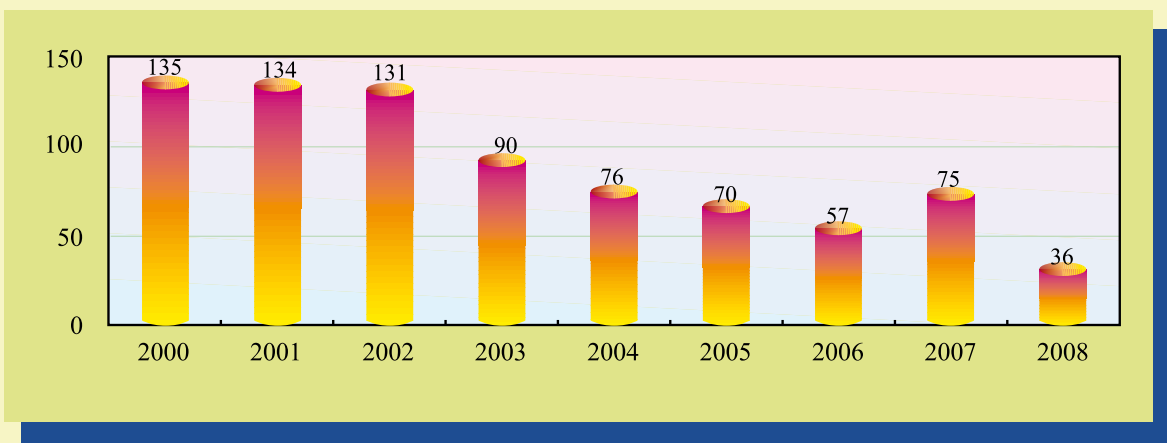
The CCAC conducts analysis, investigation and preliminary screening on the contents of the complaints upon receiving complaints. Cases qualified for follow-up will be commenced for investigation, transferred to other public agencies or followed up by informal means. In 2008, there were 331 cases qualified for handling, accounting for 42% of total cases recorded. At the same time, cases not qualified for follow-up due to the reasons that they were not related to corruption, were beyond the scope of the CCAC’s powers or the information was insufficient totalled 465, accounting for about 58% of the overall cases.

Table 6
Case Handling Methods in 2008



In 2008, there were 36 cases commenced for investigation, including 31 criminal cases and 5 cases of administrative complaints. Regardless of the fact that Ao Man Long’s corruption case had brought to a significant increase of cases actively followed up by the CCAC, the number of cases commenced for investigation tended downward over years. In 2008, it even dropped to new low. On the other hand, compared with previous years, the number of cases reported by citizens who were willing to sign or provide personal data reached a new high. As signed reports facilitate CCAC’s detailed investigation, the possibility to commence a case for investigation thus becomes higher.

Table 7
Comparison of cases commenced for investigation from 2000 to 2008



The majority of the administrative complaints does not involve criminal offences but is mainly related to administrative improprieties or misunderstandings about law or related matters. In order to help the complainants solve the problems effectively, most of the cases were not commenced for formal investigation but were transferred to other public departments or handled by informal means in order to avoid time-consuming formal investigation. Only the cases concerning significant problems were commenced for formal investigation. Moreover, the CCAC received a total of 639 requests for help or consultation.

Table 8
Types of case handling methods

Handling methods	Criminal cases	Administrative complaints	Total
Cases commenced for investigation	31	5	36
Cases handled by informal methods	57	238	295
Cases qualified for handling	88	243	331

Table 9
Comparison of cases commenced for investigation from 2006 to 2008 (by source)

Sources		2006		2007		2008	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Reports from citizens	Anonymous or requested anonymity	26	45.6%	19	25.3%	9	25%
	Signed or willing to provide personal data	16	28.1%	11	14.7%	15	41.7%
Referred / reported / requested by public bodies		2	3.5%	7	9.3%	3	8.3%
Referred / reported by media		0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Initiated by judicial institutions		6	10.5%	4	5.3%	3	8.3%
Instigated by the CCAC		7	12.3%	34	45.4%	6	16.7%
Total recorded cases		57		75		36	

The cases that qualified for handling by the CCAC in 2008 comprised those re-opened and those carried over from 2007 totaled 495, of which 121 were commenced cases, while 374 were handled by informal means.

Table 10
Cases handled in 2008

Types of cases		Quantity	
Cases commenced for investigation	Commenced in 2008	36	121
	Re-opened in 2008	1	
	Transferred from 2007	84	
Cases not commenced for investigation	Recorded in 2008	295	374
	Transferred from 2007	79	
Total		495	

3.3 Handling Progress of Cases

In 2008, the CCAC concluded 50 commenced cases and 297 non-commenced cases – some 347 cases in all – with 10 referred to the Public Prosecutions Office. 148 cases should be forwarded to 2009, registering a slight decrease of cases carried forward to the following year compared with 2007.

Table 11
Handling progress of cases in 2008

Types of cases	Cases handled in 2008	Cases concluded in 2008	Cases carried over into 2009
Commenced cases	121	50	71
Non-commenced cases	374	297	77
Total	495	347	148

3.4 Cases handled by the Monitoring Committee for the Discipline of the CCAC Personnel

In 2008, the Monitoring Committee for the Discipline of the CCAC Personnel received one complaint, which is being processed.

In April 2008, the committee took a studying trip to Singapore, visiting 4 public bodies including the Public Service Division, the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau, the Police Force and the Urban Redevelopment Authority in order to understand the public servants' code of conduct and disciplinary procedures and the corruption prevention mechanism adopted for construction projects in Singapore.