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## **A Statement from Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute (PORI) on a Police Search of PORI's Office and the Taking Away of Data from PORI**

**17 July 2020**

PORI provides the following statement on behalf of its pro bono legal team illustrating, to the public, an incident where the Hong Kong Police took away data from PORI, and how we will follow up with the Police on same.

The Police attended PORI's office on 10 July 2020 at around 6 pm, exercising a search warrant against all of the electronic devices found therein. PORI informed its pro bono legal team immediately and the raid was attended by pro bono Solicitors Firm and Counsel. The Police took away data from some of the computers located at the PORI's office. Cap screens of some of these computers have also been taken.

PORI has not been told by the Police any particulars of the investigation. We have also, not been provided with a copy of the search warrant executed on the date. It is said that the Police investigation concerns the purported leak of 30,000 police officers' personal information collected by the HKU Public Opinion Programme in earlier years. If the Police are indeed investigating this matter, PORI, as a victim of the case, is entitled to be informed of the particulars and progress of such investigation.

PORI has no full knowledge of the scope of the data being collected by the Police on 10 July 2020. PORI's Solicitors have therefore, written to the Police to seek provision of a copy of the data collected for record and examination. We will only fully realize the scope of the data being taken away upon receiving a copy of same from the Police.

The PopVote System's IT Team informed the legal team that the Police is capable of collecting the contents of any files remained open on PORI's computers at the time of the raid. At the material time, PORI's team has opened, on one of their computers, a file containing a contact list of all of the responsible station officers for the Primary Election, and that list may have already been collected by the Police.

In any event, PORI has written to the Police and asserted legal professional privilege and privilege over journalist materials of the data being collected. Before the issue of privilege and confidentiality being resolved, the Police is, pursuant to The Basic Law, The Laws of Hong Kong and the relevant case law, not permitted to read or utilize the data collected therein.

PORI has also requested an undertaking from the Police, that the data was taken away for the sole purpose for Police's investigation, and that the data shall not be transferred to any authorities, government departments or third parties.