

# Hong Kong police raid office of pro-democracy camp primary election co-organisers PORI

Saturday 11 July 2020, by [GRUNDY Tom](#), [WONG Rachel](#) (Date first published: 10 July 2020).

**Hong Kong police have raided the Public Opinion Research Institute (PORI) office in Wong Chuk Hang. The polling organisation is a co-organiser of this weekend's primary legislative election for the pro-democracy camp.**

Officers entered the premises on Friday 10 evening, according to Stand News. The officers said they had a warrant, **accusing the organisation of dishonest use of a computer.**

The charge carries a maximum sentence of **five years behind bars.**

HKFP noted up to a dozen staff still inside the premises as plainclothes officers moved around the office. A police van remained outside the building.

The primaries are intended to select pro-democracy candidates to run in September's legislative election. They were organised by law professor Benny Tai, ex-lawmaker Au Nok-hin, the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute and political group Power for Democracy. There are set to be 250 polling stations.

Following the raid, PORI deputy executive Chung Kim-wah said some PCs at the research centre were hacked recently, though he was unsure who accessed the devices.

*Correction 11.7: An earlier version of this report stated that PCs had been siezed by police - in fact, officers agreed with PORI staff they would not remove them.*

PORI Executive Director Robert Chung said: *"We fear nothing and we do everything under the sun... After our system was attacked by hackers, we will fully cooperate if the police handle the issue impartially."*

On Thursday 9, Hong Kong's constitutional affairs minister warned that the upcoming primary election may violate the new Beijing-imposed national security law. *"Those who have organised, planned or participated in the primary election should be wary and avoid carelessly violating the law,"* Erick Tsang said.

State-run newspaper Wen Wei Po reported on Thursday 9 that a netizen named "Tony Mike" had accused PORI of failing to erase interviewees' personal data collected from past surveys, claiming that the data had been leaked. Chung denied the claims of a data leak and has said all personal data is erased after six months.

In a poll released by PORI on Friday, it said that **61 per cent of those surveyed believed that Hong Kong was no longer a free city**, whilst 32 per cent believed it still was.

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**P.S.**

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