

**Letterhead of LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG**

LC Paper No. CB(2)1342/00-01(07)

Our Ref: PPTY  
Your Ref: CB2/PL/AJLS  
Direct Line: 19 April 2001

**BY FAX (25099055) AND BY POST**

Mrs. Percy Ma  
Clerk to Panel  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mrs. Ma,

**LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services Meeting on 26 April 2001**

I refer to your letter dated 4 April 2001.

On Item III of the Tentative Agenda relating to the proposed amendments to the Conveyancing and Property Ordinance (Cap. 219), the Society's Property Committee has considered the Administration's response. The Committee reiterates its previous stance to support in principle the Administration's proposal to confer a discretionary power on the court to return the deposit to a purchaser subject to further review of the detailed provisions and subject to the proposed discretionary power being narrowly defined and drafted. The Committee would prefer to have Section 12 amended along the lines of the Australian legislation i.e. Section 55 of New South Wales Conveyancing Act 1919.

The Society will not send any representative to attend the LegCo Panel's discussion on the issue.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Moss  
Secretary General