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8 June 2001

**By Fax and By Post** [2509 9055]

Mrs Percy Ma  
Clerk to Panel on Administration of Justice  
and Legal Services  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
3/F, Citibank Tower  
3 Garden Road  
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Ma,

I refer to your letter of 17 May 2001, inviting members of the Steering Committee on Legal Education to attend the meeting of the Panel on 26 June 2001.

The proposed purpose of that attendance is to brief the Panel on the latest progress of the Review. I have discussed this matter with members of the Steering Committee, and this letter reflects our collective views.

### **Background**

As you know, the consultants have agreed to produce a Report on Legal Education and Training in Hong Kong, containing such recommendations for such changes in the system as they consider appropriate. As part of their study, they have already published a Consultation Paper, inviting comments from anyone with an interest in the subject. Those organizations represented in the Steering Committee, and many others, made submissions accordingly. In addition, the consultants have visited Hong Kong on three occasions to talk to interested parties. The consultants have agreed to produce their final Report by the end of June 2001.

A draft report was recently sent to members of the Steering Committee. Earlier this week the consultants had lengthy discussions about that draft with the Steering Committee and the organizations

represented on that Committee. They also had an informal meeting with the AJLS Panel. As a result of these discussions, the consultants have said that they propose to revise some of their draft recommendations. Members of the Steering Committee are not therefore in a position to brief the Panel on the consultants' latest thinking.

### **Other meetings**

As you know, members of the Steering Committee have kept the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services regularly informed of progress on the Review. Their last attendance at the Panel was on 24 April 2001, when the consultants provisional proposals were outlined and discussed.

Members of the Steering Committee would like to discuss the Review further with the Panel after the final Report is published. We would emphasize that the recommendations in the final Report will be the subject of lengthy public discussions and that there is no question of their being implemented in a peremptory fashion.

### **June meeting**

However, given that the final Report is due to be completed by the end of June; that the draft Report is likely to be amended and that the Panel has already been briefed on the provisional recommendations, members of the Steering Committee do not consider that their attendance at the June meeting of the Panel would be useful or productive. We therefore hope that arrangements can be made for the Steering Committee to brief the Panel after the Final Report is published.

### **Contribution of the Panel**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Panel for its continuing interest in this subject and look forward to further discussions in the future.

Yours sincerely,

( Bob Allcock )  
Solicitor General

c.c. Ms Margaret Hill – with copy of the Panel's letter

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