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In order to assist the Security Bureau ('SB') in its work in respect of BL 23, the Department of Justice has provided, and is continuing to provide, background information based on legal research. This includes information relating to legislative provisions in Hong Kong, and in other jurisdictions, on subjects covered by BL 23.

The research has been mainly factual in nature but includes advice. It lists the relevant provisions in Hong Kong, as well as comparative provisions from overseas and the Mainland from which SB may draw reference. As is normal with legal assistance of this nature, it is a developing and interactive process – very often it is updated or expanded either in response to SB's further enquiries or on receipt of additional information. It therefore follows that there is no single paper on the subject as such. The information is scattered in numerous papers and memos.

When the Administration has formulated its proposals on how best to implement the requirements of BL 23, it will carry out wide consultation in respect of those proposals. At this stage, while the research and consideration process is still on-going, the Administration does not consider it useful or practicable to attempt a compendium of the papers and memos by Department of Justice on the subject. Little meaningful discussion could emerge from such a snapshot.

In these circumstances, the Department of Justice does not propose to provide the requested information.