

The Law Reform Commission's Report on Stalking

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to inform the LegCo's Panel on Home Affairs of the Administration's present stance in relation to the captioned report ("the Report"), which was released by the Law Reform Commission ("LRC") on 30 October 2000.

Background

2. The Report follows detailed consideration by the LRC of the responses to a consultation paper on the subject issued by the LRC's Privacy Sub-committee in May 1998. It recommends, among other things, the creation of a new criminal offence in order to address the menace of stalking.

Administration's stand

3. The Administration keeps an open mind towards the recommendations in the Report. We note that the community's views about the proposal to make stalking an offence are mixed and that, in particular, there are concerns about the effect of the proposal on press freedom. We wish to consider carefully the community's views, including the Panel's, before deciding on the recommendations in the Report.

Advice sought

4. This paper is presented for Members' information. The Administration will be glad to receive the opinions of the deputations and the Panel.

**Home Affairs Bureau
January 2001**