



THE

LAW SOCIETY

OF HONG KONG

香港律師會

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16th March 2005

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

Dear Mrs. Ma,

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Criminal legal aid fees system

Thank you for your letter dated 2nd March, the contents of which I have noted. Since the Panel meeting to which you referred the Bar Association has informed the Law Society that it would prefer that each of the two legal professional bodies prepare its own submission although I have no doubt that there is a certain amount of common ground. The Law Society working party has submitted some documentation of a confidential nature to the Chief Justice asking him to convene the Criminal Procedure Rules Committee. However, the Chief Justice has responded suggesting that since the Administration is responsible for the provision of legal aid and there may be financial implications for the public purse, he is of the view that the review should be undertaken by the Administration which should consider setting up a working party with an appropriate membership to conduct it. Proposals by the working party could then be placed before the Criminal Procedure Rules Committee. He has forwarded the earlier correspondence to the Director of Administration suggesting that she should undertake a review and consider setting up a working party. We shall, of course, be following up with the Director of Administration to ensure that this is done without delay.

At this stage it is too early to say when the Law Society will be in a position to revert to the Panel.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Moss
Secretary General

PM/ff

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