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8 July 2005

Ms Christine W. S. Chu
Assistant Director of Practitioners Affairs
The Law Society of Hong Kong
3/F Wing On House
71 Des Voeux Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Chu,

**2004 Biennial Review of Criminal Legal Aid Fees,
Prosecution Fees and Duty Lawyer Fees**

As you would recall, pursuant to the 2004 biennial review, the Administration revealed in July 2004 that following the corresponding decrease in CPI(C) since 2002, the criminal legal aid fees, prosecution fees and duty lawyer fees (the fees) should be adjusted downward by 4.4%. The Law Society provided its comments on the Administration's proposal in its letter of 30 August 2004.

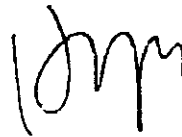
Amidst the recent reverse movement of the CPI(C) since the conclusion of the 2004 biennial review, and having carefully considered the views of the Law Society and other bodies, the Administration has decided not to adjust the fee level now, but would reserve the 4.4% reduction and consider it together with the findings of the next biennial review, due in mid 2006.

- 2 -

Separately, in light of the Bar Association and the Law Society's separate submissions on the criminal legal aid fee system made available to the Administration in April and June 2005 respectively, we would examine the views of the legal professional bodies in considering the need and basis for a review of the criminal legal aid fee system.

I am copying this letter to the Clerk to the LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services to keep the Panel informed.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Alice Cheung)
for Director of Administration

c.c. Director of Legal Aid
Clerk to the LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal
Services