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By Fax & By Post (2 pages)

28 February 2007

Mrs Percy Ma
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Secretariat
3rd Floor, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
HONG KONG

Dear Mrs Ma,

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Limited Liability for Professional Practices

I refer to your letter of 2 February 2007 addressed to the Secretary for Justice informing him that Members of the Panel would like to know whether the Administration could revert on the way forward for Limited Liability Partnerships (LLP) within the current session.

The Administration's position on the proposals for limiting liability put forward by organisations representing various professions including the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Accountants and the Hong Kong Law Society has already been reflected in the paper presented to the Panel on 27 March 2006. The position, which represents the considered view of the Administration as a whole on the proposals for limiting liability including those relating to LLP, was that no work should be done on the topic during the remainder of the Chief Executive's term of office. That position remains unchanged.

In the meantime, the Department of Justice has not been unreceptive to the representations made by the Law Society in this regard and will continue to monitor developments in other jurisdictions.

Yours faithfully,

(James O'Neil)
Deputy Solicitor General
(Constitutional)

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