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10 July 2008

Hon Margaret Ng
Chairman
Panel on Administration of Justice
and Legal Services
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear *Margaret*,

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

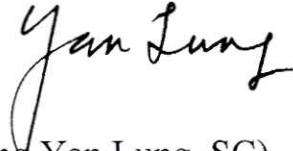
Thank you for your letter of 6 March 2008.

I am aware that during 2005, the Panel considered the Research Report on “Limited Liability and Liability Capping Legislation for the Practice of Law in Selected Places” prepared by the Research and Library Division of the LegCo Secretariat. I am also aware of the submissions made by the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants making various proposals to alter the law of limitation of liability, of which introduction of Limited Liability Partnerships is but one. Other sectors of society have put forward other proposals including capping of liability.

Each of these proposals raises issues which cut across a number of sectors and areas of policy responsibility. There has been no decision on whether to carry out further study on the issue of limited liability as a whole. Nor has there been any decision to carry out a study on any particular aspect of the issue.

As we have informed the Panel in February, the Department of Justice is quite prepared to consider Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) among legal professionals. The Law Society has recently written to us expressing their wish to discuss the policy issues relating to LLP. We shall be arranging a meeting with the Law Society in this connection and will inform the Panel of any progress.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yan Lung". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'Y'.

(Wong Yan Lung, SC)
Secretary for Justice