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Criminal
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BY FAX (25090775) AND BY POST

20 May 2009

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Miss Odelia Leung,
Clerk to LegCo Panel on Education,
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Central,
Hong Kong.

Dear Miss Leung,


PANEL ON EDUCATION
Special Meeting on 25 May 2009 – Drug Abuse in Schools

Thank you for your letters dated 24 and 29 April 2009 to our Secretary General on the above subject.

The Society's Criminal Law & Procedure Committee noted that the Government has commissioned a research project to devise possible school-based drug testing schemes for voluntary adoption by schools; and this will take into consideration issues of concern raised during the consultation process, including privacy, confidentiality, consent and stigmatization, etc.

The Committee supports the Government's proposal to introduce a school-based drug testing scheme in principle subject to review of the detailed implementation plan to be proposed by the Government in future and the following parameters:

- (1) that the drug test will be conducted on a voluntary basis; and
- (2) that the drug test should aim at enabling early intervention for treatment and rehabilitation of identified at-risk students but not to refer the students to the law enforcement bodies.

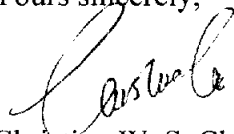

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As we have set out the Committee's views on the subject, we shall not be sending any representatives to the Panel meeting on 25 May 2009.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine W. S. Chu', written in a cursive style.

Christine W. S. Chu
Assistant Director of Practitioners Affairs

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