

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

List of follow-up actions
(Position as at 9 December 2009)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up actions required	Administration's response
1. Recommendations on the setting up of a Conditional Legal Aid Fund in the Law Reform Commission's Report on Conditional Fees	20 October 2008	The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) to advise on the Administration's current view on the recommendations in the Law Reform Commission's Report on Conditional Fees published in July 2007 pertaining to the setting up of a Conditional Legal Aid Fund to screen applications for the use of conditional fees, brief out cases to private lawyers, finance the litigation, and pay the opponent's legal costs should the litigation prove unsuccessful.	The Administration will revert to the Panel on the issue in March 2010 in the context of the five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants (the five-yearly review).
2. Review of the provision of legal aid services	24 November 2008	HAB to provide the following supplementary information - (a) how Hong Kong compared to other jurisdictions in terms of accessibility of the middle class to legal aid; (b) the number of successful and unsuccessful Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme (SLAS) cases in recent years, together with the net gain arising from recovery of damages/compensation in successful cases as well as the costs for unsuccessful ones; (c) statistics on the amount and percentage of contributions required to be paid by the aided persons under the Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme and SLAS and the number of persons aided under the two Schemes in recent years; and (d) a list of the stakeholders to be consulted on the	The Administration's response on (b) and (c) was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2011/08-09 on 24 June 2009. The Administration will address issues relating to (a) when it responds to the research report on "Legal aid systems in selected places" at the special meeting on 15 January 2010, and will revert on (d) in the context of the discussion on the five-yearly review in March 2010.

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		five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants.	
3. Operation of the Resource Centre for Unrepresented Litigants	13 January 2009	HAB to provide a written response to members' views on and support for the provision of publicly-funded free legal advice service to unrepresented litigants.	The issue will be discussed when the Administration reverts to the Panel on the subject of free legal advice service in March 2010.
4. Development of mediation services	22 October 2009	The Department of Justice to provide information on the number and percentage of employment injury compensation cases in which mediation service had been used, if available.	Response awaited.
5. Arrangements of replacing Police Constable with security guards at Magistrates' Courts	--	At the meeting held on 10 November 2009 between the Panel Chairman and the Administration to discuss the Panel's work plan, JA was requested to provide in June 2010 a report on the operation of the arrangement of replacing part of the Police Constable establishment at Magistrates' Courts with security guards.	Response awaited.