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Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 22 November 2010**

Progress of review of the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme

Purpose

This paper provides background information and summarizes the discussions of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services ("the Panel") on the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme ("SLAS").

Background

Government's legal aid policy and framework

2. According to Article 35 of the Basic Law, Hong Kong residents shall have the right to confidential legal advice, access to the courts, choice of lawyers for timely protection of their lawful rights and interests or for representation in the courts, and to judicial remedies. Article 14(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ("ICCPR") guarantees all individuals the right to a fair hearing in both criminal and civil proceedings. Article 14(3) further provides that a person charged with criminal offence shall be entitled to "have legal assistance assigned to him, in any case where the interests of justice so require, and without payment by him if he does not have sufficient means to pay for it." The Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance (Cap. 383) ("HKBORO") incorporates into Hong Kong law the provisions of ICCPR as applied to Hong Kong.

3. The Government's policy objective on legal aid is to ensure that no one with reasonable grounds for taking legal action in the Hong Kong courts is prevented from doing so because of a lack of means.

4. The Legal Aid Ordinance (Cap. 91) ("LAO"), enacted in 1967, sets out the legal framework for the administration of legal aid. Legal aid is provided

by the Legal Aid Department ("LAD") under the Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme ("OLAS") and SLAS. Legal aid will be granted to applicants who satisfy the means test and the merits test.

5. The Legal Aid Services Council ("LASC") was set up on 1 September 1996 under the Legal Aid Services Council Ordinance (Cap. 489) to supervise the provision of legal aid services provided by LAD and to advise the Government on legal aid policy.

OLAS

6. To qualify for legal aid for civil proceedings under OLAS, an applicant's financial resources must not exceed \$175,800. An aided person may be required to make a contribution towards the cost of legal representation if, on a determination of his financial resources, he should be able to do so. The Director of Legal Aid ("DLA") may waive the limit in meritorious cases involving a possible breach of HKBORO or an inconsistency with ICCPR.

7. To qualify for legal aid in criminal cases, an applicant's financial resources should not exceed \$175,800. An applicant charged with murder, treason or piracy with violence may apply to a judge for exemption of means test and of payment of contribution. DLA has the discretion to grant legal aid in criminal cases to an applicant whose financial resources exceed \$175,800 if he is satisfied that it is desirable in the interests of justice to do so subject to payment of a contribution, if required.

SLAS

8. SLAS is a self-financing scheme introduced in 1984. The scheme was limited initially to cover claims for damages for personal and fatal injuries. It was subsequently extended to cover employees' compensation claims in 1992 and medical, dental as well as legal professional negligence in 1995. Its current scope covers cases of personal injury or death, medical, dental and legal professional negligence where the claim is likely to exceed \$60,000. It also covers claims under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 282) irrespective of the amount of claim.

9. The scheme is available to those whose financial resources exceed \$175,800 but do not exceed \$488,400. The costs of the scheme are met from the Supplementary Legal Aid Fund, which is financed by the applicants' contributions and damages or compensation recovered. The rates of contribution from damages recovered by successful legal aid persons were reduced twice, in 2000 and in 2006, to the present 6% for cases settled before

delivery of brief to counsel and 10% for other cases. Statistics on the amount of contributions required to be paid by the aided persons under SLAS and information on the number of successful and unsuccessful SLAS cases (together with the net gain arising from recovery of damages in successful cases and the costs for unsuccessful ones) in 2006 to 2008 as provided by the Administration are in **Appendices I and II** respectively

Recent discussions of the Panel and related developments

10. The Panel has made long standing calls for the expansion of SLAS by raising its financial eligibility limit ("FEL") and increasing the types of cases covered. Relevant discussions recently held by the Panel in the context of the current five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants ("five-yearly review") are summarized in the following paragraphs.

FEL for SLAS

11. Members had long held the view that the existing FEL for SLAS was too low and should be increased to allow the middle class who could not afford the high litigation costs to be eligible for legal aid and to have access to justice. Some members had suggested that the contribution rate payable by legally-aided persons and the FEL under SLAS could be applied flexibly, e.g. legal aid could be granted to an applicant whose financial resources exceeded the statutory financial limit, on the condition that he would make a higher contribution rate.

12. When the Administration reported on its recommendations arising from the recently completed five-yearly review at the meeting on 29 March 2010, the Panel was informed of the Administration's proposal of raising the FEL for SLAS from \$488,400 to \$1 million. While members generally welcomed the proposal, they considered the extent of the proposed increase inadequate. Members had previously proposed raising the FEL for SLAS to somewhere between \$1 million to \$3 million. Members requested the Administration to explain the reasons for not adopting LASC's proposal of raising the FEL for SLAS to \$1.3 million which was put forward on the basis that the average legal costs of a SLAS case that actually went to trial was \$1.297 million. Members noted the Hong Kong Bar Association's ("Bar Association") view that the FEL for SLAS should be raised to the region of \$3 million to reflect the full costs of legal proceedings which might include liability to pay for the opponent's costs should the action fail. Both the Bar Association and the Law Society of Hong Kong ("Law Society") also took the view that the underlying principle in

determining financial eligibility for legal aid should be that as laid down in the Scott Report of 1986^{*}, i.e. a person should have access to legal representation without suffering undue financial hardship having regard to the costs of litigation and his total financial resources.

13. At the Panel meeting on 30 September 2010, the Administration advised members of its proposal to further relax the suggested FEL for SLAS from \$1 million to \$1.3 million. The Administration explained that as the existing SLAS case coverage provided a greater assurance of damages and cost recovery, there was more room for raising the FEL without compromising the financial viability of the scheme. The Administration also advised members that it planned to submit at the beginning of the 2010-2011 session the legislative amendments for effecting the proposals for adjusting the FELs for OLAS and SLAS, raising the level of deductible allowance in assessing financial eligibility for legal aid and disregarding part of the savings of elderly in assessing their financial eligibility for legal aid.

Scope of SLAS

14. The Panel all along held the view that given the success of SLAS in widening access to justice, there was a strong case for expanding the scope of SLAS. Members pointed out that SLAS started off as a small self-financing scheme with limited funding, and hence legal assistance could only be provided for restricted types of proceedings in order to maintain its financial viability. With the successful operation of SLAS over the years, it was time for the Administration to consider expanding the scope of SLAS. The Bar Association and the Law Society were also supportive of the proposed expansion.

15. In its Report on Conditional Fees published in July 2007, the Law Reform Commission ("LRC") has recommended the expansion of SLAS on a gradual and incremental basis in two ways. The first is to raise FEL to bring a higher proportion of households within the scheme's ambit. The second way is to increase the types of cases covered. LRC has further recommended in the Report the setting up of a Conditional Legal Aid Fund ("CLAF"), together with a new body to administer the Fund and 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. According to the recommendation, CLAF should have a generously set upper FEL but no minimum FEL should be set. Private lawyers would be engaged on a conditional fee basis while clients would be charged on a contingency fee basis.

* The Scott Report was issued in 1986 by the Legal Aid Working Party which was appointed by the Administration to conduct a thorough examination of legal aid policy.

16. At the meeting on 29 March 2010, the Administration advised the Panel of its recommendation not to expand the scope of SLAS to cover other categories of cases. According to the Administration, any proposal for extending the scope of SLAS must not undermine or jeopardize its financial viability, given its self-financing nature. SLAS was by design aimed at cases which involved monetary claims of a reasonable size, with a high success rate and a reasonably good chance of recovering damages. The Administration also advised that if the scope of SLAS was to be extended to cover cases which did not fulfill such criteria, the Administration would not be able to raise the FEL of SLAS to \$1 million at the same time.

17. Members did not subscribe to the Administration's view and urged the Administration to consider seriously expanding the scope of SLAS with a view to enhancing the middle class' access to justice. Members considered that the expansion of SLAS would not have any adverse impact on the financial viability of the scheme, given that only applicants whose case or defence had been assessed to have a reasonable chance of success would be granted assistance under the scheme, and a percentage of damages or compensation would be recovered from successful SLAS cases and paid into the SLAS Fund. Some members had also suggested that the scope of SLAS should be expanded to cover monetary claims arising from systemic financial disputes (such as those relating to Lehman Brothers-related minibonds) and appeals relating to judgments delivered by various tribunals. The Panel also requested LASC to look into the issue of expansion of SLAS and revert to the Panel on its recommendations, including the outcome of the study by its Interest Group on Scope of Legal Aid ("Interest Group") on the feasibility of setting up a second-tier SLAS to further improve legal aid services.

18. At the meeting on 28 June 2010, the Administration informed the Panel that it did not propose to take forward the recommendation in the LRC Report for the setting up of CLAF. Members noted that both the Bar Association and the Law Society had expressed opposition to the establishment of CLAF and considered that the expansion of SLAS was a more practicable means of widening access to justice. Members were in general supportive of expanding the scope of SLAS and allocating more resources to the SLAS Fund and agreed that the Administration should be strongly requested to reconsider expanding SLAS.

19. When the current five-yearly review was further discussed at the meeting on 21 July 2010, members noted the proposals put forward by the Bar Association for expanding the scope of SLAS. The Bar Association set out in its submission (LC Paper No. CB(2)2105/09-10(01)) various types of cases

which were already covered by insurance either as a matter of law or practice, including mis-selling of financial and insurance products, claims against other types of professional negligence presently not covered by SLAS (such as services provided by accountants, estate agents, surveyors and engineers) and disputes relating to trusts. The Bar Association proposed that SLAS should be expanded to cover these areas for which recoverability of damages should not be an issue, thereby addressing the Administration's concern that expanding the coverage of SLAS would undermine the financial viability of the scheme. The Bar Association also set out in its submission details of its proposed amendments to LAO to raise FELs for OLAS and SLAS to \$350,000 and \$3 million respectively, expand the scope of SLAS and disregard part of the savings of persons aged 50 and above in calculating their financial resources. Members generally agreed that the Administration should study the Bar Association's proposals for amending LAO. The Panel passed a motion requesting that the Administration should, based on the Bar Association's proposals, conduct a study as soon as possible on the implementation of measures to expand and improve legal aid services. Some Members also expressed the view that the Administration should inject money into the SLAS Fund if it was concerned that the expansion of SLAS would undermine its financial viability. The Administration undertook to consider the Bar Association's proposals and revert to the Panel on its consideration.

20. When the subject was last discussed at the meeting on 30 September 2010, the Panel followed up with the Administration on its consideration of the Bar Association's proposals for expansion of the scope of SLAS. Members were advised that the study being conducted by LASC's Interest Group, which was chaired by a representative from the Bar Association and comprised members from different sectors including the legal profession, academia and non-governmental organizations, was expected to conclude by around end of November 2010 and the Interest Group was studying the Bar Association's proposals along with its own study. The Administration would come to its view on the issue after consideration of the recommendations from LASC.

21. Some members queried the need for the Administration to solicit LASC's views on the Bar Association's proposals for expansion of SLAS, given that the proposals were based on those initiated by LASC back in 2002. They pointed out that the proposals had not been taken forward then owing to the SARS outbreak in 2003 and the subsequent economic downturn, which had resulted in the shelving of many legal aid reform proposals. They also questioned whether LASC had the relevant data for assessing the viability of the Bar Association's proposals. The Administration advised that apart from economic considerations, there were also different views on the proposals when they were raised in 2002 and eventually they had not been adopted for implementation.

The Bar Association had raised again these proposals for discussion in July 2010 and the Administration was willing to re-examine them. The Administration stressed that as LASC was the statutory body charged with the responsibility for advising the Government on legal aid policy, the Administration should consider the recommendations of LASC before coming to its view on the feasibility of expanding the scope of SLAS.

22. On the criteria for assessing which types of cases should be covered under SLAS, the Administration advised members that it would take into account all relevant factors, including the chance of recovery of damages, the legal costs involved and whether the damages to be awarded through litigation would make the likely costs worthy of committing, in the light of the overall policy objective of ensuring that no one with reasonable grounds for taking legal actions was prevented from seeking justice due to a lack of means. The Administration stressed that it was willing to consider the expansion of SLAS to cover other types of cases so long as the financial viability of the scheme would not be affected. To facilitate its further consideration of the Bar Association's proposals, the Panel requested the Administration to provide relevant information and its analysis on the types of cases proposed by the Bar Association for expansion of SLAS, such as the size of the monetary claims and chance of recovery of damages.

23. Some members expressed the view that it was not necessary for the Administration to adopt an excessively prudent approach in considering the types of cases to be covered under SLAS. They pointed out that DLA had all along been very prudent in assessing legal aid applications and case monitoring. For cases with a low chance of recovery of damages or low damages to cost ratio, DLA would exercise discretion to reject the applications or ensure early settlements as appropriate. The fact that over 90% of the SLAS cases were successful in the claims showed that DLA had been very prudent in the scrutiny of the merits of cases. Furthermore, the areas of expansion proposed by the Bar Association involved mostly monetary claims where the defendants were often large corporations. Hence, they considered that there was no cause for concern that the proposed expansion of SLAS would undermine the financial viability of SLAS.

24. Some members also stressed that the decision on the coverage of SLAS should not be based solely on economic considerations; facilitating access to justice and upholding the rule of law should also be prime considerations. They pointed out that the existing scope of SLAS also covered difficult types of cases (such as medical negligence) which were costly to fight and the high legal costs were not affordable by the general public. They called on the Administration to consider seriously the Bar Association's proposals for

expanding SLAS, which were mostly concerned with protection of consumer interests such as claims against financial institutions and insurance companies concerning financial and insurance products.

25. The Administration advised that given the self-financing nature of SLAS, it was necessary to exercise great prudence in considering the types of cases to be covered under the scheme to ensure that the sustainability of the SLAS Fund could be maintained. The Administration stressed that if there were many SLAS cases where damages could not be recovered from the defendants, the SLAS Fund would be exposed to financial risk. The Administration also pointed out that if a legally aided person was unsuccessful in his claim, the SLAS Fund had to pay the legal costs of both parties, which could involve significant sums. The Administration reiterated that it was willing to consider expanding the scope of SLAS on the premise that the financial viability of the scheme would not be affected. The Administration would consult the Panel on LASC's recommendations upon completion of LASC's study by end of November 2010.

Latest position

26. In his 2010-2011 Policy Address delivered on 13 October 2010, the Chief Executive announced that to complement the SLAS review soon to be completed by LASC, and to benefit more people from the middle class, the Government would earmark \$100 million for injection into the SLAS fund when necessary to expand the scheme to cover more types of cases, such as claims for damages for professional negligence in a wider range of professions, and claims to recover outstanding wages and other employee benefits. The Administration would study LASC's report on SLAS review, and report to the Panel on the Government's specific proposals on the expansion of SLAS in the first half of next year. At its meeting held on 14 October 2010, the Panel agreed to discuss the progress of the SLAS review at the forthcoming meeting on 22 November 2010.

27. Members may also wish to note that as LASC was expected to complete its study by the end of November 2010, the Panel had agreed at its meeting on 30 September 2010 that LASC should be invited to the meeting in December 2010 to brief Members on its deliberations on the recommendations of the Interest Group on expansion of SLAS. The Panel had written to LASC enquiring when it expected to complete its deliberations on the study undertaken by the Interest Group and report accordingly. Reply from LASC is awaited.

Research report

28. To facilitate members to consider the various issues relating to legal aid, the Research and Library Services Division of the LegCo Secretariat had conducted a research on the legal aid systems in the United Kingdom, the Province of Ontario of Canada and the State of New South Wales of Australia in respect of the following areas: scope of legal aid services, eligibility for legal aid, legal aid expenditure per capita, legal aid services at the community, legal aid fees for lawyers and authority responsible for providing legal aid services. The research report and relevant supplementary information papers are listed in **Appendix III**.

Relevant papers

29. A list of the relevant papers which are available on the LegCo website is in **Appendix IV**.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
18 November 2010

**Amount of Contributions
required to be paid by Legally Aided Persons
under the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme in 2006**

Financial Resources		No. of Aided Persons	Amount of Contribution required to be paid \$
Exceed	Do not Exceed		
(1.1.2006 – 15.6.2006)		75	38,950
\$155,800	\$432,900		
(16.6.2006 – 31.12.2006)		52	39,575
\$158,300	\$439,800		
Total		127	-

**Amount of Contribution
required to be paid by Legally Aided Persons
under the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme in 2007**

Financial Resources		No. of Aided Persons	Amount of Contribution required to be paid \$
Exceed	Do not Exceed		
(1.1.2007 – 14.6.2007)		51	39,575
\$158,300	\$439,800		
(15.6.2007 – 13.12.2007)		28	40,575
\$162,300	\$450,800		
(14.12.2007 – 31.12.2007)		0	41,425
\$165,700	\$460,300		
Total		79	-

**Amount of Contribution
required to be paid by Legally Aided Persons
under the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme in 2008**

Financial Resources		No. of Aided Persons	Amount of Contribution required to be paid \$
Exceed	Do not Exceed		
\$165,700	\$460,300	95	41,425

Appendix II

Information on Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme cases

	No. of successful cases	No. of unsuccessful cases	Net gain arising from recovery of damages/compensation in successful cases (\$)	Costs of unsuccessful cases (\$)
2005-06	76	4	5,320,583	384,558
2006-07	86	9	2,479,251	4,269,106
2007-08	94	14	2,999,017	18,992,031

Notes : The above information is based on cases the accounts of which were finalised during the relevant financial year which runs from 1 October to 30 September the following year.

Appendix III

Research report on "Legal aid systems in selected places" and relevant supplementary information papers prepared by the Research and Library Services Division

Paper No.	Relevant Document
RP01/08-09	Research report on "Legal aid systems in selected places"
IN01/09-10	Supplementary information on income level, number of legal aid applications received and granted, and updated figures of legal aid expenditure in Hong Kong and the selected places (as at 22 March 2010)
FS05/09-10	Supplementary table on client contributions, costs received and legal aid expenditure in Hong Kong and the selected places

**Relevant documents on issues relating to
the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme**

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
Legislative Council	5 May 2004	<p>Official Record of Proceedings of the Council on a written question raised by Dr Hon LO Wing-lok on "Legal aid applications relating to claims of medical negligence"</p> <p>http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0505ti-translate-e.pdf</p>
Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services	14 December 2004	<p>Administration's paper on "Annual and biennial review of financial eligibility limits of legal aid applicants"</p> <p>[LC Paper No. CB(2)367/04-05(01)]</p> <p>http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj1214cb2-367-1e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting</p> <p>[LC Paper No. CB(2)710/04-05]</p> <p>http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj041214.pdf</p>
Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services	23 January 2006	<p>Background brief on "Provision of legal aid services" prepared by the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat</p> <p>[LC Paper No. CB(2)904/05-06(01)]</p> <p>http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0123cb2-904-1e.pdf</p> <p>Administration's paper on "Annual review of financial eligibility limits of legal aid applicants"</p> <p>[LC Paper No. CB(2)904/05-06(02)]</p> <p>http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0123cb2-904-2e.pdf</p> <p>Submission from Mr Valentine S T YIM on "Annual review of financial eligibility limits of legal aid applicants"</p> <p>[LC Paper No. CB(2)963/05-06(01)]</p> <p><i>(English version only)</i></p> <p>http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0123cb2-963-1e-scan.pdf</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
		Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)1491/05-06] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/p/panels/ajls/minutes/aj060123.pdf
	--	Administration's letter dated 17 March 2006 on "2005 annual review of financial limits of legal aid applicants" [LC Paper No. CB(2)1471/05-06(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0123cb2-1471-1e.pdf
Legislative Council	3 May 2006	Official Record of Proceedings of the Council on the motion moved by the Chief Secretary for Administration on "Proposed resolution under the Legal Aid Ordinance" http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/c/ounmtg/hansard/cm0503ti-translate-e.pdf
Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services	27 November 2006	Administration's paper on "Annual and Biennial Review of Financial Eligibility Limits of Legal Aid Applicants" [LC Paper No. CB(2)431/06-07(04)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj1127cb2-431-4-e.pdf Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)887/06-07] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/p/panels/ajls/minutes/aj061127.pdf
	26 March 2007	Background brief on "Provision of legal aid services" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)1395/06-07(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0326cb2-1395-1-e.pdf Administration's paper on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" [LC Paper No. CB(2)1395/06-07(02)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0326cb2-1395-2-e.pdf

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
		<p>The Legal Aid Services Council's letter dated 26 March 2007 [LC Paper No. CB(2)1472/06-07(01)] <i>(Chinese version only)</i></p> <p>Submission dated 26 March 2007 from the 1st Step Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)1472/06-07(02)] <i>(Chinese version only)</i></p> <p>Information note from the LegCo Office of Hon Margaret NG [LC Paper No. CB(2)1472/06-07(03)] <i>(Chinese version only)</i></p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)1966/06-07] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj070326.pdf</p>
	--	<p>Administration's letter dated 15 November 2007 on "2007 Annual Review of Financial Eligibility Limits of Legal Aid Applicants" [LC Paper No. CB(2)367/07-08(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj1126cb2-367-1-e.pdf</p>
	26 May 2008	<p>Background Brief on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)2010/07-08(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0526cb2-2010-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Administration's paper on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" [LC Paper No. CB(2)2011/07-08(04)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0526cb2-2011-4-e.pdf</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
		<p>Submission dated 26 May 2008 from Law Society of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)2090/07-08(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0623cb2-2090-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)2818/07-08] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj080526.pdf</p>
<p>Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services</p>	<p>24 November 2008</p>	<p>Information Note prepared by the Research and Library Services Division on "Scope and expenditure of legal aid services in selected places" [IN03/08-09] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/sec/library/0809in03-e.pdf</p> <p>Background Brief on "Review of the provision of legal aid services" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)309/08-09(07)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj1124cb2-309-7-e.pdf</p> <p>Administration's paper on "Provision of legal aid services" [LC Paper No. CB(2)309/08-09(08)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj1124cb2-309-8-e.pdf</p> <p>Submission from the Society for Community Organization on "Review of the provision of legal aid services" [LC Paper No. CB(2)335/08-09(01)] <i>(Chinese version only)</i></p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)584/08-09] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj20081124.pdf</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
		<p><u>Follow-up paper</u></p> <p>Administration's response on review of the provision of legal aid services [LC Paper No. CB(2)2011/08-09(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj1124cb2-2011-1-e.pdf</p>
Legislative Council	11 February 2009	<p>Official Record of Proceedings of the Council on the motion moved by Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun on "Relaxing the eligibility criteria for legal aid" http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0211-translate-e.pdf</p>
Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services	30 March 2009	<p>Administration's paper on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" [LC Paper No. CB(2)1152/08-09(04)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0330cb2-1152-4-e.pdf</p> <p>Background brief on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)1152/08-09(05)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0330cb2-1152-5-e.pdf</p> <p>Law Society of Hong Kong's letter dated 27 March 2009 [LC Paper No. CB(2)1215/08-09(01)] (<i>English version only</i>) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0330cb2-1215-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)1603/08-09] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj20090330.pdf</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
Subcommittee on Proposed Resolution under Section 7(a) of the Legal Aid Ordinance (Cap. 91)	4 May 2009	Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)2124/08-09] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/hc/sub_leg/sc60/minutes/sc6020090504.pdf
Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services	22 October 2009	Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)506/09-10] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj20091022.pdf
Legislative Council	6 January 2010	Official Record of Proceedings of the Council on a written question raised by Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun on "Five-yearly Review of Criteria for Assessing Financial Eligibility of Legal Aid Applicants" http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0106-translate-e.pdf
Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services	29 March 2010	Administration's paper on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" [LC Paper No. CB(2)1148/09-10(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0329cb2-1148-1-e.pdf Updated background brief on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)1156/09-10(06)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0329cb2-1156-6-e.pdf Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)1581/09-10] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj20100329.pdf

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
		<p><u>Follow-up papers</u></p> <p>Submission from the Society for Community Organization [LC Paper No. CB(2)1192/09-10(01)] (<i>Chinese version only</i>)</p> <p>Letter from the Chairman of the Legal Aid Services Council to the Administration which sets out the Council's views on the Administration's proposals arising from the recently completed Five-yearly Review of the Criteria for Assessing the Financial Eligibility of Legal Aid Applicants [LC Paper No. CB(2)1200/09-10(01)] (<i>English version only</i>) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0329cb2-1200-1-ec.pdf</p> <p>Administration's paper on the basis for arriving at the proposed financial eligibility limits for the two legal aid schemes [LC Paper No. CB(2)1364/09-10(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0329cb2-1364-1-e.pdf</p>
	24 May 2010	<p>Updated background brief on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)1583/09-10(04)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0524cb2-1583-4-e.pdf</p> <p>Submission from the Hong Kong Bar Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)1601/09-10(01)] (<i>English version only</i>) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0524cb2-1601-1-ec.pdf</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
		<p>Submission from the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions Rights & Benefits Committee [LC Paper No. CB(2)1600/09-10(01)] <i>(Chinese version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0524cb2-1600-1-ec.pdf</p> <p>Submission from Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor [LC Paper No. CB(2)1654/09-10(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0524cb2-1654-1-ec.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)2134/09-10] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/p/panels/ajls/minutes/aj20100524.pdf</p>
	<p>21 July 2010</p>	<p>Paper provided by the Administration in response to issues raised by members at the meeting on 24 May 2010 concerning the five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants [LC Paper No. CB(2)2076/09-10(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0721cb2-2076-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Updated background brief on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)2081/09-10(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0721cb2-2081-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Submission from the Hong Kong Bar Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)2105/09-10(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0721cb2-2105-1-ec.pdf</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
		<p>Submission from the Law Society of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)2103/09-10(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0721cb2-2103-1-ec.pdf</p> <p>Submission from the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions Rights & Benefits Committee [LC Paper No. CB(2)2105/09-10(02)] <i>(Chinese version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0721cb2-2105-2-ec.pdf</p> <p>Submission from the Federation of Hong Kong and Kowloon Labour Unions [LC Paper No. CB(2)2099/09-10(01)] <i>(Chinese version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0721cb2-2099-1-ec.pdf</p>
	<p>30 September 2010</p>	<p>Paper provided by the Administration on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" [LC Paper No. CB(2)2298/09-10(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0930cb2-2298-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Updated background brief on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)2304/09-10(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0930cb2-2304-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Submission from the Hong Kong Bar Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)2327/09-10(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0930cb2-2327-1-ec.pdf</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
		Submission from the Law Society of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)2329/09-10(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/papers/ajls/papers/aj0930cb2-2329-1-ec.pdf
	22 October 2010	Paper provided by the Administration on the new policy initiatives concerning legal aid under the Home Affairs Bureau [LC Paper No. CB(2)36/10-11(02)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/papers/ajls/papers/aj1022cb2-36-2-e.pdf

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